

MEETING WITH VIE MONTANTE MAURITIUS

On November 20, 2024, the Executive Committee had the pleasure of meeting, via Zoom, Wolfgang Schmitz, Spiritual Advisor to the movement on the island, and Shirley Kan, who is expected to become the next Leader.

The country has a population of approximately 1,300,000 and roughly represents a diocese. Tourism is the country's main source of income.

Several religions coexist on the island. A Council of Religions ensures that there are no problems between the different communities. An Interfaith Center is responsible for organizing training courses related to the different religions. Village life between the different communities is very harmonious, and the population comes together at various life events, such as weddings, funerals, and meetings.

Vie Montante Ile Maurice, which once had 500 members, now has only 200 (due to the pandemic, aging, and the difficulty of renewal). The clergy's attitude is also not favorable to the elderly, with a prevailing discourse: "**Retire, make way for the young**" which does not facilitate improvement.

The movement's annual program mainly includes retreats and presentations, for example, on the theme of "**inner tenderness**" and, this year, on "**service**."

The proposal of Alirio Cacérès's (Colombia) project on ecology has received little response, although a presentation on this theme was made, supported by photos by French photographer Yann-Artus Bertrand. The September pilgrimage in memory of Father Jacques Désiré Laval is an important event in the life of the island, bringing together all the communities.

The movement leaders meet monthly and share information with the groups.

News from outside is very important to break the isolation, and Wolfgang encourages us to share as much information as possible to stay up-to-date on what's happening within the VMI movements.

Distributing the newsletter is a good way to share information.