



BRIEFING

November 2023

Dear Sisters,

This November 2023 edition of the Briefing is the first publication produced by the General Council elected by the Chapter in July 2023 for the 2023-2029 period. At this opportunity, we send our greetings on behalf of the General Council to all sisters in particular as well as to all who were involved in all the processes of the recent chapter. Thank you for all your support and participation throughout preparations and during the event itself that contributed to a good chapter. We are grateful to the sisters for their confidence in entrusting us with the duties of leadership for the current period. We are keenly aware that besides our strong points, as human beings we also have various weaknesses. Nevertheless, we trust that the sisters and many others will continue to extend us their support in their individual ways. We always put our trust in God in every aspect of our lives. So let us choose part of the prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas that has continually motivated us in our daily tasks, ***"Lord, show me how I will begin it, direct how it will develop and help me through to completion."***

Our thanks to the General Council for the preceding period, who have served the congregation in the various efforts and sacrifices they made. Of course, there will be no second ladder if not preceded by a first ladder. The same holds true for the duties in the present period. Whatever is good as it is, we will continue doing to the extent possible, and we will strive to respond to the congregation's needs as appropriate to the circumstances of the sisters at the present. There is a word of wisdom that says, ***"It may be that most of us spend so much time thinking about the past or planning for the future, with a very real risk that we will never be fully at peace with the present moment."***

We expect that in some places, preparations are already under way for the soon-coming Christmas celebrations. Nevertheless, we are greatly concerned about the situation of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine (Hamas) and other places wrought with conflict. We hope that the "Christmas miracle" of Jesus the Saviour born in very humble surroundings will bring them peace and joy.

The Word became flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that he has from the Father as only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14).

May the birth and pureness of Christmas and the New Year imbue our lives with greater meaning and bring peace. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our warm regards and prayers

Sr Sofiani Warasi

Sr Elisângela Ferreira Belo

Sr Amy Gitana

Sr Miranda Situmorang



NEWS FROM INDONESIA

In recent months, the Sisters of SCMM Indonesia Province have been participating in the Ecology Day activities organised by the Diocese. All the Sisters are enthusiastic to participate in this activity. As it is proclaimed in our Church to be a 'Synodal Church, walking together', our Sisters also carry out this activity together with the people of God. The activities carried out are cleaning the church environment, organising greening by planting trees and creating a mini park around the church building. This activity is not only carried out this month, but this activity has become a regular Diocesan programme carried out by parishioners and our Sisters are also involved in it.



Not only did they participate in the Ecology Day activities, but the Sisters also celebrated the National Scripture Month in September by holding a Scripture Study together with the people of the Church Base Group in the neighbourhood. While praying together, they also deepen their understanding of the Scriptures by reading, studying, asking questions and sharing together what their experiences are based on the Scripture texts they are studying, so that they really know who Jesus Christ whom is they believe in. This activity is held every year especially in September, as this month is designated by the Indonesian Bishops Conference as the "National Scripture Month," which is participated by the entire community including the Sisters of SCMM of the Indonesian Province.



Besides their busy schedule, the Sisters also always take the time to organise family visits/sick visits to the parishioners. They pray for them, encourage them and listen to their sharing. Thus, the presence of the Sisters truly brings strength and joy to those in need.

FAREWELL IN GRATITUDE TO SISTER HERMIN AND SISTER JOSEPHINE



On 1 September, Sr Hermin and Sr Josephine left for Indonesia and the Phillippines.

We are very grateful to them for their dedication, commitment and skill during the past general council term. We look back on many wonderful moments. They helped make the success of the term possible.

We look back on this in gratitude. We wish Sr Hermin and Sr Josephine all the best in the next new challenges.



NEWS FROM EAST TIMOR

September is a month filled with many activities. September is also the National Scripture Month, where many activities are carried out by the Sisters to deepen their understanding of the Scriptures together with the people, and also to increase their faith in God.

In addition, many other events have taken place during the month of September, among which is the joy felt by the sisters, especially Sr Terezinha for the completion of her studies and graduation on 7 September 2023.



May she be able to channel the knowledge she has gained in her daily ministry.

On 25 September 2023, the sisters of SCMM in Timor Leste were delighted by the presence of Sr Bernarda Rona in Timor Leste to assist the ministry of our sisters. Hopefully, the presence of Sr Bernada in Timor Leste will strengthen the ministry of the SCMM Sisters there and the more people we can serve, especially those who are in dire need of our services and helping hands.



Finally, on 27 September 2023, on the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, the Novice Sisters of SCMM Timor Leste filled this celebration by feeding the children in the neighbourhood of the Novitiate - Manleuana. They tried to follow the example of St Vincent de Paul during his lifetime, which was to feed the poor children. May this small service bring joy to the children in the neighbourhood of the Novitiate.



On 16 October 2023, the 146th anniversary of the death of the founder of SCMM, Mgr Joannes Zwijsen, the sisters of Timor Leste Region officially received one girl as a postulant of SCMM. The new postulant was received during a Eucharistic Celebration led by Parish Priest Pe. Fr Jose G, assisted by Deacon Carles in the Ossu Community.



On 27 October 2023 at 09:00 am, Sr Eugenia and Sr Joanita had an audience with the Prime Minister of Timor Leste, Mr Mariano Sabino Asanami at PALACIO GUBERNUR. The topic discussed was the issue of the Formation House which is still dealing with the courts, and he was very open to being ready to help with the settlement process. The second topic discussed was also about the fence of the Novitiate that were damaged by the floods in April 2021. The encouraging news is that they will also help to handle by the local public works. Hopefully this can be realised.

NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

The Dutch province currently has 79 members with an average age of 88.8 years. With the death of 107-year-old Sr Henriëtte Schuring, our oldest sister and the oldest inhabitant of Tilburg, the average age has fallen a little again. The Dutch sisters are strongly committed to each other and continue to search together for ways to make the best of these years. Vulnerability and vitality alternate and lead to a special balance. The members of the provincial council work closely together and are supported by an expert and committed group of staff. Consultative body consultations take place regularly.

The management team prepares the winding-down of the work organisation; this is in good hands with them. Looking at the coming years, there is still much to do and to celebrate. We are tackling this together with joy and confidence.

Zusters van Liefde
VAN O.L.V. MOEDER VAN BARMHARTIGHEID



NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROVINCE



After the Chapter, the new international province (Brazil, Philippines and USA) is working hard to implement the decision to become the international province. From July 1 to July 12, 2024, the first chapter of the new international province will be held in Brazil. Representatives from Brazil, Philippines and the USA will attend. From the general board, the superior general (Sr Sofiani) and the two board members involved (Sr Elisangela and Sr Amy) will attend this important face-to-face meeting. The many preparations require not

only time and attention, but also decisions. The coordinators have made the request to appoint an acting provincial for the coming period. Sr Mel Ryley could not only count on their support and nomination, but also on the support of the general board. Sr Mel Ryley will assume the role of acting provincial from 1 December till the Chapter in July 2024. Thus, within the international province, we are happily working together for the common future.

NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

During a visit to the Philippines, the General Council facilitated the election of the new coordinator, since Sr Amy was elected to the General Council and will soon be living in the Netherlands. Sr Josephine Corpuz, a former member of the General Council, was elected as the new coordinator.

We thank Sister Amy Gitana for her many years of service to our congregation as coordinator and Sister Josephine for making herself available for this new role in the Philippines, as well as being a member of the provincial council.



WORKING VISITS

In consultation with all provinces and regions, the schedule for all working visits in 2024 has been set by the general council. Sr Sofiani, as superior general, will be present at every working visit this year.

Date	Country	Contact person to attend
October 28 till November 12	Philippines	Sr Elisangela
March 2 till March 22	Timor-Leste	Sr Miranda
April 2 till April 3	Belgium	Sr Amy
April 22 till 25 April	UK/Ireland	Sr Amy
May 13 till May 16	The Netherlands	Sr Sofiani
June 26 till July 17	International Province (Brazil)	Sr Elisangela (Sr Amy will also attend)
September 7 till September 29	Indonesia	Sr Miranda

ICB 2024

The general council has set the dates for the ICB 2024. The ICB will take place from **Sunday 17 November to Thursday 21 November 2024** in the Netherlands. In the coming period, the general council will continue its preparations.

MOVING THE GENERALATE

On 9 August, the time had come. All boxes, computers and important documents were moved from Den Bosch to our new address Kloosterstraat 6-21 in Tilburg.

Our new office is now fully furnished and we look back gratefully on all the years we spent in Den Bosch. With the move, we also started working right away in the new digital world. With a large screen in the boardroom, we can now also organise joint Zoom meetings as a general board. Slowly but surely, we are feeling at home in our new location and workplace.

The office offers us an opportunity to further shape our future.

