

2024 – April (No. 2)



At a former convent of the Augustinians in Domusdela (now Hotel Marienhage) in Eindhoven, during a “City walk” of the General Council, Religious House Netherlands Council and Staff, April 2024.

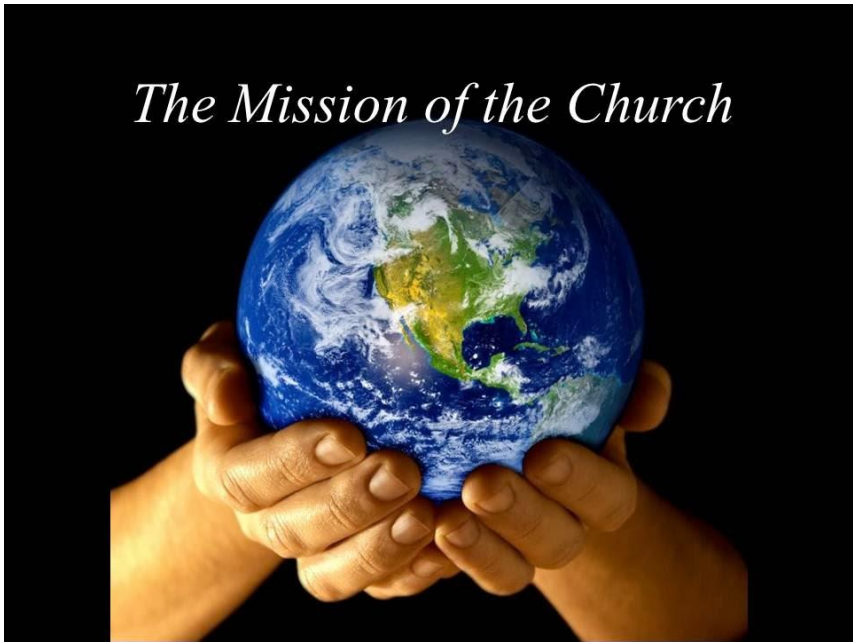
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Herewith we present to you the second issue of IGC in 2024, which will inform you about the following:

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- ❖ **Joint Meeting FIC-CMM, Netherlands**
- ❖ **First Session Provincial Chapter of Malawi**
- ❖ **First Session Provincial Chapter, Ghana**
- ❖ **First Session Provincial Chapter, Chile**
- ❖ **First Session Provincial Chapter Indonesia**
- ❖ **Jubilee Celebrations**
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## A Synodal Church in Mission

The Church has always been on a mission since her establishment. The living foundation of this movement is Jesus' words: "Go, therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost (Mat 28:19). The mission that Christ has entrusted to the Church corresponds to humanity's greatest need.'



The world's most significant need in this post-modern society, where Christendom is no longer the norm and secularization in all its forms has taken place, is a transformed people. Let us take one example: the problem of world hunger. We know that the leading cause is not because of too many people or insufficient food. The earth produces more than enough to feed everyone. What is needed is more transformed people who, like Jesus, are joyfully willing to devote themselves to the needs of others, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

It is to answer this challenge that Pope Francis begins the ecclesiastical movement of “the new evangelization for the transmission of the faith”. This endeavour began with the issuing of the Apostolic Exhortation “*Evangelii Gaudium*” (2013), by which he developed the theme of the proclamation of the Gospel in the contemporary world. The document that is opened with the words “The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus” is a heartfelt appeal to all baptized persons to bring Christ’s love to others “permanently in a state of mission”, conquering “the great danger in today’s world”, that of an individualist “desolation and anguish” as the fruit of a life without any experience of God’s encounter. The Pope invites the faithful to “recover the original freshness of the Gospel”, finding “new avenues” and “new paths of creativity” without enclosing Jesus in our “dull categories”. For such endeavours, he emphasized the need for a “pastoral and missionary conversion” and a “renewal of ecclesiastical structures” to enable them to become “more mission-oriented”.



This is one reason for Pope Francis's initiative of the synodality movement. Synodality is needed to continue the Church's evangelizing mission while traversing the world. In short, synodality is ordered to mission. There is hope that through this exercise, the Church might be able to connect more easily with the ever-changing contemporary society so that the unchanging truths of the Gospel might permeate into it simultaneously and effectively.

The document "Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church" underlines that: "Synodality is lived out in the Church in the service of mission. *Ecclesia peregrinans natura sua missionaria est*; she exists in order to evangelize. The whole People of God is an agent of the proclamation of the Gospel. Every baptised person is called to be a protagonist of the mission since we are all missionary disciples. The Church is called, in synodal synergy, to activate the ministries and charisms present in her life and to listen to the voice of the Spirit to discern the ways of evangelization.

### **Joint Meeting FIC-CMM, Netherlands**



The collaboration between FIC General Council and the Brothers of Our Lady Mother of Mercy (CMM) leadership continues through joint fraternal encounters. This year, the meeting of the two councils took place in the FIC General Council office, Prins Bisschopsingel 22. Sharing experiences and inspirations has always been the primary purpose of our encounter and collaboration; thus, the FIC Brothers reported on two of their international meetings and a canonical visitation.

They gave a brief retrospective sharing on the FIC Journey to Spiritual Enrichment at the CB Sisters' convent from 1 to 21 October 2023. The theme of the encounter was "*Called Together and Sent to be the Bearers of Good News in a Joyful Life*", and attended by 17 brothers from our four provinces.

From 25 October to 19 November 2023, Bros. Augustine Kubdaar and Raphael Besigrinee made a canonical visitation to Chile, which now consists of 8 brothers: 3 Chilean, 2 Spaniard, 2 Indonesian and 1 Dutch. They live in two small communities: San Antonio and San Luis, both in Talca. This year, they celebrated the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the first brothers in the province, a celebration we were privileged to witness.

The third event was the preparation for the FIC General Chapter in Ghana this year. The preparation for this event has just begun around the theme "*Renewal of our Consecrated Life and Mission in the Spirit of Synodality*". Thirty-one delegates from all our provinces and the Religious House Netherlands are expected to attend this meeting from 4 to 24 August.

The CMM General Council also briefed the house on several undertakings including the general picture of the CMM congregation, emphasizing on the new mission in Zambia. On 1 May 2022, four pioneering brothers opened the new CMM community in Kawambwa. A little less than a year, they were ready to receive the first five students in the newly established Technical school.

Currently, the school has 50 students in both the carpentry and the tailoring departments of the school.

They also reported on a workshop for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. It took place in Rome and was organized by the *Care and Protection Commission of UISG/USG*. About 133 participants from 90 congregations were represented. The workshop aimed to equip participants with skills in safeguarding vulnerable persons.

Lastly, the CMM Brothers reported on associate membership in their congregation. With the decline in new vocations in Europe in the 80s, Congregations were worried about the continuation of their mission and charism. This was the feeling of the CMM in the Netherlands as well. In the 90s, the Congregation of CMM Brothers began accepting lay people as associate members. These people want to share their lives with the Brothers without becoming brothers. They want to live out the essential charism of the Congregation in the context of their own lives, for example, in their work and family. They participate in the mission of the congregation by committing to a specific work and connecting with the community. Currently, they have nine members only in the Dutch province.

We held this meeting in a relaxed and cordial atmosphere. Each side felt supported by the other in our common mission of providing our members' best spiritual and material needs.

## **First Session Provincial Chapter of Malawi**

The first session of the Provincial Chapter of Malawi began with a prayer service at Venray FIC Cottage in Mangochi on 22 February 2024. The theme “Transformation and Growth of the Malawi Province in the Spirit of our Founders” was inspired by articles 9 and 10 of the FIC Constitutions, denoting the ‘Spirit of our founders’ and ‘protecting their heritage’. The Chapter Moderator, Rev. Fr. Jester Banda OCD, led participants in a recollection on the first morning based on two themes: the power of silence in transformation and growth and Mary as a model of transformation and growth. This spiritual exercise sufficiently prepared delegates for the main discussion of the chapter. These include the presentation and discussion of the Provincial Council report, the financial report, presentation, discussion and consideration of proposals to the Provincial Chapter. Issues on communication and the FIC Journey to Spiritual Enrichment 2023, formed part of the discussion. The three-day meeting ended successfully on 24 February with the election of General Chapter delegates.



*Chapter delegates in Venray Cottage Conference room*

### **First Session Provincial Chapter, Ghana**

The official opening session of the Provincial Chapter 2024 took place in the St. Louis conference hall from 21 to 27 January 2024, under the theme “*Deepening Our Religious Identity As Brothers FIC in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*”. Bros. Fabian Bezel and Godwin Kuu-Ireme led the opening prayer service on behalf of the Provincial Council - Ghana. The Provincial Superior (Br. Seregeous Dery) welcomed all delegates, the facilitator, Rev. Fr. Dominic Apee and the chapter functionaries to the week-long programme.



In his welcome address, the Provincial Superior outlined the key points of the Chapter after which he took participants through the daily programme, highlighting the role of functionaries in bringing success to the Chapter.

The Chapter Moderator led participants in a recollection on the first morning under the theme, “*Deepening Our Identity as FIC Brothers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*”. He made a three-point presentation, focusing on “FIC Brothers Being Consecrated Men”, with particular reference to VITA CONSECRATA. The second and third parts reminded the Brothers of the history and charism of the FIC Congregation.

Activities lined up for the Chapter included sharing the expectations, joys and worries of participants, the Provincial Council's report, discussions on the report, and the election of General Chapter delegates. The Chapter process was inspired by the daily prayer services every morning and the Eucharist, which concluded the day. The final topic was the corrections, discussion and consideration of 34 proposals to the Provincial Chapter presented by individual brothers and communities.

### **First Session Provincial Chapter, Chile**

Chile Province successfully conducted its first session of their Provincial Chapter from Sunday, April 7 to Wednesday, April 10, with the theme: *"United and Sustained by Jesus, We will be Witnesses of the Gospel"*. The event in a retreat house called Betalpu, was moderated by Mrs Sandra Robles, a theologian from the Catholic University of Maule, in Talca. All eight (8) brothers of the province were in attendance.



In an opening prayer service, Bro. Yohanes Krismanto invited delegates to be encouraged by the Spirit of the risen Jesus at the beginning of this provincial discernment process.

After the welcome address by the Provincial Superior, Bro Lucio Torres, the moderator led the meeting in a reflection on synodality, followed by a personal reflection and a time of sharing. This paved the way for the day's business, namely forming committees to manage the Chapter's affairs. These include the agenda, the finance, chapter message, and communication committees.

In the rest of the sessions, delegates delved into the essentials of the Chapter, covering five areas: the FIC mission in Chile, the community of brothers, spirituality in religious life, religious life and synodality, and ecology. The moderator concluded this discussion with a presentation on the Apostolic Exhortation “Laudate Deum”. The four-day session culminated in a plenary sharing on the presentation and the election of delegates to the General Chapter 2024.

### **First Session Provincial Chapter, Indonesia**



Indonesia province held a pre-chapter session in Roncalli Retreat House - Salatiga, from 29 to 31 December 2023. This pre-chapter was a preparation for the Provincial Chapter, to be held in four sessions: two before the General Chapter 2024 and two after. The main issues on the agenda included the discussion points of the Provincial Chapter, establishing of committees and their job descriptions, and determining the dates of the Provincial Chapter sessions.

As a spiritual support, the Province formulated a "Chapter Prayer" which is prayed by brothers during communal and private prayers. The prayer is meant to encourage the involvement of each brother in the chapter process, ensuring the renewal of our life and work. The prayer committee was tasked to prepare prayer services to be used in the communities.

The first session itself was held from 5 - 8 March 2024 at the same venue and attended by all delegates. Father Edy Purwanto, the administrator of the Archdiocese of Semarang, led the Eucharistic celebration. Father Setyo Wibawa, SJ and Prof. Budi Widianarko M.Sc. delivered very rich and inspiring inputs to the delegates, giving them relevant inspiration on issues related to the Brothers' vocation, religious leadership and the education apostolate. Delegates then delved deep into the core matter of the chapter, namely the presentation and discussion of the Provincial Council report, the Provincial Treasurer's report, and the presentation and processing of proposals. The session ended with the election of the 2024 General Chapter delegates, thanks to the able directorship of the moderator Fr. Ignatius Budiono.



The theme of the discernment process is *"In the Spirit of Brotherhood Actualizing the Identity of Brothers FIC in Accordance with the Times"*. Hopefully, this theme will inspire the brothers to do God's will. The delegates believe that growing together in brotherhood will actualize them as truly FIC Brothers, empowering them to response to the needs of the present time.

## **FIC-JUBILEES 2 Juli – Indonesia**

**60 years**

**Herman Y.S.S.  
Susilo**



**40 years**

**Heribertus I.  
Mulyono**



**Antonius  
Kariadi**



**Theodorus  
Suwaryanto**



**25 years**

**Yusuf K.B.  
Susilo**



**Albertus  
Slamet**



**Yustinus T.  
Haryadi**



AS YOU CELEBRATE



*Your Jubilee*

"THE FATHER HIMSELF LOVES YOU."

JOHN 16:27

## Special Birthdays



### *May*

- 11 Lambert Dorsana Batogbee (60) – Accra
- 24 Anacletus Tinper (60) – Damongo

### *June*

- 6 Petrus Heru Nugroho (80) – Yogyakarta-Senopati
- 21 Aloysius Porekuu (70) – Tumu
- 25 Petrus Paijan (70) – Giriwoyo

### *July*

- 4 Petrus Ponidi (70) - Muntilan
- 12 Clovia Baaka (50) - Tamale