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Reflection by Sr Hermin Bu'ulölö

Lent is a time of conversion, a time to renew yourself in God's image. It is time for all of us to make peace with God and others, with our environment.

In the Gospel of Luke 9:22, Jesus said, *"The Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."*

We read here heavy conditions for the followers of Jesus. After speaking of His own death, Jesus continued, *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."* This is how Jesus set the conditions for the disciples. Not only will disciples suffer greatly, but those who choose to follow Him must also be willing to accept the resulting consequences. Forms of violence and pain cannot be avoided. No wonder the disciples were not always eager to accompany Jesus. It is therefore no wonder that we are not always enthusiastic.

In our world today, where there are different values and conflicting opinions, challenges are sure to arise for those who try to apply the gospel.

How steadfast or faithful are we as His followers? What will we experience as followers of Jesus? Can we bear rejection? Can we bare simple life? Can we respect all life? Forgive seventy times seven times? Are we able to remove harsh judgments about people who are different from us? Hopefully, during this season of Lent, we will open up to be generous with those in need.



Working visit to Brazil

At the last minute of 2022, Sr Elisângela and Sr Josephine to Brazil for a working visit. Sr Elisangela immediately linked her holiday to this. It was the week before Christmas and both sisters were experiencing Christmas celebrations in different places. One of those celebrations was with the staff of the schools and the centre Dom Helder Câmara. Christmas was also celebrated with the associates. And of course with all the sisters who gathered for Christmas in Heitel Santiago. It was for Sr Josephine's first time in Brazil and it was a special working visit for her with all these meetings.



Christmas with the staff, and



with the sisters, and



with the associates.

Of course, Sr Elisângela and Sr Josephine visited all communities and had good conversations with the sisters and provincial council members. The sisters in Brazil had just received Sr Jessica Magno from the Philippines. She has found shelter in Ibimirim and helps in the mission of the Brazilian sisters. In this way Sr Jessica learns the fastest the language. At the same time she can practice English conversation with Sr Dalva and Sr Graça.

The provincial council had received the request to prepare a place for Sr Serafina Pereira from Timor Leste. Sr Serafina would follow a course in Brazil in 2023 and then contribute to the mission in Brazil. In the meantime, Sr Serafina is in Brazil and will join the other sisters at the end of March.

General Chapter 2023



In January, the General Council announced the General Chapter that will take place in the Netherlands from 4 to 14 July. The logo was also explained to all members of the Congregation. Subsequently, all countries were invited to choose members who, together with the ex-officio, represent the sisters.

In total 33 sisters form the chapter:

Sr Hermin Bu'ulölö

Sr Elisângela Ferreira Belo

Sr Josephine Corpuz

Sr Sofiani Warasi

Sr Marie-Louise Aerts

Sr Yuliana Apu Day

Sr Blandina Zagötö

Sr Yesulda Simalango

Sr Agustina Hia

Sr Miranda Situmorang

Sr Evodia Daeli

Sr Toos Scholtes

Sr Ursula van de Ven

Sr Mary Ellen Ryley

Sr Janice Buszta

Sr Amy Gitana

Sr Catherina Ba-a

Sr Rosa Olaerts
Sr Paula Frassinetti
de Azevedo Soares
Sr Dalva Carlos de Moraes
Sr Joérica Kátia Melo
Sr Donata Manalu

Sr Petronella Lie
Sr Alfonia Saing
Sr Mariëtte Kinker
Sr Mel Heuver
Sr Paulien Mul
Sr Irène Rooth

Sr Jessica Magno
Sr Eugenia Pereira
Sr Joanita Freitas
Sr Natalia de Deus
Sr Esmenia Sanches
da Silva

The General Council is busy preparing for the chapter. Through the chapter members, all sisters will be able to contribute to the topics discussed during the chapter.

News from Indonesia

On January 7th, 2023, the new building of the St. Thomas Community in Medan was officially opened and blessed. Young sisters who study at the university live here.



In Telukdalam (NIAS, Indonesia) the sisters have opened a new mission: childcare. Young children can go there when the parents are not at home. Childcare was opened on January 26th, 2023.



Sr Blandina Zagötö gives courses to sister economists in the various communities in making financial reports. She did that in Nias and Medan. Kalimantan and Flores/ Sumba will follow later.



She also will give the same course in Timor Leste, in the context of cooperation between the two countries.

A few years ago there were plans to turn the Stella Maris Hospital in Nias into a clinic because it was difficult to keep the hospital running. The sisters wanted the hospital to stay and worked hard to prevent that. An improvement plan was drawn up, which recently resulted in a five-star rating for the hospital after an inspection of the government. An excellent result!



Profession in Timor Leste

Sr Nidia Pascoal and Sr Francisca Soares de Araújo will make the perpetual vows on March 25th in the presence of Sr Hermin and Sr Sofiani.

In January 2023 there was a strong wind that destroyed part of the roof of the community in Ossu. There were already advanced plans to break down the sister house and to build a new one.



Joys & Sorrows

In recent months, two sisters have passed away:

15-01-2023 Sr Delian de Brouwer, Tilburg (the Netherlands)

06-02-2023 Sr Corrie Langermans, Tilburg (the Netherlands)

Several sisters will soon be celebrating a convent jubilee:

Philippines	25 year	April 19th	Sr Evangeline Cuyasen
The Netherlands	70 year	April 23th	Sr Arnoldie van Hazendonk
			Sr Birgitta Berendsen
			Sr Celine Hollink
			Sr Heleen van de Ven
			Sr Lisabeth van der Horst
	80 year	May 5th	Sr Francisca Janssens
	60 year	May 5th	Sr Marie-Cécile Hulleman
			Sr Marie-Thérèse Brinkmann
			Sr Heleni van Moorsel
Belgium	60 year	May 9th	Sr Marie-Jeanne Teuwen
Timor Leste	12½ year	June 30th	Sr Inocencia da Costa
			Sr Teresinha Lemos
			Sr Esmenia da Silva
	25 year	July 6th	Sr Angelita Koa
Indonesia	25 year	July 6th	Sr Yesualda Simalango
	60 year	July 19th	Sr Gertruda Fau
			Sr Anna Bali

We wish you all a nice day.

Easter

Within a few weeks, it will be Easter.

