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Reflection by Sr Hermin Bu'ulölö

The recent visit by the General Council to Timor Leste, a joy and happiness of itself, was an event of special importance for the Timor Leste community. Two sisters had decided to take their perpetual vows.

As young women, they had dreamed much of devoting themselves wholly to the congregation and to strengthening the community in Timor Leste.

The preparation that they undertook for about six months while released from duties helped them greatly to reflect and make their own free decisions about their choice and calling.

When they both said, "Let it be to me according to Your will," it reflects our willingness to go wherever the congregation may send us.

Living a consecrated life demands a complete and radical surrender of oneself. This way of life represents an option for people to grow and develop in their abilities and character. Consecrated life has mission of its own, to portray the dimension of God's presence in the lives of people. That is because living a consecrated life is also a calling.

Sometimes, it is so easy for us to say, "Let it be to me according to Your will," but not always can the will of God be properly understood. If we compare Mary's attitude in carrying out God's will with our own in daily life, it often falls short. Indeed, it is very difficult to be able to simply do God's will.

However, this process will take place if each member listens to others, is open, is able to accept themselves, is willing to leave the old person behind, to edify one another and respect each individual.

This attitude must be maintained continuously. That way, the life of sisterhood in charity will come into being of itself - let it be our hope!

Working visit to Timor Leste

At the end of September 2019, the general council paid their second visit this year to the sisters in Timor Leste. Sr Elisângela accompanied Sr Hermin who is the contact-person of Timor Leste.

As usual the two sisters received a very warm welcome in Dili.

They arrived at a busy time to share in a celebration: Sr Natalia de Deus Maia and Sr Esmenia da Silva were taking their final vows. This was the first time that sisters were professed since Timor Leste became an independent unit under the responsibility of the general council. It was a wonderful party that everyone enjoyed a lot.



During each working visit extensive discussions take place with the sisters about the joys and sorrows of the community. Timor Leste is still a very young part of the congregation.

They now have six sisters with final vows. In addition, there is also a group of junior sisters, novices and postulants. They have a number of plans, which are of importance for the further development of Timor Leste. Before those plans can be realised, however, it is important that the group of young sisters undergo the training required to implement those plans. Not only professional training is important, but also the language. The national language is Portuguese and professional education is taught in that language. It is quite a challenge for the sisters in Timor Leste to become future-proof in the coming years. Fortunately, they are all young sisters ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work and they are enthusiastically involved in constructing their own future.

Visit by the Dutch sisters

For many years the generalate has been established at the Hinthamerstraat in 's-Hertogenbosch. Yet there were still some Dutch sisters who had never visited the generalate. The time had come to change that.

For four consecutive weeks, Sr Dorine invited sisters to come on a visit on the Thursday. In the morning the guests were welcome with coffee and a tasty treat.



During one of these meetings, Sr Anna Grent came to visit. She spoke a lot about her active life working with prisoners.



It was a very animated coffee break. She had brought a guardian angel for all of us, which had been made by the prisoners with whom she is still in touch. It was a special gift to remember special visits.

After the coffee the sisters had a guided tour through the building and they had a look at the apartments of the council members and the offices of the staff.



In the large meeting room old books could be viewed in which all sisters had been registered who had once joined the congregation. In this way they could search for their own name in the books.

After this guided tour, lunch was served and they had the opportunity for a cosy catch-up. The Dutch province had organised transport. Around 15:00 the sisters were taken back to Tilburg. Because there were more sisters who were interested in such a visit, more meetings will be organised in the generalate next spring.

Final vows in Indonesia

In addition to Timor Leste, there were also two sisters in Indonesia who took their final vows, Sr Averlin Lahagu and Sr Anselma Tafanao.

That happened on 23 September, at the same time as the sisters in Timor Leste.

In Indonesia there were even more celebrations that day, because the sisters who were celebrating a jubilee were specially honoured. And the young sisters renewed their vows.



ICB 2019

At the time that you receive this Briefing the *ICB meeting* is probably already taking place. The ICB will be held from 10 up to and including 12 November and is followed by the *Financial meeting* on 13 November. As usual the meeting will take place in ZIN (Vught).

During the meeting all provincial superiors and coordinators of post- and pre-provinces are present as well as a second sister from the relevant part. We will review the past year and some topics will be discussed more in detail. One of those topics will be the ICC that took place this past summer.

You will receive a short report about the ICB meeting in the next Briefing.

Joys and sorrows

Died:

6 November Sr Andrée Verheijden Tilburg (The Netherlands)

During the last months of the year we will again celebrate many jubilees.

Belgium

29 October Sr Yvonne Sas 65 years convent jubilee

England/Ireland

1 November Sr Catharine Flynn 70 years convent jubilee

The Netherlands

30 October Sr Gerdina Tromp 75 years convent jubilee

Sr Adriana de Beer 75 years convent jubilee

1 November Sr Paulus de Bruijn 70 years convent jubilee

Sr Theresia Eliesen 70 years convent jubilee

29 October Sr Jeanne Snijders 65 years convent jubilee

Sr Huberto Kuijpers 65 years convent jubilee

Sr Els van Etten 65 years convent jubilee

Sr Lidwine Egelmeers 65 years convent jubilee

8 November Sr Marie-Lioba van Wingerden 60 years convent jubilee

Sr Mel Heuver 60 years convent jubilee

8 December Sr Mariana Situngkir 50 years convent jubilee

On 14 November Sr Balthazarina Buis will celebrate her 100th birthday together with her fellow sisters in Tilburg.



Indonesia

24 December Sr Carola Wau 12½ years convent jubilee

Sr Fernanda Sinaga 12½ years convent jubilee

Sr Grace Sitanggang 12½ years convent jubilee

Sr Irmina Wau 12½ years convent jubilee

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