

# NEWSLETTER GENERAL EXECUTIVE

## CONGREGATION OF THE BROTHERS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

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### MISSION INDONESIAN BROTHERS: EUROPE

Br. Albert Komang and Br. Ivan Sigallingging left Indonesia and came to the Netherlands. On January 29, the community gathered for a eucharistic celebration in which the brothers and all others present asked for God's blessing on this congregational step. Two days later, on January 31, the two boarded the plane to Doha in good spirits. After a break there, they set course in another plane to Amsterdam.

Both brothers arrived at Schiphol without any problems where they were met by the brothers Theo van den Boer and Theo Bekkers from Eindhoven.

Tired but satisfied, packed and loaded, they were able to get out of the car a few hours later at the entrance of Depoorter. The brothers of Eindhoven had come out to get acquainted and to give them a warm welcome.

After a first short acquaintance, both went to their rooms where they could unpack everything, freshen up and relax a bit.

The first period will mainly focus on integration and learning the Dutch language.



*Brotherhouse Depoorter: the door swings wide open.  
From left to right: Br. Ivan, Br. Albert, Br. Theo van den Boer. (photo: courtesy of Br. Henk Gal)*

## BRAZIL : RENEWAL OF VOWS



In the chapel of the brotherhouse in Jordânia, two of our fellow brothers renewed their vows.

This was done on Wednesday, January 29 by the Brothers Arison Evangelista dos Santos and Fábio Alves de Sousa.

For the occasion, Br. Vando took charge of the renewal because Brother Heládio – the superior – was unexpectedly unable to attend. The photo shows Br. Vando between Br. Fábio (l.) and Br. Arison (r.). Far right: Br. Guilherme.

By renewing their vows, they promise to continue in the spirit of Glorieux by doing good works for the benefit of the weak and the poor.

## INDONESIA: NEW CLINIC DESA PUTERA FESTIVELY INAUGURATED

You could already read in the previous newsletters that the old clinic building in Desa Putera (Jakarta) had been demolished to make way for a new building. The current construction is more than welcome, because the previous building was completely worn-out and no longer suitable for the requirements of primary health care today.



The works are over and on January 17 everyone was present for the solemn blessing. On the photo we see from left to right: Br. Anastasius Tukiman (chairman of the board), parish priest Petrus Bimo Handoko MSF, Br. Gregorius Suwardi (provincial superior), Dr. Pius Harris Aryanto (director of the clinic).



## FEBRUARY 11: OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On February 11, the feast of the first patroness of the congregation is celebrated: Our Lady of Lourdes. A solemnity for the entire congregation.

The charism of the congregation is summarized: the dedication to good works, which are works of mercy, with attention to the poor, the person in need, the little person who is not respected and who does not count.

In Lourdes, we see Mary appearing to Bernadette Soubirous. She is poor, illiterate and does not count, but Mary sees her, has faith in her and shares her message of encouragement with her.

Lourdes is still a place of encouragement and hope for many sick people and people in need. May all brothers be open to encouraging and giving hope to the people in need.

The holy year that we have entered also wants to be a year of hope. In these difficult times, hope is desperately needed, just think of the great needs in war zones such as Congo where our fellow

brother Eric Claeys lives in a sometimes-threatened city like Bukavu, of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, between Russia and Ukraine, of the struggle in Sudan.

But even in areas where there is no war, many people have a hard time keeping their heads above water and offering a dignified life to their families. Let us follow the example of Mary, which directs us to the imitation of her son, who had an eye for the needs of every human being.

During the preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our postulant in Brazil will begin his novitiate on February 8 as Br. Francisco Alves de Souza.

We wish you a beautiful celebration and a lot of new inspiration to remain faithful to our vocation as brothers. May all others also remain faithful to their vocation and without pretensions, in all simplicity, see the person in need and assist him.



## BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES OOSTAKKER IS BEING RESTORED



Last year we wrote that the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes on the façade of the generalate had been refurbished. There is now also good news for visitors to the pilgrimage site in Oostakker.

We are delighted with the news that a few weeks ago it was decided to finance repair work on the basilica of the pilgrimage site located next to the Generalate.

Because it is a protected monument, part of the funds will come from the government, the other part will be raised by the diocese (Ghent). The execution of the works is planned for next year and this should put an end to the serious moisture and water problems. Accessibility will also be improved (e.g. for wheelchair users).

*the editors*

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