

VIE MONTANTE MAURITIUS

Mauritius is a small country comprising only one diocese.

The movement is led by a couple: Juliana & Hermann Nadal.

Wolfgang Schmitz, a layperson, was appointed Spiritual Advisor to the movement by Cardinal Piat in 2014.

While the elderly are generally well-treated in the country, they have little involvement in daily life.

The Vie Montante movement has a low profile within the Church, which has tended to keep generations apart. It is difficult to reconnect them after a period where the focus was on the young while the elderly were sidelined.

The Church needs to relearn how to integrate the elderly. However, the trend is shifting slightly, and the movement—currently numbering 250 members—is seeing an influx of new recruits.

Promotion of the movement relies heavily on word-of-mouth.

There are no organizations similar to Vie Montante for other religions in the country.

Training for members and volunteers takes place very informally during various gatherings; there are no national training sessions like those found in France or Spain.

Pastoral Care for the Elderly: The document summarizing the proceedings of the Rome Congress (October 2025) was well received, but "it is still sitting in a drawer."

Grandparents' Day is celebrated in a few parishes.

Several religions coexist harmoniously on the island (Islam, Buddhism, etc.), and residents share many festivals and events that are not necessarily religious in nature.

One example is the commemoration of the French priest Jacques Désiré Laval; this event has become virtually a national holiday, drawing up to 500 people of all faiths.

A key event for the movement is a retreat led by the chaplain over three weekends, which can attract up to 100 participants. This retreat takes place at an interfaith center, and this year's theme is "I listen to you, I walk with you."

Previous themes have included love, hope, and tenderness.

Breakout sessions are organized during these retreats, allowing participants to share how the theme resonates with them or to express their feelings. A listening service is also available. The gatherings are characterized by a warm, fraternal atmosphere and a sense of calm; participants leave with a light heart, feeling they have truly received something.