

**April 2020, nr. 1**

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**Reflection by Zr. Hermin Bu'ulölö**

We are writing this Briefing in the week preceding Holy week. A week to prepare ourselves for Easter, the feast that takes place after the Passion of Christ and during which we celebrate the rebirth.

We are living in bizarre times. The world has been infected with the coronavirus and humankind is suffering. All of us are going through this period of suffering. There is a lot of sadness. Gatherings have been forbidden. As individuals you have to keep your distance from others. Praying together is no longer possible either. Loneliness lies in wait for us. We are inundated with information about the virus and no longer know what we should believe. When do we act correctly? We don't know.

We do know, however, that we have to have hope, as Easter teaches us. Hope and trust in a positive outcome, a new future, a rebirth. Around us we occasionally see a few rays of sunshine that nourish our hope and trust. People who devote their attention to others. Simply, a very small gesture... a wink from life that makes you aware of solidarity. And that inspires you with some hope for a new life.

The coronavirus affects all countries in the entire world. Our sisters would like to know how everyone is doing. As far as we know, several sisters in the Netherlands and Belgium have died because of the virus. At present, some other sisters there have been infected and some sisters are in isolation. We pray for the speedy recovery of the sisters who are ill, and let us hope that the sisters in isolation will remain free of the virus.

## The General Board is now complete

As soon as it became clear that Sr Sofiani Warasi would join the general board as the new member, a request for her residence permit was submitted. This permit was recently granted, so that Sr Sofiani could set foot on Dutch soil on Thursday 12 March.



Her first weeks proved to be quiet weeks. Because of the outbreak of the coronavirus in the Netherlands, everyone was advised to stay home as much as possible. Therefore, the generalate was closed as from Monday 15 March. Meanwhile the office is dealing with current matters again.

## ICC Mission & Spirituality

The general board had invited sisters and laity from all parts of the congregation to participate in an international meeting about mission and spirituality. This meeting has been cancelled. We have to try as much as possible not to infect each other with the virus.

## Working visit to Indonesia

It already seems quite a long time ago that Sr Hermin and Sr Elisângela returned from Indonesia. It was Sr Elisângela's first visit to Indonesia, and she said that it was a very interesting experience. The sisters in the eastern part of the province were very happy with the arrival of the general board members.

Sr. Hermin and Sr Elisângela obtained a first impression of the life and work of the sisters in that part. Their dedication was remarkable. It was also the first time that Sr Blandina got to visit certain communities. The distances in Indonesia are enormous and it is not easy to get to the various regions.



The sisters in the eastern part work in schools and orphanages both in rich and in poor areas. Because of this mixture, they are financially self-sufficient. In addition, they also receive financial support. For instance, there is a boarding school for boys that needs to be

renovated. Part of the expenses, are paid for by the parish, as had been agreed by the priest. The building is situated on land that is owned by the congregation. Cooperation is required! In other projects, the authorities play a part. Thanks to the efforts of Sr Yolenta Wea, the orphanage in Waikabubak has been approved by the government's social service. That is very valuable for the sisters.

Everyone works very hard and cooperates to achieve the best possible result.



## Working visit to Belgium

On Thursday 5 March, the general board paid a visit to the sisters in Belgium. After a warm reception in the provincialate, the board had a discussion with the provincial council about a number of matters concerning the province. The number of Belgian sisters is declining. Most of them live in the care home of St Catherine's and in 't Pand.

St Catharine's is going to be renovated. The sisters are closely involved in the plans. They studied the drawings giving an impression of the future building with great interest.

During the afternoon, the sisters who do not live in the care home came to the provincialate. By means of photographs taken during the working visits in the past year, the general board members spoke about the parts, for which they are responsible. This turned into a lively conversation, because the Belgian sisters had many interested questions. Later in the afternoon, the general board paid a visit to the sisters in the care home. That too was a lively meeting. And in spite of their age, they were truly interested in the events in the other parts of the congregation.



## **Deceased sisters**

The following sisters have passed away in the province of the Netherlands:

- 24-02-2020 Sr Leonie Haverkamp
- 01-03-2020 Sr Mathilde Beerkens
- 13-03-2020 Sr Marie-Christine van Bebber
- 19-03-2020 Sr Annie van Ballegooij
- 24-03-2020 Sr Dominique Hiethaar
- 27-03-2020 Sr Gradina Kruitbos
- 27-03-2020 Sr Veronica M. de Boer
- 01-04-2020 Sr Caritas Post
- 02-04-2020 Sr Paule Keusters
- 03-04-2020 Sr Tonny Haasen
- 04-04-2020 Sr Bernadette Tettero

The following sisters have passed away in the Belgian province:

- 05-04-2020 Sr Agnes van Doorn
- 06-04-2020 Sr Celestine Beliën
- 08-04-2020 Sr Lea Vandickelen

May they rest with the Lord.



## **Register 2020**

A few mistakes crept into the Register. These are the corrections per page:

**Page 3**

Amendment of the total number of professed sisters: 367

| Generalate Sisters of Charity<br>of Our Lady Mother of Mercy | MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD |                          |         |            |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|------------|
|  | Professed<br>members         | Members in<br>temp. vows | Novices | Postulants |
| General Council.....   | 4                            | -                        | -       | -          |
| Belgium.....   | 22                           | -                        | -       | -          |
| Brazil.....  | 4                            | 3                        | -       | -          |
| Indonesia.....   | 163                          | 61                       | 29      | 15         |
| The Netherlands.....   | 139                          | -                        | -       | -          |
| USA.....   | 6                            | -                        | -       | -          |
| The Philippines.....   | 13                           | -                        | -       | -          |
| United Kingdom and Ireland.....                              | 9                            | -                        | -       | -          |
| Timor Leste.....   | 7                            | 15                       | 4       | 3          |
|  | 367                          | 79                       | 33      | 18         |

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Belgium

Member of the provincial council

Sr Marie-Jeanne Teuwen

Amended email address: [zusters@covida.be](mailto:zusters@covida.be)

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Brazil

Add retreat home in Cabedelo

Cabadelo

Established 1 January 1986

Rua Juarez Távora, 354

Phone: 083-3228-1824

Camalaú

CEP. 58.310-000 CABADELO-PB

Associated members:

Neusa Maria da Rocha

Maria Antonieta da Silva

Maria de Lourdes da Silva

Gilvan Marcelo da Silva

### Indonesia

| Page | Community/location    | Family name and initials | Place of birth |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 22   | St Agatha/Banjarbaru  | Conterius, E.W.          | Sikka          |
| 27   | St Gabriel/Medan      | Gea, H.                  | Hilizarito     |
| 32   | Santa Melania/Sarudik | Sinaga, E.M.             | Lae Rambong    |

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The Netherlands/Tilburg

Mater Misericordiae/Magnolia

Amendment of telephone number of Angelique van Aspert: 06-50099978

Mater Misericordiae/Roos

Amendment of telephone number of Angelique van Aspert: 06-50099978

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The Netherlands/Tilburg

Kloosterstraat Oost

Ground floor East: Telephone number 013-2061250

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The Netherlands/Tilburg

Kloosterstraat West ground floor and 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Ground floor West: Telephone number 013-2061250

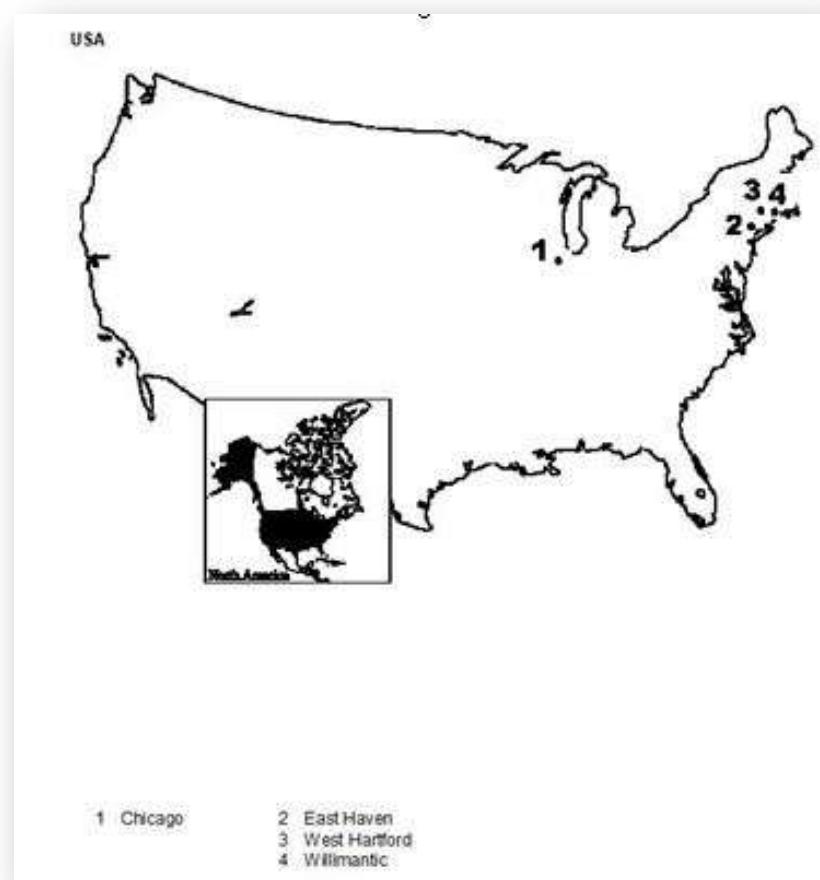
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The Netherlands/Tilburg

Kloosterstraat West 2 and 3/4

Ground floor West:  
Telephone number 013-  
2061250

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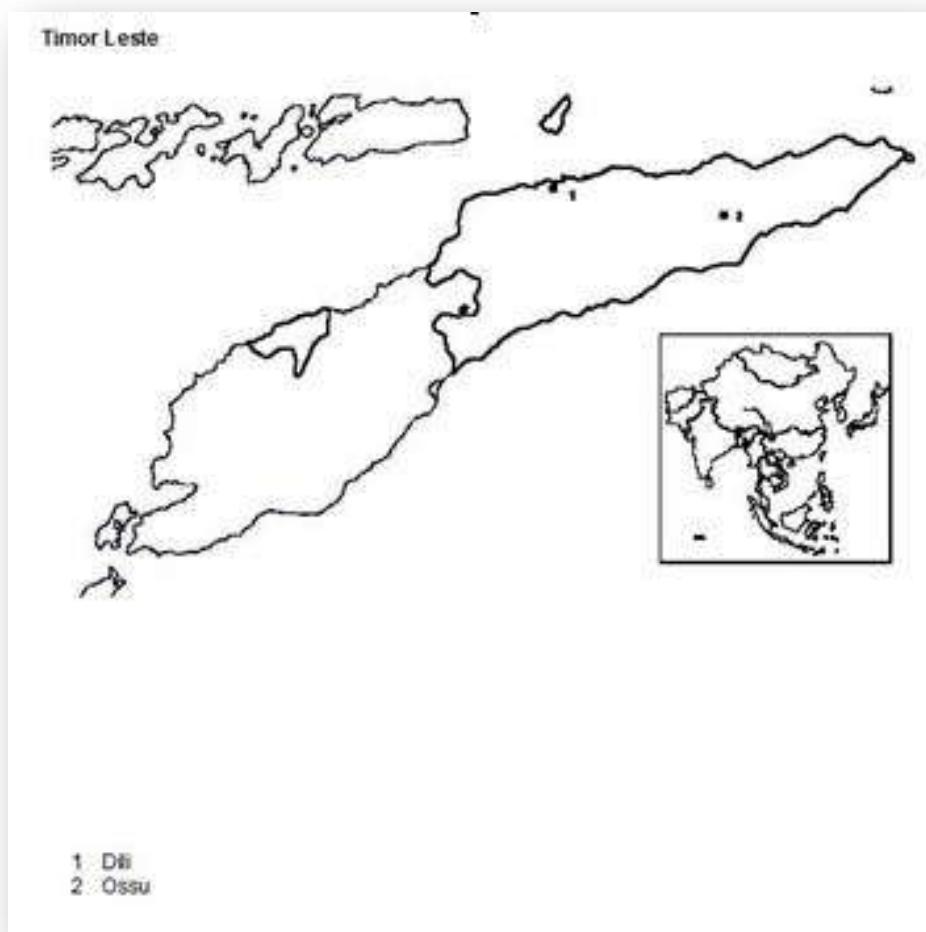
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The Philippines/Marikina City  
Noviciate House  
Phone / fax number: 02-8941 4772

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Timor Leste

| Community/location | Family name and initials | Place of birth     |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| St Lukas/Ossu      | Freitas, J.M.            | Buruma/Baucau (ID) |
| St Lukas/Ossu      | Koa, A.                  | Bentulu (ID)       |



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Alphabetical list of surnames.

Sisters referred to on page 52, live at the address on page 51.  
Sisters referred to on page 54 live at the address on page 53.  
Sr Marie-Thérèse Brinkmann lives at the address on page 54.

*Despite the sad events in our congregation and in the world,  
we all wish for hopeful Easter days.*

