

FOOTPRINTS



Bro. LAWRENCE JOSEPH

BORN 09.06.1935 | NEW LIFE 15.08.2025

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Foreword



n the Montfortian tradition, holiness often travels quietly on faithful feet that leave well-defined and guaranteed marks for others to follow. This memorial booklet, FOOTPRINTS, is our humble attempt to assemble together the clear and gentle traces that Rev. Bro. Lawrence Joseph left behind for our Congregation, our institutions and our lives to emulate.

Bro. Lawrence walked the Lord's path with a simplicity that concealed an uncommon strength. Teacher, Headmaster and Principal; Provincial and Vicar General; novice master and spiritual guide; writer and custodian of Montfortian legacy; he carried each responsibility without seeking publicity, measuring his days by fidelity rather than by title. Those who studied under him will remember his precision in the classroom and fairness in discipline. Those who lived with him will recall the rhythm of his prayer; the Rosary in hand, the quiet counsel that steadied wavering hearts. He taught maths with clarity, faith with conviction and life with example.

His Marian devotion and his love for our Founder shaped his entire outlook. The Montfortian cry "God Alone" became the hidden engine of his choices; his devotion to Our Blessed Mother formed in him that joyful courage which neither illness nor age could dim. Even in frailty, he chose gratitude over complaint, presence over self-concern and intercession over idle speech. In this, he became for many a compassionate mentor, a brother who accompanied rather than imposed, who corrected with



truth and charity and who believed that grace works best through ordinary, straightforward fidelity.

The pages that follow weave together memories from confreres, former students, relatives, collaborators and friends. They are varied in accent yet united in theme: *Bro.Lawrence's life touched minds and formed souls*. These testimonies are not mere recollections of yesterday; they are road signs for tomorrow, inviting us to pray more simply, serve more selflessly and lead more transparently. If the pages that follow enable even one reader to rediscover the beauty of a disciplined, Marian, Christ-centred life, it will have honoured him well.

I record here my gratitude to all who have contributed and to every Community that has kept alive the memory of this saintly Brother. May the Lord, who began the good work in Bro.Lawrence, bring to fruition in us, too, what He so wonderfully accomplished in him!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow reminds us that the “*lives of great men*” leave footprints on the sands of time. Bro.Lawrence's footprints are not grand imprints of human achievements; they are the steady marks of prayer, duty, mercy and truth. Let us step into them with hope.

“Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Master.”

—MT 25:21

BRO.JENNY KURIAKOSE
Provincial Superior



**RO.LAWRENCE'S FOOTPRINTS ARE NOT GRAND IMPRINTS OF HUMAN
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MERCY AND TRUTH. LET US STEP INTO THEM WITH HOPE.**





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Rome, 16th August 2025

Message of Condolence on the Passing of Brother Lawrence Joseph

Brother Lawrence Joseph: An Example of Dedication and Love for the Congregation and Education

With deep emotion and sincere gratitude, the General Administration joins in prayerful remembrance of our dear Brother Lawrence Joseph, whom the Lord called to Himself on August 15 in Bangalore. It is profoundly meaningful that he was welcomed into eternal life on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven — a feast that so beautifully reflects his lifelong love and devotion to our Blessed Mother.

Brother Lawrence Joseph lived his religious life faithfully, prayerfully, and with deep commitment. A man of wisdom and a true lover of the Rosary, he embodied simplicity, discipline, and a prophetic devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. As a formator, he shaped the lives of many Brothers, not only through his teaching but above all by being a living model and example of religious consecration.

Throughout his long life of service, he dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the mission of education and to the Congregation of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. With unwavering dedication, he also served as Vicar General of the Congregation for six years, offering his wisdom, generosity, and spiritual depth to the life of the Institute. His deep passion for Montfortian spirituality and the history of the Congregation gave rise to numerous publications that continue to inspire and guide generations of Brothers, educators, and students.

I still remember with joy and gratitude his presence, along with other members of the Central Administration, at my religious profession on September 29, 1990. Brother Lawrence Joseph was genuine, disciplined, hardworking, and profoundly committed. He lived religious life in a prophetic manner, embodying loyalty, generosity, and faithfulness. In more recent years, whenever I met him, he cherished speaking in French, shared his research, recalled his service as bursar, and joyfully presented his writings. His contagious passion for knowledge, faith, and community left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

May the Lord, in His infinite mercy, grant Brother Lawrence Joseph the reward promised to faithful and good servants, welcoming him into the eternal peace and joy of Heaven. His legacy of dedication and love for the Congregation, the Church, and the world of education will continue to inspire us.

In this moment of sorrow, the General Administration joins in prayer with the family of Brother Lawrence Joseph and with all the Brothers of the Province of Bangalore and India. Together we share the pain of loss, even as we give thanks for the great gift of his life and the witness he leaves behind.

In remembrance and prayer, we entrust his soul to the tenderness of God.
 My deepest condolences to all of you who unite in prayer for our dear Brother Lawrence Joseph.

Bro. Dionigi Taffarello

Bro. Dionigi Taffarello
Superior General





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In Loving Memory of Bro. Lawrence Joseph

Remembering Bro. Lawrence Joseph is like bringing to mind a gentle light that has touched each of us in a quiet yet unforgettable way. He was not a man of many words about himself, but his life spoke volumes. There was something deeply authentic about him: his faith was not mere theory, but a lived reality, and his simplicity and humility made him approachable to everyone.

For many of us, he was more than a fellow Brother: he was a guide, a mentor, and a spiritual companion. His love for the Congregation was evident in everything he did, and his contribution to its growth and spirituality cannot be measured. He had an extraordinary grasp of the Montfortian spirituality, and he never hesitated to share it with others—through his writings, through his reflections, and most of all, through the way he lived. I can still hear his gentle reminder: *“The Rosary is the weapon against Satan—never forget to pray the Rosary.”* It was not just an advice but a conviction he carried in his heart and practised every day.

He had the heart of a missionary. Back in 1957, when he went to Mosul in Iraq with Brothers Amance, Edmond Campion, and Felix, he nurtured his missionary dynamism with courage and dedication. Yet, even in top leadership—as Vicar General of the Congregation—he never sought power or recognition for himself. Instead, he led with humility, always pointing back to the Gospel and to genuine devotion to Mother Mary.

What stood out most in Bro. Lawrence Joseph was his authenticity. He was deeply prayerful, always caring, always ready to help. Many of us carry reminiscences of his kindness, his quiet presence, and his ability to make us feel seen and encouraged. He lived with a contagious passion for our mission, never wavering in his religious values, never losing sight of what it meant to be a true disciple.

As I think of him now, I realize how much he shaped us—not just through his words but through his example. He showed us that holiness is not about perfection, but about fidelity, humility, and love lived day by day. Truly, Bro. Lawrence Joseph was a role model, a man who embodied the spirit of Montfort, a Brother whose life continues to inspire us long after his passing.

He leaves behind not only a legacy but also a challenge for each of us to live our vocation with the same faith, devotion, and simplicity that he so beautifully embodied. His memory is not a shadow of the past, but a living light guiding us forward today. May he continue to inspire and guide us!


Bro. Pratap Reddy S.G.
Vicar General



ear Brother Jenny,

Heartfelt condolences to you, to the Brothers of the Province of Bengaluru, to the Brothers of all our Indian Provinces, and to the members of Bro. Lawrence Joseph's family, as he has left this world for the Father's House.

He was a GREAT man! A MAN OF GOD! A prayerful and committed Brother! An inspiration to all of us! My prayers and that of all Canadian Brothers join yours as you lead our Brother to his final resting place.

May his testimony be a source of courage and hope to all of us, and may he intercede for us that we be faithful to our call and attentive to the will of God for our Congregation.

Faternally, with much gratitude for the beautiful life of our dear Brother Lawrence,

BRO. RENÉ DELORME

Former Superior General



ear Bro. Joseph Louis,

I convey my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the Brothers of Montfort and St. Gabriel.

Bro. Lawrence was my Principal, my teacher, and above all, a pious and humble human being. As a young student, I often found myself at odds with the discipline expected at Montfort, Yercaud, and in my immaturity, I sometimes felt aggrieved. Yet, in retrospect, I cherish the values that discipline instilled in us.

I also recall with deep gratitude that Bro. Lawrence, along with Bro. Wilfred, made the effort to attend my parents' funeral in Cochin—a gesture of compassion I will never forget.

As a teacher, he took great pains to ensure that we understood science thoroughly, enriching our learning with details and experiments that brought the subject alive for us as students. I can only imagine the goodness and simplicity he would have brought to the Brothers' Community throughout his life.

May his soul rest in peace!

Kind regards,

MR. THOMAS

Old boy, Montfort School, Yercaud

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)



ear Brothers,

It is with deep reverence and gratitude that I remember the life and legacy of Rev. Bro. Lawrence Joseph—a true religious, a visionary leader, and a faithful son of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

As a teacher, he brought subjects to life in the minds of the children. As an administrator, he shaped young hearts in Montfortian schools. As a guide, he led the Province of South India with wisdom. And as Vicar General, he steered the spiritual journey of many Brothers. His leadership was never about power, but always about mission; never about position, but always about purpose. And as a writer he explained the facts of spirituality in simple words, understandable to the ordinary.

Bro. Lawrence was an ardent devotee of Mother Mary and St. Montfort. The Rosary was his compass, and True Devotion his roadmap. His life whispered the Gospel through his simplicity, radiated through his committed religious vocation, and was proven by his unwavering fidelity to Christ until the very end.

We have a lot to learn from Bro. Lawrence: his sense of hard work, sincere practice of the three vows, his passion for spreading the tender devotion to Mary and the life of our founder St. Montfort. The Congregation and all of us are indebted to him for his tireless work and unwavering commitment.

Let us thank Bro. Lawrence for his guidance and the exemplary life he lived among us. Let us remember his virtues, imitate his simplicity, and carry forward his love for Mother Mary and the Church.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May his soul rest in peace!

BRO. DOMINIC SAVIO

National Chairman, India

Provincial Superior, Yercaud

MONTFORT BROTHERS
OF
ST. GABRIEL



PROVINCE OF BENGALURU

An Eulogy for Bro. Lawrence Joseph

17.08.2025



ev. Bro. John Kallarackal, our former Superior General, Bros. Dhanaraj and Varghese Mandapathil, Assistants General; Beloved relatives of Bro. Lawrence Joseph, Rev. Fr. Arul Maran, Sdb, Rector of the Retreat, Bro. Dominic Savio S., Provincial Superior of Yercaud and National Chairman of the Montfort Brothers in India; Bros. John Britto, Maria Soosai, Shine Alex, Thampy Alex, Satheesh K. Don, Shajan Antony, Provincial Superiors of the Indian Provinces, Past Students of Bro. Lawrence Joseph, staff from the schools where he has served, Parish Priest of Yercaud, dear Brothers, Fathers, Sisters, friends, and well-wishers.

A living saint of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in India has departed from our midst. A lamp that brightened our journey has been gently extinguished. A flame that withstood the test of time has now merged into the timeless eternity.

“Man dies but once, and the opportunity of a ‘Noble death’ is not an everyday fortune; it is a gift which noble spirits pray for.”—CHARLES LAMB

Bro. Lawrence was noble by his life and the Lord granted him a noble death.

We hold firm to the truth: “We are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.” (2 Cor 5:8)

No language can fully capture the depth of our grief. No melody, however mournful, can silence the ache of farewell. Yet we cling to the promise: “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Rev 21:4)

For St. Paul, death is but the moment of being “poured out like an offering” and receiving the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:6–7). This is precisely what Bro. Lawrence Joseph has embraced—the fulfilment of his earthly mission and the joyful entrance into the presence of the Lord. Truly, he could echo the words of the Apostle: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Tim 4:7).

E. M. Zacharais, who was rechristened in the family of Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel as 'Lawrence Joseph', was born in Elampalssery, Kottayam District on 9 June 1935. In 1948, he joined our Juniorate at Coonoor and completed his High School studies. He had his Postulancy in 1952, followed by his Novitiate at Eachinkadu from 1953-54. His keen intellect and disciplined approach laid the foundation for the outstanding administrative skills he would use later and throughout his life. Over the years, these qualities, combined with his deep faith and commitment, earned him the respect of the Brothers and the trust of those he served. His journey was marked by the spirit of dedication and humility that earned him success in every mission entrusted to him. He made his first profession on 8 May 1954 and final vows on 15 December 1960.

From 1954 to 1958, he pursued his Intermediate and B.Sc. Mathematics at Loyola College, Chennai. His years at Loyola not only deepened his knowledge in Mathematics but also broadened his worldview, instilling in him a sense of discipline, intellectual curiosity and commitment to service.

From 1958 to 1959, he served as a teacher at Mosul College in Mosul, Iraq. Though his stay was brief, he embodied the spirit of a true missionary—embracing a new culture, patiently overcoming language barriers and sowing seeds of knowledge and faith among his students. His presence radiated compassion, humility and a deep commitment to Christ's call to serve 'to the ends of the earth.'

From 1959 to 1960, he pursued his B.Ed. while residing at San Thome Higher Secondary School, Chennai. In 1960, he began a remarkable chapter of his life as a teacher at St. James Hr. Sec. School, Palakurichi, where his dedication, gentle discipline, and love for students quickly became evident. The following year, he was entrusted with the dual responsibility of Superior and Headmaster, roles he embraced with wisdom and zeal. He often recalled these as the most fulfilling years of his life, a sentiment he shared with many over the years. From 1966 to 1971, he also served as Superior of Montfort Juniorate, Palakurichi, guiding young aspirants with fatherly care and spiritual depth. In all, he spent 11 fruitful years in Palakurichi, serving in various capacities and leaving behind a legacy of commitment, simplicity and inspiration.

From 1971 to 1972, he undertook Montfortian Studies and his Second Novitiate in France and Rome, a period that deepened his knowledge of our founder St. Louis Marie de Montfort and the history of our Congregation. From 1972 to 1974, he served as Socius at the Second Novitiate in Bangalore and as National Vocation Promoter.

In 1974, Bro. Lawrence was appointed as Superior of Montfort School, Yercaud, and in the following year, he took over as Principal, and continued in that post until 1980. His tenure was marked by significant growth, which included the addition of new blocks to the campus and enhancing the school's infrastructure and learning environment. For

the past students of Montfort, memories of Bro. Lawrence remain vivid—of a leader who combined efficiency in administration with the warmth of a caring Brother, the wisdom of a mentor, and the inspiration of a visionary. His presence left an enduring mark on the institution and in the hearts of all who knew him.

Bro. Lawrence served as the Provincial Superior of South India from 1980 to 1989. Nearly 11 new Institutions were started during that period and the Province flourished. He was responsible for starting our mission in Chabua and Baghty in North East India and a mission in the Kingdom of Tonga, fact that can never be forgotten. Social centers of Ayan Poruvai and Pallavaram as well as Schools at Alandur, Kalugumalai, Kanakkankuppam, Muttom, Susaigiri, and Montfort Scholasticate in Trichy were started by the Province during his tenure as Provincial Superior.

In 1988, he was called to serve in a greater leadership role as Vicar General of the Congregation, a responsibility he faithfully carried out for six fruitful years in Rome until 1994. His saintly life, marked by humility, prayer, and unwavering dedication, became a source of inspiration to many across the Congregation. During this period, he also devoted himself to spreading the spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montfort through his writings and books, leaving behind a rich spiritual legacy that continues today to nurture the faith of countless readers.

On his return from Rome, he was appointed as the Master of Novices at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Eachinkadu from 1995 to 1999, guiding two batches of novices. With justifiable pride, he would often recall that these two batches recorded the highest retention of Brothers in India—a testament to his spiritual guidance, fatherly care and inspiring example. His formation style combined firmness with compassion, shaping young men into committed Montfortians, deeply rooted in faith and mission.

From 1999 to 2002, he served as Local Superior, Provincial Secretary and Provincial Bursar at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud. Between 2002 and 2007, he was Superior and Juniorate Director at Nirmala Higher Secondary School, Kolathur, where he guided young aspirants with dedication. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Superior of Montfort School, Anakkara, and later, from 2010 to 2014, as Bursar of Montfort College, Bangalore, where his prudent stewardship and administrative skills were once again evident.

From 2014, onwards he served as Bursar at Lake Montfort School, Bengaluru, a responsibility he carried out with dedication and integrity until May 2025, when he was no longer able to continue due to declining health. I had the privilege of working with Bro. Lawrence for the last nine years, from 2016, at Lake Montfort School. To me, he was not only a father figure but also a mentor, guide and constant source of inspiration. Over the years, we built a strong bond rooted in trust and mutual respect. His timely advice and encouragement gave me strength in moments of challenge, and he celebrated every

success of mine with genuine pride and joy. His life deeply touched me and inspired me to shape my own life. He had a special interest in sharing the history of the Congregation and the life of our founder, St. Montfort, which he knew profoundly well. He treasured a great love for the Congregation and remained deeply attached to its mission and legacy.

On 14 August, Bro. Lawrence appeared weak and was experiencing breathlessness. As usual, he went for his breakfast from the refectory, but was unable to walk back to his room and struggled to balance himself on his feet. Understanding the seriousness of the situation, Bro. Antony Samy, the Local Superior, decided to have him admitted to St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru. Given his health condition, he was immediately placed in the ICU with respiratory support. The following day, Brothers from Lake Montfort School, Montfort College and I visited him in the hospital, but he was not responding to us. In the evening, the ward doctor, after his routine visit to ICU patients, informed me that his condition remained unchanged and there was no sign of improvement. Around 11:00 PM, Mr. David, a staff member of Lake Montfort, who was with Bro. Lawrence in the hospital, was informed by the hospital staff that Brother's condition had become critical. At 11:40 PM, he peacefully breathed his last.

Bro. Lawrence was a unique person, with an extraordinary passion for holiness, always radiating God's presence wherever he went. All through his life, he carried a treasury of virtues—perfection, diligence and punctuality were his hallmarks. Those who were his students and trainees imbibed many virtues from his life, admiring both his spiritual depth and his unwavering tenacity in work.

The heights he attained through dedication and hard work stand as an eternal inspiration. Like St. Louis Marie de Montfort, he nurtured a deep closeness to Mother Mary, and fittingly, he departed for his eternal reward on the Feast of the Assumption. He was always eager to respond where God beckoned, discerning His will afresh each day, and ever ready to serve Him in any capacity.

As a teacher, he was par excellence; as a formator, he was a role model; and as an administrator, he set new trends, never compromising with corruption or falsehood. As a Superior, he placed himself at the service of both people and his Brothers. As Provincial and Vicar General, he proved by word and example that true authority is service.

His faithfulness and unwavering commitment to his calling were the envy of many in religious life. Even after stepping down from major responsibilities, he set a new agenda for Brothers in their later years, showing that one can continue to serve fruitfully even after "retirement."

His gift for writing and authoring books with accuracy, precision, and clarity placed him among the great writers of our time. His love for the Montfortian heritage and his

tireless efforts to preserve it—through collections, exhibits, and careful documentation—have enriched the life of the Congregation.

Indeed, he multiplied his God-given talents thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold. Today, as we commend him to the Lord, the words of the Master seem to echo around him: “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.”

The feet that walked in service have come to their final rest; the heart that burned with love now beats in eternity. The eyes that once sparkled with compassion are now closed in peace; the lips that proclaimed the Gospel are stilled forever. The shepherd’s staff has been laid down; the faithful servant has gone home to the Master. The voice that comforted the weary is now part of heaven’s choir; the hands that laboured in love, now rest in God’s embrace.

On behalf of the Province, my sincere condolences to all his beloved relatives, Brothers and friends whom he had loved so much! Be assured of the fact that we have one more intercessor in Heaven. We thank you for your support and presence. My sincere appreciation to Bro. Antony Samy, Local Superior, and the Community of Lake Montfort School for taking care of all the needs of Brother. My special thanks to the Sisters, Doctors and Staff at St. Martha’s Hospital, Bengaluru, for medical assistance and nursing care for Bro. Lawrence during the last 6 years. I would also like to acknowledge Mr. David, a devoted support staff of Lake Montfort, who faithfully cared for Brother during the past one year. My Special thanks to Bro. Dominic Savio, Provincial Superior of Yercaud, Bro. Arockia Sahayaraj, Superior & Principal of Montfort School and the Montfort Community, who have been making all the arrangements for the last journey of Bro. Lawrence. I also thank Fr. Arul Maran for presiding over the Eucharistic celebration, the Parish Priest, the other Priests, Bro. Paul Raj, Novice Master, Bro. Antony Samy, Socius, the Novices of Ecachinkadu and members of the Provincial Council for all the arrangements. I appreciate all the Brothers and friends who have assembled here, particularly those from other Provinces, to pray and to express their solidarity with us and the family members of Bro. Lawrence.

The legacy of a good person is a treasure that time cannot steal.

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply become a part of us.

—HELEN KELLER

May the departed soul of Bro. Lawrence Joseph, rest in peace!



BRO. JENNY KURIAKOSE

Provincial Superior

Bro. Lawrence Joseph: A Life Entirely Lived for God & Others

Tributes



To speak of Bro. Lawrence Joseph is to speak of a life entirely lived for God and others—quietly, prayerfully, and with unwavering commitment. A Montfort Brother to the core, Bro. Lawrence was a man of deep simplicity, profound faith, and unshakeable dedication to the mission entrusted to him by God through the legacy of St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

He passed away at the remarkable age of 90, though for the last 25 years he often said—without drama or complaint—that his heart was functioning at only 20%. Yet, he continued to live, serve, and inspire, not by the strength of his body, but by the power of his spirit. His life was a living testimony to what it means to suffer quietly and cheerfully, never burdening others with his struggles, but instead lifting their burdens through his presence.

☛ A MAN OF MISSION AND HUMILITY

Bro. Lawrence served the Congregation in many capacities—as teacher, Headmaster, Principal, Provincial, Vicar General, novice master, and more. Yet, none of these titles ever defined him. What defined him was the quiet dignity with which he bore responsibility, the firmness with which he corrected, the wisdom with which he guided, and the sincerity that marked all his dealings.

In a world that often chases after power and prestige, Bro. Lawrence chose the path of simplicity and poverty. He owned little, desired nothing for himself, and gave all—time, energy, talent, and love—to those around him. He lived in such a way that his very presence evoked discipline. He was the same whether addressing a superior, a student, a staff member, or a stranger.

☛ A HEART DEVOTED TO MARY AND MONTFORT

Bro. Lawrence had a deep Marian devotion. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was his constant companion. He not only recited prayers—he lived them. He saw in Mary the perfect disciple, the model of surrender, and the mirror of God's love. His deep familiarity with the writings of St. Louis Marie de Montfort led him to author several books on St. Montfort, the Virgin Mary, and the spiritual path. Through his writings, he shared with the world the richness of the Montfortian spirituality in a language that was simple yet profound.

☛ AN EXCELLENT TEACHER AND SPIRITUAL FATHER

Many of us remember him first as a teacher—one who taught not just from books, but from life. His classes were not only informative but transformative. Generations of students owe much to the values he silently imparted: integrity, discipline, reverence, and compassion. The huge crowd that gathered at his funeral was a witness to the many lives he had touched—former students, colleagues, Brothers, friends, and well-wishers from every walk of life. He was not only a teacher of subjects, but a teacher of souls—a spiritual father who led many along the path of prayer, discernment, and faithfulness.

☛ A QUIET LEGACY

Bro. Lawrence did not seek recognition, but he left behind a legacy more enduring than buildings or titles. He left behind hearts that were touched, lives that were changed, and a Congregation enriched by his presence. His simplicity, his cheerfulness in suffering, his total trust in God, and his love for Mary are some lofty bequests we now carry forward.

As a fellow member of the same international family, I am privileged to have known him, walked with him, and learned from him. He was a man of deep silence, yet his life speaks volumes. In the words of St. Montfort: “Happy are those who carry the yoke of Jesus in their youth.” Bro. Lawrence carried that yoke with humility and joy—not only in his youth, but all through his long and grace-filled life.

May he now rest in eternal peace, embraced by the Mother he loved so dearly, and welcomed by the Lord he served so faithfully!

We thank God for the gift of Bro. Lawrence Joseph. He has run the race. He has kept the faith.

BRO. PAUL RAJ

Novice Master, Eachinkadu



BRO. LAWRENCE DID NOT SEEK RECOGNITION, BUT HE LEFT BEHIND A
LEGACY MORE ENDURING THAN BUILDINGS OR TITLES. HE LEFT BEHIND
HEARTS THAT WERE TOUCHED, LIVES THAT WERE CHANGED, AND A
CONGREGATION ENRICHED BY HIS PRESENCE.



Bro. Lawrence Joseph: A Lighthouse in My Journey

His steady light shaped my path and will inspire generations to come.



first came to know Bro. Lawrence Joseph in 1980, at the time of my first profession. From the very beginning, his leadership and decisions as my Provincial Superior played a decisive role in shaping who I am today. Among all the Brothers I have known, I hold him in the highest esteem—not only for the positions he held, but more importantly for the qualities he embodied: authenticity, genuineness, faithfulness to prayer, devotion to Mother Mary, self-discipline, hard work, love for the Brothers and the Congregation, clarity of observation, freedom from prejudice, and the ability to form sound judgments. He also showed us how to age gracefully, living a life of simplicity and deep contentment as a religious.

✦ EARLY ENCOUNTERS OF UNDERSTANDING

I had the privilege of living with him in three different Communities. The first was at RSK Higher Secondary School, Trichy, in June and July 1981. It was a time of challenges and difficulties. During those troubled times, I assisted him to handle some of the problems. During those days, he shed all his prejudices towards me, came to understand me more deeply, and from then on, he never missed an opportunity to show me his appreciation and trust. For example, on the request of my LS, Bro. P. L. Paul, he asked me to continue staying in RSK, be in-charge of the stationery and study B.Sc Maths at St. Joseph College from July 1982 onwards. However, when he learned that I was not happy with that arrangement, he kept it at the back of his mind and transferred me to Campion scholasticate at the next academic year, thinking that I would be happier to go to College from the scholasticate! This was very upsetting for Bro. P. L. Paul. So, with my consent, Bro. P. L. Paul travelled to Yercaud, met Bro. Lawrence and returned to RSK, with a letter rescinding my transfer order which was a very unusual action by any Provincial in those days! That single gesture of trust and love uplifted my self-esteem and deepened my own religious commitment.

✦ A TURNING POINT IN MY VOCATION

The second time I lived with him was at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud, for nine months in 1988. On 28th April 1988, he called me to his office and, with a smile, said: *“I am happy to inform you that the Provincial Council has unanimously decided to send you to the*

Kingdom of Tonga to start our new mission there.” I had never even heard of Tonga! When I asked him where it was, he chuckled, pulled out an atlas, and showed me a tiny set of dots along the International Date Line. That moment changed the course of my life.

Bro. Lawrence not only entrusted me with this great responsibility but also ensured I had the support needed to fulfil it. For example, In the Kingdom of Tonga, T\$70 monthly allowance was not enough for our survival. So, as the then Vicar General, he asked the Brothers in Boys’ Town, Suva, to stop their monthly contribution of \$500 to the Generalate and instead send it to Tonga for our maintenance.

In July 1992, as the Principal and Superior at Montfort School, Baghty, I wanted to construct the first school building as a pucca building. However, the money raised and handed over to me by my predecessor Bro. B. A. Kurian was for a semi-pucca building. As soon as I told Bro. Lawrence about my wish during his visit to Baghty, he granted it, without any formalities, and promised to send me the additional cost of Rs 3.5 lakh. He then applied to the Italian Bishop’s conference on my behalf, received the amount and sent it to me in time to complete the project as scheduled. His faith in me gave me courage, and his generosity allowed me to dream bigger for the mission.

☛ A SILENT BUT STEADY COMPANION

Years later, from 2014 to 2016, I shared Community life with him once again at Lake Montfort School, where I was the Superior and he served as Bursar. The challenges of putting the school in order were immense. Yet, Bro. Lawrence never interfered, criticized, or second-guessed. His presence alone—faithful at prayers, meals, and Community gatherings—was a quiet source of strength. His silent encouragement spoke louder than words.

☛ A GRACEFUL FINAL CHAPTER

In his later years, I witnessed him age with remarkable grace. He remained faithful to community prayers, lived independently, welcomed the company of Brothers, and held his responsibilities quietly—ready to let go whenever asked, yet willing to serve as long as needed. His serenity, humility, and joy in simple living left a deep impression on me.

☛ MY GUIDING LIGHT

Looking back, I can say with certainty: if I am what I am today, it is largely because of the positive influence of Bro. Lawrence Joseph. He was my inspiration, my lighthouse, and my moral compass. His life has left deep footprints not only in my journey but also in the life of the Congregation.

May future generations of Brothers draw strength from his authenticity, humility, and unwavering faith! Truly, his steady light shaped my path, and it will continue to inspire

many more to walk courageously in the Montfortian way. May his noble soul rest in peace!

BRO. P J GEORGE

Executive Secretary

Gabrielite Secretariate for Education



A Living Montfortian: Remembering Bro. Lawrence Joseph



It is with a heart full of gratitude and love that I remember our beloved Bro. Lawrence Joseph. He was truly one of the greatest treasures of our Congregation. His life was a gift to us all, a life lived with deep faith, love, and dedication to the mission of God.

Bro. Lawrence Joseph was more than a writer or translator; he was a living witness to the spirit of St. Montfort. He worked tirelessly to preserve the history of our Congregation, writing and translating many books about our Founder and about St. Montfort's teachings. But he did not stop at writing, he lived what he preached. With great zeal, he went to every corner, teaching, guiding, and inspiring us to follow the path shown by our Founder.

I was blessed to meet him during my Novitiate at Eachinkadu in 2012-2013. He came to teach us about the history of our Congregation, and I was amazed at his depth of knowledge. He was not only a scholar but also a man who lived the charism of our Congregation in every step. His love for Mother Mary was remarkable, and his life echoed the words "**God Alone.**" Even in his old age, he never grew tired of serving, always keeping His mission alive.

We deeply miss such an inspiring Brother among us. I offer my heartfelt condolences to all and pray that his soul rests in eternal peace. His memory will always remain alive in our hearts and continue to inspire generations to come.

BRO. SANDEEP MARNENI

Missionary in Uganda

A Man Unto the Heart of Montfort



knew Bro.Lawrence Joseph, ever since I joined our Congregation in 1964 as a young junior in Palakurichi. He was our Headmaster, a man whom we feared as well as respected. He was so strict and running around all over in the School. Every 15 minutes we could see him either passing by our classroom or entering the classes to give some instructions. In those days, I have never seen him smiling or relaxed. This behavior of a Superior whom I admired, partially influenced my own behavior and approach to life to some extent.

He was the only ‘icon’ around the place other than Bro.Charlie Darling. Both these tall figures were poles apart in many ways except for their tireless workaholic nature. Bro.Lawrence was called the ‘Kadamai Veeran (கடமை வீரன்)’—the dutiful soldier..! Bro.Lawrence was considered a tyrant by the students in their inner circles. Once when the School pupil leader, Master Raju, who was nearly 6½ feet, committed some serious mistake, he jumped up to reach his cheeks, as he was small in stature. This was the talk among the students for some months.

Later on, to our pleasant surprise and shock, Bro.Lawrence was appointed as our Director of the Juniorate..! It is here that I came to know Bro.Lawrence closely, the ascetic and deeply spiritual Religious who loved his vocation and mission as a Montfortian.

He injected into us the love of the Blessed Virgin Mary along with lessons on the life and works of St.Montfort, our founder. He was very much instrumental for my success in High School studies and Std.XI final exams. He was a role model for the young juniors.

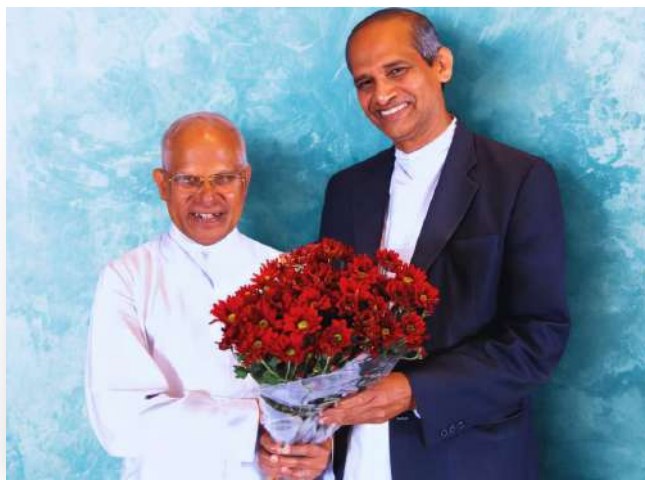
After my college studies, when I was initially appointed in Montfort School, Yercaud, he was the Principal of the School. He gave me a heavy timetable, allotting classes upto higher class (Std.XI) in addition to many more responsibilities such as warden of one of the senior dorms, animator of legion of Mary, refectory minding, games supervision, etc. Later I realized how providential it was, working with a committed Religious and ‘task master’ filled with divine qualities. It is this early tough training that challenged me to bring out the best in me.

My next close encounter with Bro.Lawrence was when he became our Provincial Superior (from 1980 to 1989). The Province grew rapidly with excellent discipline among Brothers. He gave much importance to vocation promotion and formation of

Brothers. He would go after the doubting and the erring ones like a good shepherd. There were many occasions when he appreciated, corrected, encouraged and lifted me up. Personally, I owe much to him for my vocation and growth as a Montfort Brother.

Later, I developed a close relationship and association with Bro.Lawrence when I was the Provincial Superior. He was my guide and I sought his advice often. He was a perfect guide and mentor to me. I often approached him for his wise and intelligent guidance—which often helped me to take the right decisions and move forward.

As our Vicar General, I had the opportunity to experience his humility and simplicity in his style of functioning as the leader of the Congregation. Whenever I went to the Generalate for some programme or other, he would welcome me affectionately and take care of me.



The long encounters and association with this deeply Religious person has left an indelible mark on me, especially in my mission as a teacher. When he was the Headmaster in St.James, Palakurichi, he would take classes for us in Mathematics. A beautiful lesson for the present day superiors and administrators. He was an excellent teacher with great depth into the subject. He was a master of many subjects. He could handle any subject given to him. I think he was one of the few Brothers who could be credited with the distinction of having worked in most of the areas of our mission, formation and administration. There is no field or area associated with Religious Life untouched by Bro.Lawrence.

His love for the congregation and the Church was inseparable and intertwined like the two sides of a coin. He has contributed so much towards the growth of the Congregation in India, particularly the Southern Province. He has left behind so many treasures in terms of the books and articles he has written or compiled meticulously. Even after 100 years, his writings will trumpet the spirituality, wisdom, hard work and simplicity of this extraordinary Montfortian, the Genius he was!

Rosary was his powerful weapon which was found always in his pocket, wherever he went or whatever he was doing. He used to say, 'let the beads of the Rosary roll in your hand in your pocket'.

At his departure from our midst, St. Bernard and St. Montfort would have welcomed him to his Father's abode saying "hats off to you", Bro. Lawrence, for having emulated us in our unmatched devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus the incarnate wisdom. Bro. Lawrence has left behind an envious legacy which can seldom be matched by most of the present day generations. Let us pray that God will continue to bless us with many more Brothers of the stature and aura of Bro. Lawrence, a true Montfortian.

BRO. GEORGE K J

*Local Superior & Correspondent
Montfort Community School
Kombuthooki, Yercaud*



Bro. Lawrence Joseph



My acquaintance with Bro. Lawrence Joseph goes back to 1974: the day he came to my parish and spoke to the faithful during Sunday Mass about our Congregation and our mission, and invited youngsters to join. After the Mass, my mother along with me met him and I expressed my desire to join. That day by noon he came to my house with a limping leg that he had injured while playing. After getting all the required details, he asked me to attend the vocation camp at Thevara College in Cochin. I went for the camp and it was a three day programme. There we were many of us for the camp. At the end some were selected and they were divided among the three Provinces—North, Centre, and South. I was for the South Province. Bro. Lawrence was the Provincial when I made my first vows and final vows. My personal meeting with him when he came for the visits was very enriching. He was the Provincial Bursar with me during one term—three years. He was very systematic in accounting, and even in scrutinizing the accounts of the Communities during his visits. His contribution to the Congregation in different capacities is very remarkable. He was a role model for many Brothers during his life. With his demise we have lost a great member. May his soul rest in peace! May he intercede for us to the Father in Heaven!

BRO. THOMAS KALATHILKOTTIL

Principal, Wisdom Montfort International School, Bengaluru

Bro.Lawrence Joseph— A Man of Integrity & Faithfulness



was deeply saddened to know about the sudden demise of Bro.Lawrence Joseph. Every one of us will have a story or an experience to tell of Bro.Lawrence. He had great impact on me, to live a simple life style. I had the privilege of living with Bro.Lawrence for two years in the Juniorate and later three years in Eachinkadu Novitiate as Socius when Brother Lawrence was the Novice Master. He was a wonderful Religious; true and strict with himself as well as strict with others. Many Brothers did not like his strictness and straight forward attitude. Some Brothers kept a distance from him due to his strictness. He was a man of great concern and care for everyone in his contact and all who lived with him experienced this quality.

Bro.Lawrence Joseph was a very simple person. He loved the poor and was good to them in helping them when they approached him with genuine needs. His constant effort to be a better human being and to be more sensitive towards those around him made him a magnetic person. He welcomed anyone who came across to him or came to his Community.

Bro.Lawrence sacrificed his whole life for the mission of the poor children who were entrusted to his care years back in St. James Hr. Sec. School, Palakurichi. He was an excellent teacher, Provincial and an able administrator. He was more concerned about his duties than his rights, and took up problems on behalf of others. He was willing to bear the consequences on himself again out of his concern for others especially the less privileged ones of the society. He was a very hard working person wherever he worked in communities and institutions.

I have found him praying the rosary and I was really inspired by his prayer life and punctuality. Personally, I have learned from him to use things sparingly and be frugal in life. I learnt not to waste things; to use and reuse things as much as possible in life. Such a life is but rare, and thus, it is our duty to nurture, emulate and build on his legacy as Religious.

Bro.Lawrence Joseph's life has so much more to offer to us, if we take lessons from his life, particularly, when we are facing problems in life. Prayer was his weapon for overcoming the hurdles and long periods of illness and other ailments in life. He had the

ability to accept all odds of life very amicably and his famous words were “It’s ok” to all situations of life.

I feel, Bro.Lawrence Joseph, summed up his philosophy of life with the words, “My Life is my witness to people.” His multifarious and dynamic personality was based on simplicity of life and he lived it all through. There was greatness in his simplicity.

Bro.Lawrence was welcoming, unassuming, quiet and a very kind person. He was universal; such a man cannot be measured, weighed, or estimated. He was a man of prayer and a great devotee of the Blessed Mother Mary. Perhaps that could be the reason he died on the feast of the Assumption of Mary. For Bro.Lawrence Joseph, obedience to Superiors was like obeying God and he lived it in his life. He was a man of God. He had great regard for Superiors and once the Superior had spoken, he humbly followed without any resistance. He was a man of prayer and was very committed in his life and mission as a formator in the Novitiate. He was a man of punctuality.

Bro.Lawrence never pretended to be consistent with previously-held views in his life. He readily abandoned his stand when he felt the need to do so. Thus, he was true to the inner voice as understood at any given point of time.

His great achievement was to demonstrate through his own example that simplicity can be effectively implemented not only in his views, but also in his day-to-day life. His whole life was an experiment with the simple way of life. He used the simplest clothes for himself and this life style is an example for all of us to follow in our Religious life.

Bro.Lawrence was a very practical man. He first followed and then preached or talked about it to others. He was a leader in the real sense of the term. He never had a desire for power or position. Sacrifice was the key word of his life. He lived a simple need-based life because he knew that needs have an end whereas greed is endless.

People are always remembered for their work and not because of the positions they held. I remember Bro.Lawrence because of his dedication and commitment, which he showed in the responsibilities he carried out in the Congregation.

May his soul find eternal rest in God’s company! We will certainly miss his exemplary earthly presence. May he intercede for us from heaven!

BRO.B. A. KURIAN

St. Gabriel’s House (Novitiate)

Sitagarha, Hazaribagh Dt.

Jharkhand 825 303



Bro.Lawrence Joseph—Man of Integrity

☛ WELL PREPARED

Bro.Lawrence Joseph was born on 09.6.1935. I had the privilege of being at table with him during his 91st birthday celebration at Lake Montfort School in the evening of 9th June 2025, where he has served as Bursar from 2014 onwards. He told me with quiet self assurance that he was mentally and spiritually preparing for his departure from this world. There was the usual feebleness in his voice but he sounded a confident man whose conscience was absolutely clear—he was ready to meet the Lord. He could say with St.Paul: “As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed; the time is here for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God.” (2 Tim 4:7)

☛ GREAT MARIAN DEVOTEE

Bro.Lawrence Joseph died on 15th August 2025, a very significant day in the Marian calendar. It was the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven—the day that she died. He was a great devotee of the Mother of God and she had made sure that he would die on the same day as she herself died.

In his ‘True Devotion to Mary,’ St.Louis Marie de Montfort states: “All the pre-destinate, while in the world, are hidden in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, where they are protected, nourished, cared for and developed by this good Mother, until the day she brings them forth to a life of glory after death, which the Church calls the birthday of the just.”

We are reminded of Josemaria Escriva’s words: “In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary.” Devotees find solace in the promise that Mary will be with them at the hour of death. Montfort could dispel the tempter’s prompting of utter despair at the hour of death by declaring that he was between Jesus and Mary. I do not exactly know the number of Rosaries Bro.Lawrence would have been saying every day, for whenever I observed him quietly walking on the veranda, he was seen holding the holy beads in his hand.

☛ MAN OF PRAYER

With regard to prayer life, Bro.Lawrence was not only a man of spirituality and devotion, but also a person marked by his great punctuality and regularity and total faithfulness. His fidelity to the Lord was undivided. Even in the final days when his physical strength was on the wane, he would slowly, albeit with difficulty, walk up the staircase to the first

floor and be the first one to occupy his chair in the chapel. When others arrived they would find him already seated in a prayerful disposition and posture.

☛ **A GREAT FORMATOR**

“I thank my God for you every time I think of you... And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the day of Christ Jesus... You are always in my heart!” (Philippians 1:3, 6, 7). This is precisely what Bro. Lawrence did: he always had in his prayers all those Brothers who were his formees—even after they had left the house of formation. Formation is basically the work of God; the human formator is only a tool in His hand. The more one is united to the Lord, the more one gets formed, through an automatic process as it were! “I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me...” (Jn 15:5).

☛ **WRITER OF BOOKS**

Bro. Lawrence spent a lot of time writing. But he had to read much more before starting to write. He took real pride in what he was destined to accomplish and clearly his intention was to make the Brothers appreciate our Montfortian heritage and live their religious life to the full. “Beautiful words fill my mind as I compose this song for the king. Like the pen of a good writer, my tongue is ready with a poem.” (Ps 45:1)

He wrote books mainly related to the history of the Congregation, our Founder St. Louis de Montfort and religious life of our Brothers. His writing style was simple, meant for everyone to understand. I wouldn’t say that he was a great writer, nor was his style of writing particularly attractive, but he was one who could touch the hearts of his readers. He was factually correct in his content. So, if you were looking for hard facts, you could always rely on his writings.

☛ **MAN OF GREAT DESTINY**

God had his plans for Bro. Lawrence and He prepared him for great things. “I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity... plans to bring about the future you hope for.” (Jer 29:11) Bro. Lawrence trusted in the Lord and the Lord showed him the way. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.” (Prov 3:5, 6)

☛ **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CONGREGATION**

Bro. Lawrence was highly talented right from his student days and he has held many high profile responsibilities in the Congregation. At the same time he was aware of the Lord’s words: “Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.” (Lk 12:48)

When he was Vicar General in Rome, I know that the European Brothers were talking about the possibility of his getting elevated to the top position of authority in the Congregation. Somehow that did not materialise. Instead he was content with getting back to India and performing whatever duty that was entrusted to him by the Superiors. And he did function with distinction as animator in various fields. It is better to say that he brought credit to the post he occupied than that he always occupied a creditable post.

✿ CONCLUSION

“One dies as one has lived.” Bro.Lawrence lived a simple, straight forward, well informed, convinced and courageous life. He died after thoroughly preparing himself for the same. His hospitalisation lasted just for a day. He was fully prepared to meet his Lord and God. “Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the Joy of your Lord!”

“Let me end my days like one of God’s people; let me die in peace like the righteous.”
(Num 23:10)

“Good people die, and no one understands or even cares. But when they die, no calamity can hurt them. Those who live good lives find peace and rest in death.” (Is 57:1-2)



From the very beginning of his religious vocation, Bro.Lawrence has followed the advice given in one of the books of the Holy Bible: “My son, if you are going to serve the Lord, be prepared for times when you will be put to the test... Keep calm when trouble comes. Stay with the Lord; never abandon him, and you will be prosperous at the end of your days. Accept whatever happens to you... Trust the Lord and he will help you. Walk straight in his ways, and put your hope in him.” (Sirach 2:1-6). And also the words of Jesus: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24)

BRO.M. P. ANTONY

Provincial Bursar, Montfort Nilaya



Bro. Lawrence Joseph— My First Superior & Formator



Bro. Lawrence Joseph, a deeply committed and convinced religious, a passionate admirer and advocate of the Montfortian legacy; he was my first formator, who nurtured my vocation and continued to mentor me all along my journey as a Montfort Brother. I had left home at a very tender age of twelve years, and going on thirteen. The trauma of separation from home and loved ones coupled with the totally different food and environment made it very difficult for me to cope and I wanted to return to the more agreeable company of my loved ones. Bro. Lawrence, though a very strict disciplinarian who gave no concession to anyone who did not have the right motivation, dealt with me very lovingly. He convinced me to stay on till the end of the year, so that my studies were not interrupted. And happily, by the end of that year, I managed to muster some degree of acceptance of the food and surroundings. He then suggested that I complete my schooling before I made up my mind to become a religious Brother or pursue my childhood dream of becoming a Priest—my maternal uncle had been in fact grooming me to join his priestly congregation.

Bro. Lawrence was with the Juniors (school going candidates ranging from class 8 to 11) from morning till evening. He would wake us up in the morning and would be there with us through almost all our activities and would at the end of the day make sure all of us have gone to sleep, before he would get back to his room to prepare for the following day's teaching and other works. During his tenure as Director of the Juniorate, he was also a teacher in the school with full load of teaching; he had an aided post as teacher, drawing government salary. He took special interest in those who were weak in studies, especially Mathematics which was a nightmare for some candidates. Though he was a science graduate who majored in Physics, he was very thorough in Mathematics and knew how to teach the subject, so that even the dull students did not fail in the final high school examinations.

Life was very hard in Palakurichi Juniorate (where Bro. Lawrence was the Superior) as the facilities were rather inadequate and the funds allocated to the Juniorate were quite low. The Juniors used to do various types of manual labour and Bro. Lawrence was always with us, not as someone who supervised the work, but as one working side by side with the candidates. This genuine gesture of experiencing all the hardships himself made it easier for us youngsters to go through the hard regiment.

Bro.Lawrence was passionate in all that he did. He was an accomplished educationist who enjoyed teaching, especially Physics. I remember how he would draw sketches on the black board and then go to the rear of the classroom to look at and enjoy a well-drawn Physics diagram, especially of human anatomy. While he would go to any length to explain concepts, he was equally strict in his teaching. He dealt very severely with those who did not do their homework or did not perform well in the examinations. Students revered him, though he handed out severe punishments to those who did not study. He had mastered the art of combining kindness with strict discipline.

Bro.Lawrence was an organizer who planned meticulously all his engagements, especially the various functions and meetings he organized as head of the Institution or as the Provincial Superior. He practised preferential love for the poor both in his personal life and mission. As Provincial Superior, he started many a mission for the poor in rural areas having only some meagre facilities. Today, those institutions have become hubs of development in their respective places.

Bro.Lawrence joyfully accepted whatever role that was entrusted to him. Though he was the Vicar General of the Congregation at one time, he did not have any difficulty in taking up even very minor responsibilities in the communities. He championed the cause of the poor and the practice of the vow of poverty was so visible in his life. His simple mode of transport and the clothes he wore always exemplified his practice of poverty. His passionate admiration for St.Louis Marie de Montfort motivated him to study the founder's life so thoroughly that he authored many books on him.

I always experienced him as a loving and caring brother, ever encouraging, but correcting whenever needed, with the good of the individual concerned always in mind. He was bold and dynamic in his mission, setting an example for others to follow. He has left behind an immortal legacy for generations of Montfortians to emulate. May God grant him eternal rest!

BRO. GEORGE PADIKARA

Montfort College, Bengaluru



A Tribute to Rev. Bro. Lawrence Joseph



My first encounter with Rev. Bro. Lawrence Joseph was in May 1969, when I joined Palakurichi Juniorate as a Class VIII student, recruited to the Montfort Family by the late Bro. Stanislaus Joseph.

The initial years as a candidate were tough, mainly due to language problems. However, the system at the Juniorate was so effective that nobody could escape a proper grounding, not only in the English Language, but also in Tamil. Soon, the quality of his life began to show forth, and within a short time, Bro. Lawrence had made an indelible mark on our young minds.

Years passed, and Bro Lawrence continued to have a great influence on me. As Provincial, he was a mentor who ensured that I was on the right track. At a particular moment in my life, it was he who rescued me from the depths, enabling me to deliver some incredible performance. He was an angel sent by God when I needed someone the most. My respect and admiration for him continued to grow, and over the years, I had many unforgettable occasions to meet him and cherish his memory; my birthdays were among them. Although brief, I rarely missed his birthday greetings. Tears of joy would well up in my eyes as I received his greetings; I felt greatly honoured to receive his messages.

The greatness of persons, I believe, lies in how they treat those around them, that is, with respect and love, as shown through friendly interactions. Being an accomplished teacher and administrator, not to mention his significant contributions to the Spiritual formation of the Brothers, Bro. Lawrence embodied a life of integrity beyond compare. I shall willingly quote H. W. Longfellow:

*Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;*

*Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.*

Till we meet again, yonder the blue horizon and the sunset shore!

BRO. P J PHILIP

Province of North East

Bro. Lawrence Joseph

Many a lesson taught through prayer, and trust.

Our 'Lord,' as we knew him, was strict, loving, disciplined, yet offered us freedom.

His emotions were never extreme, even a smile was just right.

Many a time during study hours, I would ask him to let me be excused to go to the toilet, he always allowed, sometimes he would give me his room key, and send me outside to get a book, or something else on his desk.

I never knew it was to save me from asking permission, knowing very well, I needed an excuse to go outside.

I remember once he had us write a test in the class itself, with all the books just lying around; it was a science test.

Someone questioned, but it was shrugged away as "these students will not touch the books."

His prayer from the heart was touching, though felt boring and had mixed feelings at times, but thinking about it now, it seems so momentary, and a better prayer than a ritual recitation.

He will be fondly remembered, for all his lessons beyond books, and the syllabus.

VENKHAT... (PYGMY)

Batch of 1976

“... ..”



Dear Brother,

I studied at Yercaud Montfort from the year 1979 to 1990. Brother Lawrence admitted me to Montfort to the third Standard. I am grateful to him for admitting me. I have completed doctorate in Mechanical engineering and am working as a Professor. The system that I learnt at Montfort has been guiding me till now.

With warm Regards,

DR. M. JAMES SELVAKUMAR

Your Legacy of Prayer, Simplicity, & Joy will Continue to Live On.



I was truly fortunate to be formed by a spiritual tycoon, Bro. Lawrence Joseph. A true Montfortian, he led me to tread the path St. Louis de Montfort himself once travelled. During my moments of discernment and difficulty, Bro. Lawrence personally touched my life and strengthened my vocation to be a religious Brother.

The novitiate years were the best years of my life, which laid the foundation for my religious journey, and Bro. Lawrence was at the heart of that experience. He never merely taught us; he lived by his example. A humble and devoted son of Our Blessed Mother Mary, he treasured prayer—especially the Rosary—echoing the words of St. Montfort: *“The Rosary is a priceless treasure inspired by God.”* His simplicity and deep Marian devotion profoundly inspired me to grow stronger and more faithful in my religious life.

His classes were always enriching, often filled with personal stories that carried the fragrance of lived spirituality. He had the gift of making profound truths simple and approachable. He never forced his way, but gave us freedom to learn and grow, while presenting both the joys and challenges of consecrated life so that we could discern what was truly good. He was a voracious reader and shared generously from the wealth of his mind and spirit.

I still cherish every moment I shared during my novitiate. Whenever I visited Lake Montfort in Bangalore, I made it a point to meet him. His joyful gesture of a warm hug and his gentle, caring words never failed to move me deeply. Even in his old age and sickness, he remained strong—physically and mentally—always radiating positivity and activity. Indeed, he became for me a guide, a source of light, and an inspiration.

As Scripture says, *“Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master.”* (Matt 25:21). Today we can confidently echo these words for him.

Rest in peace, Bro. Lawrence Joseph! You have touched many lives, especially mine. Your legacy of prayer, simplicity, and joy will continue to live on.

BRO. LOURDU MARREDDY

Hyderabad Province

A Person Who Was Truly a Spiritual Being:

In Loving Memory of Rev. Bro.Lawrence Joseph



Some lives shine, not by seeking attention, but by becoming transparent vessels of God's grace. In remembering Rev. Bro.Lawrence Joseph, my Novice Master and spiritual Brother, I cannot help but say: he was truly a man of God, a spiritual being in the fullest sense.

During my two years under his formation, I witnessed a soul profoundly rooted in prayer, humility, and inner strength. He lived simply, but carried a depth that silently formed all who came near to him.

✦ A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: LIKE ST.MONTFORT

In many ways, Bro.Lawrence's life reminded me of St.Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, the great missionary, writer, and saint of Marian devotion. Both men were hidden saints, focused more on forming others than on being noticed. Like St.Montfort, Bro.Lawrence possessed a deep Marian spirituality, a tireless commitment to his mission, and a quiet joy that radiated from his union with Christ.

He would often speak of the need to surrender entirely, not just in moments of clarity, but also in times of darkness and uncertainty. In the spirit of St.Montfort's "*Totus Tuus*," he taught us to give everything to God through Mary, holding nothing back.

"We cannot become saints by willpower alone," he once said. "We must let Mary carry us, like she carried Christ."

This was not sentimentality; it was the foundation of his spirituality: trust, surrender, and divine intimacy.

✦ THE GENTLE AUTHORITY OF A GOD-CENTRED LIFE

Bro.Lawrence led us not by force, but by presence. His authority was not in his title, but in his life. You listened to him not because he demanded it, but because his words carried weight, words born from prayer.

One of his favourite reminders during formation was:

"The Spirit doesn't shout. He whispers. That's why silence is sacred."

He cultivated in us, not just external discipline, but interior awareness, a spiritual attentiveness that changed how we saw God, us, and each other.

☛ SPIRITUALITY IN THE ORDINARY

He had the rare gift of seeing God in the smallest of things. I remember how he would guide us during our daily chores or in moments of recreation, always drawing us back to the heart of religious life.

“Even washing dishes can become a holy act, if your heart is united to Christ.”

He believed that everything, every task, every encounter, was a moment of grace. Under his direction, I began to understand that spirituality isn’t found by escaping the world, but by infusing the world with God’s presence.

☛ A MAN FORMED BY THE CROSS

Much like St. Montfort, Bro. Lawrence knew the path of suffering. He never shared much about his own trials, but we saw it in his eyes, a quiet endurance that came only from deep union with Christ crucified.

During a time when I struggled with doubt and interior dryness, I remember confiding in him. He looked at me with great gentleness and said:

“Let your darkness teach you to lean on the Light. When God is silent, He is digging deeper roots.”

That moment did not remove the struggle, but it gave it meaning. He showed me that faith is not the absence of questions, but the choice to trust when answers don’t come.

☛ HIS ENDURING LEGACY

The legacy of Rev. Bro. Lawrence Joseph is not carved in stone, but engraved on the hearts of those he formed. He taught us that true religious life is not measured by activity, but by fidelity.

“Be faithful to your prayer, even when it feels empty. That’s where God begins His real work,” he would often say.

Even now, his voice echoes in my decisions, his presence stirs in my prayer, and his example strengthens me in my vocation. Like St. Montfort, he left behind no monuments, but he formed lives. He formed mine.

☛ IN FINAL REMEMBRANCE

Rev. Bro. Lawrence was not just a man of God; he was, in many ways, a man for God. His whole life was an offering, quietly poured out in love and service.

As St.Montfort gave everything to Christ through Mary, so too did Bro.Lawrence! And like Montfort, he remains hidden from worldly praise but radiant in the communion of saints.

I count it among the greatest blessings of my life to have known him, to have been formed by him, and to now carry something of his spirit in my own journey of Brotherhood.

Today and every day, I remember him with love, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to walk the path he helped illuminate. His voice may be silent now, but his spirit continues to form, guide, and inspire.

May we, who had the privilege of walking under his care, now carry his legacy forward, not just in memory, but in the very way we live—*Spiritual in Being!!*

May his Soul rest in Peace!!!

BRO.ANTHONY POLISETTY

Principal, LFHS, Hyderabad



**RO. LAWRENCE JOSEPH WAS TRULY A MAN OF GOD, A SPIRITUAL BEING
IN THE FULLEST SENSE... A SOUL PROFOUNDLY ROOTED IN PRAYER,
HUMILITY, AND INNER STRENGTH. HE LIVED SIMPLY, BUT CARRIED
A DEPTH THAT SILENTLY FORMED ALL WHO CAME NEAR TO HIM. HE
POSSESSED A DEEP MARIAN SPIRITUALITY, A TIRELESS COMMITMENT TO
HIS MISSION, AND A QUIET JOY THAT RADIATED FROM HIS UNION WITH
CHRIST.**



Bro. Lawrence Joseph Eiamplasseril

‘A Glance at his Spiritual Journey’



If we can think of a person with noticeable qualities, with remarkable creativity, and a deep passion for spiritual life, we can see that it is absolutely true in the case of the footsteps that REV. BRO. LAWRENCE JOSEPH trod. As we all know, he belongs to the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of Bangalore, Karnataka, India. Fearlessness is the First indispensable quality, if we want to achieve anything Permanent and Real. This dictum is absolutely apt for Bro. Lawrence Joseph. During his entire life and work, he had a great passion for spiritual life. As a teenager, at 12 years of age, he expressed his firm decision to become a monk and he spent long moments of solitude, searching deep into himself on the truth about divinity. This aspiration to live a Saintly Life through service to the Community as a Missionary and Servant of God was very strong in him. Bro. Lawrence only spent a very short time in his home. Sacaria Mathew—that was his name in the school register—joined the Lower Primary at St. Paul’s School in Vakakkad with his Sister Rosamma and studied up to 4th Standard. After completion, he joined a nearby school in Karatha Kunnu; it was an English Medium School, where he completed the 3rd Form. But the English medium of the school was withdrawn by the government. With real inspiration from his mother, he used to visit the local church quite often with his younger sister Rosamma. Both found time to go to Holy Mass together. The local church is a little away from home, about 5 KM. The onward journey was not so tiresome for both of them. During this long walk, the little boy Lawrence was so eager to pray that he would suggest to his sister that they prayed together while walking. He confided to his sister that his one desire was to become a priest and recommended that they refrained from talking for a while. Then he suggested to her that she could join a convent and become a Nun.

The most shocking event in his life was the early expiry of his father Mathew; Bro. Lawrence was just 3 years old then. Vocation Promoters from various Congregations visited Sunday school classes and Bro. Lawrence invited them to his House. His Mother opted for him the priesthood and told him to join the seminary after he completed 10th Std. The strong conviction about his Call and the determination to realise it remained permanent. One Sunday, some Brothers from Montfort came and met him

and he expressed his interest to join their Congregation. History has proved that his decision was correct and he gloriously realised his vocation in life.

MR. SIBI PURAYIDAM

Cousin of Bro.Lawrence Joseph



A Glimpse of Rev. Bro.Lawrence Joseph



, Bro.Roque, write these few lines with a heavy heart, as I dearly miss Rev. Bro.Lawrence Joseph. It looks like just yesterday that I had met Bro.Lawrence Joseph. The memories are vivid, educative and memorable. He was young and so his body age didn't match with his chronological age. He came across to me as a young and dynamic Brother, whose memory was sharp till the very end, and he was a well organised, disciplined and systematic person. His life was exemplary, motivating and inspiring. He would bring down heaven right here and himself descend into the clay. I had been digging deep to find out what made him what he was. His love for the mission that he had committed himself to, his love for the one whom he had decided to follow, his love for the one in whose footsteps he walked, spoke of his mind all the time he put his thoughts into the different books that he wrote. His love, the love that he had developed, was so great that no evil spirit, no discouragement, would hold him back from what he started. He laboured thinking and writing; his aspirations were so great that he found the needed strength in doing so. It seems to me as though the Divine had taken upon himself the human nature to transform those living moments into divine works. He made a mould of the divine idea he had of Mother Mary and set before us the methodology of St.Louis Mary Grignon in reaching Jesus through Mary his Mother.

He made a history of the genuine religious Brother. He spoke convincingly of what he believed, creating a new race, a new world and a new pattern of thinking. He had a heart of compassion. He came across to me as a simple person in his attire, his room and his life style. His iron determination made him walk tall among us. I hardly heard him speak negatively or gossip about others. And others too dared not speak or gossip before him about others. As long as I lived with him, he appeared to me as nothing but self-denying, austere, self-disciplined and acutely sensitive to his surroundings. Acquisition of knowledge seemed to be the sole mission of his life. And for the fulfilment of this

mission, he practised rigorous self-mortification, even in the midst of the din and bustle of an active mundane life.

The bridge between heaven and earth was his vision as he taught us while I was in the novitiate. An inspiring leader! His life was founded on such a strong foundation that a common person like me would find hard even to think of walking in his steps, even though wishing to do so. He had a way to inspire everybody: While coming into active contact with others, he would not interfere with them nor permit them to interfere with him or his mission. He would preach to everybody, but never impose his ideas onto others. This was the primary characteristic of his leadership that impressed his associates and followers. There was always a pious and holy light shining in his eyes.

Now that he has risen to the new and the unknown, let us pray to him to send us the spiritual material of will, hope and zeal to walk the path that we have chosen to walk. He has retired from this earthly life and passed on to a spiritual realm of love, peace and joy.

I will miss you Brother! Adieu Frere!

BRO. ROQUE D'CUNHA

St. Joseph's Boys Home

Tivaivaddo, Calangute—403516



**N INSPIRING LEADER! HIS LIFE WAS FOUNDED ON SUCH A STRONG
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EVEN TO THINK OF WALKING IN HIS STEPS, EVEN THOUGH WISHING TO
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ALWAYS A PIOUS AND HOLY LIGHT SHINING IN HIS EYES.**



A Man of Simplicity & Honesty

(In loving Memory of Rev. Bro.Lawrence Joseph)



He walked not with pride, but with quiet grace,
A gentle soul in a hurried place.
With steady hands and heart so true,
He gave the world a clearer view.
No need for praise, no thirst for fame,
He lived to honour a higher name.
In every word, in every deed,
He sowed the truth like scattered seed.
His robe was plain, his smile sincere,
He welcomed all who wandered near.
In silence deep, in prayer and song,
He taught us where the strong belong.
He saw no riches in gold or stone,
But found great wealth in God Alone.
Through acts of love and faithful care,
He built a legacy soft as prayer.
Though now he rests where angels sing,
The memory of his life will cling.
In simple ways, in honest light,
He showed us how to walk upright.
So let us live as he once taught—
With humble hands and selfless thought.
For in his life, we came to see,
The strength in simplicity and honesty.



POEM BY BRO.ARULANANDAM G

Bursar, Good News Welfare Society, Kalghatgi



In Loving Memory: A Life Rooted in Prayer & Devotion



he passing of Bro. Lawrence Joseph, a revered member of the Montfortian family, marks the end of a chapter written in unwavering faith, disciplined service, and profound Marian devotion. His life was not merely lived—it was offered, like incense rising from the altar, fragrant with prayer and purpose.

☛ A MAN OF PRAYER AND PRINCIPLE

Rev. Bro. Lawrence was, above all, a man of prayer. The rhythm of the Divine Office shaped his days and his nights, often spent in silent prayer, or reciting the Rosary. To witness him in worship was to have the glimpse of a soul in communion with the Eternal. His spiritual discipline was not austere—it was luminous, quietly drawing others into deeper reverence.

His influence on the novices was transformative. He was firm, yet fatherly; demanding, yet deeply compassionate. Under his guidance, young men learned not only the rules of religious life but also the sacred art of surrender. His presence in the novitiate was like a lighthouse—unyielding, radiant, and always pointing heavenward.

☛ A VOICE FOR MONTFORT

He was also a prolific writer, penning numerous articles that explored the charism and legacy of St. Louis de Montfort. His reflections were not academic exercises—they were spiritual meditations, born of his lived experience and deep love for the Congregation. His words continue to echo in formation houses and Montfortian circles, reminding everyone of the radical call to “God Alone.”

☛ DEVOTION TO MOTHER MARY

Perhaps the most striking feature of his spiritual life was his extraordinary devotion to Mother Mary. The Rosary was his constant companion, and the *Totus Tuus* spirituality of Montfort was etched into his very being. He spoke of Mary not as an abstract figure, but as a tender mother, a guiding star, and the surest path to Christ. His Marian teachings were known to move hearts and stir vocations.

☛ A LEGACY ETCHED IN SILENCE AND SERVICE

Though he never sought recognition, Brother leaves behind a legacy that will endure in the quiet corners of chapels, the pages of Montfortian literature, and the hearts of

those he formed. His life was a living litany—each moment a verse of praise, each act a response to grace.

As we commend his soul to the mercy of God, we do so with gratitude and reverence. May his example continue to inspire us to live with depth, discipline, and devotion! And may Our Blessed Mother, to whom he gave everything, now receive him into the eternal embrace of her Son.

BRO.IGNATIUS DASS L

*Montfort School,
Anakkara, Kerala*



EV. BRO.LAWRENCE WAS, ABOVE ALL, A MAN OF PRAYER. ...

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DEEPER REVERENCE.... HIS LIFE WAS A LIVING LITANY—EACH MOMENT
A VERSE OF PRAISE, EACH ACT A RESPONSE TO GRACE.



The First Montfort Brother in My Life



was recruited to Nirmala Juniorate, Kolathur, in the year 2002, by late Bro. Stephen. Bro. Lawrence Joseph was the Juniorate Master. Brother Stephen was the Juniorate Assistant Master. When I joined the Juniorate I did not know what Brotherhood meant, but I experienced Brotherhood in Brother Lawrence. His very first talk in the Juniorate was themed as “You are all Brothers; you need not be afraid of anybody.” With these encouraging words he welcomed me and others. From then on he has been a great role model to me. Apart from our schooling, on Saturday and Sunday he taught us English grammar, Mathematics, science, catechism, etc. During the two years, he met me personally very many times and encouraged me to nurture my vocation. Every day, during Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, he would stand in front of us and pray, and make us to pray. He has never missed a spiritual exercise. His favourite prayer was the Rosary. Every evening, we the Juniors recited the Rosary without fail. After passing out from twelfth standard and when we went to pre-novitiate and novitiate, he was following us. He wrote letters and asked about our performance in studies as well as in spiritual exercises. In my First Vows and my Final Vows celebrations, Brother Lawrence joyfully participated, in spite of his old age, and felt very happy for me. When I think of all these loving moments of Brother Lawrence, there tears well up in my eyes, gently flowing with gratitude for him. How fortunate for me to have been nurtured by such a great stalwart like dear Brother Lawrence! My early formation was in the safest hands. Thanks to Rev. Brother Lawrence Joseph for all that he has been to me! You are living in each one of us dear Brother. I cannot forget you dear Brother. Continue to intercede for us all! Good bye dear Brother!

BRO. BOSCO

Yercaud Province



EXPERIENCED BROTHERHOOD IN BROTHER LAWRENCE.



Tribute to Brother Lawrence— Educator, Principal, Mentor, Father Figure



As I reflect on my time at Montfort, one name stands out with profound significance—Brother Lawrence or “Lord,” as we fondly used to call him. Lord was my Principal during those formative years (1975 to 1979), and though my initial memories of him were tinged with fear, they eventually blossomed into deep respect, gratitude and affection.

I remember being genuinely scared of him at first. His stern demeanour and presence made him seem larger than life although he was a small man. I often felt that he punished me more than the other kids, and at that time, I couldn't understand why. But as the years passed, I began to see that his discipline came from a place of care. He saw something in me that I hadn't yet seen myself. He wanted me to be brave, to face life head-on, and not be afraid of its challenges. That one conversation where he told me to be courageous still reverberates in my heart; for me it was a turning point. Brother Lawrence was more than just my Principal at Montfort. He was like a father away from home. In the hallowed halls and grounds of Montfort, he created an environment where young minds could grow, not just academically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. His guidance was subtle yet powerful. He didn't just teach us lessons from books (he was my Maths teacher); he taught us lessons for life and about life. It was only after I left school that I truly realized the greatness of the man. The values he instilled, the encouragement he offered, and the quiet support he gave me during my time at Montfort shaped the person I am today. I regret not spending more time with him after graduation, not telling him how much he meant to me, and not expressing the difference he made in my life. These words are penned as a tribute to honour his memory. Brother Lawrence will forever be remembered as an educator and a nourisher of young minds. His legacy lives on in the countless students he mentored, the lives he touched, and the values he upheld. He was a man of deep conviction, steadfast faith, unwavering discipline, and boundless compassion. As I say goodbye, I do so with immense gratitude. Thank you, Brother Lawrence, for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. Thank you for being a guiding light during my most uncertain years. Thank you for coming into my life when you did. Your impact is eternal, and your memory will always be cherished. I will miss you. And I pray that you find eternal peace with the Lord. You

have earned your rest, and I hope you are surrounded by the same love and grace you so generously gave to others.

In the words of Marcus Cicero:

“What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state,
than that of the man who instructs the rising generation.”

Rest in peace, “Lord.” Your legacy lives on in all of us.

JACO RENY JOSEPH MANIMALA

Student, Montfort, Yercaud, 1975-1979



BROTHER LAWRENCE WAS MORE THAN JUST MY PRINCIPAL AT MONTFORT. HE WAS LIKE A FATHER AWAY FROM HOME. IN THE HALLOWED HALLS AND GROUNDS OF MONTFORT, HE CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOUNG MINDS COULD GROW, NOT JUST ACADEMICALLY, BUT EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY AS WELL. HIS GUIDANCE WAS SUBTLE YET POWERFUL. HE DIDN'T JUST TEACH US LESSONS FROM BOOKS (HE WAS MY MATHS TEACHER): HE TAUGHT US LESSONS FOR LIFE AND ABOUT LIFE.



Bro. Lawrence Joseph



fully agree with the numerous messages received through WhatsApp and the funeral oration. Bro. Lawrence Joseph was a living saint! While I was a novice in 1958-60, I had seen him as a scholastic from Loyola College during their summer camp at the 'Rockery' above the Eachinkadu Novitiate. He was my first H.M. & L.S. at St. James High School, Palakurichi, when I started teaching as a raw graduate in June 1964. He was a missionary in Iraq. He was a teacher of Maths, Science & English (I also taught these subjects), then Headmaster, Juniorate Master, Headmaster in Montfort School Yercaud... Provincial Superior, Vicar General, Novice Master, Provincial Bursar, and later, bursar at Montfort College, Bangalore, and Lake Montfort, Bangalore. Since many well-wishers have mentioned a lot of his good qualities, making him a saint, I wish to mention just 2 or 3 aspects only.

1. In 1964, the L.S. was also the Headmaster and Warden, and the other Brothers of the Community shared various responsibilities. Only later, the titles of warden, procurator, Bursar, etc. came into being, gradually.

We had only one tiled building as bedroom. The hostellers slept on the floor, inside and outside. I slept on a bamboo cot inside and Bro. Norbert outside on the veranda. Both of us used to make rounds at night (it was believed the devil would be more active at night!). One night I got up to go round. Then I saw a black ball: it was the head of Bro. Lawrence standing on one side of the dormitory, wearing white pants. Then he lighted the torch and I recognized the figure of Bro. Lawrence. So, I was happy to continue to sleep—today, the warden may not like the L.S. coming to the bedroom.

He worked day and night—including some sleep.

2. I was transferred to St. Antony's Hr. Sec. School, Coonoor, in May 1983, after the Silver Jubilee Celebrations at St. James HSS, Palakurichi. When the hostellers came back for the reopening, it was found that the music record player was missing. I sent Bro. Simon Cherukara to Trichy, to purchase a new one. Certain things are lost at the transfer time. When Bro. Lawrence came for a visit, he found out that the cost of the music player was beyond the permitted amount for the Local Superior. So, he told me to write for ratification. As Provincial Superior, he insisted on strictly following the rules or norms.

Mr. Varghese, the then manager of the Holy Cross Estate, Yercaud (his children were studying in Montfort School), told me once: "Bro. Lawrence is a person who practices his

commitment.” Most of the staff members at Palakurichi were bachelors. Some of them were staying in a corner of the school and eating in the hostel. After dinner, they used to squat on the ground and the Brothers sit on chairs, and they would chat together. Today, do the Brothers sit and chat in like manner?

The teachers used to take special class on Saturdays, as most were bachelors. Bro. Lawrence Joseph was handling Maths and Science. I have seen him doing the osmosis experiment; it was very impressive. He was a model teacher for others.

I agree with all the messages sent by many persons and I don't want to repeat all those points here. In short, Bro. Lawrence was a committed man, a man of prayer, and he lived a simple and humble life.

BRO. JOHN BERCHMANS

Montfort School, Alandur

✽✽✽✽✽✽✽✽✽✽



BRO. LAWRENCE JOSEPH WAS A MODEL TEACHER FOR OTHERS....

A LIVING SAINT!...A COMMITTED MAN, A MAN OF PRAYER, AND HE

LIVED A SIMPLE AND HUMBLE LIFE.



Through My Eyes: Remembering Bro. Lawrence Joseph



When I close my eyes and think back to my novice days between 1995 and 1997, one figure rises before me with clarity—Bro. Lawrence Joseph, my Novice Master. To me, he was not just a guide but a man who lived every word he spoke. His life itself was his teaching. I remember how he never stopped learning. Even in the later years of his life, he carried books with him, eager to discover more, to grow deeper. That image of him—sitting quietly, reading, reflecting—is still etched in my memory. Watching him, I realised that learning is not something we finish in school; it is a way of living. He showed me that true wisdom comes from staying humble enough to remain always a learner.

His devotion to Mary and Montfort burned like a flame. It was not a devotion of words alone, but a devotion I could see in his eyes, in the way he prayed; in the way he encouraged us to love these two with the same depth. His faith was alive, and standing near to him, I could feel its power.

Yes, he was a disciplinarian—but his discipline was never cold or harsh. It came from love. I remember how he noticed the smallest things in our daily lives—guiding us patiently, correcting us with firmness, yet always with gentleness and care. Behind every word of correction, I felt his desire to see us grow, to see us rise above our weaknesses.

In the classroom, he was more than a teacher. His words carried weight because they came from a life lived with integrity. He could speak on any subject, and somehow it would open my mind and touch my heart. Many of his lessons, I carry within me even today, long after those two years ended.

But what I remember most is his prayer. Morning and evening, he gathered us together, and in those moments, I often felt heaven close to earth. His devotion was contagious, his faith unshakable. Truly, “The family that prays stays together” was not just a saying for him—it was his way of building us into a community of faith.

Even though he has left us physically, I still see him. I see him with a book in his hand, his voice rising in prayer, his gentle yet firm words of correction, his smile filled with kindness. He lives on in my heart—not as a memory of the past, but as a presence that continues to guide me today.

From Bro. Lawrence Joseph, I learnt that greatness is not found in titles or positions, but in the fire of faith, the humility to keep learning, the courage to guide with love, and the strength to live what one teaches. His light still burns in me, and in all those whose lives he touched.

BRO. JESUDAS A

HM, St. Antony's Hr. Sec. School

Manjampatty



Once Upon a Time...



f you don't know the story, you don't know the man. Life is a sum of different stories that happened at different points of time, which later would become one's history. As a book on Bro. Lawrence Joseph is getting bound, I am glad to add some anecdotes from his life that I witnessed as his next room neighbour in Lake Montfort School.

Bro. Lawrence undoubtedly gave utmost importance to prayer life—his and of others in the Community. When a Brother was absent for prayer, Bro. Lawrence was worried about two things—his health and his vocation. The hard knocks the absentee would hear on his door after the prayer time, was the proof of this worry. I am sure that in heaven now, he must be leading the others for Lauds and Vespers.

Bro. Lawrence's reputation was carved from firm principles, and his unyielding nature—his strong convictions; it is the lasting memory people hold. He was strict with everyone, starting with himself. Once he asked me, the then procurator, to get a shaving *cream* for him. In spite of knowing him quite well, I explained to him about the shaving *foam* and its advantages, and he listened carefully. Then he looked me in the eye and said, "Do you think I don't know all these things? Get me a shaving cream man. A small one." I burst out laughing, making him laugh, too. On another occasion he brought me his 15-year-old basic mobile phone and said it had a problem. I figured that the only 'problem' was that its torch was on! He had a surprised look on his face and exclaimed, "Oh! It has a torch!" And that was Bro. Lawrence! Though he updated his knowledge regularly, he never upgraded his life-style, demonstrating a staunch adherence to his principles.

Bro. Lawrence refused to let age diminish his usefulness. The ease with which he used his computer (which included his occasional *Bridge* games), typed mails and attended online seminars were the proof of his adaptability. The pages of his books showed where his intellectual explorations unfolded. Even in his late 80s, he was often seen flipping through the pages of the dictionary, asserting his desire to be useful and purposeful.

Though Bro. Lawrence hardly exhibited his cheerfulness explicitly, there were certain occasions that brought a gracious smile on his face: the times he spoke volumes about his senior Brothers in the Congregation, whenever he heard that the Brothers and the institution were doing well, the special occasions on which we fed the servants, and of course when someone reduced the expenses and gave back the balance money. This book *Footprints*, too, may elicit a broad smile from him because a name that has appeared on many cover pages is now boldly occupying an entire text block.

The tough exterior of Bro. Lawrence always hid a soft heart that he often quoted as functioning only partly for many years. And everyone would agree that even that partly functioning heart was always wholly functioning for the Congregation alone. After all, if we don't know the story, we don't know the man.

BRO. ALWIN JOSE PON JACOB

Bursar, Montfort Hr. Sec. School

Alandur



**BRO. LAWRENCE UNDOUBTEDLY GAVE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO PRAYER
LIFE—HIS AND OF OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY. HIS REPUTATION WAS
CARVED FROM FIRM PRINCIPLES, AND HIS UNYIELDING NATURE—HIS
STRONG CONVICTIONS; IT IS THE LASTING MEMORY PEOPLE HOLD. HE
WAS STRICT WITH EVERYONE, STARTING WITH HIMSELF. THE TOUGH
EXTERIOR OF BRO. LAWRENCE ALWAYS HID A SOFT HEART...**



A Tribute to Bro. Lawrence



hose of us who were students at Montfort School, Yercaud, during the 1970s and 80s will always remember Bro. Lawrence—a pious, humble, and simple Brother. He was a man of few words, his head characteristically bent to one side, quietly and efficiently administering the school. Perhaps it was his name, or the aura of his goodness, that earned him the affectionate nickname “Lord.”

As both my Principal and my teacher, I had the privilege of experiencing his guidance closely. In his science classes and lab sessions, I recall his patient and detailed explanations, often brought alive with practical demonstrations. He inspired not only learning but also a sense of fairness and discipline.

One incident remains etched in my memory. In my final year, the much-anticipated masala dosa dinner at the refectory was served without its legendary sambar—replaced only by simple chutney. I protested to the Brother in charge, who assured me, “Next dosa day we can arrange that.” But when the following dosa day arrived and still no sambar appeared, I voiced my protest strongly, even urging others not to eat the dosa.

The matter reached Bro. Lawrence. He called me and, with his gentle firmness, said: “Thomas, you need to give notice before you go on strike. Your reason may be fair, but your method must be right.”

That was the end of it—resolved without anger, punishment, or grudge. Looking back, it was typical of Bro. Lawrence: impartial, fair, and never unkind. He lived and led with quiet grace, leaving behind a legacy of humility, integrity, and compassion that continues to guide us even today.

THOMAS DOMINIC

Old Boy, Batch of 1975



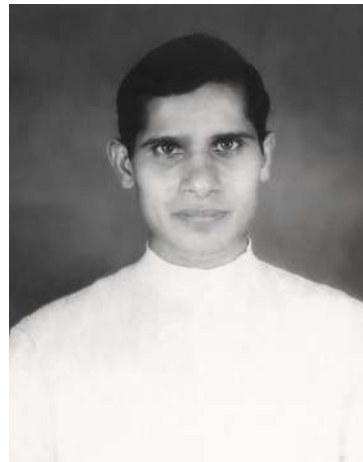
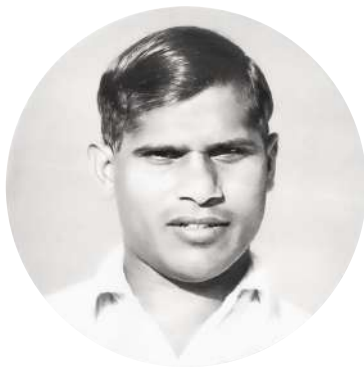
**BRO. LAWRENCE—A PIOUS, HUMBLE, AND SIMPLE BROTHER—LIVED
AND LED WITH QUIET GRACE.**



Bro. Lawrence's Life Journey



His beloved Mother



His life was his message





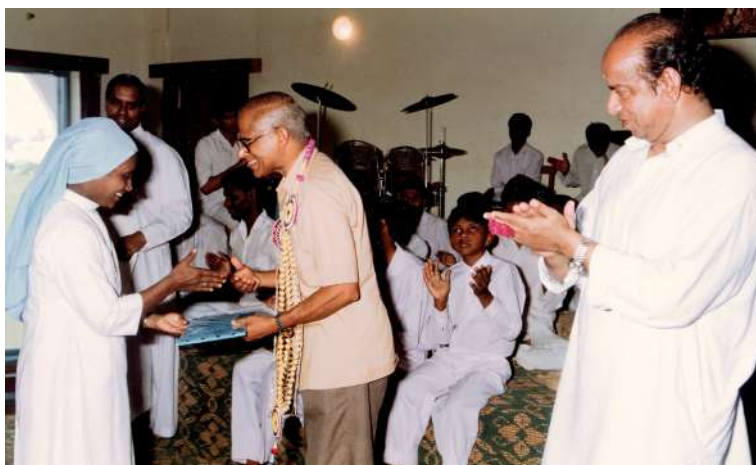


With His Holiness Pope John Paul II



A teacher by profession... a mentor by heart







With the Brothers at the tomb of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort





Every step, a hymn of gratitude to God



He carried each Brother in his heart





A life spent for God's people, joyfully



Novice Batch of 1997 with their Novice Master, Bro. Lawrence Joseph



1999 Novice Batch formed by Bro. Lawrence Joseph





His life has been a blessing to countless hearts





Bro. Lawrence's loving family

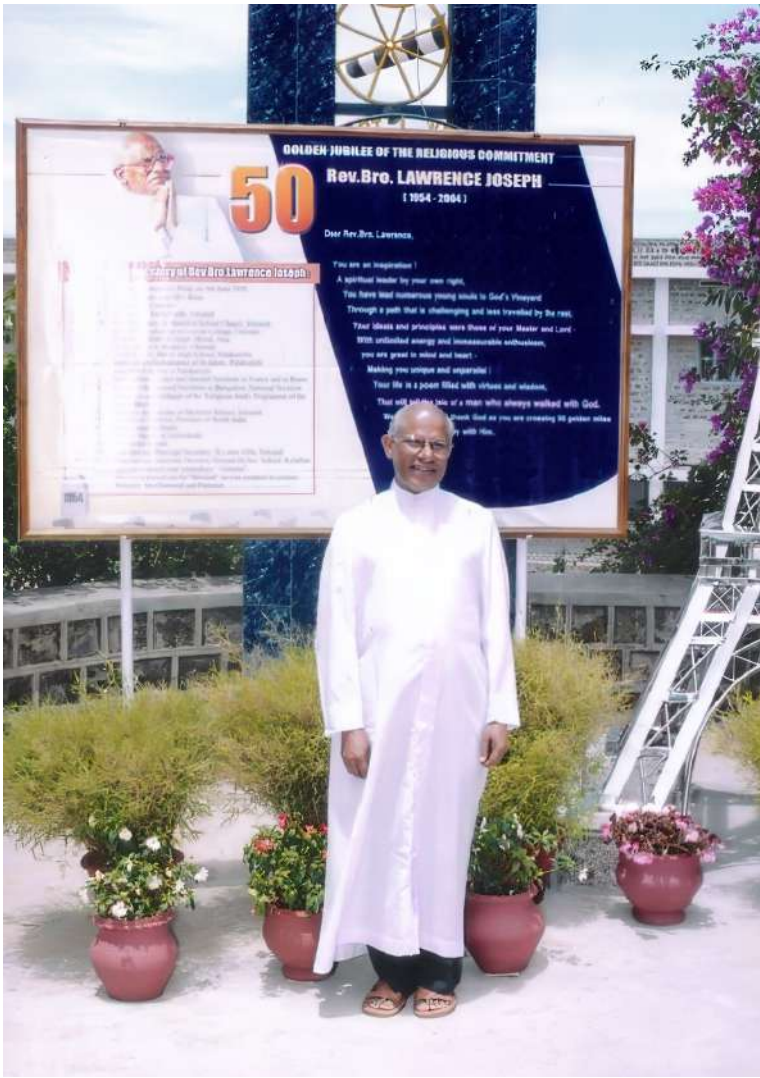
Golden Jubilee Celebrations













Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



A heart that always whispered 'Totus Tuus'







At Lake Montfort School











LMS Bids You Farewell, Brother





Brother's Final Journey





Return to his Master, faithful servant





Loved deeply...remembered dearly















Cherished by his family...treasured by his Brothers



His footsteps remain...even after your journey

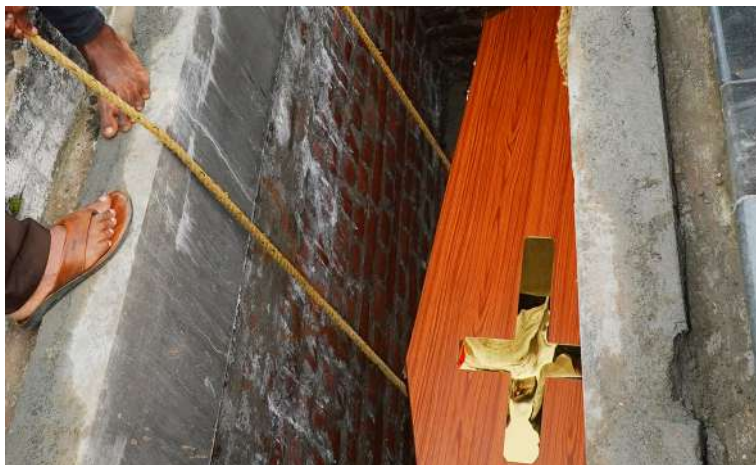






His life has been a blessing to countless hearts





Even in silence, he speaks volumes

*"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Now there is in store for me
the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge,
will award to me on that day."*

(2 TIMOTHY 4: 7-8)



REV. BRO. LAWRENCE JOSEPH

BIRTH	NEW LIFE
09.06.1935	15.08.2025

D ✚ S

*"Life and death are one,
Even as the river and sea are one.
In the depth of our hopes and desires lies
our silent knowledge of the beyond; and like
seeds dreaming beneath the snow, your heart
dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in
them is the hidden gate to eternity."*

— KAHLIL GIBRAN

-
- 09.06.1935 • Birth
 - Moonilavu, • Place of birth
 - Kottayam
 - 1948-52 • Juniorate, Coonoor
 - 1952-54 • Novitiate at Eachinkadu, Yercaud
 - 1954 • First Profession
 - 1954-58 • Intermediate & B.Sc. Studies at Loyola, Chennai
 - 1958-59 • Teacher at Mosul College, Mosul, Iraq
 - 1959-60 • BT Student, Govt. Teacher's College, Saidapet
 - 1960 • Final Profession
 - 1960-71 • Teacher at St. James High School, Palakurichi
 - 1962-66 • Superior & Headmaster, St. James H S, Palakurichi
 - 1966-71 • Superior, Montfort Juniorate, Palakurichi
 - 1971-72 • Montfortian Studies & Second Novitiate in France & Rome
 - Socius at the Second Novitiate, Bangalore
 - National Vocation Promoter
 - 1972-74 • In-charge of the Religious Studies of Junior Brothers
 - 1974-80 • Teacher & Superior, Montfort School, Yercaud
 - 1975-80 • Principal, Montfort School, Yercaud
 - 1980-89 • Provincial Superior, Province of South India
 - Dec.1988- Dec.1994 • Vicar General of the Congregation at Rome
 - 1995-99 • Novice Master, Eachinkadu, Yercaud
 - 1999-02 • LS & Provincial Secretary, St. Louis Villa, Yercaud
 - 1999-03 • Provincial Bursar
 - 2002-07 • LS at Nirmala HSS & Juniorate Director, Kolathur
 - 2007-10 • LS, Montfort School, Anakkara
 - 2010-14 • Bursar, Montfort College, Bangalore
 - 2014-2025 • Bursar, Lake Montfort School, Bangalore
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Epitaph



Here rests a man of God,
Unique in spirit, extraordinary in passion for holiness,
Who carried virtues in his very being -
Perfection, conscientiousness and punctuality.

A teacher par-excellent,
A formator and guide, a true administrator,
A superior who lived his *authority in service*,
His life was a living lesson, his witness an unfading light.

Faithful servant, tireless worker,
He rushed where God beckoned, discerning His will each day.
His pen preserved our Montfortian heritage,
His heart multiplied every talent entrusted to him.

Well done, good and faithful servant -
Your legacy of holiness, wisdom and integrity
Shall never be vanquished by time,
For you live on in the hearts you inspired



