

# NEWSLETTER GENERAL EXECUTIVE

## CONGREGATION OF THE BROTHERS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

number 65, June 2021

### ETHIOPIA: BR. ABEBE MAKES VOWS FOR LIFE

On May 30, Br. Abebe made his vows for life in the parish church of St. Gabriel in Addis Ababa. Family members, among them his mother, fellow brothers, religious and a few friends were the witnesses. Leading the ceremony were the nuncio and bishop Markus who, in name of the bishops, has special interest in religious. The vows were received by the general superior br. Ton Houdé. The ceremony was simple and appealing, taking also into account the danger of contamination by the corona virus. The ceremony was followed by a lunch in the hall of the parish.

Br. Abebe worked as a lab technician in the laboratory of the St. Gabriel Health Center, after which he followed an education in Kenia for someone responsible for formation, and, after making his vows for life, has been appointed as the person responsible for formation for the district of Ethiopia.



(above) Brs. Hugo Verhulst and Wossen Kefale side-by-side with br. Abebe; the general superior seated.

(Left) Br. Abebe with his mother, and kneeling with a candle.

*br. Ton Houdé*

### SPIRITUALITY

The Yayasan Budi Mulia Lourdes is the foundation responsible for the management and administration of 27 schools and 2 outpatient clinics of the Congregation in Indonesia. What we are talking about here, is the schools.

In addition to management and administration, there is an important task to pay sufficient attention to the philosophy of life. A special committee consisting of teachers, pedagogues and members of the board is currently working on a project centered on the spirituality of Stefanus Modestus Glorieux – founder of the Congregation. The intention is that at all schools, i.e. kindergartens, primary schools, schools of primary and higher secondary education, there will be one hour a week dedicated to dwelling on that spirituality and that that spirituality is translated into a practical interpretation at every level. It is mainly about the values that we see with Glorieux and that can be propagated.

So a big challenge obviously. That is why the committee has about 40 members. Work is being done on an educational publication for the teachers that can serve as a basis for the lessons. The edition should be ready in January 2022, so that it can be used from the 2022-2023 school year. The name of the publication is KEBUDIMULIAAN.



On display are images of the works of mercy from brother Nico Jacobs in a room for the spirituality of Glorieux.

*Br. Herman Jozef Gultom*

## CONSTRUCTION FEVER IN ADDIS ABABA

For the St. Gabriel Catholic Health Centre, which belongs to the archdiocese of Addis Abeba, and in which the congregation has spent its best energies since the year 2010, a thorough renovation has been needed for several years. During the initial construction of the building, the swampy soil was not sufficiently taken

into account, soon afterwards creating visible cracks in the walls, a leaking roof of the main building, and foundations that proved to be too weak.



The activities in full swing, supervised by br. Hugo Verhulst.

Finding an adequate solution was not simple, and would be costly. Thanks to Heineken and a generous American donor, a hopefully adequate solution was chosen. The foundations of the buildings will be reinforced, the roof of the main building will be renewed, cracks will be fixed, and a paintjob will be handled without delay. Heineken has shown itself from its best side, and the Heineken representative in Ethiopia supervises the entire building process. The official commissioning has been planned for September. Meanwhile, the usual service is continued.



Mrs. Corin Poppel plays a crucial role in this process, because she established and maintains the contacts with Heineken and the American donor. Corin works for the general executive, and for Good Works Glorieux. She tries to raise funds, particularly for the projects in Ethiopia. She is involved in setting up project requests, establishes contacts with sponsors, takes care of the accountability towards the sponsors. She is herself strongly involved in the projects themselves, so that she knows what she is talking about.

Two brothers are working directly in the project, and others are involved in the executive.

For the Elderly Project, the necessary adaptations have been made. Here, some 90 elderly people come daily for a warm meal, take a shower, do the laundry, get a haircut, get medical attention. Because of Covid, meals can only be picked up, but normally meals can be eaten in the dining room. Some parts of the house couldn't really be used properly anymore, like the kitchen, parts of the roof and the gutters; a bit of paint was also needed.



## CORONAVIRUS AND THE CONGREGATION

In most countries, the vaccination of the people is in full swing. Several countries are relaxing the measures when the numbers show improvement. As far as the brothers are concerned, no infection have been noted until now, and practically everyone is vaccinated.



The director of the Health Center, the master builder, Corin van Poppel and the representative of Heineken on the almost renovated roof.

The activities are nearing the end, and then there will be a well equipped kitchen, and the totality of house will look well-cared for. It is going to be a worthy place for caring for the homeless or poorly housed elderly. In this case, the costs are paid for by the congregation, and the organization of Diplomatic Spouses in Ethiopia makes a big effort to pay for a large part of the kitchen equipment. Different brothers, among them novices and a postulant, have a day or partial task in the Elderly Project. It is a project that radiates the spirit of Glorieux.

In the meantime, quite a bit of work was done for the house of the brothers. (picture left).

*br. Ton Houdé*

	infections	death cases
DR Congo	33.577	817
Brazil	16.984.218	474.414
Spain	3.711.027	80.309
Belgium	1.072.175	25.051
Netherlands	1.665.846	17.695
Indonesia	1.869.325	51.992
Ethiopia	273.175	4.220
Curacao	12.280	123
Source : World Health Organization 10 - VI - 2021		

## SHORT NOTICES

### BRAZIL

For the care centre in Jordania, “Lar Glorieux”, a new outdoor space is being made available to enjoy the sunshine. Three clearly keen Brazilian brothers of temporary vows live and work in this centre (Photo: bros. Guilherme, Renan and Edenilson, with a resident).

### WEBSITE

The makeover of the congregational website is still continuing. Among others, it is still being planned to briefly commemorate all the brothers who passed away since the year 2000. You will also find a picture of each brother. You will also be able to find two walking routes: the one of Glorieux in Ronse, and the brother-path in Dongen. You will also be able to access the Newsletters from the general executive, as well as those of the Dutch provincial executive. The name of the website is: [www.broeders-olv-lourdes.org](http://www.broeders-olv-lourdes.org)



### WALTER BOES PASSED AWAY

On May 28, 2021, Mr. Walter Boes passed away (see picture), the founder of “De Kromme Boom” (Bent Tree) in Oostakker. VZW “De Kromme Boom” was founded officially in 1985, but the first ideas about a project of this sort go back to 1978. Hereby, the ideas of Glorieux, as well as contacts with different brothers of Glorieux, played a large role. The slogan chosen was: “No handout, but self-reliance.” In “De Kromme Boom”, young people for whom the normal treatment systems didn’t/don’t work, were and are sheltered; in addition, a social workshop was established, which, in 2019, changed into a “Made-to-Measure” shop. “De Groenhof” (Green Garden) has a flower shop, a meeting and social gathering space, and a restaurant. All activities are designed to offer work and a future to young people who are having difficulties with finding a place as well as work in society. Many of the workshops, as well as the residence and “De Groenhof” have been built by the participants. Three brothers have been (were) very closely associated with “De Kromme Boom”: br. Jozef De Block, br. Hector Van Haverbeke, and br. Michel Valcke. One of Walter’s sons, Marnix, has been in charge of the project for quite some time. In addition, there are quite a number of experts who contribute voluntarily by making sure that all administrative demands are met.



br. Ton Houdé

[all translations, courtesy of br. Henk Gal (Eindhoven)]

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