



BASIC LETTER

June 2016

Maastricht, June 2016

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

When we celebrate the anniversary of Mother Elisabeth's death on June 26th 2016, we invite all our sisters to read the foreword of the booklet 'Elisabeth Gruyters, Foundress of a Congregation' on her passing away.

'When she died on June 26th 1864, she had transferred her inspiration to other women who, just like her, felt moved "to serve God faithfully" and knew that this only would get shape in serving fellow-man. To this very day the sisters of the Congregation of Mother Elisabeth spread to many places of the world, try to follow her footsteps and carry along her spirit'. This quotation has become the inspiration for our reflections and for remaining daughters of Mother Elisabeth and the successors of the Congregation.

Mother Elisabeth experienced that "*God seems not to remember my previous disloyal conduct in His service which was the cause of my making Him angry so often*" (EG 98). This experience gives the picture that God is Merciful and compassionate. He does not look at mistakes made in the past. God loves totally and unconditionally. This experience is about 'who are we' in the eyes of the Lord, as illustrated by the psalmist '*what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*' (Ps 8: 4). Mother Elisabeth also experienced that her sinfulness is no longer taken into account by God.

Moreover, God gave new life to her. Mother Elisabeth, being a grateful woman in His eyes, could only experience this because of God's mercy and faithfulness. This mystery of God's love became the source of life of Mother Elisabeth's spirituality and

also for us, her successors. That is why, like her, also we have been invited to share it through our services to the people.

The experience of Mother Elisabeth's spirituality, a deeper relationship with God, is our 'spiritual heritage', which is valuable for both the Church and the Congregation. This spirituality animates and leads all our actions, of both past and present as well as of the future. The relationship with God has to be maintained continuously and be realized in the concrete actions of every day. So that's why the whole movement of our life is the radiation of love from our unity with God. Jesus tells that "people bring a lamp which is not to be put under the basket, or under a bed, but on a stand" (Mk. 4: 21). Also the disciple Jacobus explains: "*As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead*" (James 2: 26).

We celebrate the 152nd anniversary of Mother Elisabeth's death together with the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis invites us to deepen our understanding and belief that God is merciful. The mercy of God is experienced individually and together as a community and as a Congregation. We are invited to share our experiences of God's love individually and commonly in the concrete life. Pope Francis asks us to leave our own comfort zones and go towards the periphery to be with the people who are poor, marginalized and whose lives count for nothing. For, like God, Who loves all people we, too, are invited to love and be merciful to everyone, without discrimination.

This invitation from the Pope challenges us to reflect upon our today's presence and role in the society. We have seen the development of the world which obviously is marked by advanced technology and sciences which consequently makes people's lives easier and better. However, we cannot deny that this rapid development has brought with it many different forms of poverty such as: poor quality of relationship, alienation,

victims of technology, marginalization of society, human trafficking, under aged labor, refugees because of wars, economic poverty and so on.

Let us in our very own situation reflect upon our place and role in the midst of today's world. As a sister who is assigned to a certain ministry, how have I tried and can I try to reach out to those who are marginalized? Am I courageous enough to let go of my own comfort zone (in the form of structure, traditions, regulations, confining privileges) so that the living out of the Congregation Spirituality finds its new manifestation?

How about my prayer ministry? Have my prayers, both individual and communal, embraced those who find themselves in the peripheries? We are grateful to have so many fellow sisters who are already advanced in age. Because they are the contemplative strength for our Congregation. Through their prayer ministry our elderly fellow sisters have strengthened the spiritual life of the Congregation thus making it its fundamental pillar.

Maybe we will be granted the courage to let go of ourselves, to open the door of our hearts for the Spirit of God that continuously renews our lives and enables us to transform the spirituality of the Congregation answering the signs of the time. Hopefully the presence of our Congregation is still relevant, meaningful, and giving witness to God, Who is merciful, Who loves us unconditionally and Who wishes that we and all people experience life to its fullness as His children.

HAPPY FEAST DAY!



MEMBERSHIP

Indonesian Province Postulancy

On April 29th, 2016, three aspirants started their initial formation in the postulate of Dili-Timor Leste.

1. **Deolinda Madeira** from the Nosa Senhora de Lourdes Parish, Ermera.
2. **Leonilda Salsinha Ximenes** from the Nosa Senhora de Lourdes Parish, Ermera.
3. **Ricardina Salsinha** from the Nosa Senhora de Lourdes Parish, Ermera.

On June 26th, 2016, four aspirants start their initial formation in the postulate of Mrican-Yogyakarta.

1. **Magdalena Menifati Zai** from the Salib Suci Parish, West Nias.
2. **Sabina Tepi Godhi** from the St. Fransiskus Xaverius Parish, Sanua, Kendari.
3. **Valeria Gabelan** from the Diocese of Ruteng ‘Ratu Para Rasul & Santo Hendrikus Todo’.
4. **Fidelia Rintan Sasdia** from the St. Andreas Rasul Parish, Margo Agung, Lampung.

THE REGION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Habit Taking

On June 26th, 2016, three postulants receive their habit and start their Novitiate in the initial formation house of Tagaytay, the Philippines.

1. **Cherrylyn Jalop** from San Agustin Parish Valencia City, Diocese of Malaybalay.
2. **Maria Nguyen Thi Thu Duong** from Nam Lang Parish, Diocese of Bui Chu. (Vietnam)
3. **Ana Nguyen Thi Ngan** from Lap Thach Parish, Diocese of Vinh. (Vietnam)

Postulancy

On May 31st, 2016, one aspirant started her initial formation in the postulate of Manila-the Philippines.

Jean T. Longakit from Sacred Heart Parish, Diocese of Butuan Agusan del Sur.



IN MEMORIAM

*'As the deer desires the streams of water,
so my soul desires for you, O God' (Psalms. 42: 2)*

1. Sr Liesbeth – Elizabeth Alida Galama



Sr Liesbeth (formerly sr Norberta) was born at Tjerkwerd, township of Wonseradeel, on September 19th, 1922, made her profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo in Maastricht on November 14th, 1945 and passed away in Heerlen, 'Bergweide', on April 7th, 2016.

2. Sr Martinette – Elisabeth Johanna Stefanie van Slobbe



Sr Martinette was born in Rotterdam on June 24th, 1923, made her profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo in Maastricht on May 14th, 1946 and passed away in Maastricht on April 16th, 2016.

3. Sr Gjertrud – Gertruda Anna Clementina Caspers



Sr Gjertrud (formerly sr Adalberta) was born at Cuijk and Sint Agatha on April 14th, 1926, made her profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo in Maastricht on May 14th, 1950 and passed away in Maastricht on April 21st, 2016.

4. Sr Afra Soeyarni



Sr Afra was born in Ambarawa Central Java on June 30th, 1929, made her final profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo on January 31st, 1955, and passed away on June 6th, 2016 in Yoyakarta.

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

1. **Sr Yosefa Tri Retnaningsih** from Memphis, USA, has been invited to come to the Motherhouse, Onder de Bogen, in Maastricht, to have her ongoing formation from June 14th up to July 20th, 2016.
2. **Sr Marivic Braganza** from the community of Vietnam, went to the Philippines on June 9th, 2016, to visit her mother who is seriously ill. We pray for her mother and also for the family.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL BOARD

1. **Sr Yosita Sri Murtini** from the Province of Indonesia left for Rome on March 27th, 2016. She has been granted the opportunity to study Psycho Spirituality at the Pontifical Gregorian University. At the moment she is attending an Italian Language course which will be used as the medium of her study.
2. **Gloria Consolacion** from the Philippine Region has been sent to the Region of Tanzania as a missionary in order to strengthen the life and mission of this Region. She left the Philippines on May 1st, 2016. We pray that she will be feeling at home with our sisters and the people in the Region.

3. **Sr Rosaria Nur Hardiningsih** attended the Workshop on Canon Law and the UISG (International Union of Superiors General) Assembly in Rome from May 6th – 13th, 2016. The Assembly that deepened the theme “WEAVING GLOBAL SOLIDARITY FOR LIFE” was attended by more than 870 General Superiors from different countries. One of the activities of this assembly was an audience with Pope Francis. He highlighted the role of women religious as mother.
4. **Sr Hetty Sri Widjanti** was in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from April 16th – May 15th, 2016, to visit and accompany her mother who was seriously ill and had to be hospitalized. While attending to her mother, she was able to join the 25th jubilee celebration of her religious profession together with other jubilarians. We continue to pray for her mother and the family.
5. **Sr Karita Suharti** from the community of Leut, Belgium, will attend a sabbatical program at EAPI (East Asian Pastoral Institute) in the Philippines, which will take place from August 1st – December 2nd, 2016. She left for the Philippines on May 26th, 2016, to first take an English Course as preparation for the said program.
6. **The Multi-cross Cultural Leadership Formation Program of 2016** was closed on April 29th. The closing mass was celebrated in combination with the foundation feast day of the Congregation attended by the novices and the sisters from nearby communities. On this occasion we celebrated as well the 25th jubilee profession feast of Sr Annunsianes Muda, one of the participants in the program from the Region East Indonesia. The 10 sisters who participated in the program were very grateful to all the sisters in their own respective Areas, IFT members, the

Philippine Region and all the people who, in their own ways, have supported them in the course of the program. We wish that the participants can share their experiences to their communities and the people whom they serve.

7. **The annual joint meeting** of the General Board of FIC Brothers and CB Sisters was held at Onder de Bogen, Maastricht, on May 19th, 2016. In this meeting we exchanged information on the big events that have happened and will take place in the Congregations. This annual, joint meeting has mutually enriched us in our services to the Congregation.

Kind regards
on behalf of the General Board,



Sr Rosaria Nur Hardiningsih
General Superior

Generalate CB Sisters
St. Servaasklooster 14,
6211 TE Maastricht, the Netherlands
www.cbsisters.net