

# BASIC LETTER

**November 2015**





Maastricht, November 2015

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

This year we are still reflecting the year of Consecrated Life declared by Pope Francis. Throughout the year we are invited to focus more on the deepening of our personal and congregational calling. We are privileged enough to be given this time to reflect all over again the relationship God establishes with us. Personally recalling how we reciprocated the call by our own free will and transform it into a form of community life, lived out in chastity, poverty and obedience for the sake of God's Kingdom. As a Congregation, we also recall and deepen the spirit of our Foundress, as ever. We took on activities that challenges and examines our fidelity to the mission entrusted to us through our ministries, our works and our presence in harmony with that of her Spirit, thus fitted to be called Sisters of Charity of St Charles Borromeo.

With these grace-filled moments, we continually give praise and thanks to God, also for the call and the graces to radically follow Him in the consecrated life. We believe the celebration is much more meaningful to us today as we have seen back and renewed our commitment further, bearing the challenge of choosing to follow the footsteps of our Foundress and inspired by the life of our patron, Saint Charles Borromeo.

This so blessed day is for us the opportune time to revisit and relive St Charles Borromeo, a man who is reserved, possessed and absorbed by God's holiness and who opted to welcome God's action. God chose him to carry out His mission, for the sake of His people. The saint, allowed God to work in him, emptied himself and let himself be consecrated and possessed with a mission to fulfill.

As a pastor, St Charles Borromeo "walks his talk". During the plague and famine in his time, he did not leave his people like the civil authorities who fled. He stayed with the people and ministered to them. Like Jesus, he compassionately spoke his gracious word, healed the sick, gave bread to the hungry and offered his own life in sacrifice. He sought in different ways to be of service to those whom the Spirit sent him. He did so by his prayers, his preaching of the Gospel, his works in catechesis, reformation, education, his humble service to the poor and by being a founder of orphanages, schools and hospitals. He was open and firm to all kinds of people, rich or poor. He was a good shepherd who would always be with the sheep he attended.

As a Congregation, bearing the name of St Charles Borromeo, we commit ourselves to follow his example and to always deepen our Charism-Vision-Mission. What essential virtues so dear to St Charles Borromeo can we carry out in our time? One thing that might be worthy to reflect on is his passion for reformation. He showed zeal and capacity of ecclesiastical reform by bringing back institutions to better observance of their

rules. He did it with courage and conviction as to put the church institutions to their first and foremost goal, proclaiming the presence of Christ in the world. We can reflect about it deeply. What does it say to us now, in our time, in our own Congregation? What are we lacking in our observance as religious CB sisters? How far have we wandered away from the road traveled by our beloved Jesus Christ? Do we have the courage to get up once we realize that we have gone astray? St Charles Borromeo brought many religious orders back on track, on the spirit of their institutional lives. We, too, the Congregation that bears his holy name are invited to always be true in our observance as CB sisters. Let us start from ourselves to continuously renew our commitment in the Congregation by being true to our living out of our religious vocation. The zeal of St Charles Borromeo to bring about reformation in his time is definitely an invitation for our Congregation as well to always consider the first and foremost purpose. This is the task for all of us to fulfill.

In the area of education St Charles Borromeo renewed and opened seminaries as to give better education and preparation for future priests. For better education he also founded a college for the young nobility, “where they might be brought up in the fear of God, out of the way of the corrupt influence and seductions of the world”. His strive in this education field reminds us of the similar way of Mother Elisabeth in her effort to lay a solid foundation in the heart of young children so that they can work and grow in loving God (cf. EG 51). We could

say that both St Charles and Mother Elisabeth were good educators. Their vision in this field was very clear. They did not dream merely for the youth to be advanced in science and knowledge but, most importantly, that they may gain their relationship and love to God. This is a big challenge in our time. We witness the modern development in science and knowledge. The question is, does this development also bring people closer to God? This is a big challenge in our education ministry of today. Do we make the youth excel in science and knowledge only? Or are we able to bring them to get to know and love God as dreamed by St Charles Borromeo and Mother Elisabeth?

St Charles sacrificed a lot in his struggle to defend the right of the Church, to bring justice in many conflicts and most specially to protect the right of the poor to get better service from their shepherds. He was excellent in his pastoral approaches both to those in authority and to his own folks. As a good shepherd, he attended his herds with commitment and dedication. He did not run away when an epidemic attacked his diocese. He chose to be with his people to bring consolation and brought hope to those affected by this calamity. This deed of course brought about consequences and risk. He risked his own life for his effort to gain the salvation of many souls. His love to Jesus Christ crucified which he nourished in his long and deep daily prayers bore fruit abundantly. He was deeply united with the Lord. This unity made him courageous even to risk his own health and comfort. In the end he gave his own life among the people whom he loved so dearly. He died a sheep among the herds that

he offered services till his last breath. How does the life of our patron saint inspire us in our daily lives as CB sisters?

Dear Sisters, the challenges of our time are no different from those in the time of St Charles Borromeo. We experience now as in his time, the lack of observance of good values both in the Church and in the society. We see that modern technology and advanced means of communication can cause divisions and degradation in moral values. Advanced development does not always go hand in hand with the development of people to have a better life. In this challenging time let us imitate the example of St Charles Borromeo in his commitment to follow Jesus. He exercised a strong ascetic life in order not to fall into temptation. He spent most of his time to serve those who were in need. He had a very deep relationship with Jesus whom he nourished with continuous prayers and ascetic exercises. Through his intimacy with Jesus he was able to follow Jesus in his station of the cross. Once he said that a candle must burn in order to give light to others. We, too, must offer ourselves fully to be of service to our neighbor. Confronted with our patron's way of life, let us reflect upon our own lives. In this time, with the challenges we are facing, are we courageous enough to imitate his radical ways to follow Jesus?

Dear sisters with gratitude to have the great saint as our patron, we wish you all a fruitful reflection.

Let us continue praying for each other that with our enthusiasm for renewal, we may bring good news, literally and figuratively, to the people we encounter daily.

## HAPPY FEASTDAY



### **Membership**

*“A candidate is incorporated into the Congregation as a member: temporarily, through the profession of temporary vows, received by the provincial superior or her representative; permanently, through the profession of perpetual vows, received by the general superior or her representative”. (Dir. 50)*

#### **A. Tanzanian Region**

We are very sorry for delaying to share the good news from the Tanzanian Region regarding the acceptance of new members in the different stages of their formation in our last Basic Letter. Candidates and sisters accepted to go onward for their formation are:

**Postulancy:** (May 28, 2015)

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Rozina Sabinus Shirima | Moshi Diocese, Tanzania |
| 2. Agripina James Kimario | Moshi Diocese, Tanzania |
| 3. Rebeka Mathayo Abdala  | Mbulu Diocese, Tanzania |

**Habit taking:** (August 14, 2015)

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Edina Francis    | Geita Diocese, Tanzania |
| 2. Theresia Krispin | Moshi Diocese, Tanzania |
| 3. Ruth Kundu       | Machakos Diocese, Kenya |

**Temporary Profession:** (August 15, 2015)

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Sr Gladness M. Mollel | Arusha Archdiocese, Tanzania |
| 2. Sr Modester           | Geita Diocese, Tanzania      |
| 3. Sr Sara James         | Tabora Diocese, Tanzania     |
| 4. Sr Herimina Msophe    | Arusha Archdiocese, Tanzania |
| 5. Sr Rosemary Amadeus   | Moshi Diocese, Tanzania      |

**Final Profession:** (August 15, 2015)

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Sr Fabiola G. Kimario   | Moshi Diocese, Tanzania    |
| 2. Sr Inviolata P. Kimathy | Moshi Diocese, Tanzania    |
| 3. Sr Symphorosa Pili      | Geita Diocese, Tanzania    |
| 4. Sr Beatrice Ekisa       | Bungoma Diocese, Kenya     |
| 5. Sr Margaret Njuguna     | Nairobi Archdiocese, Kenya |

## **B. Timor Leste**

Timor Leste is accepting candidates and sisters to continue their further formation. This year, for the first time, the temporary and final professions of the sisters are held in the country. Eucharistic celebration is done in the chapel of the Formation House. Congratulations sisters!

### **Habit taking:** (November 4, 2015)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Olga dos Santos                     | Immaculate Conception<br>Parish, Ermera |
| 2. Madalena de Deus                    | Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,<br>Letefoho     |
| 3. Ireni dos Santos Brites             | Immaculate Conception<br>Parish, Ermera |
| 4. Imaculada Pereira Pinto             | Immaculate Conception<br>Parish, Ermera |
| 5. Flugência Imaculada Madeira Pereira | Immaculate Conception<br>Parish, Ermera |
| 6. Rosalina Florindo Madeira           | Immaculate Conception<br>Parish, Ermera |
| 7. Manuela Andrade d Costa             | St Joseph the Worker<br>Parish, Remexio |

### **First Vows:** (November 4, 2015)

- |                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Sr Alianca dos Santos | Our Lady of Lourdes<br>Parish, Ermera |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 2. Sr Alicia Fernandes        | Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Ermera           |
| 3. Sr Celestina de Deus       | Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Lete, Foho           |
| 4. Sr Diamantina Salsinha     | Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Ermera           |
| 5. Sr Isabella Alves          | Our Lady of Mary Immaculate Parish, Maubessi |
| 6. Sr Madeira de Deus         | Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Ermera           |
| 7. Sr Servatia Pereira Barros | Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Same      |

**Final Vows:** (November 7, 2015)

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Sr Filipa Natalia de Pereira       | St Francis of Assisi Parish, Metenario, Dili |
| 2. Sr Maria Immaculada Mateus Dasilva | St Anthony Parish, Motael, Dili.             |

**C. Philippine Region**

On December 8, the Philippine Region is blessed enough to receive women who are courageous to continue another stage of their formation:

**Postulancy:**

1. Pattylove Embate Filipina
2. Merry Joy Bansale Filipina

**Habit Taking:**

1. Cherrylyn Jalop Filipina
2. Joan Sayon Filipina
3. Maria Cecilia Olaer Filipina
4. Ana Maria Camargo Filipina

**Temporary Profession:**

1. Sr Teresa Thu Vietnamese
2. Sr Maria Hoi Vietnamese

**D. East Indonesian Region**

Congratulations to our 4 spirited novices who want to continue to answer the call by professing their first vows. They are:

**Temporary Profession: November 3, 2015**

1. Sr Fransina St Francis Xavier Parish, Aimas, Sorong, Papua
2. Sr Sofiani St Francis Xavier Parish, Menanga, Flores, Timur
3. Sr Skolastika St Peter Parish, Sorong, Papua
4. Sr Rebeka St Peter Parish, Sorong, Papua

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*“So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised as Spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.” (1 Cor. 15:42-44)*

1. **Sr Refugio Sudirah** was born in Yogyakarta on May 20th 1932, made her profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo on February 2nd 1954 and passed away in Biara Santa Anna, Yogyakarta, on October 3rd 2015.
2. **Sr Justella Hillegonda Martina Gerarda Kester** was born in Naaldwijk on April 29<sup>th</sup> 1934, made her profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo in Maastricht on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1955 and passed away in Heerlen on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2015.
3. **Sr Meingarda Helena Lenssen** was born in Groesbeek on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1917, made her profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo in Maastricht on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1938 and passed away in Heerlen, ‘Bergweide’, on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## **NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES**

### **1. Sr Hildegardis Hayon**

After having stayed some time in Indonesia for healing and recuperation, Sr Hilde returned to Tanzania on October 4, 2015 to continue her missionary work in the Region. She went back rejuvenated and re-energized to continue sharing herself and her expertise.

We pray that there will be more sisters who are courageous enough to share oneself to the mission. Thank you Sr Hilde!

### **2. Sr Aufrida Asih Endriati**

We are happy to welcome Sr Aufrida who willingly shares her life to be a missionary in Belgium. She has been in Belgium since August 30, processing her papers to become officially registered as a local resident of the city/country. She also has to present herself to the Bishop whom she will be working with in the future. As a missionary, learning the language and culture of the place is very necessary to be effective in the ministry. With the help of the members of the community in Leut, she is now preparing herself to embark upon a new beginning.

### **3. Sr Vincenza Pranawanti**

She is a missionary of the Dutch Province and is going to have her vacation from December 21, 2015 to February 24, 2016. We are certain that this will be a good occasion for spiritual renewal and connection with family ties, friends and sisters of the Congregation in her native land. We pray

with her that this opportune time will give her more vigor to continue sharing her life to our sisters in the Dutch Province.

## **NEWS FROM THE GENERAL BOARD**

### **1. Sr Gloria Consolation**

Sr Gloria Consolation is now back in the Philippines after having followed a two year program of the IFT in Indonesia. She is very thankful of her experiences in the said country especially in the 2 communities where she was sent: Ganjuran (Yogyakarta) and Lahat (Sumatra) as part of this program. As to what she shared; her experience has widened her horizon, perspective and knowledge of the Congregation and has deepened her commitment. The challenges she encountered in the community and ministry brought her to some healing in the process. She returned home to the Philippines as a new person with a new realization of herself. Welcome back, Sr Gloria!

### **2. Sr Bertha Shirima**

A sister from Tanzania who joined the Junior Exchange program in the Philippines is back in her native land since August 24. We hope that her experience deepened her religious life and widened her outlook of our Congregations. After sharing her life to the Philippine Region, she hopefully left with good memories she brings around as she continues her ministry in her Region. Hopefully, too, the people she

encountered there will experience Mother Elisabeth's presence through her.

### **3. Sr Monicah Wairimu Mwangi**

Sr Monica is a junior sister from the Tanzanian Region. She was sent to the Indonesian Province for a year to join the Junior Exchange Program. She had been assigned to different communities and ministries in the Province to learn and unlearn in the process. Her experiences have broadened her perspective in the living out of being a CB sister especially in another culture. As a young sister, she is now familiar with what being a missionary in another country means and with the ideas of the different ministries the Province has. Much more, her presence also gave impact in gaining 'sisterhood' and unity.

She returned to Tanzania August 16, passing Kenya, her home country, because of the due date of her visa. We believe that she came back bringing her experiences and skills she learned in her mission-orientation in Indonesia.

### **4. Sr Esther Muharami Bakari**

Together with Sr Monica in Indonesia was Sr Esther who went back to Tanzania ahead of Sr Monica for another call. Sr Esther was chosen as the Regional Superior of Tanzania August 1, so she went home ahead of her. She arrived in Tanzania on time for the installation of the new Regional Board.

Thank you Sr Esther for your courage and generosity to share yourself for the Congregation especially in the Region of Tanzania. Hongera!

**5. Sabbatical Program ‘New Life’ in Australia**

Sr Marivic Braganza (Vietnam), Sr Rachel Real (Philippines) and Sr Reni Susi Ngadi (Indonesia) are privileged to have been granted a Sabbatical Period in Australia from September 6 to November 29, 2015. Hopefully the experience they have in this course will enliven their Religious lives for the benefit of those whom they serve.

**6. GB’s Visitation to Timor Leste**

Timor Leste upon the continued accompaniment of the Indonesian Province is growing in many aspects. Last year, in November, there was the blessing of their new Novitiate to accommodate the growing number of membership. This coming November 4, a group of candidates will be accepted to another stage of their formation. For the first time, our native sisters from Timor Leste will be accepted for final profession in their native land on November 7. Our best wishes to the sisters of Timor Leste!

On this occasion our General Superior, Sr Rosaria is on time to witness the celebration aside from her other concerns of the visitation. She will visit the country from October 28 to

November 25. From there, Sr Rosaria will travel to Vietnam for another engagement.

**7. GB's Visitation to the USA**

Sr Hetty and Sr Jane Ann are going to visit the communities in the USA: Memphis and Silver Spring from November 16 to 26, 2015. Together with this visitation is the dissemination of the result of the General Consultative Body meeting held last September 2015. This is to find more ways on how to accompany the sisters in the discernment process of realizing the decisions and recommendations.

**8. Visitation to Vietnam and Philippines by Sr Rosaria and Sr Lisbeth**

From November 25 to December 1, Sr Rosaria and Sr Lisbeth are staying in Vietnam to visit the sisters and discuss together with them the future of Vietnam. The mission in Vietnam is growing and the sisters are happy that they are under the structure of the General Board as any concerns communicated to the GB are immediately heard.

This visit is also to disseminate to the sisters the decisions and recommendations of the General Consultative Body Meeting held a month ago. With proper discernment together, hopefully the dreams of the sisters over there are realized.

Both sisters will leave Vietnam on December 1. Sr Rosaria will return to Maastricht where she arrives on the 2<sup>nd</sup>,

whereas Sr Lisbeth travels on to the Philippines in order to start making preliminary preparations for the next Multicultural Leadership Program which will be held in the Philippines early next year. She will be back in Maastricht by December 11.

Kind regards

on behalf of the General Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosaria Nur Hardiningsih', written in a cursive style.

Sr Rosaria Nur Hardiningsih

General Superior

Generalate CB Sisters  
St. Servaasklooster 14  
62 11 TE Maastricht, the Netherlands  
[www.cbsisters.net](http://www.cbsisters.net)