

# NEWSLETTER GENERAL EXECUTIVE

## CONGREGATION OF THE BROTHERS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

number 74, August 2023

### MISSION IN THE VALLEY OF THE RIVER JEQUITINHONHA

On July 1, 2023 we arrived in Jordânia, I Bro. Edenilson, the novices Brothers Arison and Fábio and the aspirant Jone (Francisco). We were welcomed into the community by the brothers Guilherme and Vando for a period of gaining experience in Lar Glorieux (Home for mainly elderly people in need of help) and for a period of living together in the brother house.



In Lar (house) Glorieux we did traditional activities and table games with the residents and we helped with the normal daily activities, together with the staff of the house. We also organized a Festa Junina. June festivities are folkloric celebrations held in June or July with a lot of dancing and singing and in which a fictitious wedding is celebrated. You saw happy faces and a number of singers added luster to the party. Very animated.

We then travelled to the town of Salto da Divisa where we participated in a mission in one of the sections of the parish of São Sebastião. We were very well received by the parish priest Father Paulo Roberto and two postulants Joanderson and Felipe from the Institute of the Little Brothers of the Blessed Sacrament.

The theme of the vocation year *Vocation: Grace and Mission* and the motto *With burning hearts, on foot*, indicated the direction of this missionary action. We were challenged to motivate a somewhat worn-out community, where there was little participation in the activities of the church community, but which was open to receive us and who nevertheless looked to God.

Every day we visited the various families, had meetings with the young people, organized missionary formation, there was adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, there were meetings with the children and prayer celebrations.







*Mission in the Salto da Divisa Catholic Parish.*

There were many experiences of a God present in the different realities of life, faces and attitudes of a group of people open to the other and full of hope. We found ourselves motivated and inspired to go along with God's People along the way.

After the mission, we went to Porto Seguro, for some moments of relaxation. We felt happy, cheerful, and carefree. For our candidate Jone it was very special, because it was the first time he saw the beach and the sea. We returned to Jordânia to take part in a mission in one of the parts of the parish.

*Bro. Edenilson Goncalves Coelho*

## DECEASED BUT CERTAINLY NOT FORGOTTEN

In the diocese of Almenara, the establishment of Caritas Diocesana Almenara is remembered. That was forty years ago. Bro. Piet (Pedro) Goossens and Miss Ana Luiza were the first permanent employees. Both are deceased – Bro. Piet on June 26, 2021 - but are commemorated on this occasion. Because Bro. Piet played such an important role, the brothers had a life sketch made by Frater Henrique Cristiano José Matos in 2022. This beautiful concise overview work that was presented at the General Chapter in Denekamp (the Netherlands) last year is still available. His commitment to Caritas in Almenara is mentioned alongside many other good works.



## NEW BISHOP OF ALMENARA

The Brothers in Brazil have a close relationship with the Diocese of Almenara. Since the establishment of the diocese in 1981, many brothers have worked closely with it. In the early years, these were mainly Bro. Pedro Goossens, Bro. Amado Poppe, Bro. Herbert de Gier and Bro. Marc Etienne.

Mgr. José Hamilton de Castro is the fifth Bishop of Almenara. He was duly installed on July 16 this year. José Hamilton was born on April 20, 1961 in the town of Monte Santo de Minas Gerais and is thus familiar with the diocese. The photo depicts a congregational visit to the new bishop.



*From left to right: Jone (aspirant), Bro. Dennis, Bro. Arisson (novice), Mgr. José Hamilton de Castro (bishop), Bro. Guilherme, Bro. Fábio (novice) and Bro. Vando.*

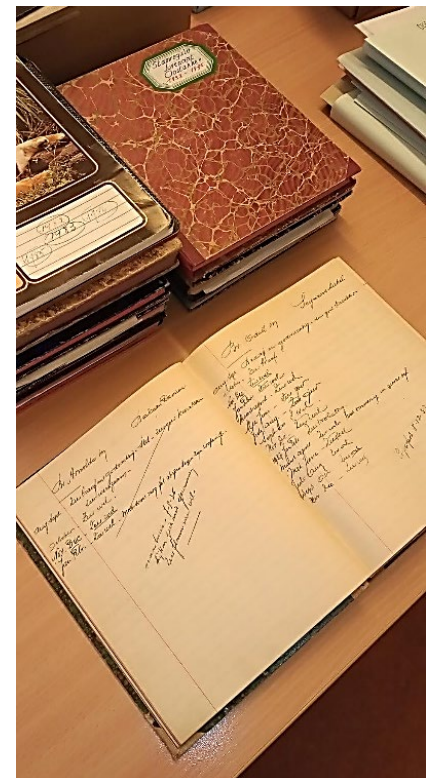
## OLD PAPER AND OLD PAPERS

Feverish activity in the former residence of the Belgian provincial executive: with the motto *everything must go*, people work without stopping to empty rooms and cupboards. Countless hours later, that results in a mountain of old paper. A large part will go to a paper recycling company. Duplicates of books are given a new destination in the libraries of individual interested parties and local history circles.

The old papers, and this means archive, are given a different destination. These are carefully sorted out and sorted in August to be handed over to KADOC, the scientific organization in Leuven (Belgium) that preserves and discloses the monastery archives, this autumn. These documents will then be available for the interested (amateur) historian, until now still after permission from the general executive.

Many words have already been written about the archives of the Congregation. The archives of the Dutch province are kept in the *Heritage Center for Dutch Monastic Life* located in Sint-Agatha. The archives of the Belgian province (including Congo/Zaire) and of the general executive are stored in the cellars of the KADOC.

Anyone interested in or wanting to know what is stored in the KADOC can consult the archive inventory at <https://abs.lias.be/Query/archivplansuche.aspx>. This archive is divided into two parts, namely the written archive on the one hand and the image archive on the other. By the way, the image archive is one of the more popular archives, according to the research center. For the Dutch province, surf to <https://www.erfgoedkloosterleven.nl/> Consultation preferably does not take place unprepared and with these basic rules in mind: have a good search strategy and ask the right questions!





## GENERAL EXECUTIVE MEETING IN INDONESIA

The Superior General Bro. Ton Houdé and Bro. Franklin Clemencia departed by plane from Schiphol to Jakarta on Tuesday, August 1. They will stay in Indonesia for a full month and together with the three Indonesian councilors – who are of course already on site – they will complete a fairly full program. The general executive will also be present at the jubilee celebrations on August 28 in Desa Putera.

The main focus of this trip is the visits to and talks with the brothers, projects and executives on Java. In 2019, the communities and brothers in Sumatra and Bangka were visited. And after that? The reader will certainly remember that traveling in the years 2020-21 was not possible or advisable due to the global corona pandemic. You will learn more about this visit to Indonesia in the next newsletter, that's for sure !



*Seated from left to right: Brothers Ton, Gregorius, Paulus, Albert, Robertus.  
Standing from left to right: Bros. Januarius, Herman, Franklin.*

## THE ROAD TO OOSTAKKER

The works in the Sint-Jozefstraat have been halted for a few weeks due to the annual construction leave. In our humble opinion, the workers have earned their holiday because the first part of the road, from the parking lot of EDUGO to the Generalate, is already largely finished. The section from Onze-Lieve-Vrouwstraat to the Generaalat will soon be tackled, the footpaths will be reconstructed and a start will be made with the installation of street furniture.



*After years, the Sint-Jozefstraat will become a street without pits and without crumbling asphalt.*

*This issue # 74 was edited by: TH, MG & EGC*

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