

**Reflection by Sr Hermin Bu'ulölö**

In May, I attended a meeting in Rome. This meeting emphasised the importance of the role played by UISG (International Union Superiors General) in deepening our lives and service as religious.

The rapid pace of globalisation has influenced and brought about changes in the behaviour, attitudes, ways of thinking, lifestyles and the freedoms of humanity. It has also had various impacts. Some have been positive, enabling humanity to interact more easily with each other. Others, however, are negative, as demonstrated by the emergence of a crisis of faith and morality, changes in local values and culture and the growing strength of new but detrimental cultures such as hedonism, consumerism, materialism, individualism and instant gratification. Amid all the changes that we see, we find that something has remained the same,

unchanged, and that is Jesus Christ. *“Jesus Christ, yesterday, and today; and the same for ever”* (Hebrews 13:8). From Him, we learned to pray to the Father, *“Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* (Mat. 6:10). We pray for God’s kingdom to come and for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In Genesis 12: 1-5, *“In thee shall all the kindred of the earth be blessed. I will make of thee a great nation.”*

The words of God to Abraham sound more like an inviting command. Abraham was asked to leave behind everything that provided his identity and security, his country, family and home, to depart for a place that God would show him. What was it that prompted Abraham to respond in faith? What was in God’s promise that made Abraham leave everything behind and lead a very insecure life?



In distinguishing our calling as religious, the Bible provides us with an image and the characteristics of God that are always present in divine callings. We are called to bear witness of the kingdom of God. What is it that I'm actually doing? Personally, as well as a group? Fellowship with God encourages the Church to step out of itself, to pass through the byways of life to embrace all people and to have encounters with the humble, the weak, the poor, the outcasts and the neglected. To whoever she encounters, the Church is sent to bring love and joy, peace and justice, unity and true sisterhood. The doors of the Church are open to all. The Church is home for everyone. In Christ's Church, there are no strangers, because everyone is a sister or brother.

Do we dare to venture out of our comfort zone? Are we ready for change? Who are we? Where will we go? May we all continue to be *"a prophetic sower of hope"* wherever we are, and in everything we do.

### **Working visit to the Philippines**

Sr Dorine and Sr Josephine have now returned from their working visit to the Philippines, where among other things they attended the ceremony of the vows for life of Sr Catherine Ba-a and Sr Jessica Magno. It was a wonderful celebration, well organised and with a relaxed programme.



*Sr Catherina stands to the left and Sr Jessica stands to the right of the bishop*



*Sr Dorine accepted their final vows*

They also had discussions with the communities and with the individual sisters. Sr Dorine prepared a morning of reflection with all the sisters. The centre for the handicapped is doing well. There is a good atmosphere and the return from the sales of the hand-made flowers has almost doubled.

The sisters are preparing for the coming ICC in Chicago, where they will be represented by five sisters, and where they will reflect about the future of the congregation and the pre-province.

### **Profession in Indonesia and Timor Leste**

The 24th September is a day of celebration both in Indonesia and in Timor Leste. Four sisters are taking their final vows: Sr Averlin Lahagu and Sr Anselma Tafonao in Indonesia and Sr Natalia de Deus Maia and Sr Esmenia da Silva in Timor Leste. At the moment the four sisters are preparing for their final vows in Indonesia.

Sr Hermin and Sr Elisângela will be on a working visit in Timor Leste in September, so that Sr Hermin will be able to accept their final vows.

### **Renewal of the vows in Timor Leste and Indonesia**

In Timor Leste, twelve sisters have renewed their vows on 31 May. The celebration took place in the formation house Dom Joao Zwijsen, in Dili.



Two sisters from Timor Leste are preparing their final vows in Indonesia and one sister is studying in Yogyakarta. Together with 58 Indonesian sisters, they renewed their vows.



Six Indonesian sisters did their first profession on May 31.



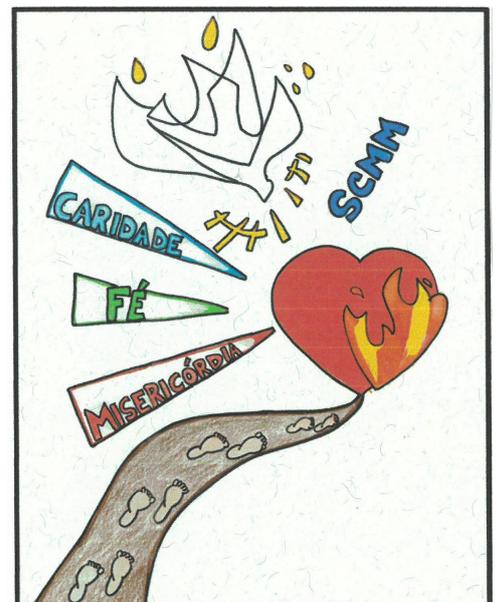
### **Provincial chapter in Brazil (June 30 up to July 4)**

The Brazilian Province is getting ready to experience a new chapter, which will address the following theme: *'Going beyond what we are: in faith and charity through mercy.'*

Motto: *'Deny yourself and follow me'* Luke 9:23.

It is time for assessment, weighing, evaluation; time to renew our faith and hope, and time to realize - together - how important and necessary our mission as Sisters of Charity of Mother of Mercy is and, particularly, to realize to what extent the neighbourhoods and communities where we live need the loving Presence of God. Love that is also justice, struggle, search for dignity and rights. During this Chapter, we intent to renew our desire to be the presence of God's merciful love in the daily struggle of those who suffer the most, those who are excluded and abandoned, and those who are on the margin of our society.

We ask all Sisters, Friends and Associates to pray for us, that we may be sensitive to what God asks from us, and that we may have the courage to do what is asked of us.



## Province days in Pantasaph

Sr Dorine and Sr Josephine will be in Pantasaph from 15 up to and including 19 July, when the sisters of the British and Irish province meet together. Over the past years the British/Irish province has worked hard to dismantle the province. According to the constitutions they are no longer able to hold a chapter because they do not have sufficient members to do so. During the province days the general council will appoint a coordinator who will take charge of the future 'community under the responsibility of the general council'. Another important event will take place during the province days, as all those attending will celebrate the 100th birthday of Sr Catherine Shakespeare on 17 July.

## ICC in Chicago

On Sunday 28 July sisters from Brazil, the Philippines, Timor Leste and the USA will meet to discuss the possibilities for these four parts of collaborating more closely. Various factors must be taken into account in the case of collaboration. Two of these factors will be discussed: interculturality and leadership. Both themes will be introduced and facilitated by American sisters who are experienced in that area.

The participants in the meeting have meanwhile received documents to prepare themselves. After meeting for 10 days we hope that we shall have inspired each other and that we will have a clearer view of the challenges ahead.

Everyone will return home on 7 August, but not before they have become acquainted with the American culture in Chicago.

## Mother Mary

In the last Briefing we asked you to mail us images of Mother Mary that inspire you. Sr Elizia Engelen who passed away recently had a lot of admiration for Mother Mary. She left behind a large collection of images of which we include a few here.



## Joys and sorrows

### Died:

- 27-05-2019 Sr Angela Tesselaar, Raalte (the Netherlands)  
28-06-2019 Sr Paulino van der Krogt, Tilburg (the Netherlands)

### Jubilees:

Sisters in various parts of the congregation will be celebrating their silver convent jubilee:

#### Brazil, July 8

Sr Joanita Maria Freitas Cabedelo

#### The Philippines, July 8

Sr Beatrix Ela Lupao

In New Manilla July 6, this jubilee will be celebrated.

#### Indonesia

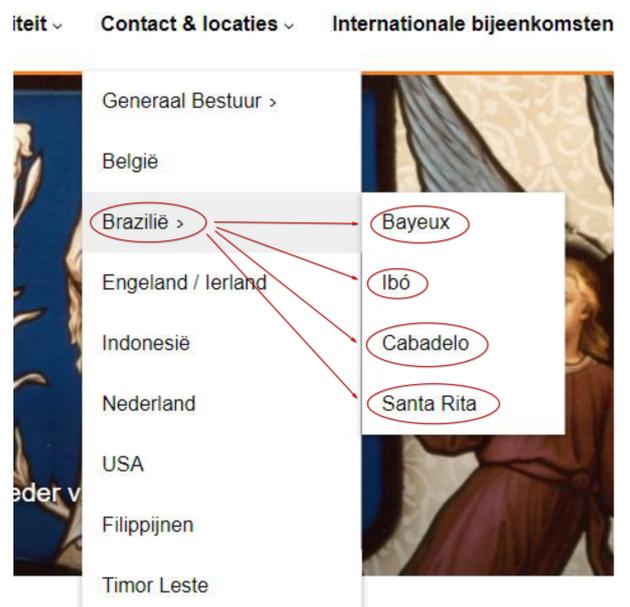
Sr Sofia Owa Teluk Dalam  
Sr Anita Sutarni Sibolga  
Sr Faustina Fau Gunung Sitoli  
Sr Erminolda Situmeang Sarudik  
Sr Frederika Sijabat Medan  
Sr Netty Turnip Sibolga

The celebrations in Indonesia will take place on September 24 in the Provincialate, together with the sisters who will be 50 years in the Congregation next December 8:

Sr Kristina Medröfa Pematang Siantar  
Sr Yustina Hondrö Teluk Dalam  
Sr Marietta Sinaga Medan  
Sr Roberta Simarmata Sarudik  
Sr Margaretha Gultom Medan  
Sr Rosalina Kusnoharjono Padang  
Sr Mariana Situngkir (Tilburg) will not be present in Indonesia.

## Development of the website

During the ICB meeting in November 2018, it was found that the website of the general council was very static. The Brazilian province has taken this remark to heart and has offered new up-to-date information. Visitors to our website will now obtain a lively view of this part of the congregation. The activities of the Brazilian province may be seen on <http://sistersofcharity.nl/en/brazil>.



## Agenda of the general council

- Sr Hermin and Sr Elisângela will attend the provincial chapter in Brazil. They will be absent from 28 June-6 July.
- Sr Dorine and Sr Josephine will attend the province days in Pantasaph where the British and Irish sisters will meet from 15-19 July.
- The ICC will take place in Chicago from 28 July up to and including 6 August. This ICC is a follow-up from a recommendation of the general chapter to investigate whether it is feasible for the four parts to cooperate more closely, which might result into a merger. All members of the general council will attend this ICC.
- Sr Hermin will be on holiday from 12 up to and including 26 August.



**We would like to wish you all happy holidays!**