

NEWSLETTER GENERAL EXECUTIVE

CONGREGATION OF THE BROTHERS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Number 58, June 2019

MEETING IN ROME

May 22-24: semi-annual meeting in Rome for the general superiors of congregations of men with papal right. Our congregation is a member, and is represented by the general superior.

There was a lot of attention paid to topics for the global church, like the special month for missions in October; how to deal with unacceptable behavior in the church, in response to this year's special meeting



in Rome dealing with this topic; the care for creation, as expressed in *Laudato Si* and which will get special attention during the synod of bishops dealing with *Amazonia*. In connection with *Laudato Si*, one of the Eucharistic celebrations was held outside among the trees and by a lake. An inspiring event.

The USG (Council of General Superiors of congregations of men) is usually directly associated with synods of bishops, because it is allowed to propose a number of candidates whom the pope could appoint as members with voting-rights within the synod concerned.

Since the board of the USG had been renewed, including the appointment of a new general secretary, some time was taken to brainstorm about the working of the USG for the next three years. For instance, it was suggested that more cooperation would take place with the UISG, the organization of general superiors of congregations for women.



congregation. The congregational prefect or general secretary almost always attends the USG meetings. This also happened this time with the presence of Mgr. Jose Rodriguez Carballo.

Br. Ton Houde

VISIT TO “TEN ROODEN DUYFHUYZE” IN SINT DENIJS



On Monday, May 6th, the Sisters of Mercy from Ronse and the Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes from Oostakker, visited the homestead “Ten Rooden Duyfhuyze” in Ronse. This homestead dates from around the year 1500, and is the home of birth of Glorieux, the Founder of both congregations. This homestead was never owned by the Glorieux family, but was rented for a number of years by the parents of Glorieux. The current owners, Johan and Mia Van-Hemmens, use it as a cattle farm, while their son runs the cattle butchery; three holiday homes and a camping will shortly become available. Within a rather short amount of time, the old homestead received a renewed appearance.

The remembrance of Glorieux is kept alive, among others with a little chapel at the entrance of the homestead, showing inside a statue of Glorieux, created by br. Jose Janssens. The Van-Hemmens family has set apart a bit of space inside the buildings of the old homestead, for the future use as a small museum in remembrance of Glorieux.

The welcoming was more than friendly. In the past, Johan and Mia have also met with the brothers in Oostakker.

Very worthwhile was the visit to the parish church in St. Denijs. It is an old, beautiful and well-kept church, also having various art treasures, among others the baptismal font used for the baptism of Glorieux and his many siblings. The church remains up to date with a new and appealing “stations of the cross”.

Br. Ton Houde

MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE WITH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMATION

From July 19-26, a study meeting will be held in Villa Erema – Puncak – Bogor, for those responsible for formation in Indonesia, Brazil, and Ethiopia, and the general executive. Special attention will be paid to a program of congregational formation, and how to work with it. Very important is also getting acquainted with one other, and the rather different local conditions. With this getting acquainted, we are also hoping to make a contribution to the unity and bonding within the congregation.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: THE PRESENTATION OF BOOKS

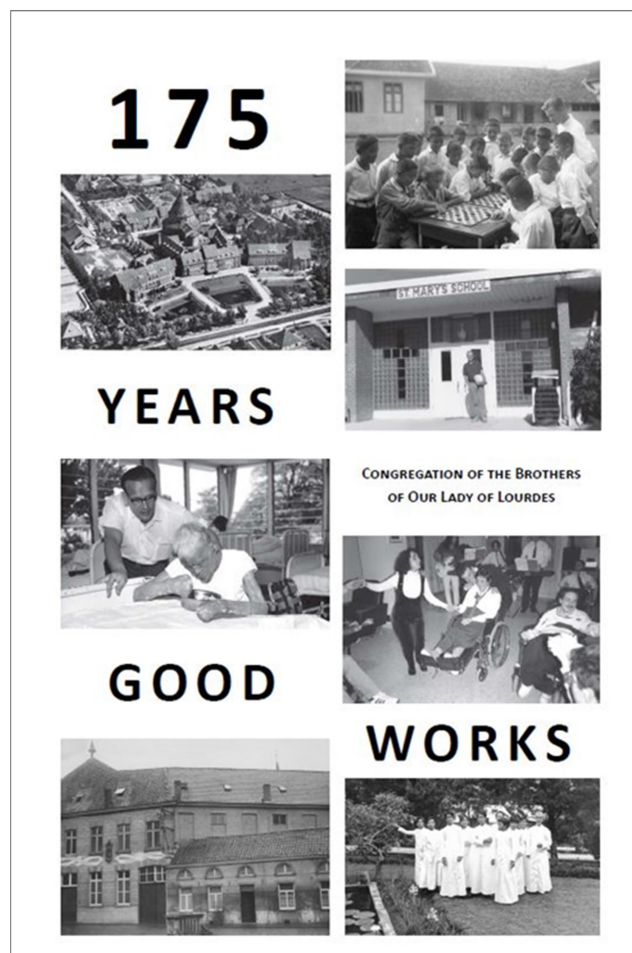
In 2010, the book *“175 years of good works”* was presented in Oostakker. This book describes, with pictures and text, the different localities where the brothers were present (and still are). This book counts 360 pages. A variant of this book in the Portuguese language was printed in February. The book is recommended, but the text was only available in the Dutch language. After the Portuguese translation became available in February, an English translation has been added in June.

In 1980, the congregation celebrated its 150th birthday. For this reason, the general executive had invited br. Edesius Boerrigter to write a memorial book about the history of the congregation. He hesitated to do this, but yet gladly accepted the invitation, resulting in a book entitled, *“150 Years Brothers of Good Works.”* This book also has been translated into English by br. Hugo Verhulst, and has been made available by the secretariat of the general executive.

The general executive will present both versions during the international meeting in Indonesia of those responsible for education and formation (July).

MEANS OF UNIFICATION: SPIRITUALITY

In order to getting to know better and promoting within the congregation the spirituality of the Founder, five booklets have been prepared that specifically deal with this. Brother Polykarpus Sin Siong has translated these booklets into the Indonesian language; they will be printed by the printing office of Desa Putera. These booklets have already proven their value for the process of formation in Brazil and Ethiopia.



RECTOR LUCIEN LOOTENS

After having been the rector for the Oostakker brothers for 36 years, the Very Reverend Mister Lucien Lootens has, for reasons of his health, said farewell to Oostakker.

For several decades, he shared the ups and downs of the brothers. For the Institute in Oostakker, he also was of great importance. Faithfully leading the daily Eucharistic celebrations, preparing and leading meaningful moments of reflection, the funerals, and particularly delivering the sermons in memory of the deceased brothers, all these were the tasks he accepted with a great deal of responsibility.

The nursing care he now needs, make a move to a care centre a necessity.



COMING AND GOING

These brothers will enjoy a well-deserved holiday:

- Br. Pedro Goossens (from Brazil): August 4-October 7
- Br. Hugo Verhulst (from Ethiopia): August 5-October 8
- Br. Eric Claeys (from RD Congo): July 3-beginning of September

NEW CONVENT BOARD FOR DEPOORTER-EINDHOVEN

After consultation with the brothers, br. Jan van der Steen has been appointed as the vicar for the Depoorter community. The brothers Frans Pikkemaat and Cor Warmerdam have finished their activities as members of the board for the community.

A FINAL WORD

The Indonesian brothers Yohannes Rahaq Wutun, Albertus Insantuan, and Yohannes Maria Vianney Sengkoen, will make their first vows in Lawang on July 1.

Brother Maksimus Boi will make his vows for life in Gunung Sahari on July 28.

In name of everybody: our congratulations.

We wish all of you a good summer and a relaxing holiday.

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