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Reflection Sr Hermin Bu'ulölö

Since the general chapter of 2017 three provinces have already drawn up their roadmap for the future. I realise again and again that during such meetings ideas are suggested, about which everyone agrees that they need to be carried out and that these ideas are good not only for the sisters in that relevant part, but also for the congregation as a whole. However, who is going to carry this out? Which sisters are eligible to take on the role as leaders? Which sisters will sacrifice themselves to serve the congregation? Whom can we ask to do so?

In order to answer those questions I was mindful of 1 Kings 18: 36-37: At the time of the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: 'Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.'

Why do I think of this text from the Bible at this moment? It is because of the word 'sacrifice'. It is not a matter of doing something that you don't really feel like doing. Nor is it all about showing off to the people around you 'how wonderful you are!' I believe that 'sacrifice' means that you voluntarily give the best of your self to the highest that you know. Driven by charitable love you give all you can do and all you have to your fellow humans being and to God. Following the example of Jesus. He achieved this by first making himself empty during forty days in the desert. In that solitude he made himself available to God's will in order to say afterwards, 'I want Your will to be done, not mine'.



Vincentian pilgrimage

This year five sisters from Indonesia came to the Netherlands to participate in the Vincentian pilgrimage. They all stayed at the Encounter Centre in Tilburg where they were warmly welcomed. For these sisters the trip to the Netherlands and France constituted a part of their preparations for their final profession. During their first week in the Netherlands the SCMM sisters and the CMM brothers learned more about Msgr Zwijsen and the foundation of the congregation as well as the social context in which St Vincent de Paul found his inspiration.

During the second and third week the sisters were in France and followed the life of St Vincent de Paul. The group also included some CMM brothers and a few DMJ sisters. Afterwards they said that the journey had been an inspiring experience.

Dancing in the motherhouse



Before they flew back to Indonesia, they visited the sisters in the Motherhouse and surprised them with songs and dancing. They also came to 's-Hertogenbosch for a day, where they were warmly welcomed in the Generalate.

On 24 September six sisters in Indonesia and one sister in Brazil on 23 September will take their final vows: Sr Lestiana Dhue, Sr Maureen Delu Kaka, Sr Marsiana Haghe, Sr Germana Ndraha, Sr Michaella Bahan, Sr Ester Halawa (all in Indonesia) and Sr Joérica Kátia Melo (in Brazil).



Changes in the provincial councils

At the beginning of July many sisters were very involved in thinking about the future. In the USA the sisters met on 3 July to talk about a coordinator for their group. As not enough sisters are left anymore to be eligible for a council post and no more new sisters are joining, the general council has decided that the USA province will switch to a post-province.

Preparations started during the past term of office. Legal steps need to be taken in various areas, in particular in reference to properties of the congregation.

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Everyone agreed that Sr Mel Ryley should become the new coordinator. Therefore the general council has appointed her in that post.

Sr Elisângela and Sr Josephine attended the meeting on behalf of the general council. They warmly thanked the former provincial council members for their efforts over the past years and for their care for the individual sisters. Special thanks were addressed to Sr Pauline LaMothe O.P., a Dominican sister, who was a member of the council of the USA province.

We would like to wish Sr Mel and the other sisters and the Friends from the USA a good start in this new phase.



At the beginning of July another provincial chapter was held, this time in Medan (Indonesia) at the end of the 4-year term of office. Sr Hermin and Sr Dorine attended this meeting. In view of the future an intensive discussion about several topics took place. An important issue concerned the unity of the Indonesian province. It has been determined to put aside all differences and to continue as one province. Thus they conformed to the basic principle of pluralism.

Under the inspiring leadership of the moderator of the chapter, a Jesuit, the province also reflected on the congregation's mission. The Government is going to set ever higher demands on private schools and hospitals if they want to stay eligible for help from the Government. As a result, the competition with the educational institutes and clinics of the Government is becoming more and more difficult.

In addition time had been reserved for the election of a new provincial council. This resulted in the election of a new provincial superior, Sr Blandina Zagötö. She will be supported in her task by Sr Florentina Siregar as vicaress and Sr Hilda Milla Ate and Sr Petronella Lie as members of the provincial council. The provincial superior is new to the council. The other council members were also part of the provincial council in Indonesia during the previous term of office.

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We wish Sr Blandina and her team a lot of wisdom and strength for the next four-year period.

*From left to right:
Sr Blandina Zagötö,
Sr Florentina Siregar,
Sr Hilda Milla Ate and
Sr Petronella Lie.*



Working visit Nias

In addition to the provincial chapter in Medan (Indonesia), Sr Hermin and Sr Dorine set course for Nias. They are enjoying the inspiring encounters with our sisters there at the moment. In the next Briefing you will be informed on the content of this working visit which will end on August 3rd. However we already have some photos showing that both general council members enjoyed a warm welcome.



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ICB

The summer is still in full swing, but even so the generalate is already hard at work to prepare the coming ICB-meeting. This meeting will take place on 12-13-14 November of this year in ZIN, Vught (the Netherlands). Provincial superiors and coordinators of pre- and post-provinces will attend this meeting to discuss an agenda of broad congregational topics. Each of these sisters will bring one other sister who does not need to be a member of the provincial council.

Following the ICB, and according to our tradition the financial meeting will take place on the 15th of November. Only provincial superiors and coordinators of the pre- and post-provinces are allowed to attend this meeting.

Our joys and sorrows

Starting from this Briefing we intend to share our joys and sorrows with you. In addition to mentioning the names of the sisters who have passed away, we will also mention the sisters who are celebrating a jubilee. Because the next jubilees will not take place until October, you will read about them in the next Briefing. At this moment we mention the jubilees that were recently celebrated.

The following jubilees were celebrated:

Four sisters in Indonesia celebrated their silver jubilee (25 years) on 10 July:

Sr Brigitta Yabid, Sr Gabriela Rampak, Sr Asteria Purba and Sr Valentina Duha.

In Timor Leste Sr Laura Do Carmo also celebrated that she had entered the convent 25 years ago on that same day.

Two Indonesian sisters celebrated their 60th jubilee on 19 July:

Sr Matea Wijaya and Sr Laurensia Sidabutar.

And finally Sr Louise Bielen celebrated her 100th anniversary in Zonhoven (Belgium) on 22nd June.

It was the first time in the history of this province that a sister reached this age.



Since the middle of June the following sisters have passed away:

17-06-2018	Gratiana Ndruru	Jakarta	Indonesia
05-07-2018	Theresia de Vroom	Tilburg	The Netherlands
16-07-2018	Carolien Verberckmoes	Tilburg	The Netherlands
18-07-2018	Bernadette van de Crommert	Tilburg	The Netherlands
24-07-2018	Wendelburga Koenen	Tilburg	The Netherlands
31-07-2018	Anne Bol	Tilburg	The Netherlands

Agenda of the General Council

After attending the provincial council in Indonesia, Sr Hermin and Sr Dorine left for Nias for a working visit. On 3 August the two general council members will be back in the Netherlands again.

Subsequently a working visit will take place to Brazil from 21 September until 4 October.

Sr Hermin and Sr Elisângela will attend the ceremony when Sr Joérica takes her final vows.