

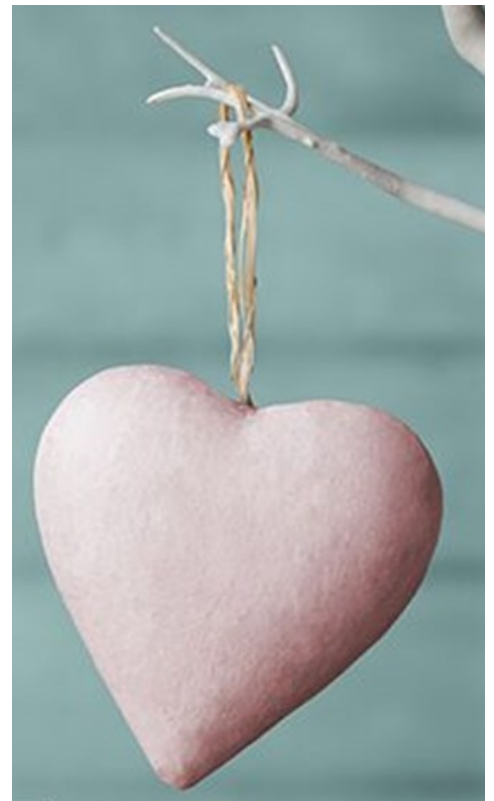
**April 2022, No. 1**

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### **Reflection by Sr Hermin**

When Jesus spoke lovingly with his disciples in His words of parting, he indicated that there were many things that His disciples still needed to hear and understand, but that they were not ready for them. He went on to assure them that when the Spirit came, they would be able to see what had taken place in a new light. This gift arrived after the disciples had witnessed the suffering and death of Jesus and received the divine outpouring of grace at Pentecost. Only afterwards did they have the capacity to grasp the importance of those painful events, to understand in retrospect of the resurrection. In many ways, this also applies in our lives. We want to understand our personal journey, but the deeper meaning of our life's experiences often comes to light of itself after we have been through difficult times. It is only later that we understand how the event graced us with growth in our faith. Life will always bring events that we do not desire, but that can teach us more about who we are. Suffering can yield insights and strengthen our love and compassion, provided we wait patiently for the Spirit to reveal these things to us.

Simple, yes, but replete with meaning. Easter: there is hope, there is joy, there is proclamation. This is the disciples' attitude that we need to feel when celebrating Easter. Hope in salvation that Jesus gave to us. Of course, that hope is accompanied by a deep sense of joy, so that this news of good cheer will forever be proclaimed. Let us go out imbued with joy and happiness to proclaim the news of joy, that Jesus our Lord has risen. "Happy Easter!"



## Provincial chapter in Indonesia

At the moment the sisters in Indonesia are completely focused on the approaching provincial chapter. At the beginning of the year the sisters met in various locations to prepare during the pre-chapter. The provincial chapter will take place from 1-6 July in Medan, Indonesia.

Sr Hermin and Sr Sofiani will attend the chapter.

The theme of the chapter is: The spirit of Mercy: Building Resilience through Hope.

On 31 May 12 novices will take their first profession: Sr Defilia Bu'ulölö, Sr Evi Simarmata, Sr Klaudia Novia Ade Nairo, Sr Anggela Tawa Diwa, Sr Bernadete Baok, Sr Letsia Sebhi, Sr Moina Manalu, Sr Oktaviana Witu Diwa, Sr Florentina Anna Marlely Waruwu, Sr Veronika Sinaga, Sr Amelia Sinurat and Sr Flora Indah Nini Kandi.



Ten first-year novices became second-year novices on 28 March: Sr Defilia Bu'ulölö, Sr Evi Simarmata, Sr Klaudia Novia Ade Nairo, Sr Anggela Tawa Diwa, Sr Bernadete Baok, Sr Letsia Sebhi, Sr Moina Manalu, Sr Oktaviana Witu Diwa, Sr Florentina Anna Marlely Waruwu, Sr Veronika Sinaga, Sr Amelia Sinurat, and Sr Flora Indah Nini Kandi.

## Working visit Brazil

Sr Elisangela left at the beginning of December for a working visit to Brazil. Afterwards, she remained there for her holidays. The working visit started with a festive event, the final vows taken by Sr Lusinete. It was a special moment for all sisters, staff members, family members and friends in Brazil.

The sisters celebrated Christmas together in the city of Ibimirim, where sisters Graça and Dalva live. The former Ibó-community was also visited. They are in the process of setting up a group of the Movement of Mercy.

In Brazil a group of 11 associated members is active who are close to the sisters and the mission. They are a great help to the sisters,



so if we talk about Brazil, we must keep in mind that we have six sisters in Brazil as well as eleven associated members, i.e., we have a total of seventeen members of the Congregation in Brazil. In addition, we have the Movement of Mercy, an active group, which also has a section of young people.

## **ICC 2022**

It has been a while since the last ICC took place. That ICC happened in Chicago in 2019 and dealt with the cooperation between the four parts. Meanwhile Timor Leste has withdrawn from this project. The other three countries (Brazil, the Philippines and the USA) are still fully involved in exploring the possibilities.

At the beginning of June, sisters and laypeople will gather in Nemi (near Rome, Italy). It will be the last ICC during this term of office and various topics will be discussed. All these topics concern the future of the Congregation:

- Charism & spirituality;
- Mission;
- Connectedness;
- Leadership;
- What does it mean to be international?
- New ways of religious life.

Spirituality and charism are central concepts in our Congregation.

This is where we find the roots for all we do:

- our norms and values,
- the way we deal with each other,
- the way we deal with society.

Our SCMM-spirituality is nourished and supported by the Gospels. The stories about Jesus from Nazareth constitute the foundation of our life and work. In addition, St Vincent de Paul and Mary, Mother of Mercy are also sources of inspiration for us.

Merciful love, simplicity and the Lord's providence are important elements in our life and work. We give a meaning to these words inspired by our religious attitude to life. We look at the developments in Church and society in the countries where we live and work. These general aspects are expressed in different ways.

Global developments demand that we look carefully at what we are doing and whether adaptations are required.

## **Working visits**

The general council has started to carry out working visits again. In the next Briefing you will be able to read about the visits to Belgium and the Netherlands.



## Joy and sorrows

Seven sisters have died in 2022:

01 January	Sr Wilma van Zandvoort	Tilburg (the Netherlands)
07 January	Sr Bernardine Horstink	Tilburg (the Netherlands)
12 January	Sr Sylvia Telaumbanua	Medan (Indonesia)
22 January	Sr Louise Bielen	Zonhoven (Belgium)
25 February	Sr Marie-Louise van den Eerenbeemt	Tilburg (the Netherlands)
09 March	Sr Magdaleni Ottenschot	Raalte (the Netherlands)
20 March	Sr Bernarda Krijger	Tilburg (the Netherlands)

We also celebrated jubilees:

### USA

65 years	18 March	Sr Barbara Connell
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### Belgium

60 years	06 May	Sr Rosa Olaerts
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### England/Ireland

80 years	28 May	Sr Teresa Gray
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### Nederland

75 years	27 April	Sr Josephine Gosselink Sr Anna Grent Sr Ansfrida van Loon
70 years	29 April	Sr Cunera Borst Sr Corneline Wouters Sr Truus Hofhuis
65 years	06 May	Sr Bartholomea Heijneman Sr Michelle de Rooij Sr Irène Rooth
60 years	06 May	Sr Corine de Graaff Sr Toos Scholtes