

Maastricht, June 2012

As we lived on, the month of May came upon us imperceptibly. We began to admit poor children in order to lay a solid foundation in these young hearts. We taught them catechism and needle work, how to pray and how to love God. (EG 51)

Dear Sisters in Belgium, Brazil, East Indonesia, Indonesia, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Tanzania, Timor Leste, and the USA.

This year, on June 26th 2012 to be precise, we commemorate the 148th anniversary of Mother Elisabeth's death. Celebrating this historical day of the Congregation becomes beautiful and meaningful when we dare to explore one of the elements of the Charism of our Foundress, namely to lay a solid foundation in the hearts of the children, to teach them catechism and how to love God (cf. EG 51). This is one way of evaluating our faithfulness to the Tradition of the Congregation and to provide more space in our hearts in order to seek, find and embody the said Charism in a new way according to our present context.

Mother Elisabeth's life and ministry was revived from and coloured by her authentic personal relationship with Jesus, the Crucified, as it is written in the Scriptures and embodied in her daily life. It was Christ who loved her so much, it was also Christ who held her firmly and motivated her life commitments. From this authentic relationship emerged the strong passion to devote herself to God and to serve others. Through her life's example and memoirs which we have, since then, passed on as a Congregation's Tradition, we realize our mission with a preferential option for those who are sick, poor, and suffer injustice in society (cf. Const. 3-4). In this notion our concern is

specifically oriented towards children and women, who are abused and violated, as well as towards those who are excluded from and discriminated by society, because of age, sex, race and skin colour, religion, social status, intelligence, physical/psychological disability, etc.

By reading and reflecting on EG 51, we become aware of the movement of the Spirit who empowered Mother Elisabeth's life, i.e. the teaching and performance of Jesus who really paid respect to and loved the weak, especially the children (Mat. 18: 6; 19: 13-150). This respect and love for the children comes from our belief that we, the children included, are made in God's image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27). Children's life is sacred. Children have transcendent worth and value that comes from God. They have a natural dignity which is quite essential and therefore cannot be separated from their being as persons. They are our future and the future of mankind. This was the underlying attitude and mission of Mother Elisabeth who not only offered material aid but also put a solid foundation in their hearts. She taught them vocational skills in order for them to have provisions of life in the future and simultaneously she taught them to love God and be faithful to Him.

In EG 146-152 we can also read in what way Mother Elisabeth's compassionate love for the children manifested itself. She was extremely concerned about the cruelty and abuse done to children by the lady trustees of the orphanage which caused a lot of suffering and restlessness among both the children and the sisters. These ladies, who were anti-Catholic, were inciting the children, consigning community life, disuniting and creating disturbances as well as sowing hatred in the hearts and minds of the children. Mother Elisabeth faced and resolved these complex matters patiently and prudently, accompanied by prayers and penance.

Concretely, she transferred the sisters who could not cope, changed the leadership in the community concerned, listened to and encouraged the sisters, and called in the external help from Father Schijven. Finally, they decided -amongst the two of them- to no longer employ the lady trustees who were of such a bad influence on the children. It was time and energy consuming. But this experience also teaches us that we need to gather as much information as we can, to consider all our options and to explore every different perspective before taking action, especially if it is a major decision.

Yes, issues concerning the future of children are a big deal because they largely depend on adults. How these adults treat their children will definitely influence them to learn and improve their character and behaviour, especially in relation to their appreciation of their self-esteem and worth as well as that of others. Therefore, parents, care takers, and adults should provide and assure children's fundamental rights including the right to food, clothing and shelter, the right to freedom and self-determination, the right to participate in society and thrive as persons.

Throughout history, in poor countries as well as in rich ones, children and women have been considered victims of injustice and violence in the Church and society. These acts might be committed by a parent, a caregiver or a person in a position of trust, such as a teacher, a religious, a doctor, a nurse, etc. Recently various children and women abuse cases have come to surface against the Catholic Church, including consecrated life. The advancement of social media information technology has made these issues spread tremendously, even though these cases mostly occurred decades ago. These have shocked everyone, have become a delicate and controversial debate, and simultaneously

claimed to be one of the causes of a faith and trust crisis among the churchgoers and in society.

It has not been all that easy for us to believe that such immorality and cruelty occurred in our dear Church and congregation. Many priests/brothers/sisters are afflicted, are accused of children's abuse or knowing that one of their fellow priests/brothers/sisters was involved in it. As the Mystical Body of Christ, at the beginning, there are feelings in each of us; feelings of anger, fear, shame, hurt, disappointment, sadness, concern and powerlessness. Maybe we are still in the state of denial and cannot understand properly all about it. This, however, has brought us to a new enlightenment and grace that leads us deeper into an authentic way of life, to live fully as the disciples of Jesus.

What can we still learn from this situation? The following may be helpful for our insights and inspirations:

- ◆ **Firstly**, both the Church as hierarchy and all of us need to learn to be more humble, to openly acknowledge mistakes and sincerely listen to the stories of the victims, including the seriousness of their experiences and struggles.
- ◆ **Secondly**, we also need to accompany the victims on their long path of healing and take appropriate efforts to protect other children from any kind of abuse and violence.
- ◆ **Thirdly**, it is very important to seriously evaluate the appropriateness both of the candidates and each member, through initial and on-going formation, particularly in developing education programmes for families and the Church, as well as appropriate sexual education in order to ensure the protection of children, youth, and women.

- ◆ **Fourthly**, our vocation as religious is a life-long process. Each of us, young and old, are always in the process of trying to become a better human being and to live life as such to its fullness. Therefore, perseverance and seriousness of each member in fostering self-on-going formation is very important in order to achieve spiritual and psychological maturity. Each of us needs to continue cultivating the learning habit: self reflection, using time for meaningful reading, and keeping prayer and work in balance. With this attitude we will be able to deepen and sharpen the desire to go further in order to make ourselves become more silent, sincere, hospitable, and religious. Like Mother Elisabeth we become proficient as we are equipped with the spiritual weapon to deal with the difficulties and challenges we may be facing in life (cf. EG 70 and 106). In short, we are increasingly growing into being true followers of Mother Elisabeth who, like Christ, defended the values of life and the truth, not to destroy them.
- ◆ **Lastly**, we should realize that religious are not exempted from the law. Consequently, in cases that lead to crime, we are obliged to cooperate with the civil authorities, not just because these cases violate the Canon Law but because they violate the criminal law as well.

Dear Sisters, since the beginning the Spirituality of our Congregation has been a unique contribution to the importance of laying a good foundation in the hearts of the children and at the same time of accompanying and journeying with them how to love God (cf. EG 51). Along the history of the Congregation all of this has taken shape and is embodied in the field of social services, pastoral care, education and health care. Taking care of the children in our orphanages and day care centers, providing shelter for street children, teaching activities for the illiterate,

taking care of unwanted babies and the sick, educating children and the youth in schools have been effective means for us to realize our mission and to express our solidarity with and compassionate love for children, women and the weak/vulnerable in our society. However, as individuals and as an institution we, too, need to realize our human weaknesses. Therefore, we invite and request you, both individually and collectively, at the level of community, Unit, Region, Province and in the apostolic ministries to integrate these said issues seriously and wisely into initial and ongoing formation programmes/activities, community evaluation, etc.

With our best efforts, we carry out our mission to take care of life and to safeguard the living values for the future of our Church and society. Let this commemoration of the anniversary of Mother Elisabeth's death be a renewal movement for all of us and for the universal Church to revive our commitment in protecting children and women from any kind of abuse as well as violence. May we have the courage to defend the truth and honesty, painful as it may be. Otherwise, less children will come to and love the Divine Being.

Happy feast day to you all!



**IMPRESSIONS AND INSPIRATION OF
OUR 175th JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

Introduction

Dear sisters, our 175th jubilee celebration belongs to the past now. Every single Area proved very creative in making preparations and working towards its own peak celebration. As a Congregation we were united in celebrating this milestone. It was quite obvious that, in its festive celebration, every Area represented the whole Congregation. The sense of unity showed in the decorations, exhibitions, the booklet, but most of all in the prayers and its special intentions.

We praise the Lord for this wonderful experience to witness His works in every Area and for the unity of the Congregation. We are very grateful to all of you, our sisters, for being involved in many different ways so as to make our jubilee celebration an inspiring and memorable one.

We will not just let this jubilee fade away and then forget about it. No, we will treasure its inspirations and carry them along with us as we walk towards the future. Therefore, we share with you the inspiration, impressions and the message the sisters got out of this jubilee celebration in their respective Areas. In short we share to each other the sweet fruits of this jubilee in the hope that they will enrich and unite all of us.

The Dutch Province

In her advanced age, the Dutch Province is very grateful for still being able to celebrate the 175th jubilee of the Congregation. Unlike other Areas, we cannot perform activities in which people from outside are involved.

For us, this celebration rather was an expression of our gratitude for God's love, grace and guidance with which He accompanies

our Congregation on its journey. It is in deep gratitude that we dared to choose 'Embracing the Future with Hope' as our jubilee theme.

In his homily Mgr. F. Wiertz, the main celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration in the Chapel of our Mother House, emphasized the importance of the value of religious life, also in our modern times (April 29th, 2012, happened to coincide with Vocation Sunday). His appeal affirmed us in our belief that religious life does not stop with the sisters no longer being active in their apostolic ministries. Indeed, we are very well aware that, in terms of membership, the Dutch Province is decreasing in number. Should we mourn for this? No way. "Everything is beautiful in its time" (Ecc. 3, 11). The province has played a significant role in its apostolic ministry. It is time for us now to play a role behind the scenes. We are proud that we are still meaningful in the life of the Congregation as we continue to participate in 'realizing the mission of the Congregation through a life of prayer' (cf. Dir. 39) and also through paying attention to, sympathizing with and being compassionate towards the other Areas.

For the Dutch Province, the Congregation's 175th jubilee year most truly was an important moment to dwell upon for a while. Not to count the achievements but rather to enjoy all the graceful moments that we have experienced over the years.

Now, the party is over. We want to continue our journey, 'Embracing the Future with Hope', grateful as we are for the younger, next generation, to whom we, in sincere dedication, may pass on the Spirit, bequeathed to us by our Foundress. All of this for the greater glory of God and the salvation of our neighbour.

The Indonesian Province

Lay coworkers as pillars of strength in supporting our movement

The celebration of the 175th jubilee of our Congregation was happened to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Tarakanita Foundation. For this major event a committee was set up involving CB sisters and the coworkers from different ministries (Education, Health, and Social-Pastoral). It was quite a big committee with a great many delegates. This committee organized its works for one whole year starting April 29th, 2011 and lasting till April 29th, 2012. It is our first time to have worked on such a committee and we may say that it was a precious experience.

We reflected on the following:

- ◆ Total commitment

When our coworkers or lay partners in ministries were asked to be members of the committee, they were very enthusiastic. It was an honour for them that the sisters entrusted them to be on this team and it motivated them to give off their best. Their enthusiasm showed in their full commitment. Many times they had to sacrifice their own schedule, time, energy and material goods for the best interest of the work that had been entrusted to them.

- ◆ Highly creative and/or rich in ideas

During the course of the committee works our lay coworkers oftentimes came up with new, bright ideas. As a result there have been many interesting and good activities. All these activities did not only make people curious they also proved meaningful to them.

- ◆ The unity and bond of CB- partnership is growing deeper.

The sisters and many coworkers from various ministries have worked together as a team. Although in each subcommittee the coordinator was a sister, many of its members are our lay workfellows. All activities around the jubilee have strengthened the unity and sister/brotherhood inspired by the Spirituality of the Congregation.

- ◆ Means of sharing spirituality

In the process of working together as a team the sisters got the opportunity to share the Spirituality.

- ◆ Problem-solving management

Sometimes the committee needed to change the already well-prepared plan as circumstances asked to do so. We admired how the team members handled this situation. They were always willing to solve the problem and looking for the best way to cope with it.

- ◆ Enrich and complement each other.

This one year-long experience of having been on a committee has deeply inspired the sisters. It has mutually enriched and complemented the members; the sisters and the lay coworkers.

- ◆ High flexibility capacity

Sometimes the sudden changes of plans perplexed and confused us. However, we noticed that our lay members are very flexible and take the changes calmly. It seems they are always ready to face uncertain situations and changes.

We learned that, in the future, this type of team-working should be developed. This is true if we look at the membership and compare it to the apostolic ministries we have. Our lay coworkers are our co-partners in our efforts to share the spirituality in the

ministry. We hope that the experience of teamwork on this jubilee committee will support the movement towards lay empowerment in the Congregation.

Norway

The Jubilee celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the Congregation will never be forgotten. The establishment of the Congregation is based on Mother Elisabeth's experience on the love of Jesus which she particularly found in the mystery of the Cross. This is remarkable for us and has never been fully understood. We, therefore, need to constantly revive the life history of Mother Elisabeth and thus make it a subject of reflection in our daily life.

After celebrating the feast in the parish on April 30th, 2012, our hearts were filled with gratitude and happiness; even until now these inner feelings are still very much alive. We could truly feel Mother Elisabeth's presence and happiness. We were happy, too, for being able to deepen and pass on her spirituality to the parents, the youth and the children in the parish as well as to a group of women from other religions (Protestant, Methodist, Mormon, and Baha'i).

The six topics offered to us by the General Board previous to the General Chapter of 2011 as subject of spiritual deepening, were a means for us to, both personally as well as communally (through community recollections) reflect on our Spirituality and carry it out consciously and confidently in accordance with one's own strength and capacity. One of the specific examples of the Charism of our Foundress is her great respect for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Anointing of the Sick. We highly pay attention to the importance of these three Sacraments,

especially in serving the patients who are Catholics. We try our best to offer *sacramental* and pastoral care to our patients before they are dying. Spiritual care for patients is urgently needed. This experience can be a sign that gives testimony to the other nurses who are not Catholic, to the patients themselves and their families.

Since the novitiate, we have been reading the life history and mission of Mother Elisabeth, over and over again, and it always gives us new inspiration. We have learned from and longed for the gift of prayer that God bestowed on her. It is through this gift that God awakens and encourages us to carry out our mission in Moss – Norway, till today.

We realize that our need for spiritual ongoing formation is never enough and will have to be nourished until the end of our lives. It is only with spiritual weapons that we are able to face the challenges of our religious life and live it out as God's grace. Thus we have become firm and tenacious and are well aware of our limitations and weaknesses. *"For when God speaks to the heart love does not keep silent"* (EG 91).

The Tanzanian Region

We are happy with and grateful for the special Basic Letter the General Board sent out on occasion of this feast. We are also glad and thankful for the jubilee song composed by sr Theresiata (Brazil). Besides, we want to express a word of gratitude that, in this jubilee year, we were supported and accompanied on our journey towards becoming financially self-reliant. Indeed, the blessing of the house in this so special year is an invitation for us to be heading towards a better future.

The central place for this jubilee celebration was Nairobi. This event was combined with the blessing of the CB Center. In this way the sisters had the opportunity to be present, see it and get a taste of the rooms in the newly built house. It is also the time we used for ongoing formation gathering. In a special way this celebration has made us love the Congregation and the Region even more. It gave the sisters more hope and raised more awareness of their responsibility towards the future of the Region. And last but not least it also inspired the sisters to implement faithfully the movement towards becoming self-reliant.

The Philippine Region

And Mother Elisabeth was smiling...

In the midst of all our celebrations we imagined Mother Elisabeth smiling at us! In the spirit of a real feast, in the presence of our friends, guests, relatives and Mission partners there were joys and happy faces all around. Yes, we went out of our way to prepare ourselves for this festive event. It is indeed something to be remembered. We, the sisters from the Bohol Community and the Project 4 Community were gathered in Tagaytay City. We spent the first day in solemn prayer and reflection in which we looked back on the events, and the experiences of Mother Elisabeth in founding the Congregation. How it once was, how it is now in the different parts of the world and also how we are doing now in the Philippines. It was indeed a long journey of 175 years, a journey with ups and downs. With gratitude and joy we have come to this point in time.

After the Holy Eucharist we had a simple meal together with the invited guests, followed by a powerpoint presentation of the Congregation's history, Charism, and spirituality including the

history of the CB Philippines. Afterwards our guests entertained us with songs and dances to our great delight.

Our sisters also in Mindanao; the Davao community, Musuan Community celebrated this feast-day together in Dumalinao with relatives, friends and Mission Partners. How wonderful to celebrate this day together as a Congregation. We were one in prayer and in spirit! May the name of the Lord be blessed forever and ever!

The East Indonesian Region

In relation to our jubilee we re-introduced our Congregation to the youth, the parishioners, and other people by performing various activities. From this we have learnt and experienced how to live in various and different cultures but united in one heart in building up the CB corporateness amidst the society.

In all events of celebrating our jubilee we experienced the words of Mother Elisabeth: “God’s Providence has provided everything we need”.

With God’s Providence and our ardent and continuous prayers, our open heart, love, dedication and sacrifice in our apostolic ministry we certainly have seen the wonderful miracles of God in Papua. Everything comes to us abundantly. We even dare say that everything was provided for plentiful by our friends, relatives, donators, and parishioners for the festive celebration of our 175th jubilee. We barely spent a penny for this feast. Thus, we can conclude that this festive event was the celebration of the people made possible with the blessing we received from Mother Elisabeth. Therefore, we dare say that we have been granted enough graces to make our thanksgiving memorable, be it in a simple way.

We see the work of God in all our jubilee celebrations. To our surprise the Bishop celebrated the mass with sixteen priests as concelebrants and a great many other priests to attend. Many people also came to attend this mass with special intention for the presence of the sisters in Papua and their mission.

As CB sisters we are very proud that the vision and mission of the Congregation have touched so many people. This shows from their expression and impressions during the 175th jubilee celebration. Many have appreciated the kindness of our elderly sisters who have molded them into becoming better persons. Some people have expressed their gratitude by sending flowers, or greeting cards, etc.

On the day of commemoration we also experienced our being united as CB sisters all over the world. Together we praise the Good Lord with our songs and jubilation. We have prepared for this day with various activities – spiritually and physically – and on this red letter day we gratefully said our thanksgiving in one Spirit.

We hope we can put into practice the message the Bishop of Sorong conveyed to us in his homily. There are four (4) inspirational notes:

- ✓ Our presence and daily life should be a live witness to other people
- ✓ We have to keep on building unity and sisterhood in order to bring the reign of God to the world.
- ✓ We must observe perseverance in loving others especially those who are marginalized and poor.
- ✓ Because of the mission of the sisters many people are saved. The bishop and the people are grateful for this.

Memphis Community - USA

It's not nearly enough to thank God for accompanying us on our 175 years lasting journey. His loving kindness and faithfulness enable us to overstep the challenges we meet on our journey as a Congregation. We thank God that He still trusts us to take part in His mission, in His work of salvation. 175 years is a long time which is God given to us. Maybe old in years, yet mature of age. However, it is not enough to be proud of it or to just realize that we are old. It's high time for us to deepen our faith in God, to know more clearly God's will for us. So, 175 years is a time for us to renew our life as a Congregation. It's time to look for the newness in taking part in His mission. It's time for us to -with the maturity of spirituality of Mother Elisabeth- move forward responding to God's calling in us with a new spirit, with new hope and new steps ahead.

So, it's time for us to go back to our source, the spirit of Mother Elisabeth, in order to be able to respond to God' calling in this fast changing world.

The jubilee song that we have sung for this celebration is an instrument that unites us with the whole Congregation. It is also an instrument for us to deepen our sense of belonging together as a Congregation. We are really grateful for this song as it makes that we can feel the great joy and thankfulness of every area for this celebration, especially when singing this song together at the same time. Even a small community like ours, far away from any other community, could really feel that unifying spirit that jointly lived joyfulness and that commonly expressed thankfulness.

“Love's burning flame in us release that to the world we servant be” was our theme for this celebration. It brought us to the

awareness that the love of God burning in our hearts enables us to surpass difficulties in our mission. We imagined how God' love must have burnt in the heart of Mother Elisabeth at the time, that is when she started her mission in the town of Maastricht. And now, when celebrating this 175th jubilee, we imagine the flame of God's love to be burning in the hearts of her daughters. Not only in Maastricht but in all compasses of the world. It has really strengthened us and given us new hope for growth.

Even though there only are the three of us in this community, we did try to prepare the celebration in a short time be it with only a few activities. However, for us, this preparation mainly is a time to look back on the journey of our mission. We realize that doing missionary work is not easy, but this celebration gives us the courage to go on and to still have hopes for continuing our mission in this place.

We realize that this thankfulness and joyfulness cannot be kept hidden. It will be emitted and influence those who surround us. It is exactly like Mother Elisabeth used to say "...for when God speaks to the heart love does not keep silent." We experienced this during the celebration, even though there only were the three of us and a few people to attend. This celebration is a time for us to make known the spirit of the Congregation to others. This celebration has brought us to appreciate the past, to accept and to offer thanks to God for the present, and to face the future with faith and hope.

Leut, Belgium

Though the feast of the 175th – jubilee celebration of our Congregation already lies behind us for a while, it has not yet

been forgotten. Wherever it was celebrated it was done according to ability and possibilities.

We, the CB-sisters who live and work at Leut, had home advantage and were privileged to organize some festive events in the birthplace of our Foundress. We dreamt of having a stone tablet inaugurated near the steward's estate of Castle Vilain XIII, the place where Mother Elisabeth was born. In this way e.g. by inaugurating a stone tablet and the unveiling of a new street sign: 'Elisabeth Gruyters lane', we wanted to commemorate Mother Elisabeth and pass on her spirituality.

To this end also a powerpoint presentation about the life of our Congregation was shown in the solemn high mass. We knew only too well that, of our own accord, we could never make such a historic moment a memorable one. In order to get things done we needed lay partners. From the documents of our Congregation, rich in spirituality as they are, the organizing committee which consisted of many lay volunteers, even youngsters, could draw inspiration and be closely involved in all of it.

For us this was a blessed day. Many co-workers and sympathizers joined us for the celebration; also from outside Leut, from Maastricht and even from Brussels, the capital of Europe. It truly felt like our prayer was heard and -so it seemed- also our faith in Divine Providence. All the preparations helped us deepen our vocation even further. Thus we continue... embracing the future with hope!!! May the name of the Lord be blessed for ever and ever!

The Community of Brazil

April 10th, 2012, became an important moment for us in Brazil. It is in the fifth year of our presence in Brazil that, together with all

the sisters in the Congregation, we can now celebrate our 175th jubilee year in the same Spirit and with Love's burning flame. As oftentimes mentioned by Mother Elisabeth, we, too, have experienced that God provides and takes care of everything. The presence of Mgr Dom Jose Geraldo, Bishop of Juazeiro, Fr. José Potter and three other priests in this celebration was a special grace for us. It was amazing to see that the parishioners were not only attending but also prepared all that we needed for the said celebration. This feast belonged to the people, especially to the parishioners because of their great involvement in the whole process. Eventually they are satisfied with their fulfillment. The Jubilee Song was sung magnificently and graciously with Marching Band Music from the Military Police. It was amazing to experience such great love of the people and the support of many parties.

To our surprise the opportunity to devotionally renew our vows during the Eucharistic celebration has opened people's horizon about a life commitment in dedication to God. They got to know better what religious life is all about. Although it was in English it has raised their interest and appreciation for the grace of vocation. We noticed that our presence in Brazil has touched the hearts of the people. This has taken away our doubt to be able to see the light and has made our heart burn with the flame to serve God for the salvation of humanity.

Conclusion

Dear sisters, we really appreciate the creativity you have displayed in sharing the spirituality of the Congregation in so many different ways during this jubilee year. We are very grateful that your activities have somehow met the dream of the General Chapter 2012, namely to share the spirituality of the Congregation

by building and strengthening the networking and cooperation with lay people. It is very true that all Areas invited their co-workers, mission partners, and own employees to take part in almost all activities for this jubilee. Their involvement has made our jubilee a memorable and a fruitful one. We hope that this kind of partnership, cooperation and networking with lay people will be continued in the future. This is one of our means to share our spirituality and continue our mission. We have certainly also learnt many values in working with them. We congratulate you all for everything that happened during this jubilee year.

MEMBERSHIP

POSTULANCY

The Province of Indonesia

On June 26th, 2012, three candidates start their postulancy in the Formation house in Yogyakarta. We ask your prayer and continuous support for all of them so that they will be able to hear and follow God's call.

The names of the candidates are:

1. Fransiska Rosalia (Rosa) from St Maria Fatima parish – Magelang
2. Sherty Margareth (Sherty) from St Yohanes Pemandi Raha – Sulawesi
3. Bernadeta Amelia Pertiwi (Dita) dari Paroki St. Franxiskus Xaverius Aimas - Sorong

NOVITIATE

The Region of Tanzania

On June 26th, 2012, two postulants start their novitiate in the Formation house of Tengeru – Arusha, Tanzania:

1. Katarina T. Kiwali, from the Diocese of Moshi
2. Matrona P. Kavise from the Diocese of Moshi

Let us pray for these two new novices as they continue to take further steps in their initial formation. We congratulate all the candidates who just started their postulancy and novitiate.

IN MEMORIAM

“Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you.” (Ps. 63, 3-4)

1. Sr Odiline Schobben was born in Maastricht on July 6th, 1926, made her profession in our Congregation in Maastricht on November 16th, 1954, and passed away in Maastricht on May 3rd, 2012.
2. Sr Marie Ivo Suwarti was born in Yogyakarta on August 16th, 1922, made her profession in our Congregation in Yogyakarta on February 2nd, 1947, and passed away in Yogyakarta on May 11th, 2012.
3. Sr. Theresianne Muninggar Sasraningrat was born in Padang, West Sumatra Barat on April 1st 1938, made her profession in our Congregation on Juli 26th, 1961 and passed away in Jakarta on Juni 10th, 2012.

May God grant them eternal peace and beatitude.

REASSIGNED TO A NEW POST

1. Sr Mariella Ngatmini from the Indonesian Province was transferred to the East Indonesian Region as of May 1st, 2012.
2. Sr Elisia Listiati Tjahaya from the Indonesian Province has been transferred to the East Indonesian Region as of July 1st, 2012.

We are grateful for the readiness of these two sisters to strengthen the membership and the mission of the East Indonesian Region. We hope that the both of them will soon adjust to and feel at home with their new environment. We are also thankful for the generosity of the Provincial Board of the Indonesian Province to share and send these sisters.

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

1. Sr Ancilia Sus Indrati from the Memphis community (USA) spends her vacation and time of renewal in Indonesia from June 15th – August 6th, 2012.
2. Sr Pauline Sundari from the community in Norway will spend her holiday in her home country, Indonesia. Her vacation lasts from August 29th – November 12th, 2012.

We pray for them, that they may encounter inspiring moments with their relatives and the sisters in Indonesia.

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

Since May 2nd, 1976 the Province of Indonesia was involved in the mission of the Atmajaya Foundation in Jakarta. This Foundation serves the people in need mainly in the field of health care. After a long period of networking the Province now has to face another phase of congregational life. Due to circumstances, the Province decided to give up this ministry and thus left Atmajaya Hospital on May 3rd, 2012. We pray that the seed planted in Atmajaya can also bear fruit without the physical presence of our sisters.

FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE

1. Sr Consepta Resti Wijayati and sr Beatrix Benga Geroda from the East Indonesian Region have finished their courses at the Clinical Pastoral Education centre (CPE) in the Philippines. Sr Consepta returned to Indonesia as early as April 2nd, 2012, while sr Beatrix stays on in the Philippines in order to continue her study in nursing. We hope that the course at CPE will prove fruitful for them as they continue to be of service to the Congregation and its mission.
2. Sr Theresia Sie Thoo Nio from the Indonesian Province has been given the opportunity by the General Board to come to the Mother House for orientation and to thoroughly study the historical and spiritual richness of the Congregation kept in our archives. She has been assigned to take care of the archives of the Province. May this period of orientation be a fruitful one for her.

SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS FROM SR ROSARIA NUR HARDINGSIH

“Dear Sisters, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the great many tributes I was to receive at my silver jubilee of religious profession in the Congregation on April 26th last. Your kind attention and the love you have shown me were overwhelming. I am especially grateful for your prayers, support and for accompanying me with your constant blessings. All of this has strengthened me in continuing my life’s journey together with you all in the life and mission of the Congregation. I humbly ask you to continue to pray for and bless me. Thank you ever so much.”

THE AGENDA OF THE GENERAL BOARD

1. Sr Rosaria Nur Hardiningsih visited the sisters in the USA communities from June 2nd – 16th, 2012.
2. Sr Lisbeth Cich Ratwasih visited the sisters in Norway from May 7th – 14th, 2012. The initial plan was to pay Norway a visit together with sr Hetty. Unfortunately, sr Hetty still needs time to process her documents in order to be able to come to Maastricht. Hence, she could not join the visitation to Norway.
3. Sr Hetty Sri Wijayanti arrived in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on June 21st, 2012.
4. Sr Jane Ann Aballe arrived in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on June 25th, 2012, after having concluded her visitation to Brazil where she a.o. accompanied sr Evelyn Aranas during the absence of sr Theresiata Suwarsih.
5. Sr Rosaria Nur Hardiningsih and sr Jane Ann Aballe will pay the Tanzanian Region a visit from June 30th – August 5th, 2012. This visit will also be used for opinion polling in preparation to assigning a new Regional Board in the month of July. We ask your prayers for the sisters in the Region, for a good and blessed process of canvassing opinion and for the assignment of the new Regional Board.

We kindly ask you to say an extra prayer on our behalf so that the Lord will keep us safe and sound while travelling, so that He will let our programmes be fruitful in different places.