

# NEWSLETTER GENERAL EXECUTIVE

CONGREGATION OF THE BROTHERS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

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## VISIT TO INDONESIA

From August 11th to 24th, Superior General Brother Ton Houdé and Brother Albert (Komang) Alit, a member of the general executive, visited the brothers in Indonesia. Indonesia is not just around the corner, so it requires a long and rather tiring journey. The journey from house to house takes 24 hours, 14 of which are by air. Our permanent address was with the brothers in Jakarta. "Permanent" needn't be taken too literally, because after one day of rest, we left with a few other brothers for Kalimantan (Borneo), where a new congregational community was to be blessed in Sotek - Penajam.



*In accordance with Indonesian custom, a large banner was displayed depicting the main characters, announcing the event and thus giving it wide visibility.*

August 14th was the big day. An organizing committee had been formed, and numerous volunteers ensured everything went smoothly: welcoming guests, hosting the blessing service, enjoying a hearty meal afterward, cleaning up the house, and so on. The house is linked to the establishment of the new Indonesian capital there. We were able to see that the presidential palace, as well as the necessary ministries, is already there. The construction work made a good impression, but it will take several more years before everything is complete and can actually be put into use.



*Br. Tarcisus Kasino welcomes General Superior  
Br. Ton with a traditional gift.*

We also heard of contacts with Brasilia, where a similar process took place in the early 1960s. It was also interesting to see that the main religions in Indonesia each have a building for their worship on a shared site. Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism all have their own place in close proximity to each other.

During the week, there were numerous visits and meetings to update on the congregation's situation in Indonesia. A particular visit was made to Desa Putera, a very large site owned by the Vincentius Foundation. There is an orphanage owned by the Vincentius Foundation, a large parish church under construction, owned by the

archdiocese, a renovated brothers' house that is still partially under construction, a renovated clinic, and several schools of the Budi Mulia School Foundation. You could say that a lot has been or will be renewed.

August 17 is Indonesia's national Independence Day. President Sukarno declared Indonesia's independence on August 17, 1945. This is celebrated annually, including in church, where services and readings have been adapted. This year, the day fell on a Sunday. Full churches, meticulously organized services, and excellent choirs are generally the hallmarks of Catholic church services.



*Group photo: br. Gerardus Majella, br. Franciscus Sirait, br. Herman Joseph Gultom, br. Anastasius Tukiman, br. Tarcisus Kasino, br. Ton Houdé, the bishop, provincial superior br. Gregorius Suwardi, br. Ronald Situmorang, br. Benedictus Suyatmo en br. Albert Komang posing together in the new house.*

On August 23, Brother Albert Insantuan took his vows for life in a large hall of the school building next to the provincial government building in Jakarta. In that hall, we found large posters of the works of mercy, painted by Brother Nico Jacobs, images of the founder, and images of the three

brothers who would be featured that day: Brother Albert for his vows for life, Brother Eduardus Susanto, 25 years of vows, and Brother Ignatius Ngatijo, 40 years of vows. Family members of all three brothers were present.

Special attention was given to Magdalena, the mother of Brother Albert, who had come from Timor. A woman who had been a widow for many years and from that moment on had to raise her three daughters and a son alone. She belongs to the breed of strong women the Book of Proverbs (31) speaks of. It was wonderful to meet such people.

Meetings were held with Brother Kanisius and Brother Martin Dol, the two oldest brothers in Indonesia. Brother Martin is the oldest and the only

brother of Dutch descent. Discussions were held with Brother Gregorius Suwardi, provincial superior, regarding, among other things, the upcoming provincial chapter of Indonesia in October. Much new construction has been completed, but there are many questions and concerns about the future. Consultations were held with both Brother Gregorius and Father Margo regarding congregational meetings in Indonesia at the end of February and the beginning of March 2026. A celebration of the 100th anniversary of the congregation in Indonesia will also be held at that time. The time was well spent; it was wonderful to have seen many brothers. On Sunday, August 24th, the return journey began without any problems. Greetings from Indonesia.



*Br. Ton, br. Albert, his niece and his mother, br. Eduardus, br. Ignatius and br. Gregorius.*



*Br. Albert Insantuan with Mary after taking the vows.*



*Br. Martin Dol with br. Ton.*

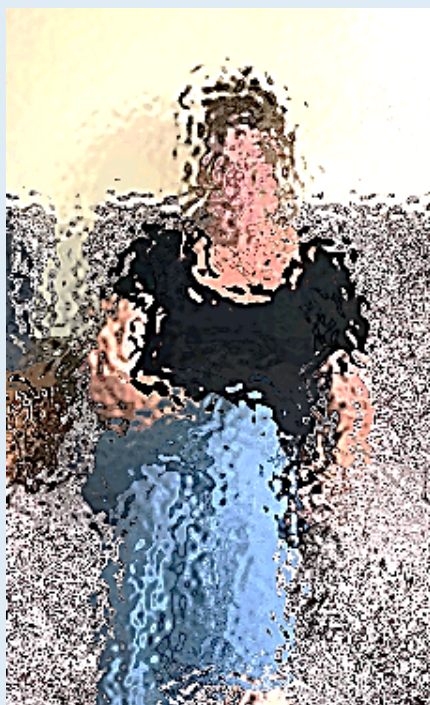
## BRAZIL



In Brazil, our brother Guilherme graduated as a nurse. He graduated from a university in Almenara and lives and works in Lar Glorieux, Jordânia.

The photo shows him with his mother and a good friend, as well as fellow brothers (from left to right) Heládio Firmino Rodrigues, Vando Rosa de Mendonça, Fábio Alves de Sousa and Hugo Fahik.

## GRATEFUL FAREWELL



The congregation and the Stichting Goede Werken Glorieux (Good Works Glory Foundation) are forced to say goodbye to a loyal fundraising colleague, particularly for projects in Ethiopia. Mrs. Corin van Poppel was a very efficient employee who raised significant funds for the congregation's major projects in Ethiopia.

The Stichting Goede Werken Glorieux supports the fundraising. Corin, who lived in Ethiopia for a long time with her husband and children, was and remains a cherished figure among the staff at the centers in Addis Ababa. These ties won't disappear overnight, but her health no longer allows her to continue working.

Many thanks for her great dedication and the human approach to her work.

*Br. Ton Houdé*

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