

MONTFORT BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL

**THE PIONEER BROTHERS
OF THE 45 GABRIELITE FOUNDATIONS
IN THE WORLD,
FROM 1888 TO TODAY**

*We dedicate this book to all the past and present
missionary Brothers who have made tremendous
sacrifices to keep our missionary dynamism alive
and active all throughout the centuries.*

PREFACE

“If you don’t risk anything for God, you don’t do great things for Him”

St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

The missionaries are risk takers who are ready to venture into unknown land. That’s what we have seen and have been witnessing in the Catholic Church since its beginning and particularly in our Congregation since 1888 till our present time, when our Brothers opted to leave their motherland, their kith and kin, and their culture, to go far away when the Congregation wanted them. I would say, those Brothers who responded to the call of the congregation wanted to follow more closely St. Louis Marie de Montfort, our founder, who himself wanted to be a missionary in a foreign land.

The book “The Pioneer Brothers of our Congregation”, compiled by Bro. Bernard Guesdon, our Archivist in Rome, is a beautiful tribute to our past and present missionaries who continue to make it alive the missionary spirit and dynamism of our founder St. Louis-Marie de Montfort and Fr. Gabriel Deshayes. The missionaries had to undergo the struggles, challenges, isolation sometimes loneliness etc. At times the missionaries had to learn lessons through hungry stomachs, empty pockets and broken heart. As a missionary for 24 years in Madagascar, I have felt at times a stranger in a group, left alone not having any support from the people for whom you work and serve.

The objective of this book is to recall the history of our foundations in different countries and be grateful to our founder Brothers who

had undergone many struggles against all odds. The history of all the pioneer Brothers and the Brothers who followed them, has deeply marked the history of our Congregation. Bro. Bernard Guesdon is the correct person to have taken up this work of compiling, because he himself has been the missionary in Africa from 1967 to 1999 and then in Rome, Italy till today.

We are deeply indebted to all our Brothers, friends, associates, collaborators and benefactors who had been the source for this initiative. We would like to express our thanks to Bro. John Kallarackal, the Superior General who had accepted to write a message for this book. Our sincere thanks to the National Council of India who accepted to finance the expenses for printing. We are grateful to Bro. Thomas Montfort SG and Mrs. Catherine for proof reading, to Bro. Sagayaraj SHJ, the Director of Optim Graphics, Bengaluru, Mr. Arvindhan & Antony for layout, for the cover page design and all the workers in Optim Graphics who helped in bringing out this book.

Our earnest wish is that this book enlightens, motivates and encourages our candidates, pre-novices, novices and our Brothers to venture into new horizons. Long live our missionary dynamism!

Bro. John Britto SG

National Executive Secretary

Bengaluru.

FOREWORD

There have been frequent reflections since the 31st General Chapter in particular, at the level of the Provinces and the Central Administration, regarding the need and importance of re-awakening the missionary dynamism in our Congregation, strengthening our fragile mission ad-gentes, and launching of International Communities in the West. During the 32nd General Chapter there were lengthy discussions and deliberations on the important subject of the international character of our Congregation. The General Chapter made some bold statements like, *“International and intercultural communities are prophetic sign of the Kingdom... We want to foster the commitment of all our Entities in order to develop the international dimension of our Congregation... We will acquire a better knowledge of the history of our Congregation and of the Montfortian Family, through reading, fraternal sharing and sessions... We will rediscover the missionary dynamism of our Brothers down the ages (by the reading of the Memory of Saint Gabriel, by Bro. Louis Bauvineau), etc.”*

The book **“The Pioneer Brothers of our Congregation”**, compiled by Bro. Bernard Guesdon, our Archivist, is in response to the above bold statements made by the 32nd General Chapter. On behalf of the whole Congregation, I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to Bro. Bernard Guesdon for all the time and energy spent on this very valuable research work, which is a glowing tribute to all the different pioneers in our 45 Foundations around the globe. As our Rule of Life and Constitution reminds us of our heritage in the footsteps of Montfort, *“At the end of the nineteenth century, the Brothers crossed in Canada and in several countries of Europe. Today, the missionary activity extends to all the continents in a spirit of fidelity to the Church and to their origins”*. I also wish to express our sincere thanks to Bro. René Delorme, the Former Superior General, who translated the whole text from French into English, to Bro. Pratap Reddy, Assistant General, who has been constantly encouraging our

Archivist to undertake this time-consuming task, and to Bro. John Britto, the National Secretary of India for taking the initiative of publishing this book for the benefit of all concerned.

As inheritors of the charism of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, who was given the title “Apostolic Missionary” by Pope Clement XI during that historical meeting on 6th June 1706, it is our responsibility to “set out to sea with trust and with renewed missionary zeal”, as exhorted by Pope Francis during the Private Audience to the members of the 32nd General Chapter on 27.4.2018. All our pioneer Brothers in the different new foundations across the globe have demonstrated in concrete fashion that missionary dynamism of Montfort, the audacity of Fr. Gabriel Deshayes and their unwavering trust in the divine Providence. They translated into action the clarion call given by our Rule of Life: *“The Church is ever anxious that the Good News be proclaimed to the poor. Near you, or in far-away countries, they await your fraternal love and your help, to make them conscious of their human dignity, to free them from oppression of every kind, to dispel their ignorance, to lighten their spiritual distress to satisfy their longing for a hope of salvation”* (RL 64). It is my earnest hope that a reading of this book will rekindle in us our call to be Apostolic Missionaries, sent to borderless world of new creation, as messengers of Jesus and His Kingdom. Let me take the liberty of repeating the exhortation given to the delegates of the 32nd General Chapter during the Inaugural Message: *“We certainly recall with nostalgic memories the heroic services of our missionaries from France, Canada, Spain, Belgium and Italy, who went as pioneers to the Asian, African and South American countries. Can rekindling this missionary dynamism in our Brothers become a priority for our Congregation in the coming years?”*

Bro. John Kallarackal, SG
Superior General
Rome

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Since the foundation of the schools of La Rochelle and Nantes, in 1715, willed by **Father de Montfort**, with **Brothers Louis and Philippe** of the Holy Spirit, other foundations took place in **Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre**, with **Brothers Jacques Boucard and René Joseau**, in 1716 and 1722 (the one of 1722 was expressly requested by **Fr. René Mulot**, who was appointed Superior) then, in **Saint-Denis d'Oléron**, south of La Rochelle, in 1755 with **Brother Pierre-Michel Guérin**, at the request of **Fr. Nicolas Audubon**, Superior General. Bro. Guérin taught there from 1755 to 1759, before replacing Bro. Mathurin as catechist, in 1759.

After the French Revolution, **the arrival of Father Deshayes, in 1821, led to an increase in the number of charitable schools and institutions for the deaf in different regions of France, in the West, South, Centre and North.** In 1858, **Bro. Flavien** (Joseph-Marie Laurent, 1825-1890) was sent **to Canada, in Toronto**, by **Reverend Brother Simeon and his Council**, at the request of Mgr. de Charbonnel (1802-1891), Bishop of Toronto, who had proposed to **Reverend Brother Simeon** to create a normal school and a novitiate in Canada, and to send a Brother to begin with. In April 1859, Bro. Flavien requested that **Reverend Brother Simeon** allow him to study latin in order to become a priest. The Superior General replied that he left it to Bishop de Charbonnel “to decide on the matter”. Father Laurent will be one of the best priests in the Toronto diocese. He always considered himself a Brother of St. Gabriel at heart. He was the Vicar General of Bishop Lynch, from 1881 to 1890.

During **the Generalate of Reverend Brother Eugène-Marie**, some requests were made by **Mgr. Alexis Guilloux** (1819-1885), of the Diocese of Vannes, former Chaplain of the Brothers of Ploërmel, Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, from 1871 to 1885, and by

Montfortian missionaries, pioneers **in Haiti**, in **1871**: like **Father François Ruppin** (1807-1876), from the Vendée region of France, a Montfortian religious since 1838, who was then 64 years old. **Fr. Ruppin**, missionary in Port-de-Paix, writes to Mgr. Colet, Bishop of Luçon, under whose jurisdiction the Brothers of St. Gabriel were. He reported on the situation of the schools in the area: *“Is the school for the boys in better hands? Only one comes to the catechism for the first communion, and he will not be admitted for lack of knowledge. On the occasion of a visit I made to this school, in **the** company of the President of the Commission of Instruction and his pupils, I had to be authorised by him, in the presence of the teacher and his students, to teach catechism in that school every Thursday evening. I have sent my request to the Reverend Brother Superior General of St. Gabriel for at least one of his Brothers, if he cannot send me two ... The Bishop had a better understanding of the nature of the question. **It is a question of having the whole Family of Venerable Montfort, employed in the sanctification of the little poor spot of Haiti and a question of keeping it there...**”*. It was impossible then for Reverend Brother Eugène-Marie to respond positively to Bishop Guilloux and Father Ruppin... The Daughters of Wisdom founded communities in Haiti, in Port-de-Paix, in 1875, and in Jérémie, in 1877.

02 August 1872 – Excerpt of the letter of Fr. François-Augustin Ruppin, pioneer of the S.M.M. Missionaries in Port-de-Paix (Haiti), to Reverend Brother Eugène-Marie, in order to have Brothers for the parish of Port-de-Paix (BSG’s Archives, Rome, 610.019.23)

It is **during the Generalate of Reverend Brother Hubert, from 1882 to 1898**, that the first foundations outside France took place: in **Canada** in 1888, in **the United States** in 1890, and in **Egypt** in 1890.

From 1888 till today, there have been foundations in 45 countries, either on the initiative of the General Council, or at the request from Bishops or parish Priests, or as a result of the anti-clerical laws in France between 1900 and 1905 which threatened the future of the Congregation.

The history of all the pioneer Brothers has deeply marked the history of our Congregation. Thanks to them, we have an open view on the realities of the Church and the world, thanks to their courage and perseverance... They had to face:

- long journeys on the sea, sometimes several months, to reach their destination,
- climatic conditions: suffocating heat or intense cold, humidity or drought,
- material living conditions in the first months or years (housing, food, etc.)
- tropical diseases: amoebic dysentery, malaria, as was the case for several Brothers in Djibouti or Gabon,
- the lack of knowledge of local languages and customs, the difficulties for some Brothers to learn a new language, English, Spanish, Thai...
- understanding of countries where Catholicism was the religion of a minority,
- difficulties, sometimes, with civil, diocesan, or parish administrations, etc.

The pioneer Brothers of the 45 countries give us magnificent pages of our history, and reference points for our present Gabrielle life.

Bro. Bernard Guesdon / Rome, on 12 September 2021

GABRIELITE WORLD MAP FROM 1888 TO THE PRESENT DAY



No	Year	Country & City of Arrival
1	1888	Canada - Montreal
2	1890	U.S.A. – St Johnsbury
3	1890	Egypt - Alexandria
4	1900	Belgium - Tournai
5	1900	Gabon - Libreville
6	1900	Djibouti - Djibouti
7	1901	Ethiopia - Harar
8	1901	Thailand - Bangkok
9	1903	Switzerland - Givisiez
10	1903	England/Plymouth
11	1903	Italy Sanremo
12	1903	Spain - Gerona
13	1903	Nederland - Neeritter
14	1903	India- Pondicherry
15	1903	Madagascar - Diego Suarez

THE 45 FOUNDATIONS

16	1914	Venezuela-Caracas
17	1928	R.D.C - Bondo
18	1936	Singapore-Singapore
19	1949	Brazil – Carmo do Rio Cl.
20	1954	Senegal - Thiès
21	1955	Malaysia- Johore Bahru
22	1956	Sri Lanka - Killinochi
23	1957	R.C.A. - Bangassou
24	1957	Irak - Mossoul
25	1957	Congo-Br. Kibouendé
26	1961	Colombie-Medellin
27	1962	Peru-Pucallpa
28	1964	Cameroon-Sangmelima
29	1965	Rwanda-Butare
30	1968	Papua N.G. - Daru
31	1969	Mauritius-Port-Louis
32	1973	Fiji - Suva
33	1976	Haiti-Port-au-Prince
34	1983	Tanzania-Iringa
35	1989	Tonga-Nuku'Afola
36	1992	Kenya-Nairobi
37	1995	Guinea. C. - Orouss
38	1998	Philippines - New-Washington
39	1998	Sabah (Mal.) Kota-Kinabalu
40	1998	Poland-Czestokowa
41	2002	Guinea-Bissau / Boloma
42	2006	Burundi - Gitega
43	2007	Burkina-Faso/Dédougou
44	2014	Myanmar/ Twantay
45	2019	Malawi - Zomba

1. The 6 Pioneer Brothers of Canada, in Montreal, on September 25, 1888



2nd : Bros. Herbland, Jean de Prado, Sylvère

1st rank : Bros. Augustin, Louis-Bertrand and Raoul

Veuillez agréer, Mon C^{or}is Cher Père,
l'hommage de mon respect et l'assurance
de tout mon dévouement pour St. Gabriel.
In Jesus et Marie L. Fleurance

04 July 1883 - excerpt from the letter of Fr. Pierre Fleurance (1837-1901), s.m.m., giving Reverend Bro. Hubert news of his research in Canada, and assuring him **“of all his dedication to St. Gabriel. In Jesus and Mary”**.



Montreal – **“House of Sault-au-Récollet”** around 1890 **This house was a Novitiate and a Provincial House**

In **May 1883, Father Pierre Fleurance** (1837-1901), a Montfortian, went to Canada with Bro. Hugolin to prepare the foundation of the Fathers of the Company of Mary, in an agricultural orphanage, at Morin-Flatz, near Saint-Jérôme, in the County of Argenteuil, far away from Montreal. On July 04, 1883, he wrote to Reverend Bro. Hubert, successor to Reverend Bro. Eugène-Marie, who had died in 1882. **Reverend Bro. Hubert had requested him to do some research. Father Fleurance made a great contribution.** We have three of his letters in the Archives in Rome. Here is an excerpt from his first letter of July 4, 1883: *Orphanage of Notre-Dame de Montfort, July 4, 1883, "Reverend Brother, I always hoped to be able to give you a verbal response concerning the request you made when I left Saint-Laurent, but now that unforeseen circumstances compel me to prolong my stay in Canada, in order not to appear to have forgotten St. Gabriel, I hasten to tell you that I have been thinking of you and have inquired near several clergymen if some place of residence for you could be found here. Recently, I saw the Reverend Father Abbot of Bellefontaine who is leaving for France today, and we were talking about St. Gabriel. He told me that he had spoken of you to several Bishops and that he thought a foundation in Canada would be possible. The Reverend Father will be back in Bellefontaine towards the end of July, so you will be able to get more information from him.*

"We have, a few miles from here, a village which is new, and which, in a few years, may become a town. There is no teacher yet, and the parish priest of Saint-Jérôme, who is at the head of the work of colonization, has told me that you could very well establish yourselves in that locality. I am still going to look into this matter, and if I can find something suitable, I will be

happy to let you know. Wouldn't it be a great joy to see all the children of Montfort working in the very Christian country of Canada, in the admirable work of educating children". (FSG Archives - Rome - 134.230). **The wishes of Father Pierre Fleurance and of Reverend Bro. Hubert were fulfilled on September 25, 1888, when the six pioneers arrived in Montreal after a ten-day journey.**

The 6 Pioneer Brothers of Canada

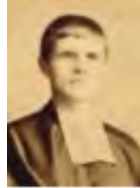
- **Bro. Louis-Bertrand (Émile Bertho, 1855-1936)** was the soul of the foundation: Director in 1888, Novice Master in 1890, and three times Provincial Superior. He was Assistant General from 1898 to 1908.
- **Bro. Herbland (Jean-Baptiste Creuzé, 1863-1920)** spent 4 years in the Orphanage Saint-François Xavier and 28 years at the service of the Maison Saint-Louis, in Sault-au-Récollet.
- **Bro. Augustin (Gustave Badinier, 1856-1942)**, lived in Canada for 12 years, 4 of which as a teacher in the Novitiate of Sault-au-Récollet, and 2 as Director in Sainte-Rose. He was Provincial Superior from 1920 to 1922.
- **Bro. Jean de Prado (Victor Soulé, 1863-1919)** lived in Canada for 7 years: teacher in the Orphanage Saint-François Xavier, in the school of l'Assomption, in the St. Vincent de Paul Youth Centre, and in the school of Sainte-Rose.
- **Bro. Raoul (Alphonse Drouet, 1858-1930)** was in Canada for 42 years: he was teacher or Director in 10 Institutions.
- **Bro. Sylvère (Victor Balcou, 1853-1928)** taught in the Orphanage Saint-François Xavier and in the Collège of l'Assomption, before being the founder of the school in St. Johnsbury in the United States.

2. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of the U.S.A. - St. Johnsbury - August 29, 1890

Bro. Sylvère



Bro. Gabriel-Ferretti



Bro. Ananie



Bro. Sylvère in 1904-1905



ST-JOHSBURY'S STAFF: 1904-1905

Devant: les FF. Edouard-Charles, Théophile, Hilaire-Joseph et Henri
Derrière: les FF. Isidore d'Alexandrie, Sylvère (Directeur) et Brévis

In **1890**, **Jean-Antoine Boissonnault (1841-1908)**, parish priest of the French-speaking Canadian parish of **St. Johnsbury, Vermont (USA)**, pleaded the case of the town's Catholic School before the Superiors. They accepted his request and **3 classrooms were opened in September 1890 with an average of 160 students...** In **1896**, a serious industrial crisis forced the priest to close the school... When prosperity returned, **in 1903, the parish priest recalled the Brothers**, and there were **6 classrooms**: Teaching was given **in French and in English** in all the subjects of the **commercial curriculum**. There were up to **190 students...** The Gabrielite presence ended in 1928... **St. Gabriel's College still exists.**

The 3 pioneers of 1890-1891 :

- **Bro. Sylvère (Victor Balcou, 1853-1928)** was one of the six pioneers of the Foundation in Canada in 1888. **He was headmaster of the St. Johnsbury school from 1890 to 1896, from 1903 to 1911, and from 1917 to 1920.**
- **Bro. Gabriel-Ferretti (Henri Morier, 1872- L. 1903)** arrived in Canada in 1890 at the age of 18. He was sent directly to **St. Johnsbury** where he taught **from 1890 to 1895**. He then went to Sault-au-Récollet, in Montreal, to teach in the Novitiate, **from 1895 to 1900**. He was one of **the pioneers of the Foundation in Thailand, in 1902, and in England, in 1903**. **He changed orientation in 1903**; as a teacher in Cholet, he remained, in all aspects, a valuable Christian teacher. He died on March 28, 1953.
- **Bro. Ananie (Georges Vincent, 1873-1941)**, from Aizenay, a 17-year-old Novice, arrived in **St. Johnsbury on 16 August 1891**. He taught there **from 1891 to 1894** and **from 1895 to 1896**. He lived his entire religious life in Canada.

N.B. The report on the Silver Jubilee of the ordination of Father Boissonnault, on 10 and 11 November 1891, mentions that **“Brothers Sylvère, Gabriel and Ananie took part in the celebration”**.



Collège St. Gabriel - commercial courses - St. Johnsbury

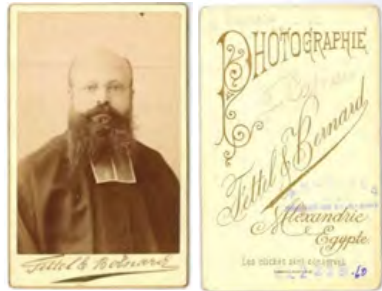


Basketball club in 1910 St. Gabriel's College also had a brass band.

3. The four Pioneer Brothers in Egypt, Alexandria, 18 September 1890



St. Francis Xavier College run by the Jesuits, Alexandria, Egypt



Bro. Caprais
(Benjamin Durand)

In 1890, two years after the foundation in Canada, **Reverend Bro. Hubert** accepted that **four Brothers of the Province du Midi** go to teach at the **Collège Saint-François Xavier**, run by the **Jesuit Fathers**, in **Alexandria, Egypt**. They arrived in **Alexandria on 18 September 1890**. In that College, courses were given in French to Egyptian, French, Italian, Syrian, Greek and English students. The students were Muslims, Catholics, Copts, Protestants, etc. In 1900, there were also courses in English given by the Brothers... **Brother Caprais (Benjamin Durand)** was there for 10 years and was appreciated by all.

The first 4 pioneers

- Bro. Caprais (Benjamin Durand, 1845-1901), in Alexandria, from 1890 to 1900. Died in Djibouti, 1st January 1901.
- Bro. Gennade (Louis Bonnet, 1861- L. 1903)
- Bro. Germain de Montfort (Jean Pancol, 1873- L. 1903)
- Bro. Sérénus (François Grac, 1871- L. 1897)



Jesuit College, Alexandria - 1912 - with Brother Diomedé (Pierre Bernard, 1873-1966), wearing the Gabrielite bands.

4. The 3 Pioneer Brothers in Belgium, Tournai, 14 September 1900



Tournai (Belgium) –
Faubourg Morelle 26-
Chaussée de Renaix - Sacré-
Cœur Church



Bro. Gonzalès



Bro. Aloysius de Jésus



Bro. Ambroise

After 1898, **Rev. Brother Martial**, seeing that the French political evolution was unfavourable to teaching Congregations, **sought to set up communities in Belgium. He requested some Brothers to prepare themselves to obtain the required diploma to teach in Belgium. Brother Ambroise was one of them.** Father **Louis Friant, an Alsatian** (1853-1918), who had become a priest in the Pas-de-Calais, was treated as a “Prussian” and could not obtain French nationality, even though he had fled Alsace, which had become German territory, in loyalty to France. He therefore had to go into self-exile in Belgium. This “priest with a heart of gold” was the priest who founded the Sacred Heart parish, in Tournai: he built the great sanctuary dedicated to the Sacred Heart and a school. Knowing the Brothers of Lille **and Ronchin well, he approached Brother Martial to obtain Brothers for his school.**

On 14th September 1900, Father Friant had the joy of welcoming two Brothers who settled in the Faubourg Morelle, Chaussée de Renaix (n° 26), in the Sacred Heart school. Bro. Ambroise had a great role in the Congregation, first in Belgium, and then, in Italy and in Rome, as Procurator of the Congregation, in Rome, for 20 years, from 1927 to 1947.

The first 3 pioneers of Belgium, in Tournai

- **Bro. Ambroise (Pascal Fradet, 1878-1959), Director from 1900 to 1913**
- **Bro. Gonzalès (Louis Moriceau, 1879-1967), Assistant, from 1900 to 1901, before his military service.**
- **Bro. Aloysius de Jésus (Jean Macé, 1880-1938), Assistant from 1901 to 1909**



Jubilee of the Province of Belgium in 1950

5. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of Gabon - Libreville – 7th October 1900



Bros. Théodule, Fulgent,
Roger



from left to right

- 1) Bro. **Theodule** (Louis Moreau, 1857-1936)
- 2) Bro. **Fulgent** (Emmanuel Boisdron, 1853-1903), Director, who died at Agoué (Benin) on 20th September 1903.

Mission of Agoué (Benin) where Bro. Fulgent is buried.

- 3) Bro. **Roger** (Léon Lemeter, 1881- L. 1910)

Bro. Louis Bauvineau mentions that, *“On August 27, 1900, Rev. Bro. Martial wrote to Bro. Fulgent, school Director at Châtillon-sur-Sèvre: “God keeps his own time... If you are still determined to go to the mission fields, I am letting you know that we have chosen you to go and set up St. Gabriel’s flag in Congo”. Bro. Fulgent had been awaiting such a proposal for 27 years”. He was now 47. He merely answered: “It is God’s will,*

fiat!“ And he boarded a ship at Bordeaux, in September 1900, with **Bro. Theodule** (43) and **Roger** (19 years of age) together with three Spiritan Fathers; on **October 7, 1900, they landed at Libreville**”. (pp. 203-204).

One of the first things that Bishop Adam and the doctor requested of the three Brothers was that they change their black cassocks for white ones, and do away with the coat, as this was incompatible with the equatorial climate.

Bishop Jean Adam (1846-1929), a **Spiritan**, Apostolic Vicar of Gabon from 1897 to 1914, had requested Brothers to replace 3 Spiritans. **On 22nd October 1901**, two weeks after their landing, **the three Brothers took charge of the school**, which, the following year, would be named *Montfort School*. Bro. Fulgent was in charge for only three years. Stricken by dysentery, **Bro. Fulgent had to be repatriated to France and died during the journey, on 20th September 1903**, in the harbour of Grand-Popo (Benin). He is buried in Benin, **in the cemetery of the Mission of Agoué (Benin)**, near the Fathers of the African Missions of Lyon.



Montfort School at Libreville, February 20, 1903, in front of the Church Saint-Pierre

6. The two Pioneer Brothers of Djibouti - 20 December 1900



Bro. Caprais, Director, 56 years old
(Benjamin Durand, 1845-1901)



Bro. Robert-d'Uzès, 18 years old
(Joseph Maurel, 1882-1967)

In **1900**, **Bishop Jarosseau** (1859-1941), a Capuchin Missionary from Vendée, knew the Brothers of St. Gabriel well. He was the **Apostolic Vicar of the Gallas (Harrar)**, and he had, under his jurisdiction, the French town of **Djibouti**, which had no schools. Wishing that the Mission School be ahead of the Government School, **he called upon the Brothers of St. Gabriel**. They arrived on **20th December 1900** and opened the School Saint-Gabriel in January 1901, for sixteen European students and some native ones.

But **the climate was hostile**. As Bro. Louis Bauvineau mentions in "The Memory of Saint Gabriel": *"The first Brothers who were making their way to Thailand and broke their journey in Djibouti wrote, on 1st October 1901: "A gloomy city and a scorching temperature. Not a single tree. Anyone visiting Djibouti, would be sorry for the people compelled to stay in this desert." The Headmaster of St. Gabriel's School, Bro. Caprais, who had spent ten years in Alexandria (Egypt), was struck down by fever on 1st June 1901, and died aged 56. Two years later, Bro. Alban, died at the age of 41."*

Arrived when he was 18 years old, Bro. Robert d’Uzès, the future Superior of the District of Abyssinia, began to deploy his talents. Realising that the Somalis shun the French School, he learned Arabic and, in November 1904, created a special School for them in the village of Bender-Djedid... Bro. Robert d’Uzès lived in Djibouti from **1901 to 1914**, and from **1917 to 1919**. He has left, in the civil and religious history of the Territory of Djibouti, the reputation of an *“extraordinary man”*.



Djibouti - Saint Gabriel Institute



Djibouti - the village of Bender-Djedid, Bro. Robert d’Uzès founded a School for Somali children near that village

7. The three Pioneer Brothers of Ethiopia - Harar – 09th February 1901



*On this photo, dated 1901, we see the Brothers from **Djibouti** who came to visit their confreres in **the new Community of Harar, in Ethiopia**, accompanied by the **Capuchin Fathers in charge of that mission: Bros. Robert d'Uzès and Brice (Djibouti) Bro. Alban, Director of Harar, and Cyril of Prague.***

This foundation was, once again, **at the initiative of Mgr. Jarosseau, Apostolic Vicar of Abyssinia**. Bro. Louis Bauvineau tells us: *“The first Brothers of the Mission took **more than three weeks**, by railway (then under construction), and then with a caravan, to go up from Djibouti to Harar, a large commercial centre of 50,000 inhabitants, perched at 1,800 metres. They opened a School there for Catholic children, who were a tiny minority in a population of Copts and Muslims”.*

From 1905 to 1935, the district of Abyssinia knew an important expansion: Larga Arba (also called Arguitti), Alila, Addis Ababa, Diré-Dawa. Out of the 44 Brothers who succeeded one another in that Sector (35 French, 8 Italian, and 1 Belgian), 2 died in Djibouti and 8 in Ethiopia, all were French.

+ The three pioneer Brothers in Ethiopia, in Harar:



- 1) Bro. Alban (Théophile Hugues, 1863-1903), Superior
- 2) Bro. Marie-Antoine (Jean Vial, 1877- L. 1901)
- 3) Bro. Cyrille de Prague (Jules Costes, 1863- L. 1919)

8. The 5 Pioneer Brothers of Thailand - Bangkok – 20th October 1901



Bro. Auguste, a Canadian pioneer, after two years of generous apostolate, was struck by a fever that brought him close to death. Urgently repatriated in Peruwelz (Belgium) in October 1903, he died there on April 21, 1905, at the age of 34, without having revisited his native country or his family, nor "Siam which he loved with all his apostle's heart"



*Cde. Bro. Auguste
— PERUWELZ, Belg. in December 1903*

Father Emile Colombet (1849-1933) M.E.P., parish priest of the Assumption parish in Bangkok, opened a college in 1877 which, in 1900, had 400 students, with French and English Sections... How to deal with this? Coming to France for treatment, he met a Brother of St. Gabriel... **Shortly afterwards, Bro. Martial promised him five Brothers who would arrive in Bangkok on 20th October 1901.**

1) from left to right and seated (photo above)

- Bro. Gabriel-Ferretti (Henri Morier, 1872- L. 1903)
- Bro. Martin de Tours (Vincent Champomier, 1863-1933), Superior
- Bro. Auguste (Théodule Gauthier, 1871-1905) 1st Canadian missionary.

2) from left to right, and standing (photo above)

- **Bro. Abel (Jean Fabre, 1873- L. 1904)**
- **Bro. Hilaire (François Thouvenet, 1881-1968)** who became a well-known specialist of the Thai language.

Bros. Abel, Louis-Hubert, Diodore-Marie, Allyre, Jean-Louis, Pierre-Maurice, Gabriel-Maria, Frédéric-Jean



Seated: Bros. Martin de Tours and Auguste ; standing on the right: Bro. Hilaire ... January 1903 - Bangkok - Assumption College - 11 Brothers of St. Gabriel, including 4 pioneer



Bro. Théophane-Vénard. Student in London (Clapham) in 1921

André Boonyanant (1891-1976) was born in Bangkok. He was a student of the first Brothers who arrived in 1901. He made his Novitiate in Peruwelz (Belgium) from 1911 to 1913. He was the first Thai Brother. He was a teacher in Valls (Spain) from 1915 to 1920. He studied English in London from 1920 to 1926.

9. The 4 Pioneer Brothers in Switzerland – Givisiez, 7th May 1903



This photo was taken **at the end of 1903** - The Brothers who founded that house for the Novices and Scholastics are not on this photo, except for **Bro. Benoît-Marie (Joseph Tharreau), Master of Novices**, because the French political situation, which was unfavourable to Congregations, had led to some changes.



*Givisiez, near Fribourg
(Switzerland)*

The « Château-Boccard »



The chapel of Givisiez

What **Rev. Bro. Martial** had foreseen in 1900 happened. **An insidious persecution against the teaching Congregations was gaining ground in France.** Here is what Bro. Louis Bauvineau wrote : *”On March 23rd, 1903, five days after the parliament rejected the request for authorization of the Institute, Bro. Maurice (Etienne Foucher), provincial of the Centre, and his Novice Master, Bro. Benoît-Marie (the future Superior General), after receiving a directive from the Mother House, left Clermont-Ferrand for Switzerland, in order to find a house for a Novitiate.... They came back to France without having decided anything. It took a second trip for the “Château Boccard” to be retained. It was a poor and small house which, however, was surrounded by a superb alpine landscape. It was in Givisiez, at the*

*entrance of **Fribourg**, which was considered as the Rome of the North, bubbling with the intellectual life of its Catholic university and fervent with the piety of its many religious Institutes.”*

Novices from Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre and Clermont-Ferrand and Scholastics from Clavières came to **Givisiez on 7 May 1903**. From November 1904, Bro. Benoît-Marie was their Formator. There, they prepared for a Brevet or a Baccalaureate, while continuing their religious studies. **Givisiez was the only Formation House for three years, before moving to Péruwelz, in Belgium, on August 4, 1906.**

The 4 pioneer Founders of Givisiez

- **Bro. Maurice (Étienne Foucher 1846-1935)**, Provincial of the Centre (Clermont-Ferrand), left France in view of welcoming the Novices and Scholastics. Four months later he left for **Madagascar**.
- **Bro. Louis de la Croix (Ferdinand Dugast, 1865- L. 1909)**
- **Bro. Aloysius (Joseph Jacquet, 1865-1919)** was the Master of Novices till November 1903
- **Bro. Benoît-Marie (Joseph Tharreau, 1868-1948)**, took steps to rent the house where they came on **7th May 1903**. **In November 1903, he became Master of Novices**



The Novices and Scholastics of Givisiez in November 1904, during the visit of Rev. Bro. Martial.

10. The 3 Pioneer Brothers in England - Plymouth - 08 May 1903

Seeing the French political situation since 1880, **the Superiors had thought of England as a refuge for the congregation.** Brother Louis Bauvineau, in *“The Memory of Saint-Gabriel”* writes: *“It was not until the beginning of 1903 that B.C.F. Sébastien made a prospecting trip to Plymouth and discovered the unoccupied college of the Basilian Fathers... In June, nine other Brothers joined the first contingent, then others later. In all, from May 1903 to September 1905, twenty-five Brothers passed through Plymouth, for a very variable length of time, from a few months to more than two years, and in a life of poverty close to misery. The main occupation of many was the serious study of English in preparation for the young missions in India and Siam. The courses were given at St. Boniface College or in public schools.*

Many brothers were trained there and went on to become missionaries in India, Thailand, Singapore, etc. After 1905, two houses in London will take over. **Here are the 3 pioneers.**



Bro. Gabriel-Ferretti



Bro. Pothin



Bro. Michel

The three pioneers (from left to right)

- **Bro. Gabriel-Ferretti (Henri Morier, 1872- L. end of 1903)**, one of the founders in U.S.A. and Thailand, who made many efforts to find a suitable house.
- **Bro. Pothin (Victorin Sabatier, 1867-1921)**, director of Plymouth, then of London
- **Bro. Michel (René Leduc, 1878-1959)**, a great educator in Thailand and India

Beaconfield – Plymouth (1903-1905)



College of Mary Immaculate of the Basilian Fathers



photo at the end of 1903

- 1st row (seated) : Bro. Amédée / Bro . Pothin / Rev.Bro. Martial / Bro. Louis de Hongrie
- 2nd row : Bros. Théodore / Hubert, future provincial of Thailand / Donatien

11. The 2 Pioneer Brothers in Italy, at Sanremo - 13 May 1903



Bro. Cyprien (Jacques Auvin,
1836-1925)

Provincial of Midi from
1899 to 1919



Bro. Augustin (Gustave Badinier 1856-1942)
Director of Sanremo from 1903 to 1908
future Assistant General from 1908 to 1920



*Villa Bon Boschetto
(ou Bommoschetto)*



*exportation of fresh flowers, especially the
carnations*



In 1903, due to anti-clerical or anti-Congregational measures, the Brothers of the flourishing Midi Province went into exile. Some went to Italy, including Bro. Cyprien (Jacques Auvin 1836-1925), Provincial of Midi from 1899 to 1919, and Bro. Augustin (Gustave Badinier, 1856-1942), former Director of Les Mées.

By the end of 1903, there were 19 Brothers, and in 1906, 30 Brothers... The house of Bon Boschetto was a Provincial

House, a rest house for elderly Brothers and for Missionaries of Egypt, Djibouti and Ethiopia, a **centre for learning Italian**. The property of 7 hectares being in a sad state was developed by Bro. Augustine through an enormous amount of work. Bro. Augustine was, in turns, “*a farmer, a horticulturist (carnations), a wheelwright, a painter, a carpenter...*”.



1906 - 31 Brothers – Bro. Cyprian, Provincial ... Bro. Augustine, Superior and Director

31 Brothers died in Sanremo between 1903 and 1929

- N.B. during the following years there were two foundations: one at Genoa in Liguria (1906) for a Student house, and the other at Saluzzo (1908), in Piedmont, for a Juniorate and a Novitiate

12. The 2 Pioneer Brothers in Spain, in Girona (Catalonia) 10th August 1903



Girona, Calle Beatas 2, from 1903 to 1906, was the site of the first House of the Brothers from the Province of the Centre (Puy-de-Dôme, Lot, Aveyron, etc.). This photo was taken in August 1905, at the end of the Annual Retreat. We see the Professed Brothers, the Novices and Postulants. Salvador Lloveras y Soler was the first Spanish from Catalonia to become a Pre-Novice on 05 December 1904. He became a Novice on August 7, 1906. The Novitiate in Malgrat was opened on December 1, 1906. the first Spanish from Catalonia to become a Pre-Novice on 05 December 1904. He became a Novice on August 7, 1906. The Novitiate in Malgrat was opened on December 1, 1906.



Bro. Apollinaire



Bro. Hermogène

As a result of the anti-clerical measures taken by the French Government against the teaching Congregations, **the Brothers of the Province of the Centre**, in Auvergne (Provincial House in Clermont-Ferrand), **decided to take refuge in Spain, with the Brothers, Novices and Pre-Novices. The first house they came to was that of Impasse Beatas, in Girona, Catalonia.**

The two pioneers of this foundation are Brothers from Auvergne:

- **Bro. Apollinaire (Jean Faugère 1850-1938)**, in 1903, was **assistant general**. He did research in Spain, in the Basque Country, in Navarre, without success. A Capuchin advised him to go to Gerona in Catalonia and accompanied him. **The present Province of Spain owes much to Bro. Apollinaire**
- **Bro. Hermogène (Philbert Daffix, 1865-1943)** Director of St. Gabriel boarding School in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre since 1893, was available and **offered to go for the foundation of the Community in Gerona.** He arrived there **on 10 August 1903.**



Spain-Gerona - March 1904 - photo taken during the visit of Rev. Brother Martial, Superior General



“Testimonio – Gratiitud a nuestros fundadores”

13. The three Pioneer Brothers in Holland, Neeritter - 03 September 1903



In 1903, in Neeritter, in Holland, close to the Belgian border, Bro. Martial rented an old brewery, which was bought in 1911, so as to facilitate a withdrawal in case of conflict. At the beginning, it was intended to be a “retirement house”, but then, from 1912 onwards, it became a Novitiate and a Juniorate, until 1925. The House was closed in 1931.

The three pioneers

(we have no photo
of the first two)



Bro. Sigismond-Marie

- 1) **Bro. Berchmans (Alphonse Bretaudeau, 1853-1906), Superior**, died two years later.
- 2) **Bro. Laurence (Pierre Dénoyer, 1857-1920)**
- 3) **Bro. Sigismond-Marie (Jean Van Pelt, 1850-1921)**, a carpenter by profession



The 40 Novices and Pre-Novices of Neeritter in 1913, with Brothers Benoît-Marie (Joseph Tharreau), Novice Master, and Jérôme (Louis Petitgas)

14. The three Pioneer Brothers of the foundation in India - Pondicherry 11th September 1903

This is how Bro. Louis Bauvineau evokes the circumstances of the Gabrielite foundation in India, a decisive foundation for the Congregation. *“In 1901, Father Sélosse of the Paris Foreign Missions, a former pupil of St. Gabriel’s School in Lille and a teacher at the school-cum-seminary in Pondicherry, had suggested to his Bishop to write to Bro. Martial and request some Brothers to teach science at the seminary. As Brothers were not available, the request could not be granted. The situation was different in 1903, when Brothers had been secularized and many schools closed. The Superior General was able to send Bro. Denis, who was then 35 and teaching at St. Gabriel’s School in Saint-Laurent; he also sent Bro. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle, who was 29, and Bro.*

Martin de Vertou, who was 26; both were teaching at Lille boarding school. They got off the boat at Pondicherry, on 11 September 1903; that city was then the Capital of the French territories in India; they therefore did not feel strange in a city that looked like a French sub-prefecture. They began to teach three days after they arrived”.



Photo taken in Tindivanam in 1951. Bro. Louis-Mary

(Arokiasamy... 1878-1957), the first of the Indian Brothers, professed on February 3, 1910, talks with Bro. Martin de Vertou (Louis Faucheux 1876-1959), the last of the pioneers of 1903... These two Brothers are almost of the same age. Arokiasamy, a Tamil language teacher, entered the Pre-Novitiate of Tindivanam at the age of 26, on 27 December 1904, one year after the arrival of the Brothers.

1) 1st row (seated, from left to right) **The first three pioneers of September 11, 1903:**

- **Bro. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle (Gilles Guillard, 1874-1933)**
Pondicherry & Tindivanam
- **Bro. Denis (Louis-Marie Bourde, 1868-1926),** Pondicherry & Tindivanam, **Superior**

- **Bro. Martin de Vertou (Louis Fauchaux, 1876-1959)**,
Pondicherry & Yercaud
- 2) 2nd row (standing, from left to right), **the 3 pioneers who followed from 1904 to 1906:**
- **Bro. Eugène-Marie (Julien Le Pévédic, 1879-1946)**,
Ootacamund, Bangalore, Yercaud, Secunderabad, Yercaud
 - **Bro. Bonin (Marie-Maurice Bernard, 1864-1917)**,
Tindivanam
 - **Bro. Claudien (Joseph Yvon, 1885-1928)** Ootacamund,
Bangalore & Tindivanam

Pondicherry, en 1903
The Minor Seminary



Tindivanam – 1904 - Orphanage
and carpentry workshop run by
Bro. John Baptist de la Salle.

Tindivanam - 1914 - photo of the group of Professed Brothers, Novices and Pre-Novices, after the arrival of Bro. Corentin Compès (1892-1972) who came from London at the end of 1913. On this photo, we see 15 Brothers, including 5 Indian Brothers, 4 Novices and 2 Pre-Novices. The Brothers were present in Pondicherry (Minor Seminary), in Tindivanam (Novitiate, Tamil School, Orphanage and St. Joseph's Industrial School), in Bangalore (St. Joseph's College).



Bro. Corentin Compès - Bro. Louis-Mary (Arockiasamy)



Tindivanam - Novitiate – started
in 1904 by Bro. Denis

15. The 3 Pioneer Brothers in Madagascar - Diego-Suarez (Antsiranana) 17th September 1903

Bishop François-Xavier Corbet (1836-1914), an **Alsatian Spiritan**, was the first Apostolic Vicar of Northern Madagascar (Diego-Suarez), **from 1898 to 1914**. He left a **great reputation of kindness and commitment**. Thanks to his pastoral activity, the entire Northern zone of Madagascar was opened to Catholicism at the beginning of the Twentieth Century.

In 1903, Bishop Corbet, inspired by **Father Fortineau**, one of his missionaries and former student of our school in Machecoul, requested the **Brothers of St. Gabriel** to replace his Spiritan confreres in his schools, as was the case in Libreville, in Gabon.

Bro. Clovis de Montfort (Ferdinand ANDRÉ 1885-1919), he former Missionary in Egypt and India taught in Diego-Suarez from 1912 to 1919, except during the years of war. He died in Diego-Suarez of the “Spanish” flu, on 25th April 1919



Photo of the 3 pioneer Brothers before they left for Madagascar

- **In the centre, Bro. Maurice (Étienne Foucher 1846-1935)**. He was Provincial of the Centre (Clermont-Ferrand). As a result

of the anti-clerical measures of 1903, he left France to prepare a foundation in Switzerland, near Fribourg. A few months later, he left **for Madagascar** where he arrived **in Diego-Suarez (today Antsiranana)**. He was then **57 years old**. He was very much appreciated as the Superior of the Brothers and Director of the school. He was there **for 20 years**.

- **Left: Bro. Octavius (Jean-Baptiste Papon, 1860-1910)**. A few days after his arrival, he left to go and establish a new foundation in Fénérive
- **Right : Bro. Philippe de Néri (Jean-Baptiste Brillaud, 1875-1951)**. He stayed 11 months in Diego-Suarez, he then went to establish a school on Sainte-Marie Island.

Diego-Suarez – 06th December 1903



Je comprendrais bien vos larmes plus
longuement ; mais les surprises sont
très nombreuses à l'approche des
courriers. Je ne contenterai donc de
vous dire que je dois bien attendre les trois
frères et je vous en demande instamment
un 4^e qui sera pour l'île de Sainte-Marie
où il aura à continuer une école
importante d'une centaine d'élèves.
A vous tendant mon cœur + F. L. Corbet

Bishop Corbet, Apostolic Vicar of Northern Madagascar, wrote to Bro. Martial on 6th December 1903, saying: "... I am very happy with the three Brothers, and I urge you to send a fourth one to Sainte-Marie Island, where he will have to build a school for about a hundred students..."

16. The Three Pioneer Brothers of Venezuela - Caracas – 03rd October 1914



Bro. Francisco-Javier

Bro. Hubert de Liège

Bro. Louis-Augustin

The Congregation of the Sons of Mary Immaculate, from Vendée (known as “*de Chavagnes*”), ran a **French College in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela**. Knowing Rev. Bro. Martial well, they asked him if it was possible to send Brothers to help them in their task. **Several Brothers, both Spanish and French, were sent there during the years 1914-1920**. In 1919, the Fathers of Chavagnes were ready to leave the direction of the College to the Brothers but, because of the First World War, which had affected the Congregation (some Brothers had been killed and some others had left the Congregation), **the Superiors, in 1920, though with reluctance, put an end to that commitment, which was giving good results, in order to bring the support needed in Bangkok, Thailand.**

The three Pioneer Brothers who taught in Caracas (see photos above)

- **In the centre: Bro. Hubert de Liège, (Antoine Degeorges, 1885-1974), French, teacher and Director in Spain from**

1905 to 1914, was the Superior of the Community of Caracas from 1914 to 1920.

- **Right:** Bro. Louis-Augustin (Henri Pouget, 1894-1918), French, had made his Novitiate in Spain. As a young professed-Brother, he accompanied Bro. Hubert, but his health allowed him to stay in Caracas only for a few weeks. **He returned to Spain where he died on 24 November 1918.**
- **Left:** Bro. Francisco-Javier (José Fusté y Verré, 1894 - L. 1921), Spanish, born in Catalonia (Vallmoll), was a teacher in Caracas from 1914 to 1917.



Caracas – Bro. Francisco-Javier with his students



Caracas - Brothers Francisco-Javier, Hubert de Liège and Louis-Augustin, with the Sons of Mary Immaculate (Chavagnes)

17. The two Pioneer Brothers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Bondo 12th October 1928

On 29th August 1928, Brothers Alphonse-Marie and Cornelius embarked at the port of Antwerp. 45 days later, on October 12, 1928, they arrived in **Bondo**, and were welcomed with joy by **Bishop Jean Konings** (1870-1929), the **Apostolic Prefect of Bondo**, of the Congregation of the Crusader Fathers, who, in

Brussels, had met Bro. Sebastien and Bro. Julien, the Provincial Superior of the North. **Bishop Konings died in Bondo on 9 June 1929.**



1) photo taken in March 1929: standing in the 2nd rank:

the 4 Instructors (Teachers) of the school of Bondo

2) seated, from left to right:

Bro. Alphonse-Marie, Bishop Konings, Bro. Cornelius

School of Bondo in 1930 - classroom of Bro. Léonard-de-Port-Maurice (Louis Van Loon, 1898-1965). That Belgian Brother, the future martyr of Buta, in 1965, had been missionary in **Gabon** since 1926. **He replaced Bro. Alphonse-Marie** (who had been repatriated in Belgium because of sickness) **as interim Headmaster, from 1929 to 1932.** Here, he teaches under the palm trees of the new school. That Brother was a **missionary in Gabon**, from 1926 to 1929, from 1936 to 1944, and from 1947 to 1957, **in Ethiopia**, from 1935 to 1936, and in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, from 1929 to 1932, and from 1958 to 1965.



On the back of the photo taken in March 1929, Bro. Alphonse-Marie wrote to the Provincial Superior of Belgium: *“Eight days ago, I sent you some news. Since then, everything has improved, physically and morally. The number of students has increased to more than 200. The construction of the school is progressing slowly, and we are still in makeshift premises, with poor benches and Instructors filled with goodwill. This photo shows the Teachers of Bondo in their Sunday clothes...”*

The two Gabrielite pioneers of Bondo are:

- **Bro. Alphonse-Marie (François Dirven, 1898-1945)**, Superior and Director of the school. Exhausted by malaria, he was forced to return to Belgium in October 1929. He was replaced, for 3 years, by **Bro. Léonard-de-Port-Maurice (Louis Van Loon, 1898-1965)** who was then teaching in Libreville (Gabon). **Bro. Alphonse-Marie came back to Congo on August 12, 1932**, and stayed there till 17th January 1939. **Very tired, he returned to Belgium, where he died on 24th June 1945, aged 47.**
- **Bro. Cornélius (René Senzier, 1909 - L. 1934)** taught in Bondo **from 1928 to 1933**. He left the Congregation on January 11, 1934.



The new School in Bondo, inaugurated in July 1930. Bro. Alphonse-Marie came there when he returned from Belgium on 12th August 1932.



This photo was taken in Bondo, on 12th December 1936, during the visit of Rev. Bro. Onuphre, Assistant General. In the 2nd rank, from left to right, we see Bros. Bernardin (Gaston Nijjs), Alphonse-Marie (François Dirven), the pioneer, Stanislas-Joseph (Marcel Verschurere), the future martyr, and Augustinus (Gommaire Henderickx).

18. Pioneer Brothers of the Foundation in Singapore – 23rd November 1936

1) *Serangoon Holy Innocents' English School*

2) *Bukit-Timah, Orphanage, St. Joseph's Industrial School; Juniorate and Novitiate*



Bro Jean de Brébeuf



*Bro. Vincent de Sienne
(Guy Barbe)*

02nd July 1938 - Singapore - Visit to the Bukit-Timah Novitiate - (*Jean-Paul Hurtubise*)

2nd rank – *Bros. Anthony-Stanislas - Guy-Stanislas - Galmier*

1st rank - *Bros. Luis Gonzaga, Robert d'Uzès, Gérard Majella, Aloysius, Adolphe*

The foundation in Singapore was a response to the request of **Bishop Adrien Devals** (1882-1945), Missionary of the *Foreign Missions of Paris*, **Bishop of Singapore, from 1934 to 1945**. He wished for Singapore what he had seen and admired in Bangkok, where **Bishop Perros** (1870-1952), also Missionary of the *Foreign Missions of Paris*, was the Apostolic Vicar, from 1909 to 1947. That foundation had an **innovative aspect: it was a project of the District of Thailand, with Brothers of different nationalities: 4 French, 3 Canadians, 1 Spaniard, 1 Thai, and 1 Indian**. The two flourishing activities were almost wiped out in 1942 by the

harsh Japanese occupation. These activities resumed after 1945. Several Brothers experienced the Japanese concentration camps.

The 10 pioneer Brothers of Singapore

- Bro. **Gérard-Majella (Émile Courgeau, 1885-1973)**, French, coming from Bangkok, was **Superior and Director** of Serangoon, then **Novice Master**, at Bukit-Timah.
- Bro. **Adolphe (François Tessier, 1915-2003)**, Canadian, **teacher** in Serangoon, experienced the Japanese concentration camp. He then was **one of the pillars of the Province of Malaysia-Singapore**.
- Bro. **Jean-de-Brébeuf (Jean-Paul Hurtubise, 1916-1974)**, Canadian, was a **teacher** in Serangoon.
- Bro. **Luis-Gonzaga (Urbano Guttierrez y Buono, 1902-1986)**, Spanish. **Teacher in Thailand** for 14 years, he then became **Director of Serangoon**. He spent his entire life in Singapore.
- Bro. **Guy-Stanislas (Émilien Benoît, 1917-1942)**, French. **Excellent confrere and teacher in Serangoon**. He died prematurely of tuberculosis, in Singapore, during the tragic Japanese occupation.
- Bro. **Robert d'Uzès (Joseph Maurel, 1882-1967)**, had been a missionary in Djibouti and in Ethiopia for 38 years. He was expelled from there by the mussolinian authorities in 1935. He left for Singapore in **1938**. He was **Superior and Director of the Orphanage until 1942**. He returned to France in **1946**.

- Bro. **Galmier (Valérien Laugier, 1900-1990)**, a former missionary at Dire-Dawa, in Ethiopia, he joined Bukit-Timah in **1938**, where he founded the *“Mechanical Workshop”*. He lived in Singapore till **1954**.
- Bro. **Anthony-Stanislas (Anthony Tan Boonkheng, 1907-L. 1942)**, Thai Brother. He studied in India from 1936 to 1937. **He was appointed to the Novitiate in Bukit-Timah in June 1938, and taught there for 3 months.** He was then appointed in **Bangkok**.
- Bro. **Aloysius (Aloysius Jerome, 1899-1967)**, an **Indian Brother since 1917**. He was specialised in carpentry. He was a teacher at **St. Joseph’s Industrial School from 26th June 1938 to 29th December 1939**. He then returned to India.
- Bro. **Vincent de Sienne (Guy Barbe, 1919-1992)**, was only **17 years old**, when, in 1936, he left Canada to learn **English** with the Brothers in **London**, and to **prepare himself for the mission in Singapore. It was, in his heart, his mission was forever.** He arrived in Singapore in **early January 1940. On 26th March 1940**, he was appointed to the **Novitiate in Bukit-Timah and, in April 1940, teacher at Holy Innocents’ School. In 1942**, the Japanese became the masters of Singapore. **Bros. Adolphe and Vincent de Sienne, as British citizens, were made prisoners of war and lived in terrible conditions till 1945... Bro. Vincent de Sienne saw to the revival of the Gabrielite Institutions in Singapore till 1992. He was the soul of that refoundation.**

19. The 4 Pioneer Brothers in Brazil - Carmo do Rio Claro - 15 January 1949



08th December 1948 - the 4 Gabrielite Brothers for Brazil, accompanied by Bro. Alessio, appointed Provincial Superior (in the centre), are received by Pope Pius XII. - Bros. Alfonso (Arnaldo Bellucci) - Angelico (Rocco Carlacci) - Venceslao (Francesco Matassa) - Giovanni (Francesco Santirocchi)

On 11 November 1947, Bishop Hugo Bressane, of Guaxupé (Brazil), had written to the Brothers of Canada to request Brothers for the “*ginásio*” of Carmo do Rio Claro in Brazil. The Provincial Superior of Canada could not respond favourably, as he had already sent Brothers to Singapore and Malaysia. **Bishop Bressane then turned to the Brothers of the District of Italy.** He met them in Rome on 14 June 1948... **On 2 July 1948, the General Council gave its agreement.** All the Brothers of the District of Italy were enchanted by that decision, which would expand their Sector. **Italy became a Province in 1949.**

The 4 Brothers embarked, in Genoa, on 29 December 1948, and arrived in Rio de Janeiro on 7 January 1949, and **in Carmo do Rio Claro, on 15 January 1949. 22 Italian Brothers were sent to Brazil from 1948 to 1964.**

The 4 pioneer Brothers of Brazil

- **Bro. Angelico (Rocco Carlacci, 1912- L. 1969)** was **Superior and Director** of the College of Carmo do Rio Claro, and of those of Cassia and Bambui... He was also **District Superior**. In **1969, after 20 years of Gabrielite missionary life in Brazil**, he changed orientation and became a **Father of the Blessed Sacrament**. He was ordained a priest on 21st March 1971, in Belo-Horizonte.
- **Bro. Alfonso-Liguori (Arnaldo Bellucci, 1926-2008)** worked **in Brazil for 58 years, from 1949 to 2007**. He was an appreciated **Teacher and Director** in Carmo do Rio Claro, in Cassia, and in Capetina, from 1949 to 1972. After the Second Vatican Council and according to “*Perfectae Caritatis*”, the Province of Poitiers, which had just taken over the Brazilian Sector, accepted that **Bro. Arnaldo could become a priest**. He was ordained on 10th August 1972. He exercised his Ministry in **Capetina, in Passos, ...** Living in poverty, **he was attentive to the peripheries of the cities by building neighbourhood churches. He was always close to his parishioners**. He died in La Hillière (France), on 24th March 2008, one year after leaving his beloved Brazil.
- **Bro. Venceslao (Francesco Matassa, 1916- L. 1975)** was a **Teacher in Ethiopia** from 1934 to 1935. In Brazil, he was **Professor of Mathematics and Assistant-Director** in Carmo do Rio Claro and in Cassia. He changed orientation and was secularized on 10 April 1975, while remaining in Brazil.
- **Bro. Giovanni-Maria (Francesco Santirocchi, 1928 - L. 1966)** was a **Teacher** in Carmo do Rio Claro and Cassia, while acting sometimes as Secretary and Bursar. He was secularised on 29th April 1966.



1953 - Carmo do Rio Claro (Brazil) - the children attending catechism classes

20. The two Pioneer Brothers of Senegal, in Thiès – 29th October 1954



Bro. Gustave Monneron

Bros. Gustave Monneron & Clément Remaud, Founders.

January 1974 - Senegal - Thiès - Meeting of all the Brothers of the District during the Visit of Bro. Michel Taillé, Vicar General of Rev. Bro. Romain Landry, S.G.



1954 Bro. Clément Remaud with his nephews, before leaving for Senegal

Bishop Marcel Lefebvre (1905-1991), Apostolic Vicar, and then, Archbishop of **Dakar**, from 1947 to 1962, had appreciated **the Brothers of St. Gabriel** when he was a Missionary in Gabon, as Superior of the Mission of Lambaréné or Superior of the Seminary... As early as **1950**, he had requested **Bishop Guibert, his Auxiliary**, to contact **Bro. Pierre Canisius, Provincial Superior of West Vendée**, in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. **On 18th December 1953**, the Provincial visited **Thiès**. **On 15th April 1954**, the Provincial Council of Saint-Laurent *“proposes to the General Council to authorize the opening of a Teacher’s Training School, in Thiès, near Dakar (Senegal) as of November 1954. Two Brothers would be assigned there”*. On the next day, the General Council gave its consent.

On 21st October, **Brothers Laurent-Gabriel** and **Marie-Clément** embarked on the *“Djenné”*, in **Marseilles**. **They reached Thiès on the evening of October 29, 1954...** Six years later, **there were 36 students in the Teacher’s Training School. Thus began the Gabrielite Mission in Senegal.**

The two pioneer Gabrielite Brothers:

- **Bro. Laurent-Gabriel (Gustave Monneron, 1924-2014)** was a Teacher in the Juniorate and Boarding School of Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, from 1947 to 1954. In 1948, he completed a **Degree in General Psychology**. **He arrived in Senegal in 1954, where he lived for 58 years.** He was **Director of the Teacher’s Training School**, in Thiès, from 1955 to 1963. Between 1963 and 1966, he founded **the College of Fatick**, while supervising the construction of primary schools in the Sine-Saloum Region. **In 1964-1965, he completed a Degree**

in Pedagogy, in Paris. In 1966, he became the **Superior of the District of Senegal for 9 years.** From 1967 to 1980, he was **Education Counsellor in the region of Thiès, Director of Education of the new Diocese of Thiès, and also the National Director of Catholic Education in Dakar (5 years)...** In 1980, he contributed to the **new foundation in Salemata,** near Guinea Conakry: he was then **Education Counsellor for the Instructors of the rural schools.** He later moved to **Ndiébel,** from 1991 to 1997, with the same activities. As a retired Teacher, in **Mbour, Dakar and Thiès,** his contribution was that of a man of experience and wisdom. When, **in 2012,** at the age of 88, he left Senegal for **La Hillière,** he was happy to see that there were **53 Senegalese Brothers in the Province of Senegal.**

- **Bro. Marie-Clément (Clément Remaud, 1920-2004)** left for Senegal in **1954,** after having been the Director of a Family Home in Les Herbiers (Vendée) and with a diploma as a Camp Monitor. He was a **Teacher in the Teacher's Training School of Thiès, from 1954 to 1961.** He then went to **Congo-Brazzaville and to Gabon** from 1961 to 1971. He came back to **Senegal from 1971 to 1974,** as **Director of l'École Saint-Pierre, in Dakar, from 1971 to 1973,** and then, as **Teacher in the Juniorate of Thiès, from 1973 to 1974.** He then returned to **Brazzaville (Congo),** to the **Novitiate of Notre-Dame d'Afrique, from 1975 to 1983.** Due to health problems, he came back in France, particularly in **La Peyrouse.** He passed away in Bordeaux, on **24th April 2004.**

21. The 2 Pioneer Brothers in Malaysia - Johore-Bahru – 01st January 1955



*Bro. John Tham Koon Seng
(James of the Sacred Heart)
(1929-2020)*



*Bro. Bertrand Roberge
(Elzéar-Marie)
(1921- L. 1975)*



Johore- Babru (Malaysia) – St. Joseph's English School 1955-1993

The first school in Malaysia was opened in Johore-Barhu, a strategic city, facing Singapore Island, on 1st January 1955. On that same day, Bro. Vincent de Sienne (Guy Barbe, 1919-1992), one of the pioneers, became the Director of the autonomous District of Malaysia-Singapore. The School was named “St. Joseph’s English School” and, in 1966, it became known as “St. Joseph’s Private School”.

The two pioneers of that foundation are:

- Bro. **Elzéar-Marie (Bertrand Roberge (1921- L. 1992))**, Canadian, **the first Director**.
- Bro. **James of the Sacred Heart (John Tham Koon Seng, 1929-2020)** was born in Singapore. He had his Novitiate and studied in **Coonoor**, and then, in **Yercaud** (India). When he

went back to Malaysia-Singapore, in **January 1955**, he was **appointed as Teacher in St. Joseph's, in Johore-Barhu.**

At the beginning, the school had two daily sessions: Classes were in English in the morning and in Chinese in the afternoon. When the school expanded, classes were held at the same time, in different premises. The new building was inaugurated in **1956** by "**Her Royal Highness, the late Sultanah of Johore**".



cutting the ribbon for the opening ceremony of a fun fair in aid of the Building Fund in 1956 by Her Royal Highness the late Sultanah of Johore.

1956



1955-1980

**25 Years of St. Joseph's
School in Johore Barhu.**

22. The 4 Pioneer Brothers in Sri Lanka - Killinochi – 10th April 1956



**Bros. Mathai K.C. – Louis Gloriau –
Éléazar, Provincial (India) – Julien Aguilon**



**1957-1960 -Aroganam
Agricultural College - Killinochi**

On 28th April 1956, the Province of India inaugurated a new Community in the North of Sri Lanka (then called “Ceylon”), at **Killinochi**, 60 km from **Jaffna**. **Bro. Éléazar, Provincial Superior of India**, was responding to the request made to the General Council of the Congregation by **Rev. Jerome Emilianuspillai** (1901-1972), who was Bishop of Jaffna, from 1950 to 1972. **Rev. Bro. Gabriel-Marie and Rev. Bro. Rembert had already met the Bishop in Jaffna.**

The Brothers first took charge of the Orphanage and of the Secondary School in Killinochi, till the house and buildings of the Agricultural College, 6 kms away, were ready, as the property was in the jungle. They then **prepared themselves to found the Aroganam Agricultural College in Killinochi**. In January 1958, **Bro. Yves went to the Boys’ Town in Singapore**, at the expense of the Bishop, in view of perfecting his mechanical skills.

The Brothers left on 19 March 1960. Their departure was caused by the financial difficulties of the Bishop, due to the very bad political situation. Already in 1958, **Bro. Alphonsius-Paceco had to leave Sri Lanka, because the Nationals of India were no longer welcomed.**

The 4 Gabrielite pioneer Brothers of Sri Lanka:

- **Bro. Urbain (Louis-Gloriau, 1914-2000), Director;** former missionary in Thailand, from 1947 to 1954.
- **Bro. Alphonsius-Paceco (Mathai K.C., 1924 – L. 1964), Assistant-Director,** was born in Kerala (Travancore) and spoke Tamil. But, for political reasons, he had to leave in 1958, because he was an Indian citizen.

- Bro. Vincent (Julien Aguilon, 1913-2002), was a former missionary in **Ethiopia**, from 1933 to 1936. After leaving Sri Lanka, in 1960, he went to **Gabon and Congo-Brazzaville**, from 1960 to 1986.
- Bro. Yves de la Croix (Alcide-Yves Morisset, 1935 - L. 1961), was present in **Killinochi**, from 1956 to 1958. He then went to study in *Boys' Town*, **Singapore**, and **came back to Killinochi in August 1959**.

*Bro. Vincent and his students
in a cotton field.*



from left to right

*Bros. Vincent, Alphonsius-Paceco,
Urbain,... Yves de la Croix*



*“Montfort International School” The 3 Brothers
of the Community in Allaipiddy - Jaffna*

On 29th June 2017, the two pioneer Brothers Selvanathan and Mariapragasam along with Bro. Mariannan, Provincial of Trichy, landed in Jaffna. Located the land at once and started the preliminary works. After many hurdles and hardships the school started in January 2022. This school is mainly for the children of Island in the war affected area.

23. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of Central Africa (R.C.A.) - Bangassou - 26 July 1957



Bangassou - Bishop Bodewes, Spiritan, Apostolic Prefect, Bangassou, with Bros. Magloire (Arthur Miron) and Louis-Eugène (Roland Jacob)



Bangassou - the 3rd pioneer of 1959, Réal Grenier Bros. Robert Desrosiers – Guy St-Onge, Provincial - Réal Grenier, with Bros. Ferdinand Filion and Roland Jacob

On the right bank of the Oubangui River, and at the frontier of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is the town of **Bangassou**. In February 1957, **Bishop Martin Bodewes** (1914-2011), a Dutch Spiritan, who had been a missionary in Congo-Brazzaville from 1946 to 1955, and who had become **Apostolic Prefect of Bangassou** (from 1955 to 1964), had the visit of **Rev. Bro. Gabriel-Marie** who wanted to go to Bondo (Democratic Republic of Congo) to visit the community of the Belgian Brothers. **Bishop Bodewes** talked about his plans to have Brothers to open a **Teacher's Training School**. The Superior General suggested that he write to **Bro. Pascal (René Simard)**, Superior of the new **Province of Champlain**, since that Province did not yet have a missionary Sector. **Soon afterwards, Bro. Pascal received the**

visit of a Spiritan missionary who was in Canada for a short visit. He then decided to send two Brothers to Bangassou.

Brothers Magloire and Louis-Eugène arrived from Canada on 26 July 1957. They developed and animated the St. Louis Teacher's Training School. Another Brother of the Province of Champlain joined them in 1959: **Bro. Réal Grenier...** On October 1st, 1957, **seeing the commitment and competence of the two Brothers**, a student of the Teachers' Training School, **Antonin Kimata, asked to become a Brother.** After two years in the Juniorate, **in 1959, he applied to enter the Novitiate** in Brazzaville, Congo-Brazzaville. **He took his First Vows on 24 September 1961, under the name of Bro. Antonin.** After a year of Scholasticate in Lambaréné, Gabon, on 11 August 1963, he became a Teacher at the Bangassou Teacher's Training School. He changed orientation in **August 1964.**

The three Gabrielite Pioneer Brothers of the Central African Republic:

- **Bro. Arthur Miron (1908-1995), Superior and Director of St. Louis Teacher's Training School in Bangassou, from 1957 to 1967.**
- **Bro. Roland Jacob (1918-2022), Teacher from 1957 to 1970 and from 1974 to 1985.**
- **Bro. Réal Grenier (1931-2019), Teacher from 1959 to 1965.**

The children of Bangassou



1957 - The Students of “St. Louis Teacher’s Training School” with Bishop Bodewes, the Spiritan Fathers of the parish, and Brothers Magloire and Louis-Eugène.

24. The 4 Pioneer Brothers of Iraq - in Mosul – 24th October 1957



24 The 4 Pioneer Brothers of Iraq - in Mosul – 24th October 1957

Extract: *Bro. Amance announces that Bro. Edmund Campion and he arrived in Mosul the previous week.*

On 15th June 1936, Pope Pius XI entrusted **Cardinal Tisserant** (1884-1972) with the direction of **the Congregation for the Oriental Churches** with the title of **“Secretary”**, a position he held until **1959**. A year later, in 1937, he became **the Protector**

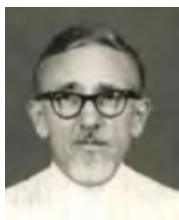
of the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, for which he was very active. In 1956, the Provincial Superior of the Dominicans in France had written to Rev. Bro. Gabriel-Marie to ask for Brothers for their College in Mossul, otherwise they would be forced to close the College in 1957. Cardinal Tisserant supported that request. Rev. Bro. Gabriel-Marie and his Council turned to Bro. Eleazar, Provincial Superior of India, who accepted the request (N.B.: the travelling expenses were paid for by “*Pro Ecclesia Orientali*”).

That is how four Brothers arrived in Mossul in 1957 and 1958: one French and three Indian Brothers. At the beginning, on 21st October 1957, they were only two: Bro. Amance, the Superior of the Community, and Bro. Edmund Campion. Here is an extract from a Letter to Bro. Gabriel-Marie, on 2nd November 1957, 12 days after their arrival: “*Dominican Fathers, Mosul, Iraq, 2-11-1957 ... It is now nearly 15 days since we arrived here, after a pleasant journey, and began our work in Mosul College. Bro. Edmund gives 3 Mathematics courses per day, and I give 4 English courses, 6 days a week. There are 14 students in 5th grade, 8 in 4th grade, 48 in 3rd grade, 26 in 2nd grade, and I don't know how many in 1st grade, since I don't go there. The students are of all ages, but rather advanced in age...*”. The Brothers live in the Dominican convent, 2 km away from the College.

The Military Revolution of July 1958, shook up Iraq, and, unfortunately, in 1959, by Government decision, all private schools were closed. The Brothers had to leave Iraq...

The 4 Gabrielite Pioneer Brothers of Mosul, in Iraq:

- Bro. Amance (Marcel Blais, 1907-2003), Superior of the Community and Professor at the College from 1957 to 1958.
- Bro. Edmund-Campion (Mani Mezhukanal, 1932 – L. 1974), Teacher from 1957 to 1959.
- Bro. Lawrence-Joseph (Zacharias Elamplachery, 1935-.... ..) Teacher from 1958 to 1959.
- Bro. Félix (Mathew Palathunkal, 1928- 2008), Teacher from 1958 to 1959.



Bro. Amance



Bro. Lawrence-Joseph



Bro. Edmund-Campion



One of the classes at the Dominican College in Mosul (Iraq)



Bro. Felix

25. The 2 Pioneer Brothers of Congo-Brazzaville - in Kibouendé-Baratier 24th September 1957



Church of the Kibouendé-Baratier Mission, 60 km from Brazzaville. Brothers Laurent and Pierre-Chrysologue, the first Brothers, the Novices and Juniorists lived there from 1957 to 1960.



1958 - Kibouendé Novitiate : the first Gabrielite Pre-Novices with Bro. Pierre-Chrysologue, on the left, and Bro. Laurent, Master of Novices, on the right.

On 24th September 1957, two Brothers of St. Gabriel arrived in Kimbouendé-Baratier, 60 km from Brazzaville: **Bros. Laurent**, former Assistant General (54 years old) and **Pierre-Chrysologue** (42 years old), who had been a missionary in Lambaréné and Mouila (Gabon) from 1954 to 1957. They arrived in a **mission that was very important for the Church of Congo**. There were 3 Spiritan missionaries in charge of the mission, a community for the formation of the Brothers of St. Joseph (Diocesan Congregation), and a Novitiate for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. Bros. Laurent and Pierre-Chrysologue opened a **Juniorate, and then, a Pre-Novitiate and a Novitiate**.

One of the wonderful graces received by the Brothers, Pre-Novices and Novices of St. Gabriel in Kibouendé was **the presence of**

three Brothers of St. Joseph who were models of religious life, generosity and apostolic commitment. Bro. Marie-André Nganga (1919-1998) was a professed Brother since 1941. From 1946 to 1960, he was the zealous and competent Director of the **primary school** of Kibouendé, he took care of **pedagogical formation**, worked for the formation of **the Pre-Novices** of his Congregation, founded a **group of *Cœurs-Vaillants*** (Valiant Hearts) etc. Bro. Marie-Alphonse Ndouri (1927-2010), from 1951 to 1959, was the **Assistant of Bro. Marie-André in the School** of Kibouendé, and **Animator of movements for children and youth**. Bro. Paul Kimpiriri (1910-1998) had taken his First Vows as a Brother of St. Joseph in 1930. He lived in Kibouendé from 1945 to 1959. A **carpenter by trade**, he was also a **gardener**, and was considered as a very good Catechist. These three Brothers left a deep impression on the Gabrielite Brothers and Novices. The three Brothers of St. Joseph themselves were touched by the spiritual and human qualities of Bros. Laurent and Pierre Chrysologue, and by their sense of abnegation. In 1959, the three Brothers of St. Joseph asked to become Brothers of St. Gabriel and had their Novitiate in Brazzaville (Notre-Dame-d'Afrique) from 1959 to 1960.

The two Pioneer Gabrielite Brothers of Kibouendé-Baratier:

- Bro. Laurent (Jean Gloaguen, 1903-1970), Superior, Master of Novices in Kibouendé and Brazzaville
- Bro. Pierre-Chrysologue (Gérard Bourasseau, 1915-1986), Teacher, Choirmaster in the Juniorate and Novitiate, in Kibouendé and Brazzaville



17th January 1959 - 1st Profession of Bro. Jean-Baptiste (Alexandre Nzingoula). He was the first Congolese Brother. Here, he was with Bro. Laurent, Master of Novices, on the left, and Bro. Pierre-Chrysologue, on the right

Bro. Marie-Alphonse (Adolphe Ndouri, 1927-2010)



*Bro. Marie-André Nganga
(1919-1998)*



*Bro. Laurent (Jean Gloaguen,
1903-1970)*



*Bro. Paul (Fidèle Kimpiriri,
1910-1999)*



26. The 6 Pioneer Brothers in Colombia - Medellin – 20th January 1961



*Medellin - The
"Cesior"*

20 January 1961 - Medellin - Luis Hernandez Betancur, the Founder of "Cesior" in 1927, welcomes the three founding Brothers: Bro. Jean de Padoue, Canadian, and Bros. Andrès and Benito, two Spaniards (on the right), with Daughters of Wisdom and Colombian Montfort Fathers



teacher and deaf child



*Bro. Jaime-Maria
(Donato Alejos Hernando)*



blind children classroom



deaf children classroom

On 7 March 1958, Rev. Bro. Gabriel-Marie received **this request for help from Colombia:** *“We come to you, in the name of Colombian mothers who have Deaf and Mute children.*

Girls have the Sisters of Wisdom who take care of them and help them to prepare for life. But little boys have almost nothing at all. We know your work through the Sisters of Wisdom and we believe that if you came to Colombia, our children would be saved”. The Colombian Daughters of Wisdom also made other *“calls for help”*. **The Superior General decided to go there with Brother Vicente Ferrer, the Spanish Assistant, during the summer of 1960.** The *Ciesor*, an Institution in Medellin, was chosen: **a school for the Deaf and Blind**, dating back to 1927, and **whose Director-Founder, Luis Hernandez Betancur**, was looking for someone to replace him. **Two Spaniards, Bros. Andrés and Benito, and a Canadian, Bro. Jean-de-Padoué**, answered the call. The Spanish Brothers went to **La Persagotière, in France**, for a five-months formation. **The Brothers were in charge of the Ciesor until 1986.**

The 6 Gabrielite Pioneer Brothers of Medellin in 1961-1962 :

- Bro. Jean-de Padoue (Lucien Rocheleau, 1916-1979) a Canadian Brother, had a solid experience in the field of

education of the Deaf and the Blind. In 1937, he joined the **Institute for the Deaf and Blind in Poitiers, where he acquired great competence.** On 6 August 1940, the German occupiers sent him to **an internment camp** (Saint-Denis) because he was a Commonwealth citizen. **He stayed there for 4 years** (Cf. our Canadian Brothers in Singapore). **He was in the Institution of Poitiers from 1944 to 1949.** In 1961, the call of the Superiors for the Institution of the Deaf and Blind of Medellin (“*CESIOR*”) reached him in Canada. **He gave an immediate answer. He learned Spanish. In Medellin, Bro. Jean-de-Padoue was the soul of the Institution from 1961 to 1978,** except for the 2 years he spent in the School for the Deaf in **Bogota**, during the years 1963 and 1964. **In 1978,** he published a very successful book in Spanish: *“Metodología de la Enseñanza del Lenguaje a los Sordos”*.

- Bro. **Andrés Avelino (Andrés Rossel Ferrán, 1933 -L. 1964)**, after an internship in La Persagotière, in Nantes, was **Teacher and Assistant Director**
- Bro. **Jaime-Maria (Donato Alejos Hernando, 1936-2019)**, after an internship in Nantes, joined the *Cesior* in Medellin as a Teacher.
- Bro. **Benito-Maria (Miguel Castro-Cano, 1934- L. 1965)** after an internship in Nantes, was Teacher and Bursar.
- Bro. **Joaquin (Bernardino Cubillo Arribas, 1931-L. 1966)**, after an internship in Nantes, was Teacher, and then, Director of *Cesior*, from 1963 to 1966
- Bro. **Alfredo-Maria (José Alegre Caballero, 1935 -L. 1966)** after an internship in Nantes, was a Teacher.



1961 - Bro Jean-de-Padoue conducts a choir of blind boys and girls.



1961 - The Auxiliary Bishop of Medellin presides over the celebration of the First Communion of a group of Deaf and Blind children in Cesio.

27. The 4 Pioneer Brothers of Peru - Pucallpa – 07th October 1962



*Bro. Georges-Émile
(Barnabé Allaire)*



*Bro. Benjamin-Maria
(Gregorio Garcia Gonzalès)*



*Bro. Jean-Maurice
(Maurice Naud)*



Extract from Bro. Georges-Émile's letter to Rev. Bro. Gabriel Marie - 19 March 1963



One of the first groups of Graduates of Colegio Nacional Faustino Maldonado.

In 1961, **Bro. Romain Landry, Provincial of Montreal**, wishing to respond to the call of Pope John XXIII **in favour of Latin America**,

made a visit to **Peru**. There, he met **Bishop Gustave Prévost (1914-2005)**, **Apostolic Prefect of Pucallpa, from 1956 to 1989**, whose territory was **in the middle of the Amazonian forest**. A Canadian, Bishop Prévost was, first, **Apostolic Prefect in China**, from 1946 to 1956, but he was **imprisoned** for three years during the Mao regime... In **1957**, in **Pucallpa**, he **opened the National College “Faustino Maldonado”**. He proposed to the Provincial of Montreal that the Brothers take charge of that Institution.

Bro. Romain Landry and the Provincial Council of Montreal responded favourably, as did the General Council. **Four Brothers accepted to go to that territory, far-away from Lima, where the climate was tropical: 3 Canadian Brothers and 1 Spanish Brother took up this apostolic venture**. They arrived **on October 7, 1962**. **The three Canadian Brothers learned Spanish language in Mexico City**. The arrival of **Bro. Benjamin-Maria (Gregorio Garcia-Gonzalés)** was **welcomed**: he asked to be **a member of the Province of Montreal**. **For three years they ran a boarding school of 42 students, “Internado Santo Domingo Savio”**, and they were **Teachers in Faustino Maldonado College**.

The 4 Gabrielite pioneer Brothers of Pucallpa in 1962-1965:

- **Bro. Georges-Émile (Barnabé Allaire, 1914-1966)**, was the **Superior of the Community** for 3 years, **Director of the boarding School and Teacher at the national College which needed to regain discipline...** After 1965, he was appointed **Director of the Liceo Naval of Lima, and Superior of the mission in Peru**. He died in Lima, on **14 September 1966**, aged 52.

- Bro. **Benjamin-Maria (Gregorio Garcia Gonzalès, 1918-1994)**, lived **in Peru for 11 years, from 1962 to 1973**. Thanks to his knowledge of Spanish language and his long educational experience in Spain, he was of much help to the Canadian Brothers. **In 1965, he was appointed Director of the Liceo Naval of Ventanilla.**
- Bro. **Jean-Maurice (Maurice Naud, 1939 - L. 1976)** was a Teacher **at the Internado Santo Domingo Savio and in the Colegio Nacional Faustino Maldonado** and, after 1965, Teacher **at the Liceo Naval de Ventanilla**. He was one of **those who went back to the College of Pucallpa in 1975.**
- Bro. **Jean-Bernard (Ludger Éthier, 1937 - L. 1964)** was a Teacher **at the Internado Santo Domingo Savio** and in the **Colegio Nacional Faustino Maldonado**”, from 1962 to 1964. He was a member of the new Community **in Lima**. He left the Congregation in 1964.

Refoundation in Naña, Peru, from 21st October 2000 to ... 2017

In 1971, the Brothers of Peru, Omer Deschesne and Conrad Cantin, joined the Montfort Fathers and the Daughters of Wisdom in the parish of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort **in Naña, in the suburbs of Lima... That experience ended in 1974**. The Gabrielite presence in Peru ended in 1996. **The Brothers of the Province of Spain resumed the mission in Peru on October 21, 2000, in Naña-La Era, a poor suburb of Lima, in a College “Fé e Alegria” founded by a Daughter of Wisdom, Sr. Teodora. The pioneers were Bros. Manuel Burgos Lázaro (1944-2017), Director of the College from 2000 to 2017, and Andrés Nicéforo Sánchez (1948-2018), Teacher from 2000 to 2005. In 2017, the Gabrielite presence in Peru came to an end.**



1973 - Naña - Fathers, Brothers and Sisters



Bro. Andrés Nicéforo Sánchez



2002 - Peru- Naña College



Bro. Manuel Burgos Lázaro

28. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of Cameroon - Sangmelima – 26th September 1964



1965 – Bros. Robert Bauvineau, Jean Martineau, Michel Lépicier



Sangmelima – Feastday of the Collège Kisito

In 1964, there was no presence of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in Cameroon, though they were already present in Gabon, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Central African Republic, and in Congo-Brazzaville. **Two Brothers of St. Gabriel of the Province of Nantes, Robert Bauvineau and Michel Lépicier, did**

their military service in the form of “cooperation”. **They were sent to Sangmelima, Cameroon, to work in Collège Kisito, run by the Spiritan Fathers.** They arrived there on 26th September 1964. They taught there for two years, of which they always kept very fond memories. Father Tabourin, a Spiritan, Director of Collège Kisito, left the helm to the Brothers in January 1965. **Bro. Jean Martineau**, who had been cooperating at **Collège Saint-Joseph, in Brazzaville**, since September 1964, had to leave this College, which was nationalized and, in **September 1965, joined his confreres in Sangmelima.**

After the departure of the pioneers **in 1966, the Spiritan Fathers who run the school entrusted the management to the Gabrielite District of Gabon-Congo. There were 225 students in the school. Bro. André Charrier (Bro. Tarcisius)**, former Director of Collège St. Joseph de Brazzaville, which had been nationalized in 1965, took up the direction of Collège Kisito for two years, from **1966 to 1968.** There were then 383 students. **Bro. Gabriel Lefort** succeeded him in 1968. At the end of **1968**, there were **484 students.** Unfortunately, **Bro. Gabriel**, suffering from a serious haemorrhage in his liver, **died at the hospital of Yaoundé, on 17 May 1969, at the age of 43, much regretted by all.** He is buried in Yaoundé. **Bro. Laurent (Jean Gloaguen)**, in 1969, and then, **Bro. Guy Martineau**, in **1970**, took over till **1974**, when the diocesan Priests came back to the direction of the College. **Bros. Christian Caillaud, Fidèle Kissita, Louis Armal, Marcel Gautron, Étienne Riobé, Georges Soulard, Marc François, Lucien Allard, Sylvain Bazin and André Charrier** taught there.

The first 3 pioneers of Cameroon:

- Bro. **Robert Bauvineau** (1940 - 2022) was a Teacher in Sangmelima **from 1964 to 1966**, and then, Teacher and Director of schools and colleges in the Province of Nantes and in the Province of France. He was also Provincial Superior and the person in charge of “*Saint-Gabriel-Solidarité*”...
- Bro. **Michel Lépicier** (1940-2019) was a Teacher in Sangmelima **from 1964 to 1966**, and Teacher in the Province of Nantes and in the Province of France. He then took charge of the embellishment and maintenance of the park of La Hillière.
- Bro. **Jean Martineau** (1939-2004) was a Teacher in Sangmelima **from 1965 to 1966**. He then taught in France from 1966 to 1972. He was in charge of the printing service at the Generalate, in Rome, from 1972 to 1986, and then, in Libreville, Gabon, from 1986 to 2004. He died in Libreville, at the age of 65.



Bro. André Charrier -first official Director in 1966-1968



Bro. Gabriel Lefort -second director in 1968-1969



a classroom in Collège Kisito

29 The 5 Pioneer Brothers of Rwanda - Butare - 18th October 1965



1965-1968- The first pioneers of Rwanda

Dionel Lessard, Arthur Miron, Georges Marcotte, Jean-Louis Chamberland

Jean-Louis Chamberland Mgr. Jean-Baptiste Gahamanyi, Bishop of Butare, and Bro. Dionel Lessard, attend the inauguration of a home for the elderly which was planned and built by Bro. Dionel Lessard, who had also started a shoe repair shop for the disabled

Father **Georges-Henri Lévesque** (1903-2000), a Canadian Dominican, founded **the National University of Rwanda, in Butare, in 1963**, and remained its Rector till 1971. At his request, **Bro Paul-Émile Bordeleau**, Provincial Superior of Champlain, sent **Bro. Dionel Lessard**, a competent and appreciated university graduate, **to come and support the young University of Rwanda, where there were 130 students**. Bro. Dionel Lessard could then realize his twofold dream: **to teach university students and to be a missionary. He heartfully committed himself to his mission, while taking care of the poor: elderly people and physically handicapped ones**. He was admired by **Mgr. Jean-Baptiste Gahamanyi** (1920-1999), who was the **Bishop of Butare, from 1962 to 1997**. **Bro. Georges-Henri Marcotte**, another university graduate, **joined Bro. Dionel in October 1966**.

At the beginning of 1967, the Brothers took charge of the “*Collège des Humanités modernes*” established on the hill of **Gikongoro**, in the **Nyabisindu** area (**parish of Nyanza**). **Bro. Arthur Miron**, after having founded and run the Teacher’s Training School of **Bangassou** (Central African Republic), for 10 years, **was appointed Director of this College, where there were 170 students, all boarders**. **Bro. Jean-Louis Chamberland** was his Assistant from 1967 to 1970. That College had a very good reputation and was much appreciated.

The first 5 pioneers of Rwanda

- **Bro. Dionel Lessard (1924-1970), Canadian, was the first pioneer and the soul of the foundation of Rwanda, from 1965 to 1970. This extraordinary Brother was a full time Professor at the University of Rwanda, in Butare. He was the Director of students who would become school Teachers. He was very close to elderly people and disabled ones. He gave conferences, led retreats. He died in Montreal (Canada) after a double heart attack, on 23 April 1970, at the age of 46. He was unanimously regretted by the town of Butare and by the Brothers of the Province of Champlain.**
- **Bro. Arthur Miron (1908-1995), Canadian, pioneer of the foundation in the Republic of Central Africa, from 1957 to 1967, was present in Rwanda from 1967 to 1975, as Director and Teacher of the Collège de Nyabisindu (Nyanza), from 1967 to 1973. He then worked in the Centre for Deaf & Mute of Butare, from 1973 to 1975.**
- **Bro. Pierre Gélinas (1900-1984), Canadian, was Secretary to Bro. Dionel Lessard in Butare, from 1968 to 1970, and then, Teacher in the Collège de Nyabisindu, from 1970 to 1973.**

- Bro. Georges-Henri Marcotte (1927-L. 1979), Canadian, was a Professor at the University of Butare, from 1966 to 1968.
- Bro. Jean-Louis Chamberland (1936-L. 1971), Canadian, was a Teacher in the Collège de Nyabisindu, from 1967 to 1970.



1965-1970 - University of Butare - Bro. Dionel Lessard accompanies students in their studies and in their researches.

Collège of Nyabisindu (Nyanza)
Brothers Arthur Miron and Pierre Gélinas



1967 - Collège de Nyabisindu (Nyanza) - Sports are very popular: basketball, volleyball, etc.

30. The 5 Pioneer Brothers of Papua N.G. - Daru - 20 January 1968



Daru – 1974 from left to right: a Montfort Father - Bro. Jean-Paul Hurtubise, Bro. Charles Gareau, Bro. Roch (SMM), a Montfort Father, Bro. Louis-Philippe Guimont (photo taken 1 month before the death of Bro. Jean-Paul Hurtubise (Jean de Brebœuf).

1977 – Kiunga – With Bishop Deschamps, from left to right, Bros. David Royer, Alexandre Leclerc, Charles Gareau, Léo Adam, Louis-Philippe Guimont, Bernard Chabot, and André Charbonneau.



Mgr Gérard Deschamps, a Canadian Montfortian, was a missionary in Papua, and Bishop of Daru-Kiunga, from 1967 to 2002. In 1967, there were 8 Montfort Fathers, 4 Montfort Brothers and 16 Daughters of Wisdom. Bishop Deschamps, while in Rome, met with **Bro. Romain Landry**, Superior General, and his Council. He requested **Brothers of St. Gabriel for his Diocese**. **Bro. Louis Bureau**, Assistant General, made a visit to Daru. After the agreement of the General Council, **Bro. Guy Barbe**, Provincial Superior of Malaysia-Singapore, accompanied three Brothers who arrived in Daru on 20 January 1968. They were **Brothers Jean-Paul Hurtubise, Bernard Chabot and Gérard Savoie**. Their arrival in PNG inaugurated a total Montfortian collaboration.

Bro. Jean-Paul Hurtubise was appointed “*Mission Education Officer*” for all the schools of the Diocese, and was responsible for the relations with the Authorities. He was also in charge of the 20 students of the High School, who were boarders in the mission headquarters. **Bro. Bernard Chabot** took over the direction of the Primary School (200 students and 6 Teachers) and was the Titular Teacher for one classroom. **Bro. Gérard Savoie** (Lazare) taught in the highest class, which prepared for the official exams, and was in charge of the Catechumenate. In 1969, there was another Foundation in Kiunga, 400 km from Daru, in the middle of forests and mountains. There, **Bro. Bernard Chabot** took charge of a Primary School. A Boys’ Town was opened in 1983.

The first 5 pioneers from Papua New Guinea arrived in 1968-1969:

- **Bro. Jean-Paul Hurtubise (1916-1974), Canadian, Teacher in Singapore, India, Thailand, from 1936 to 1969, was the soul of the Foundation in Daru, Papua. He died in Daru on 12 July 1974.**
- **Bro. Bernard Chabot (1928-2019), Canadian, taught in Malaysia from 1960 to 1967. He was the 2nd Pioneer in Daru, from 1968 to 1970. He then went to Kiunga, where he was the Director of the Secondary School, from 1970 to 1972. From 1973 to 1984, he was Director of the Diocesan School for Catechists. After three years as Master of Novices in Singapore, from 1985 to 1988, he went back to Kiunga as a Teacher (1988-1990).**
- **Bro. Gérard Savoie (1926-1990) a Teacher in Malaysia from 1958 to 1968, was the third pioneer of Daru, but he was there only for 7 months.**
- **Bro. Charles Gareau (1933-2020), Canadian, was a Teacher in Daru or in Kiunga, from 1969 to 1994, for a total of 25 years, with some interruptions (holidays... health). He was a Teacher and Principal, Diocesan Director of the Youth. In 1975, with the consent of Bishop Deschamps, he saw to the building of a “Youth Center”. From 1987 to 1994, he was the Administrator of the Boys’ Town of Kiunga. He was also the Regional Superior of Papua N.G., from 1979 to 1981 and from 1992 to 1994.**
- **Bro. Léo Adam (1942-...) A young Canadian Brother, aged 26, Bro. Leo arrived in Daru on 25 January 1969. During the previous years, he had acquired a pilot’s licence which facilitated all transportation needs for the Missionaries, (Fathers, Brothers and Sisters), sick people, material for**

the Missions, etc. He also carried out many other material tasks. He provided these services, both in Daru and in Kiunga, from 1969 to 1999



a joyful student in the Boys' Town of Kiunga



1980 – Kiunga - day of Graduation for the Catechists of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, in the presence of Bishop Deschamps, Sr. Desneiges Giroux, DW., and Bro. Bernard Chabot, Director

31. The 6 Pioneer Brothers of Mauritius, in Port Louis – 4th November 1969



1972: The 3 pioneers Joseph Raj, Roberto Fernando and Vincent Kerketta



Foyer Père Laval – 27, Route Nicolay - Port-Louis

On 27th February 1961, Mgr Daniel Liston, a Spiritan, **Bishop of Port-Louis** (Mauritius), having learned that the Brothers of St. Gabriel were running several agricultural schools in France, wrote to Bro. Gabriel-Marie, asking that the Brothers of St. Gabriel might start an agricultural school on the island. Further requests were sent to the Generalate, which led to this word from **Bro. John of God**, Provincial Superior of India, who visited

the island in 1965: *“My feeling is that we should not fail to start a Mission in Mauritius, as soon as we are requested by the Bishop.”* This was done with the appointment of Mgr Jean Margéot (1916-2009) who was the **Bishop of Mauritius from 1969 to 1993.**

Bro. Anthony Francesco, Provincial Superior of India, sent **three Brothers from South, Central and North India: Bros. Joseph Raj (Sebastian-Joseph)** was the Superior, **Roberto Fernando** and **Vincent Kerketta.** Bro. Joseph Raj was previously the Director of St. John’s Boys Town in Manaparai (T.N.) from 1966 to 1969. The main activity of the three Brothers during the first weeks was to **learn French,** as everything in Mauritius, language, culture, fashion, liturgy, etc. was French. **Bros. Joseph Raj and Vincent Kerketta took care of the “Foyer Père Laval”.** This Foyer was **founded on April 11, 1939,** by Fr James Hearne, an English Spiritan, **to take care of orphans, abandoned children, street children...** When they arrived at the Foyer Père Laval, the Brothers found some **thirty young people of 13 to 18 years of age...** Bros. Joseph Raj and Vincent Kerketta also gave **Catechesis courses in different secondary schools.** Bro. Roberto Fernando was in charge of **pastoral activities with youth groups of the Diocese...** **In 1972, Bro. Joseph Aubret,** who had been a Teacher in Madagascar from 1954 to 1972, arrived in Mauritius. He worked **at the Foyer Père Laval from 1972 to 1980, as an Educator, and then, as the Director.**

In 1971, Bro. Anthony Francesco, the Provincial Superior, agreed to **send two Brothers to Rodrigues Island, 600 km from Port-Louis,** to run the College of **Port-Mathurin,** where there

were 165 students. **Bro. T.C. Lukose** arrived in January 1972. Another Brother, **T.U. Georges**, arrived later... But the experience came to an end on **29th December 1972**.

On 1st March 1974, Bro. Joseph Raj handed over the responsibility of the Foyer Père Laval to Bro. Joseph Aubret, and the Sector of Mauritius was entrusted to the Province of Nantes. The *Magazine S.G.* of **June 1974** had the following lines: *“The Indian Brothers have much merit for having run the Foyer Père Laval since 1969, in a country where their language is not spoken. The new Directors of the Institution thank them for their courage and commitment which have given rise to much sympathy for the Institution. At the present, there are 42 orphans in the Foyer”.* (pp. 18-19). On 25 March 1974, after the two Brothers had left, Bro. Joseph Aubret wrote to **Bro. Romain Landry**: *“Our Indian confreres have left, but I keep excellent memories of their presence”.*

The first six Pioneers from Mauritius who arrived in 1969-1972:

- **Bro. Joseph Raj** (1936- L. 1975) was the **Director of Foyer Père Laval from 1969 to 1974**. Before that, he had been in charge of the Boys' Town in Manaparai (Tamilnadu) for 3 years.
- **Bro. Vincent Kerketta** (1946-...) sometimes called *Vijay*, also did good work in the Foyer. He was a musician. Father **Amédée Nagapen** (1930-2012), a Mauritian priest and historian, said of him: *“Bro. Vijay, a talented musician, also gave valuable services to Hindu-Catholic choirs throughout the island”.* He made his *Final Profession* in

Port-Louis, on 20 May 1971. He had achieved *a good level of knowledge in French language: he made his “Second Novitiate” in Rome, in October 1974*, with a group of French-speaking Brothers.

- Bro. **Roberto Fernando** (1939-...) opted for **pastoral activities with young students.** In **1972**, he left the Foyer to study Psychology in the United States. When he came back to Mauritius, he became **the psychologist of the Diocese.**
- Bro. **T.C. Lukose** (1936- L. 1977) was **the Director of the College of Port-Mathurin**, Rodrigues Island, for one year.
- Bro. **T.U. Georges** (1947- L. 1981) was a **Teacher for a few months** at the College of Port-Mathurin, Rodrigues.
- Bro. **Joseph Aubret** (1927-2006), after 18 years in Madagascar, was **Animator, and then, Director of the Foyer Père Laval, from 1972 to 1980.**



*Bros. Joseph Raj
and Vincent Kerketta*



*Bros. Roberto Fernando
and Bro. Joseph Aubret*



*Bros. T.C. Lukose
and T.U. George*



+ End of 1972 - In Mahébourg, a holiday camp for the youth of the Foyer, with Bros. Vincent Kerketta and Joseph Aubret.

+ On 3 December 1973, on the feast day of the Parish St. François-Xavier, in Port-Louis, a boy did honour to the orphanage, by winning the first prize in a radio contest organised throughout the island

32. The 5 Pioneer Brothers of Fiji - Suva – 07th May 1973



07th May 1973, The three Founders with Mgr George Pearce, Marist, Archbishop of Suva: Bros. Albert Selvaraj, Anthony Morrelly, Oliver (Mathai Ericat), Superior.

Montfort Boys' Town – 15 April 1976 ... The Staff includes Brothers, Lay men and women, Nuns. The Boys' Town being autonomous, the young people study and learn a trade: cooking, sewing, laundry, ironing, breeding, etc.



Montfort Boys' Town - Extract from the Album of 13th November 1976

In 1971, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Prime Minister of Fiji, wanted a **Boys' Town** in his country, similar to the one he had visited in Singapore. He made his request to the Brothers of St. Gabriel through Mgr George Pearce, Archbishop of Suva, from 1967 to 1976. Bro. Romain Landry, Superior General, went there in September 1971. He noted that half of the population was Indian. He concluded that this mission should be **entrusted to the Brothers of India**.

On 7 May 1973, three Brothers from the Province of South India, Bros. Oliver Ericat, appointed Director, Albert Selvaraj and Anthony Morrelli M.K., arrived in Suva. Constructions began some fifteen kilometres from Suva. The financing of those constructions was taken care of in the following way: half by the Government and half by the Organizations Misereor (Germany) and Cebemo (Netherlands). **Classes began on 19th March 1976**. Bro. Louis Bauvineau, in his history of the Congregation, wrote: *“On the Fiji islands, the 15–25 year-olds make up half of the population, and many of them belong to broken families. So, Montfort Boys' Town is the last hope for those it can take in. The pupils prepare for a trade in six different sectors: Building, office supplies, automobile mechanics, machine assembly, poultry farming, fish breeding (twenty pools contain 30 000 fish). Suva Boys' Town operates as did the model the Prime Minister had envied in Singapore and it enjoys general consideration. Even the Fathers' community still running a large college in Suva and who had looked down at the Indian Brothers coming to open an orphanage must agree and... they have recourse to their services”* (p. 507). This Institution led to the foundation of **One Technical School: Savusavu and two Academic Schools: Ba and Lautoka**

The first five Indian Gabrielite Pioneers in Suva:

- Bro. **Oliver (Mathai Ericat, 1932-2014)**, after having been **Headmaster of St. Joseph's Industrial School, in Tindivinam, from 1967 to 1973**, was the **Founder of Montfort Boys' Town in Suva (Fiji) from 1973 to 1980**. He was then in charge of other similar Institutions in **Manaparai (T.N.)**. Excellent teacher, he was very close to orphans and poor students.
- Bro. **Albert Selvaraj (1945-2012)** was a **Teacher, in Suva, from 1973 to 1979**. In India, he taught in similar schools in **Manaparai** and in **St. Thomas Mount** (Montfort Technical Institute). He was the Provincial Superior of Trichy and Secretary General.
- Bro. **Anthony Morrelly M.K. (1946- L. 1992)** stayed **one year in Suva as a Teacher**. He then taught in various Institutions in Chennai, Jabalpur, Patna, Delhi and Lucknow.
- Bro. **Davis Vadassary V.K. (1943-...)** taught first at **St. Mark's Boys' Town, in Hyderabad, from 1969 to 1973, before coming to Suva in September 1973. As a specialist in electricity, he taught there from 1973 to 1977**. He then returned to Hyderabad.
- Bro. **K.M. Thomas (1945 - 2022)** was a **Teacher in Suva from 1975 to 1984 and from 1992 to 1995**. He was a specialist in mechanics. In 1995, he was **Headmaster of St. Joseph's Industrial School in Tindivinam**. He was then in **Suva from 1998 to 2011, as Bursar, Local Superior and Teacher**. He was **Superior of the South Pacific District from 2004 to 2007**.

33. The 4 Pioneer Brothers of Haiti: Anse-d'Hainault and Port-au-Prince, 27th August 1976

During the Generalate of **Rev. Bro. Eugène-Marie**, requests had been made, in 1871, by **Mgr Alexis Guilloux** (1819-1885), **Archbishop of Port-au-Prince from 1871 to 1885**, and by **Father François Ruppin** (1807-1876), a **Montfort Father from Vendée**, then aged 64, **Missionary in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, since 30 August 1871**. In a letter written on **March 18, 1876**, **Rev. Bro. Eugène-Marie** replied to another request from **Archbishop Alexis Guilloux**, *“Excellency, I regret to inform you that it is still impossible for us to respond to the call that you deign to make to us. Since we are not even in a position to support the schools that we presently have, it would be temerity on our part to think of founding establishments so far away and requiring several and well-chosen members of the staff. However, if our humble Institute is ever in a position to send Brothers to foreign countries, it is preferably to Haiti that it would like to see them exercise their zeal under your guidance, Excellency, alongside Montfort’s children.”*



Anse d'Hainault – École Saint-Joseph



Anse d'Hainault – 1981 – Bros. Jean-Claude-Paquette, Réal Grenier, Michel Mardy (novice), Hervé Trottier, Gilles Desrochers, Alban Forest

On August 27, 1976, 100 years after that letter, the wish of Rev. Bro. Eugène-Marie was fulfilled. Bro. Réal Grenier, one of the pioneers of Bangassou, in the Republic of Central Africa, was preparing to return to RCA when he met, in Ottawa, with Father Raymond Raynaud, parish priest of Anse-d'Hainault since 1964, who asked him to assist him in his work, since he was alone. With the agreement of Bro. Guy St-Onge, Provincial Superior of Champlain, Bro. Réal accepted to help this missionary. Bro. Réal considered that the mission of the Gabrielites in that country was an act of Providence.... Bro. Réal took charge of College Saint-Raymond, where there were 120 students at the time and, as Father Raynaud wished, he gave it an orientation for agricultural training. In 1979, Bros. Alban Forest and Gilles Desrochers came to help him. Bro. Ronald Brissette also spent a sabbatical year there.

That same year, 1976, **Bro. Hervé Trottier answered the call of the Daughters of Wisdom, in Port-au-Prince, who were in charge of the Institute Montfort for 125 Deaf children, and who asked him to help them. He was there for two years: he taught and supervised the sewing and carpentry workshops for the older boys. Bro. Hervé helped the Daughters of Wisdom for two years and, in 1978, joined the Community of Anse-d'Hainault.**

The 4 Pioneer Brothers from 1976 to 1979

- **Bro. Réal Grenier (1931-2019), who was first a missionary in Central Africa, was the first pioneer of the foundation of Anse-d'Hainault. He was the Director of Collège Agricole Saint-Raymond for six years, then left for Jérémie in 1982.**

- **Bro. Hervé Trottier (1923-2001)**, arrived in **1976** at the **Institute Montfort for Deaf children, in Port-au-Prince**, and went to **Anse-d'Hainault in 1978**. He was appointed **Director of l'École primaire Saint-Joseph**. He organized a school canteen. He founded a Young Farmers' Club (gardens, chicken coops). Later, he was **Director of Collège St-Raymond**.
- **Bro. Alban Forest (1910-1996)**, before the official foundation, from 1970 to 1976, went to Haiti several times as a volunteer Teacher, in **Collège de Lourdes, in Port-de-Paix...** In **1979**, he joined the **Community of Anse-d'Hainault**.
- **Bro. Ronald Brissette (1944-...)** arrived in **1979**, for a sabbatical year in **Anse-d'Hainault**. He went back to Haiti in **1981**.



*Anse-d'Hainault – Collège Agricole
Saint-Raymond*



Bro. Ronald Brissette

*École primaire Saint-Joseph - Anse-
d'Hainault*



34. The 5 Pioneer Brothers of Tanzania: Iringa ... Rujewa, December 13, 1983



Rujewa 1988: Bros. Jose Varghese, Chacko Thattayath, Antony Francesco, Vicar General, Lambert, Berchmans, N.F. Joseph



Rujewa – MONTFORT Agricultural Sec. School – Bro. Chacko

The Province of “*Central India*” was at the origin of the **Gabrielite foundation in Tanzania**, on December 12, 1983. We are fortunate to have **two narrations of the foundation by Bro. Lambert (1940-...)**, the first pioneer of the foundation. Here are the two narrations that appeared in “*Le Magazine Saint-Gabriel*”. The first one is dated March 10, 1984: “*It was about this time last year that the idea of undertaking a missionary commitment in Africa was proposed to me, apparently by chance and almost accidentally, by the Superiors, the Provincial and the Vicar General, while I was discussing the project I had of going to Papua New Guinea, in order to do some special work over there. I accepted without any hesitation. But there was no definite plan for any particular task.*”

“I was put in touch with the Superior of the Indian Mission of the Salesians in West Africa, Rev. Tony D’Souza, and it was decided that I would go to Tanzania to work for two years with

the Salesians, while at the same time, examining the possibility of a Gabrielite implantation in Africa. This is how I arrived in Dar-es-Salam on December 11, 1983. At first I felt very isolated and conscious of the vagueness and uncertainty of my mission, although I was confident in Providence and open to the Spirit... From Dar-es-Salam, the Salesians took me to Iringa on 13th December, and I stayed in their community for a month. As it was the Christmas holidays, I could do nothing else but get used to the place and to the people. Since I would need sufficient knowledge of the Swahili language to communicate with the people, on 17th January, I arrived in Kipalapala where the White Fathers were giving an introductory course in Swahili, and an introduction to the way of life of the Tanzanian people. The 6 months course is long and rather expensive. I will therefore be satisfied with the first three months, and on 12th April I will be back in Iringa. My next report from Iringa will, no doubt, tell you about the possibilities of our apostolic presence in Tanzania. For the moment, KWA HERI! ("Goodbye!"). In 1985, Bro Lambert and two new confreres, Berchmans and N.F. Joseph, lived in Tosamaganga for two years.

A second narration dates from May 1990: "The Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, from the Province of Central India, began modestly to participate in the development of Tanzania in 1984. But it is only since November 1987 that we have a House of our own, and our first School was opened on 6th April 1988 in Rujewa, in the Diocese of Iringa. The Montfort School in Rujewa is both a general Secondary School and an Agricultural School, not only for students, but also for small farmers from two neighbouring villages. At present, there are 145

students, including 22 girls. Some Juniorate students are also in that school, and our intention is to build a house for them as soon as our resources will permit.... “

The 5 Pioneer Brothers of Tanzania

- Bro. **Lambert (Mathew Chennakudy, 1940-...)**, the first of the 5 pioneers of Tanzania, lived there from 1983 to 1992, as Teacher, Director, District Superior. He then co-founded a house in Kenya in 1992.
- Bro. **Berchmans (Thomas E.K., 1935-2018)** worked in Tanzania from 1985 to 2000. He was District Superior.
- Bro. **N.F. Joseph (Nagasseril, 1949-...)** lives in Tanzania since 1985, except in 2001-2002, when he was in Rome.
- Bro. **Jose Varghese (1943-2022)** lived in Tanzania from 1986 to 2003. He prepared the foundation of Musoma. He was District Superior.
- Bro. **Chacko Thattayath (1944-...)** lives in Tanzania since 1985, especially in Rujewa.



1992 - Rujewa: the Juniorate students, with Bros. Lambert & Jimmy



2003...Inculturation - The Dar-es-Salam chapel - "God Alone" -

35. The 4 Pioneer Brothers in Tonga, at Nuku’Alofa, 20th January 1989



Bro. George Padikara



Bro. George P.J.



Bro. Jim Thekkan



Bro. Joseph Kottoor



16th February 1998 - Tonga - Nuku’Alofa

“Ko e Sila’o e ‘Apiako Teknicale Montfort” -- Montfort Technical Institute

In the Pacific Ocean, East of Australia, in **1973**, the Brothers of **the Province of South India** had opened the **Montfort Boy’s Town** of Suva, on the Fiji Islands. On 20th January 1989, the same Province responded to the call from Tonga, 750 km from Suva. Nuku’Alofa is the capital of the Kingdom of Tonga. There, a Marist Bishop, like the one in Suva, knew what the Brothers had accomplished in Suva. **The project was to build a Technical Institute.** The Bishop proposed that the Brothers **teach in a College of the city** while waiting for the completion of the construction.

It took **seven years for the Technical Institute to be built and operational.** It is therefore a **very unique foundation.** **The first**

two pioneers were **Brothers George Padikara and George P.J. Bro. George Padikara prepared the plans and all documents to be submitted to developmental organizations. Bro. Thomas Mavelil came to help Bro. George Padikara. Bro. George P.J. taught in a Diocesan College from 1989 to 1992. The Brothers were called back to India by the Provincial Superior.**

In 1995, the funds for the construction arrived. Bro. Joseph Kottoor left Suva (Fiji) for Tonga to supervise the work and its completion. Bro. Jim Thekkan also joined him and was the Bursar. In 1996, the Montfort Technical Institute was opened. The two Brothers provided a much appreciated service to the people of Tonga, helping young people to acquire skills in various important trades.

The first 4 Pioneers of Tonga, in Nuku’Alofa

- **Bro. Georges Padikara (1954-...), from 1989 to 1990, was the first pioneer who drew the plans for the Technical Institute and prepared all needed documents for ad-hoc agencies.**
- **Bro. Georges P.J. (1959-...), from 1989 to 1992, was a Teacher in a Diocesan College in the Capital.**
- **Bro. Joseph Kottoor (1947-2018), from 1994 to 2005, and from 2007 to 2014, was the soul of that Oceanian foundation. Superior and Director of the Technical Institute, he was called, with respect and friendship, “Sosefo”, by the people of Tonga who admired his competent leadership in the Institute.**
- **Bro. Jim Thekkan (1963 ...) from 1995 to 1999, Teacher and Bursar, contributed, with Bro. Joseph Kottoor, to the reputation of that Technical Institute.**



*photo from a Tongan newspaper
- 11 March 1998 / mechanical
workshop*



Ko e Sila 'o e 'Apiako
Tekinikale Montfort



*16th February 1998 - Nuku'afola -
welcoming celebration by the youth of
Montfort Technical Institute, organised
by Bro. Jim, in honour of Bro. Jean
Friant, Superior General, in presence
of the Bishop of Tonga*

36. The 2 Pioneer Brothers of Kenya 1/ in Kiserian, 14 January 1992-1994



*Bro. David
Emmanuel
Lazarus*



Kenya – Kiserian – Junior Seminary



*Bro.
Lambert*

Bro. **Mani Mekkunnel**, Provincial Superior of Central India from 1986 to 1992, and **Bro. Lambert**, pioneer of Tanzania, thought of expanding into neighbouring countries and of **creating an East African District**. After thinking of Malawi, where the Company of Mary and the Daughters of Wisdom were already working, they turned to **Kenya**. On **14th January 1992**, **Bro. David Emmanuel and Bro. Lambert** arrived in **Kiserian, 40 km from Nairobi**, to **teach at the Junior Seminary in the Diocese of Ngong**, run by

an African Congregation, **the Apostles of Jesus. The Brothers taught full time and lived in the Community of the Apostles of Jesus.** Their presence and experience were much appreciated.

During these two years, Bro. Lambert was looking for a permanent foundation. The Bishop of **Nakuru** was interested in founding a school. But, at the moment of signing the contract, the Bishop said that he could no longer respect it. Thus ended our presence in Kenya in **1994.**

The two Pioneer Brothers of Kenya in 1992

- **Bro. Lambert (Mathew Chennakudy, 1940-...), the first of the 5 pioneers in Tanzania from 1983 to 1992, was one of the two pioneers of the foundation in Kenya from 1992 to 1994. He was appreciated as a Pioneer and Teacher.**
- **Bro. David Emmanuel Lazarus (1943-2007), was born in Rangoon, Burma (*Myanmar*). His parents later moved to Chennai in India.... After teaching in Montfort School, Delhi, from 1983 to 1990, he arrived in Tanzania in 1990, in Musoma and Rujewa... He was a kind Brother and an excellent Teacher. His students admired him.**
- **2/in Nairobi – Kibiko, 22 August 2011....**



The house opened in August 2011 and was blessed on 12th December 2011 in the presence of Cardinal Njue and Bro. John Kallarackal, Assistant General



*Bro. Erasmus
Marando*



*Bro. Robert
Stan. Bantsimba*



*Bro. Nestor
Kounkou*

Bro. John Kallarackal, then **Assistant General**, was present at the blessing of the new house, on 12th December 2011. He talked about the importance of that foundation, which is unique in the history of Gabrielite foundations: *“It is a Formation Community open to all the Provinces and Sectors of Africa who would like to send Brothers to attend courses at the “University for Education” in Nairobi. The property was acquired by the Central Administration, as a result of the fraternal efforts of the Montfort Missionaries who already have a Scholasticate in Nairobi. The animation and management of that Community is entrusted to the Province of Hyderabad, in connection with the District of East Africa. We hope and pray that this new initiative of the Congregation will produce, in abundance, excellent fruits for the Montfortian Mission on the African Continent”*.

The three Pioneers in Kenya in 2011:

- **Bro. Erasmus Marando (1979- ...)**, a Tanzanian Brother, was the Superior of the Community, till 2015.
- **Bro. Robert-Stanislas Bantsimba (1968-...)** Congolese Brother (Brazza), from the Kigali Sector, till 2014.
- **Bro. Nestor Kounkou (1964-2016)**, Congolese Brother (Brazza), from the Province of Brazzaville, till 2014.

37. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of Guinea (Conakry), in Ourous, 28th October 1995

Here is the letter sent by Mgr. Robert Sarah, Archbishop of Conakry, on 19th June 1993, to Bro. Jean Friant, Superior General. That letter is at the origin of the foundation of Ourous, in Guinea (Conakry).



I would ardently like to see the implantation of a religious community, because what we need most is to rebuild the Human Being, damaged by 26 years of the dictatorial regime of Sékou Touré. On the other hand, many of the difficulties in

Africa have their origin in the weakness of the efforts made for the education and human formation of the youth.

I know that you have a great deal of experience in Africa, and Guinea needs help to recover. For many years, that Church has been deprived of Missionaries.

The Fathers of Ourous had already contacted your community which is near the border, in Senegal, because we have long wanted your collaboration, especially in the northern sector of Guinea.

I therefore hope that you will accept my request with kindness and attention and, entrusting this intention to Our Lady of Guinea, I assure you, Reverend Brother, of my communion in prayer.

Following the reception of that moving letter from **Archbishop Sarah, Bro. Jean Friant** and his Council, which included **Bro. Pierre Tremblais**, former Provincial Superior of Senegal and then Assistant, forwarded the request to **Bro. Joseph Douet**, the then Provincial Superior of Senegal. **Bro. Joseph**, after getting the consent of his Council, responded positively, in a spirit of faith, to that invitation for a first foundation outside Senegal, in a country where the educational system had greatly suffered.

Ourous, the parish where Cardinal Sarah was born, is one of the oldest missions in Guinea (founded in 1912). It is located in the north of Guinea, 510 km from Conakry, the capital, and 50 km from Salemata (Senegal), where the Brothers of St. Gabriel have worked from 1978 to 1999.

Bros. Joseph Douet and Jean Ploux accepted that mission, and **Bro. Jean Armal** joined them the following year, with a desire to respond to the views of Archbishop Sarah and to that of the Church of Guinea. They opted for a different form of teaching: They involved themselves in the animation and improvement of catechetical schools or “Bush Schools”, they prepared an Agricultural Training Centre, and they run a carpentry workshop.

The three Pioneer Brothers of Ourous

- **Bro. Joseph Douet (1946-2008)** was a missionary in Senegal from 1971. He was Teacher, Director, and then, Provincial Superior, from July 1989 to June 1995. He then told **Bro. Robert Thiaw**, the new Provincial Superior since July 1995, that **he was ready to go to the mission in Ourous.**

He was there for 5 years: He was Superior and Animator. He was called to another foundation, in Katako, Guinea, from 2001 to 8 April 2008, where he was assassinated.

- **Bro. Jean Ploux (1938-...), was a missionary in Senegal, from 1964, as a Teacher, Director of a Juniorate, Inspector and Pedagogical Advisor, Formator of Catechists. He accepted to go to Ourous with Bro. Joseph Douet. He was there for 4 years, as Animator and Pedagogical Advisor for the “Bush Schools”.**
- **Bro. Jean Armal (1934-...) was a missionary in Senegal from 1960, as a Teacher, Director and Rural Animator. He lived in Ourous for 6 years (1996-2002) working particularly in the field of rural development.**



+ Henri-P. Germain, Jean Armal, Jean-Ploux, J.L. Maudet, Joseph Douet -

Ourous (Guinea) - 08 May 1997 - Bros. Henri-Paul Germain & Gaétan Gros-Louis visited Bros. Jean Armal, Jean Ploux and Joseph Douet, accompanied by Bro. Jean-Luc Maudet (driver).



Ourous – 15 February 2011 – Montfort School

38. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of the Philippines - New-Washington – 01st August 1998.



Bro. Thomas Aquinas, the Pioneer



Bro. Arul Rayan



Bro. Sabaya Benitto



*Philippines - Aklan- New-Washington-
Montfort Technical Institute*



Several Brothers of St. Gabriel from the Provinces of Asia went to the Philippines for Higher Studies, especially in **Manila, Quezon City**, but also in **Baguio**, where the Brothers from Thailand had a community of students... Bro. Thomas-Aquinas got a Master's degree in Psychology at De La Salle University, in Manila.

The Foundation of the Philippines is due to the initiative of the General Council. Bro. Jean Friant, Superior General, and **Bro. Mani Mekunnel**, Vicar General, contacted **Father Luke Moortgart**, a Scheut Missionary, who acted as an intermediary and directed them **to New Washington, Aklan, on the island of Panay, home of Cardinal Jaime L. Sin**, Archbishop of Manila.

The General Council proposed to **Bro. Thomas Aquinas**, of the Province of **Central India**, to found a **Technical Institute** in that region, which was then poor, thus allowing young men and women to get an education that would help them to earn their living. A true son of Montfort, Bro. Thomas Aquinas accepted the challenge. Two other Brothers, from the Province of Trichy, came to help him: **Bros. Arul Rayan** and **Sahaya Benitto**. From 1998 to 2006, the Technical Institute of Aklan was directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Administration.

The three Pioneer Brothers of New Washington

- **Bro. Thomas Aquinas** (Paulose Paramby, 1941-2004) was, in 1998, the founder of *Montfort Technical Institute*, in New Washington. Bro. Varghese Theckanath wrote: *“He was a great educator, a true friend, a pioneering missionary, a leader of men and a man of God”*. He died in Manila, on 12th March 2004. Brother Davis was there, looking after him. **Bro. Thomas Aquinas was the soul of the Philippines foundation.**
- **Bro. Arul Rayan** (1976- L. 2020), from the Province of **Trichy**, worked with Bro. Thomas Aquinas from 1998 to 2004, and continued from 2004 to 2007, and **from 2008 to 2012**. He was then **Director of the 2nd Philippines Foundation, in Romblon, from 2012 to 2020.**
- **Bro. Sahaya Benitto** (1977-...), of the Province of **Trichy**, was there from 1998 to 2000.



*2002 - Montfort Technical Institute
- The 7 Staff Members, including
Bros. Thomas Aquinas, Arul Rayan
and Sabaya Benitto*



Montfort Technical Institute in 2021

39. The 2 Pioneer Brothers in Sabah (Mal.), Kota-Kinabalu – 16th August 1998.



*Bro. Edward
Rayappan*



*Bro. Francis-
Xavier Gasper*



*Kota-Kinabalu - Montfort Youth Training Centre
St. Louis Community - Offices - Chapel - Carpentry Workshop - Auto Mechanics.*

This new foundation was established in one of the States of **East Malaysia**, in the northern part of the large island of Borneo, **1620 km** from Kuala Lumpur by air. This Gabrielite foundation, in the Province of Malaysia-Singapore, was exceptional. It was done in the spirit of the meeting that was held in Bangalore, in June 1997, which expressed the desire to extend our Gabrielite presence in Asia and in Oceania, for revitalisation.

It was a major change in the lives of the two Pioneer Brothers. Twenty-three years ago, on **16th August 1998**, Bros. Edward

Rayappan and Francis-Xavier founded the Montfort Youth Training Centre to educate young people who knew difficult familial and social situations. MYTC is a Centre similar to the “Boys’ Towns” we find in India, Singapore and Malaysia. The project that the Brothers elaborated for the year 2000 was based on the words of Father de Montfort to the Daughters of Wisdom in Canticle 149: *“Those whom the world neglects must touch you the most”*. The young people welcomed in that Centre receive a spiritual, human, intellectual and technical formation that enables them to face the challenges of life.

The 2 Pioneer Brothers of Kota-Kinabalu (Penampang)

- **Bro. Edward (Eddie) Rayappan (1961-L. 2008)** was the **Co-Founder and Director of Montfort Youth Training Centre, in Kota-Kinabalu, from 1998 to 2004...** In 2008, he changed his life-orientation and became a Priest in the Diocese of Melaka-Johor.
- **Bro. Francis-Xavier Gasper (1947...)** was the **Co-Founder of the Montfort Youth Training Centre, in Kota-Kinabalu, from 1998 to 2001...** After several other responsibilities in the Province of Malaysia-Singapore, he was **in Kota-Kinabalu, from 2010 to 2012 and from 2014 to 2021.**



1999 - the 1st group of 15 youth



The two Pioneers of 1998



The logo since 1999

*2021 the different trades in
Montfort Centre*



*23 November 2002 - Kota Kinabalu
– At the Council of the Institute, young
carpenters sing during the Eucharistic
Celebration in Montfort Centre*

**40. The 5 Pioneer Brothers in Poland, Czestochowa –
29th November 1998**



*"Dom Sw. Gabriela" House. The realization of that
foundation was made possible thanks to the financial
contribution made by the Central Administration and by
the Provinces of Canada, France, Italy, Belgium and Spain.*



*Bro. Jenaro
Fresno García*

*1998 – Mgr. Stanislaw Nowak,
Archbishop of Czestochowa, from 1984
to 2011, with Bros. Michel Taillé,
Christian Bizon, Dominique Diouf and
Dionigi Taffarello... (Bro Jenaro joined
them in 1999)*



*Stained glass window of the
Annunciation in the Brothers' Chapel*

In a spirit of revitalization, as wished for by the Council of the Institute that was held in Rome in October 1997, Poland was chosen as the place for a new foundation in Europe. In *“The Memory of St. Gabriel”*, Bro. Louis Bauvineau wrote: *“Mgr. Krynski, the Rector of the recently established School of Languages and Economics in Czestochowa, had come to study the functioning of the Catholic University of Angers. In 1997, Bro. Michel Taillé, a Professor in that University, went to Czestochowa for a six-month internship. Mgr. Krynski proposed to Bro. Jean Friant, Superior General, to establish a first Gabrielite community in Poland. It became a reality in September 1998, near the School of Languages and Economics, with four Brothers: Two French, one Italian and one Senegalese. Their main activities, apart from the difficult task of learning the language of the country, consisted in giving French, Italian and English courses. In September 1999, a fifth Brother, from Spain, joined that International Community, to give Spanish courses”*.

Like the communities of the Philippines and those of Papua New Guinea, the Gabrielite Foundation in Czestokowa was under the jurisdiction of the Central Administration till 2005, and then, under the jurisdiction of the Province of France, till 2017.

The 5 Gabrielite Pioneers of the International Community in Poland:

- **Bro Michel Taillé (1927-2013)** was highly involved in that foundation and immersed himself in learning the Polish language. In 2013, when he learned of Bro. Michel's death, Bro. Christian Bizon wrote: *“The Community of Czestochowa has lost a very dear confrere. It was with him that, in April 1997, began the first collaboration between*

the Catho of Angers and the Higher School of Languages of Czestokowa. In 1998, Bro. Michel was a member of the new community. At the beginning of the year 2000, he gradually left his activities in Poland, but he always remained very attentive to the mission of the Brothers in Poland. In 2004, Bro. Michel published an “Explanatory Grammar of the Polish Language” (253 pages).

- **Bro. Christian Bizon (1950-...)**, French, was a member of the community **from 1998 to 2011, then from 2012 to 2015**, with several terms as Superior of the community. **He worked hard to build a house for the Brothers and to welcome pilgrims and various groups for sessions... The house was blessed on 29th September 2003 by Archbishop Nowak.** Bro. Christian taught French language.
- **Bro. Dionigi Taffarello (1969-...)**, Italian, was a member of the community **from 1998 to 2004**. He taught Italian language.
- **Bro. Dominique Diouf (1963-...)**, Senegalese, was a member of the community **from 1998 to 2000**. He taught French language.
- **Bro. Jenaro Fresno García (1948 -...)** Spanish, was a member of the community **from 1999** until the house was closed down, in **2018**. He was Superior of the community for several terms of office. He taught Spanish language.



29th September 2003 - Blessing of the new House by Archbishop Nowak of Czestokowa, in the presence of Bro. René Delorme



Statue of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, in front of the main entrance of the House

41. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of Guinea-Bissau, in Bolama – 07th September 2002



*Bro. Simon Simel Gueye
(1969-...)*



*Bro. Michel Hollé
Faye (1972- s.2003)*



*Bro. Adrien Mar
(1976-...)*



Guinea-Bissau – Bolama Island



1) *Left: Bishop José Câmnete na Bissign, born in 1953 in Mansôa (Guinea-Bissau), Bishop of Bissau from 1999 to 2020.*

2) *Right: Bishop Pedro Zilli (1954-2021), Brazilian, P.I.M.E. Priest, Bishop of Bafata-Bolama, from 2001 to 2021.*

On 12th February 2000, Father José Câmnete na Bissign (1953-...), a Priest of Guinea-Bissau, born in Mansôa, was **consecrated Bishop of Bissau**. At that time, there was only one Bishopric in that country, which is a former Portuguese colony, south of Senegal. **One of the Bishop's first apostolic priorities was that of the schools.** He repeatedly **contacted the Brothers of St. Gabriel**, who were already present in Guinea-Conakry, either during his visits to

Senegal or by mail. He spoke to the Provincial Superiors of Senegal: **Bro. Robert Thiaw** (appointed Assistant General in April 2000), who was succeeded by **Bros. Jean-François Bonang and Jean-Marie Thior**. The Provincial Superiors visited Bissau and Bolama several times... The Bishop of Bissau chose the city of Bolama, the former capital of the country at the time of the Portuguese, situated in the Bolama-Bijagos islands. After several visits of the Provincial Superiors to Bissau and Bolama, **on 21st October 2000, Bishop Câmnete wrote to the Provincial Superior:** *“Dear Brother Provincial, as a result of our previous conversations concerning the opening of your community in BOLAMA and the urgent need to learn the Portuguese language, I now come to make the following fraternal requests: 1/ To confirm the possibility of sending your confreres to Lisbon, to learn the Portuguese language, during this pastoral year 2000/2001. 2/ To give us the names of the confreres, and the possible date of their departure for Lisbon. We already have a community of Marist Brothers willing to welcome them in Lisbon but, obviously, they have to be informed in advance of the arrival of your Brothers.... Thanking you for your availability and your fraternal collaboration, please accept, dear Brother Provincial, the expression of my most devoted feelings”.* **Bissau, 21st October 2000 – Mgr. José Câmnete na Bissign, Bishop of Bissau. Bros. Adrien Mar and Michel Hollé Faye** were then sent to Lisbon. Having spent two years in Brazil, **Bro. Simon Gueye**, the future Superior of the community, remained in Senegal for the moment.

On 30th June 2001, **Father Pedro Carlos Zilli (1954-2021)**, a Brazilian P.I.M.E. priest, was ordained Bishop of Bafata-Bolama, the new Diocese of Guinea-Bissau. He was the one who welcomed the 3 pioneer Brothers of St. Gabriel on 7th

September 2002. Bro. Michel stayed there only for a year. **Bro. Renato Dayvid Pimenta**, a Brazilian from Diamantina, made his Novitiate in **Thiès**, Senegal, in **2004-2006**. In **2005**, he had his internship in **Bolama**... He wrote a very interesting article concerning his experience in **Bolama** and the life of the **two Brothers, Simon and Adrien**. Here is an excerpt from his article published in the Provincial Magazine “*Suñu Gaal*”, n° 31, in March 2005: *“The Brothers of St. Gabriel work on that island, which is 21 km long and 16 km wide, particularly in the **Maria Montessori School**. They are in charge of the administration of the school and they teach. **The Maria Montessori School, where there are some 400 students, comprises a kindergarten, a Primary School, and a Secondary School. The working conditions of the Brothers are difficult for the following reasons: 1/ School fees are difficult to collect, due to the lack of interest of the parents, 2/ The bad habit of cheating, including during exam sessions, is far from being eradicated. 3/ A few people from the island do not agree that the school should be run by “foreigners”, hence a climate of xenophobia. 4/ The “collaboration” of the Parish Priest is far from giving a testimony of holiness. 5/ Some of the Teachers show a lack of professionalism”.***

*“In spite of all this, **animated by the missionary audacity of Montfort, the Brothers of St. Gabriel, who live 1 km from the school, are going on, with courage. They have set up internal rules for students and Teachers, a disciplinary council, tickets to come in or to leave the school. They also have initiated a Parents’ Association. Is this not a new impetus for the school? The Brothers are involved in catechesis, in the choir, in the Parish Council and***

in the organisation of days of reflection for youth. This is well appreciated by a good number of parishioners since it has given vitality to parish activities. Congratulations, Brothers, for this courageous commitment on the island of Bolama. Montfort is proud of you”... Though with reluctance, the Brothers of the Province of Senegal, in agreement with the Bishop of Bafata, were led to close down the community of Bolama on 11th July 2006, given the persistent behaviour of the parish Priest for four years... In 2006, **Lonah Djata**, aged 20, from Bolama, was a candidate for the Pre-Novitiate...



*Bolama - Maria Montessori School,
run by the Brothers*



Church São José de Bolama

*“Em setembro 2002, os Freis de São Gabriel vieram para Bolama. Deixoram- na em agosto de 2006”
(website of the Diocese of Bolama)*

42. The 6 Pioneer Brothers of Burundi, in Gitega – 14th September 2006... 2007



Bishop Simon Ntamwana during his homily



Bro. Rémy Nsengiyuma



Bro. Godefroy Mafukama



+ *Gitega – 14th September 2006 - Opening of the Brothers of St. Gabriel's Community during a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Archbishop Simon Ntamwana in the Brothers' residence.*

+ *From left to right: Bros. Anicet Nsingizimana, Jean-Chrysostome Rurangirwa, Alexis-Marie Secondaire, Jean-Marie-Vianney Nzohabonayo.*

Bro. Jean-Chrysostome Rurangirwa, one of the pioneers, narrated how the opening of the first Gabrielite community in Gitega, Burundi, took place, on 14th September 2006: *“On 13th September 2006, at 6:00 PM, in the chapel of Save, the Brothers of St. Gabriel of Rwanda-Burundi and the Militant Sisters of the Holy Virgin working in Rwanda, gathered around the Eucharistic table, to celebrate the sending in mission of our three confreres (the fourth one, Godefroy Mafukama, is expected from Kinshasa) who are going to leave on the following day, on the feast of the Glorious Cross, 14th September 2006, to open a new community in the Diocese of Gitega, in Burundi. Bros. Alexis-Marie Secondaire, Anicet Nsingizamana, Jean-Marie-Vianney Nzohabonayo, Sister Immaculate Nyankobwa of the Militant Sisters, and myself, left Butare at 8:00 AM, and arrived in Gitega, where we stopped for a few minutes in the Cathedral, before arriving in our house.*

When we arrived at the Brothers' residence, we were very impressed by the cleaning and decorating work that was being done in the house, which is 200 metres from the house of the Militant Sisters. We were informed that a Eucharistic celebration was planned for 5:40 PM.... That celebration was presided

over by Mgr Simon Ntamwana, Archbishop of Gitega, who was accompanied by twelve Priests, including the Vicar General and the General Bursar. The celebration took place in the central room of the buildings put at the disposal of the Brothers by the Diocese. Many religious and lay people (about 80 of them) attended the celebration which had been carefully prepared by the Militant Novices of the Blessed Virgin. The hall was overflowing due to its small size. During his homily, the Archbishop insisted on the meaning of the Cross of Jesus-Christ and on the theme of fraternity. He welcomed the Brothers of St. Gabriel to Burundi, particularly to Gitega, and requested them to be apostles of the Cross after the example of their Founder, St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. He urged them to be authentic signs of the fraternity urgently needed in the region. After the homily, the two houses were blessed.

Bro. **Godefroy Mafukama**, who was then a member of the Kinshasa Sector, was **expected to be the first Superior of the community of Gitega. But he could not be there for 14th September 2006. On 24th October 2006, Bro. Godefroy took a flight from Kinshasa to Goma. Bro. Jean Chrysostome welcomed him and made him visit the communities of Kigali, Butare and Save. On 4th November 2006, he left for Kigali along with Bros. Jean-Chrysostome and Alexis-Marie. In the News Bulletin of the Region of Congo-Kinshasa “Ba Sango Na Biso”, No. 005, Bro. Godefroy related his arrival in Butare as follows: “After a long journey, we arrived in **Gitega, the second largest city in the country.** Because of the plethora of religious communities, the city can be compared to Kimwenza for the Kinois. **The community of the Brothers is located 200 metres from the Archbishop’s House.****

So far, St Gabriel is the only missionary Congregation in Gitega. The other Congregations are diocesan ones”.

Concerning the activities, Bros. Anicet Nsingizimana and Jean-Marie-Vianney Nzohabonayo teach Deaf children. As for me, Bro. Godefroy Mafukama, with a Father, we will take care of catechesis in secondary schools. In addition to the above, the activities of the Brothers with Deaf children are varied. They include school activities ... sport, dance, drumming, prayer of the Rosary, manual work...”

The 6 Pioneer Brothers of Butare in 2006-2007

1. Bro. **Godefroy Mafukama (1964-...)** Superior of the Community in 2006-2007, with pastoral activities (Catechesis)
2. Bro. **Anicet Nsingizimana (1982-...)**, Teacher for the Deaf.
3. Bro. **Jean-Marie-Vianney Nzohabonayo (1970 - L.. 2011)** Teacher for the Deaf.
4. Bro. **Alexis-Marie Secondeaire (1975-- L. 2008)**.
5. Bro. **Jean-Chrysostome Rurangirwa (1959-...)**, Superior in 2007...
6. Bro. **Rémy Nsengiyumva (1971-L- 2009)**



18th March 2019 - Gitega: Day of fraternal sharing between the Montfortian Scholastics and the Brothers of St. Gabriel of Gitega, including Bro. Jean-Chrysostome Rurangirwa.

**43. The 5 Pioneer Brothers of Burkina-Faso, in Dédougou –
17th August 2007**



*2008 - Dédougou - The three pioneers of the Foundation, with Bro. René Delorme, Superior General: Bros. Maurice Birane Diouf (Senegal), Sébastien Biémoundonghat (Congo-Br.), Luc Kulapa Kimeya (R.D.C.)
08th January*



08th January 2008 - Dédougou - The teaching Staff of St. Gabriel Catholic High School, with Bro. Jean Friant, who came from Angers, for a month and a half, to help the Teachers, particularly in the field of Science and Mathematics. The Staff comprises 3 Brothers, a Burkinabe Nun (Sister de la Pommeraye) and 6 part-time Teachers

In “*Ecclesia*”, No. 5, of April 2008, the Newsletter of the Burkina-Niger Episcopal Conference, Bro. *Maurice Diouf* presented the “*Brothers of St. Gabriel*” and *the new religious community in Dédougou*. At the end of the article, he talked about the arrival of the Brothers: “*Presence in Burkina-Faso*”: “*The Brothers arrived in Burkina Faso on Friday, August 17, 2007, at the invitation of the Authorities of the Diocese of Dédougou. The Mission entrusted to them is the opening and management of the “Lycée Catholique Saint-Gabriel”. We are happy to be part of the Church of DÉDOUGOU and of BURKINA-FASO*” (p. 22). At the beginning of the school year 2007, 2 High School classrooms were opened, for 66 students.

The Foundation of Dedougou was international. It was in continuation of **the Revitalisation** wished by **the Council of the Institute, held in Rome, in October 1997.** It was under the **jurisdiction of the Central Administration from 2007 to 2013,** and then, it was attached to the Province of Senegal.

Here are the first three Pioneers of 2007:

- **Bro. Maurice Birane Diouf (1977-...)** of the Province of Senegal, Superior and Director of the school, was **the soul of the Foundation.** He taught English. He was present in Dédougou **from 2007 to 2014.**
- **Bro. Luc Kulapa Kimeya (1970-...)** of the Province of Kinshasa, was General Supervisor and taught physics, chemistry and physical education. He was present in Dédougou **from 2007 to 2010.**
- **Bro. Sébastien Biemoundonghat (1965- L. 2011),** of the Province of Brazzaville, was the Local Bursar, the Censor of the College, and taught history and geography. He was present in Dedougou **from 2007 to 2009.**

In a letter to **Bro. Robert Thiaw**, Assistant general, Bro. **Jean Friant** expressed **what he experienced with those three Brothers, in January-February 2008:** *“In conclusion, I would like to thank you, Robert, and Bro. Rene Delorme, Superior General, for having allowed me to live a beautiful experience with our three pioneers of Burkina-Faso. I admired their missionary spirit, their dedication and their complementarity. And I enjoyed living with them”.*

Here are the other two Pioneers in Dedougou in 2008.

(N.B.: with Bro. Alphonse-Marie Sarr, they were co-founders of the 2nd Foundation of Burkina-Faso, in Manga, in 2009).

- **Bro. Ruphin Ndambu (1971-...)** of the Province of Kinshasa, Teacher from 2008 to 2009.
- **Bro. Adrien Mar (1976-...)**, of the Province of Sénégal, Teacher from 2008 to 2009.



*27/01/2009– Dédougou
Bro. Maurice Birane Diouf,
Headmaster*



*27th January 2009 - Dédougou
College – Bro. Luc Kulapa*



Bro. Adrien Mar (1976-...)



Bro. Ruphin Ndambu (1971-...)

44. The Foundation of Myanmar, Twantay (in the Archdiocese of Yangon) – 04th July 2014



ALL – TOTUS TUUS



15th October 2018 - Welcoming of Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General, by the Leaders of Assumption Parish, by its parish Priest, Louis Yi Mynt, in presence of the Leaders of the A.L.L., and in presence of Bro. John Albert, then Provincial Superior of Malaysia-Singapore

This Gabrielite Foundation, by the Province of Malaysia-Singapore, on 04th July 2014, is unique... The town of **Twantay** is 50 km from **Yangon** (formerly Yangoon), and it is under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of **Yangon**. **It began in humble conditions.** The Brothers of the Province of Malaysia-Singapore, animated by a missionary spirit, **wanted to establish themselves in Myanmar.** They opted for the **Assumption Parish, in Twantay**, where **Louis Yi Mint** (born in 1964) was the parish Priest. They helped to set up a **Centre that allows children and youth to study English and to be initiated to Computer Science.** At the beginning, **70 children or youth attended the Centre.** The parish Priest designated some Christians of the parish to manage and run the Centre.

But entry visas allowed the Brothers for only a limited time in the country. For several years, Bros. **Dominique Yeo-Koh** and **John Albert** took turns to visit the **A.L.L. (Assumption Learning Loft)**, giving support and encouragement, and training the young Teachers of the parish... In 2016, the Brothers bought a small property, outside the parish land, and they began to build a multi-storey building for the **Assumption Learning Loft.** The new building was blessed and inaugurated by **Bishop John Saw Han, Auxiliary Bishop**

of the Archdiocese of Yangon, on 25th March 2017, the Feast of the Annunciation, the Patronal Feast of the Montfortian Family... That day was also the birthday of the parish Priest.

That flourishing and lively school owes its life to the Brothers of the Province of Malaysia-Singapore, particularly to Bros. Dominic Yeo-Koh and John Albert, to the Priests of Assumption Parish, in Twantay, and to the Lay people of the Parish who were designated by the Parish Council so that they could keep the Centre alive and prospering.



25th March 2017 - Blessing of A.L.L. by Bishop John Saw Yaw Han, Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon, in presence of Bros. Dominic Yeo-Koh and John Albert, who are the promoters of that Foundation since 2014.

*+ Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh
(1958-...) born in Singapore...
+ Bro. John Albert
(1956-...) born in Malaysia.*



Parish Staff of Leaders



Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh prepares young Teachers for the "Summer Holidays Programme".



07th February 2019 - Closing Ceremony of the "A.L.L.-Weekend English Programme" for 44 students.



Bro. John-Albert prepares young Teachers for the "Summer Holidays Programme".

45. The 3 Pioneer Brothers of Malawi, in Zomba, 19th March 2019

Then Bishop of Zomba, in Malawi, wrote a request letter to Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General, to start a mission in his diocese. Seeing the significance of the Montfort Brothers' presence in Malawi, where Montfort Missionaries and Daughters of Wisdom already has strong foundations, the Superior General invited the Province of Hyderabad to start a mission under the aegis of the District of East Africa, as Malawi is an English-speaking country.

After various discussions at the District and Provincial Councils on the feasibility of starting the mission when the District of East Africa was preparing itself to become a new Province, Bro. Pratap Reddy, Provincial of the Province of Hyderabad, and Bro. Jimmy Kalapurayil, the District Superior, visited the Bishop of Zomba in Malawi. After studying in detail about taking over the Diocesan school and the prospects of vocations and the expansion of the mission, with great satisfaction, a commitment was made to start the mission in Malawi.

Meanwhile, the process of creating the Province of East Africa was going on. A year after becoming a new Province of East Africa with Rwanda and Burundi, two Brothers of St. Gabriel, Bro. Prudence Shirubute, from Rwanda, and Bro. Ajay Anugrah Murmu, from India, arrived on 19th March 2019 to begin a mission in Malawi, in the Diocese of Zomba, accompanied by Bro. Jimmy Kalapurayil, Provincial Superior of the new Province of East Africa. Bro. Boniphace Charles Nyamaka from Tanzania joined a little later.



27th January 2020: Official Inauguration of the Primary School "Father Frederick Scragg", named after the English Montfortian Missionary (1936-2015), promoter of Education in the Diocese of Zomba... The school had been opened on 07th September 2019.

There are 302 children in the School Father Fredrerick Scragg (172 boys and 130 girls).

The 3 Pioneers



Bro. Prudence Shirubute (1981-...) born in Rwanda.



Bro. Ajay Anugrah Murmu (1983-...) born in India



Bro. Boniphace Nyamaka (1991-...) born in Tanzania



Mgr. Tambala, Bishop of Zomba, visits the school, in presence of Bros. Prudence Shirubute, Headmaster, and Ajay Anugrah Murmu.



Bishop Tambala visits a classroom, accompanied by Bro. Prudence Shirubute.

The two Brothers of St. Gabriel who arrived to begin a mission in Malawi, in the Diocese of Zomba, are **Bro. Prudence Shirubute**, from Rwanda, and **Bro. Ajay Anugrah Murmu**, from India. They arrived in Malawi on **19th March 2019**, accompanied by **Bro. Jimmy Kalapurayil**, Provincial Superior of the new Province of East Africa, who could only stay for two days... The two Brothers

first resided in the Bishopric of **the Diocese of Zomba**. Bro. Prudence could not hide his feelings when he arrived in **Malawi**: *“It is really a great surprise, and words cannot express our joy. It is not only my joy and that of Bro. Ajay. It is also the joy of the entire Congregation. It is a historical moment as the third Congregation of the Family of Father de Montfort arrives in Malawi. We are very happy about this and we are sure to collaborate with the Daughters of Wisdom and the Montfort Fathers”*. He then adds: *“We are very happy to be the pioneers of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel in Malawi, particularly in the Diocese of Zomba. This has been a long-awaited project and, finally, we arrive in Malawi on 19th March 2019. Other Brothers will join the Mission before next July”*. Bro. Ajay also expressed *his joy and gratitude*: *“Thanks for the warm welcome and for the prayers that you have made for us. We hope that we will work and collaborate together, as we are in the Diocese of Zomba. Thank you! “Zikomo!* (in Chichewa language).



Malawi - Zomba - Feast of the Annunciation – 25th March 2019 - Fraternal welcoming of Bros. Prudence Shirubute and Ajay Anugrah Murmu, by the entire Montfortian Family, in the presence of Mgr. Alessandro Pagani (born in 1936), former Bishop of Mangochi, from 2007 to 2013.

The three Brothers took up the responsibility of **the Primary School "Father Fredrick Scragg**, in Zomba. When they were asked what special touch they would bring to differentiate their school from other ones, they said: *“The special touch we will bring is success, based on love of God, love of Mary, and discipline. This is what we will accentuate”*.

FOUNDATIONS BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL					
No.	Arrival	Date	Country Pays	Town Ville	Départ
1	1888	25/09/1888	Canada	Montréal	
2	1890	29/08/1890	U.S.A.	St. Johnsbury	1969
3	1890	18/09/1890	Égypte	Alexandrie	1914
4	1900	14/09/1900	België - Belgique	Tournai	
5	1900	07/10/1900	Gabon	Libreville	
6	1900	20/12/1900	Djibouti	Djibouti	1922
7	1901	09/02/1901	Ethiopia	Harrar	1936
8	1901	20/10/1901	Thailand	Bangkok	
9	1903	07/05/1903	Suisse	Givisiez	1908
10	1903	08/05/1903	Great Britain	Plymouth	2020
11	1903	13/05/1903	Italia	Sanremo	
12	1903	10/08/1903	España	Gerona	
13	1903	03/09/1903	Nederland	Neeritter	1931
14	1903	11/09/1903	India	Pondicherry	
15	1903	18/09/1903	Madagascar	Diego-Suarez	
16	1914	03/09/1914	Venezuela	Caracas	1920
17	1928	12/10/1928	R.D.C.	Bondo	
18	1936	23/11/1936	Singapore	Singapore	
19	1949	15/01/1949	Brazil	Carmo	
20	1954	29/10/1954	Sénégal	Thiès	
21	1955	01/01/1955	Malaysia	Johore Bahru	
22	1956	10/04/1956 29/06/2017	Sri Lanka	Killinochi Jaffna	1960
23	1957	26/07/1957	R.C.A.	Bangassou	
24	1957	21/10/1957	Irak	Mossoul	1959