2023, August (no. 4)



Formators' Meeting 2023, Roncalli-Salatiga, Indonesia
L-R: Bros. Frans Dwiyatno, Robert Kuncoro, Agustinus Suparno, Lucio Torrés Martin, Eustachius Eko W., Stefanus Faizal, Augustine Kubdaar, Raphael Besigrinee, Petrus Wayan, Theo, Johan Muijtjens, Blasius Supriyantoro, Antonius Teguh N., Jose Maria de Araujo B., and Valentinus Daru Setiaji.

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Herewith we present to you the fourth issue of IGC in 2023, which will inform you about the following:

* **Reflection on Religious Jubilees**

* **Report from Ghana, Golden Jubilee celebrations**

* **Report, formators meeting in Indonesia**

* **The Admission into Novitiate & Profession Day, Indonesia**

* **Jubilarians**

* **Celebration Jubilarians 2023 - the Netherlands**

* **In Memoriam**

* **Special Birthdays**

Religious Jubilees: An Occasion for Contemplation, Commemoration, and Expressing Gratitude to God

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing (Luke 5:4-6).

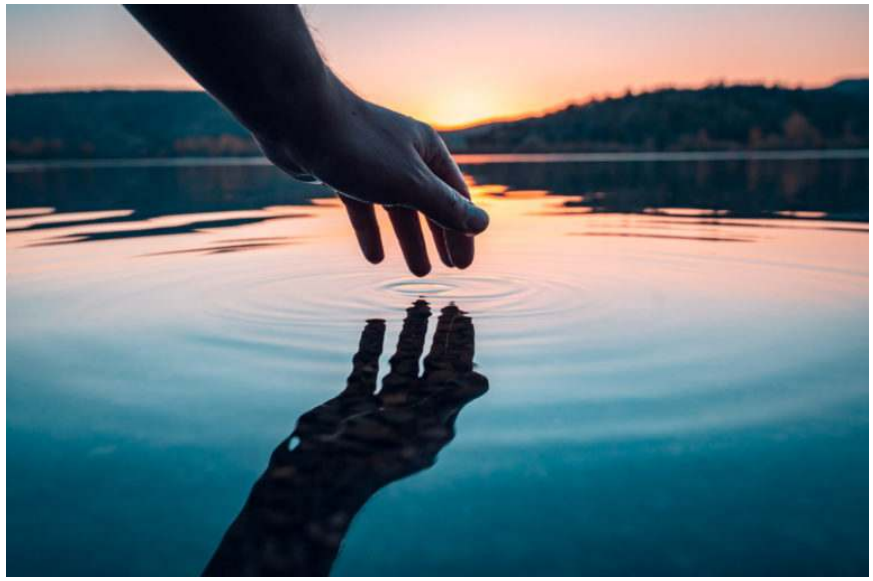
Jubilees in the religious life are significant milestones that must be celebrated with joy and gratitude.

As we mark the jubilees of a number of our brothers in the various provinces, it will be an excellent time for everyone of us to reflect on the commitment we have made and sustained for so many years. It is appropriate for us to ask ourselves a number of questions about our religious life and consecration.

How and why did we decide to commit to this in this way of life in the first place? Have our motivations for joining the religious life to serve God changed? Have our motivations matured over the years? Do we have a clearer perspective on life now than when we first professed the evangelical counsels of obedience, chastity and poverty? For instance, the consecrated life as it evolved from the Second Vatican Council is not the same as it is now. Constant change is part of human nature, and it has also become an element of the Church's life.

It will be important also to ask ourselves why we maintained our commitment and fidelity to our religious calling. What were our personal motivations? What difficulties did we encounter in this journey? How did we receive the gift of fidelity and the grace of perseverance? Who was there to support us along the way? Are there reasons why we have kept this commitment until this day?

May be, we had the thought of abandoning our commitment. If so, why did the thought occur to us? Was that thinking only a temptation, or rather an occasion to re-dedicate ourself with even greater zeal to the evangelical counsels once made on the day of profession?



I believe that jubilee season is a time for sober reflection and celebration, as well as gratitude; gratefulness not only to our brothers, but also to our lay men and women. For it is they, the people of God, whom we serve, and the people who assist us in our vocation in Christ's Church. Unfortunately, we still do not have enough vocations to fully serve God's people in our many countries and communities. We may never have the same number of religious men and women as in the past, but we still require an acceptable number of consecrated persons to keep the Church alive.

However, we must acknowledge that it is our role to pray for and promote vocations as we witness them developing in the lives of people who have been called by Christ. Even while we cannot give a vocation, we can certainly ask the Lord of the Harvest to send us the vocations through our humble prayers.

Let us all be unified in heart and thought as we embark on many more years of service. For those of us who are in “various quarters” of life, we might remark that it is the time when we can sum up our years of dedication and appreciate the graces that we have received from the Lord for 25, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, or whatever many more years. I feel that when we reach this stage in our lives, we usually say, "I don't know where the time has gone so fast, my entire life is mostly behind me!"

What else can we say? We can only say thank you to God! We thank the Lord for his calling, love and faithfulness. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve God and our fellow human beings in the life of the Church. Carry on, we say, and let us together pray for the gift of fidelity and the joy of perseverance to bring us the peace that God desires for all of us.

Finally, my friends, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for consecrated life itself. How much poorer would the world be if it did not exist (Pope Benedict XVI). And how much poorer would be the lives of those of us who live a consecrated life in the Church of Jesus Christ and in the world in some way!

We dedicate all consecrated men and women to Mary, our Mother and Patroness of our Congregation, the loyal mother who seeks the faithfulness of her sons and daughters in the response of love and absolute dedication to Christ, so that we may persevere in joy of the vocation received. Mary, devoted mother, intercede for us. Amen.

Golden Jubilee celebrations

In Ghana province, two of our institutions marked golden jubilee celebration. Here below, we bring you a brief report of each of them.

a. St. Basilide's Institute @ 50

The year-long golden jubilee celebration of the Institute was launched on October 5, 2022, with the theme "Harnessing Technical/Vocational Skills for the Holistic Development of the Ghanaian Child." Its climax was marked by a weeklong celebration from 11th to 17th June 2023. Some activities marking the celebration included: clean-up campaigns, various games, presentations on various relevant and educative topics to both students and Staff, a visit to the Wa Prisons, where the school made donations to the inmates, and a candlelight procession in the Kaleo township. On the most colourful and memorable day (June 17, 2023), Fr. Benjamin Fiiriter presided over the eucharistic celebration. Most Rev. Peter Paul Yelezuome Angkyier, Bishop of Damongo Diocese, chaired the occasion. Many prominent invited dignitaries and stakeholders/benefactors of the Institute graced the event.



Brief History of the Institute

St. Basilide's Technical Institute was founded by Brother Jos van Dinther together with Brother Borgias Henry Schrurs on February 5, 1973, to provide employable and relevant competencies for graduates through intensive practical training based on Christian/moral values. Its Mission is to produce competent practical-oriented craftsmen and women intended for middle-level human resources for sustainable livelihood.



The Institute initially ran only one programme, namely, Cabinet making, but it expanded its infrastructural and institutional development process over time. Currently, the Institute offers six skills training programmes: Wood Construction Technology, Welding and Fabrication Technology, Building Construction Technology, Electrical Installation Technology, Fashion and Design Technology and Solar Photovoltaic Technology. The Institute currently has a total enrollment of One Thousand, one hundred and Eighty-five (1,185) students and Ninety-two (92) highly qualified and self-motivated Staff.

In his welcome address, the Principal of the Institute (Br. Fabian Bezel, FIC) underscored the significant contributions of the former Principals and the stakeholders of the Institute. He also enumerated the challenges confronting the Institute: obsolete tools/equipment, inadequate infrastructure, lack of practical training materials, and inadequate food supply, to mention a few. He passionately appealed to all and sundry to assist Management in offsetting the plight of the Institute. The most urgent need is a library.



All former Principals and some selected Staff and Stakeholders were given citations in recognition of their meritorious contribution to the development of the Institute. Deserving students also received awards.

By Bro. Fabian Bezel(Principal)

b. **St John Technical Institute, Nandom**



The day's events began with a Eucharistic celebration. Many influential people attended, including the Paramount Chief of Nandom Traditional Council and other chiefs; a representative of the Member of Parliament for Nandom Constituency; the Regional Minister for the Upper West Region; a cross-section of the FIC Brothers led by the Vice Provincial Superior (Bro. Naapire Clement); past Principals of the school; members of the old students' Association, other guest, Staff and students. The theme was "St. John Technical Institute, 50 years of training for industry and self-employment, the path to national development."



Brief History of St. John Technical Institute

In 1968, the late Bro. John van Winden (FIC) was assigned to the Ghana province to construct Nandom Secondary School. He was undoubtedly startled to find no qualified craftsmen (skilled builders) in the entire region (Upper West). He had to get builders from a faraway land, the southern section of Ghana. With appropriate consideration, this experience led to the idea to build this Institute, formerly known as Nandom Practical Vocational Centre (NPVC)). NVS had two purposes at the time: to teach and equip young people with practical knowledge and professional skills and to discourage rural-urban youth from migrating to the southern sector in quest of white-collar professions. It started with two trade departments: Rural Building (masonry and carpentry) and Rural Mechanic (diesel engineering). The Centre earned a wider reputation over time due to its remarkable performance and practical-oriented teaching.



On January 27, 1986, the Government approved it to operate under the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI). Since 2022, it attained its current status and name as St. John Technical Institute and currently operates under the Ghana Technical Vocational Education and Training Service (GTVET). The Institute now offers six programmes: Building Construction Technology; Wood Construction Technology; Welding & Fabrication Technology; Plumbing & Gas Fitting; Automobile Engineering and Electrical Engineering.

The school has made significant contributions and continues to do so in developing the youth in the country, particularly in the Upper West region. Thousands of people have gained technical skills and knowledge, thus, allowing them to work in industries, and countless of them are self-gainfully employed.



Several people donated cash and pledges to the celebration, especially toward the Jubilee project (Accommodation for students). Deserving Staff and students received awards and prizes. Citations were also given to the school's previous principals. Three of the six previous principals who led the school are deceased, namely Bro. John Van Winden, Bro. Godfred Debzie and Mr. Tengan Regobert received posthumous citations. The living past principals are Bro. Michael Lugnaah, Mr. Linus Tuuli Gamuo, and Bro. Isidore Aabeisie Nelson received citations.



By Bro. Godwin S. Kuu-ireme (Principal)

Formators' meeting in Indonesia

In 2022 the formators of Ghana and Malawi came together during the Formators' Meeting in Ghana. This year, from Wednesday 5 July until Thursday 13 July 2023 the formators of Indonesia and Chile, together with the General Council members, had a similar meeting in Roncalli Retreat Centre in Salatiga, Indonesia. The theme of the gathering was the same as last year: "**Formation for consecrated life**".

Thirteen brothers attended the meeting, including the provincial superiors, formators and vocation promoters of the two provinces and the General Council members. Several FIC brothers facilitated part of the gathering.

In his opening address the General Superior stressed that the main objectives of the meeting are (a) to renew and strengthen the FIC spirit among formators and (b) to enrich the knowledge and experience of the brothers who are entrusted with the task of forming and accepting future members into our Congregation and (c) enable formators review the core curriculum designed in 2016.
It is important to keep our formation curriculum relevant, dynamic and open to the signs of the times. In order to reach these goals, various inputs were given and participants were offered ample time for sharing experiences.

The General Superior expressed also the hope that "our formation program and process would bring our formees closer to God; to the values of the church; and to the spirit and charism of our Founders; and also that our formation curriculum when renewed would become more open to the challenges coming from society and culture; and to new tasks of evangelization in today's world".

At the start of the meeting the participants introduced themselves and shared experiences. This was followed by an initial discussion on the curriculum and the profile of the formator. During the second day a detailed presentation was given on the theme: Formation for Consecrated Life.

Other aspects that were discussed during the Formators' Meeting are: leadership of our Founders, psychological assessment, healing of hurtful memories, basic counselling skills, skills in spiritual direction, introduction in biblical eco-spirituality, formation in the digital era, vocation promotion, cultural sensitivity and creative fidelity to our apostolic charism.

One of the main tasks of the meeting - updating the curriculum of our formation program - was done in groups and in plenary sessions and resulted in a joint agreement of the revised content. Participants felt supported through sharing with one another their experiences in formation work, which needs a collaborative effort.

Since formation also has a communal dimension, the community is the most important place of the formation of candidates. Therefore, there is need to strengthen our fraternal communion in our formation houses. It is a global phenomenon that vocations are declining so formators were also encouraged to use social media to promote vocations. Participants also had the opportunity for informal and fraternal interactions. In this way we strengthened our fraternity and became more motivated in our assigned responsibilities.

The evaluation showed that participants were satisfied with the Formators' Meeting. Let us all pray that the fruits of this gathering may contribute to a solid formation of candidates in the vineyard of the Lord.

Before the official closure of the meeting the General Superior stressed: "being a leader and/or formator is a special calling; it is a gift from God and for those for whom we have accepted the responsibility to form and lead. Therefore, let us be reminded that the relevance of our call depends on the quality of our service".

The Admission into Novitiate & Profession Day, Indonesia



July 1st and 2nd are significant dates in the Indonesia FIC Brothers Province. On July 1, the ceremonies of transition and acceptance of candidates from Pre-novitiate to Canonical Novitiate; and Canonical to Apostolic year novitiate are held. July 2 is a day designated for professions of temporary and perpetual vows as well as renewal of vows. We are grateful to God for continually adding new members to our congregation. In the year (2023), during a prayer service Bro. F.A. Dwiyatno, the Provincial Superior of the Indonesia Province, accepted four canonical novices. They are Fr. Marselinus Anton Kelitadan, Fr. Laurensius Gde Gunawan Subrata, Fr. Felix Graciano Bagaskoro Putro, and Fr. Philipus Aji Sapto Wibowo. These ceremonies, usually attended by families of the candidates, were held at the Pangudi Luhur van Lith Senior High School Chapel, Muntilan.

Renewal of vows.
On July 2, 2023, the following brothers renewed their vows for two years: Bro. Thomas Aquinas Prastianto, Bro. Arcancio Amaral, and Bro. Hieronymus Wisnumurti Rahardyan. Brothers Krisologus Pusrayan Dono, Stefanus Agus Faisal, and Andreas Andri Anggun Pah also renewed their vows for another year. The renewal ceremony was presided by Bro. F.A. Dwiyatno at 6 a.m.

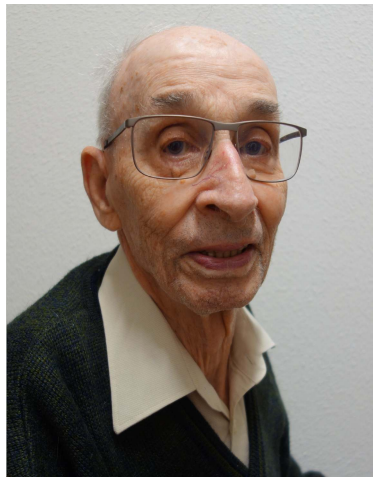
Temporary and perpetual profession
On the same day at 10.00 am, during a eucharistic celebration presided over by Mgr. Vitus Rubiyanto Solichin, S.X. – Bishop of Padang Diocese and concelebrated by P. Y.R. Edi Purwanto, Pr – Vicar General of Semarang Archdiocese, Bro. Jose Maria de Araujo Barreiro and Bro. Ignatius Andri Pratomo took their final vows, and subsequently, Bro. Paulinus and Bro. Gregorius Anggara Tadon took their first vows. The General Superior (Bro. Augustine Kubdaar) received the profession of vows of these brothers. These occasions were attended by members of the General Council, Br. Johan Muijtjens (former General Superior) from the Netherlands, Br. Lucio Torrés Martin (Provincial Superior of Chile), and many brothers from Indonesia and friends and collaborators of the Brothers.
The celebration had a special choir from Pangudi Luhur Servatius Senior High School of Kampung Sawah, Bekasi.

Following the celebration in the Chapel, everyone gathered in the Pangudi Luhur van Lith Senior High School Hall for the reception. It was an opportunity to reconnect with fellow brothers, friends, and families while strengthening our mutual collaboration and friendship in Christ's mission. The reunion felt especially warm because the brothers were joined by their guests and families. We appreciate this thoughtful gift. The July 1 - 2, 2023, celebration is seen as a celebration of the FIC big family by the FIC Indonesia brothers.

Bro. Michael Sidharta

FIC-JUBILEES 15 August - Netherlands

75 years



Hans van Leeuwen

70 years



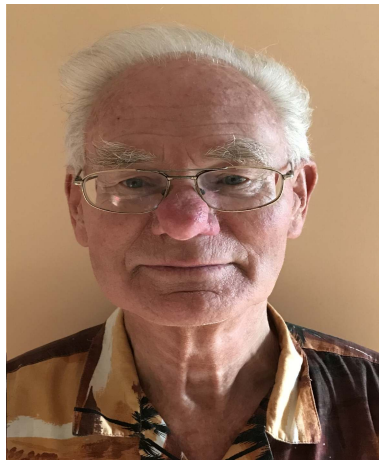
Noud Fonken

65 years



Gerard van Geel

65 years



Ted van der Geest

FIC-JUBILEES July and December - Indonsesia

2 juli - 65 years



Michael Poedyartana

2 July - 60 years



Redemptus Lastiya

8 December - 50 years



Ignatius Ngadiso

8 December - 50 years



Antonius Sumardi

FIC-JUBILEES 2 July Indonesia - 25 years



Martinus Gendut Suwardi



Yohanes Krismanto



Paskalis Puryoko



Adrianus Sulistyo Kristy Pranowo



Blasius Supriyantoro

FIC-JUBILEE 15 September Ghana - 25 years



Felicio Gyeyir

FIC-PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS INDONESIA - 2 July 2023



Jose Maria de Aurojo Barreiro



Ignatius Andri Pratomo

Celebration Jubilarians 2023 – the Netherlands



On 15 August 2023, we commemorated and celebrated the profession jubilees of the following Dutch brothers: Hans van Leeuwen (75 years, Maastricht-De Beyart), Noud Fonken(70 years, Maastricht-De Beyart), Ted van der Geest (65 years, Vlaardingen) and Gerard van Geel (65 years Maastricht-De Beyart). We are grateful to these our brothers for their fidelity and perseverance.

The activities began on Monday evening with a lovely prayer service with the theme "Gratitude" prepared by Bro. Wim Swüste. Brothers Frans School and Gerard Langelaan were the pastors. Readings from Luke (the grateful healed Samaritan) and the Constitutions (Article 34) were given. Prayers were said for our jubilarians in the Netherlands, Ghana, and Indonesia, as well as for all of our brothers especially for Bro. Raphael Besigrinee, who is recovering from surgery in Ghana. We also prayed for our deceased brothers. Following the prayer service, we gathered in De Beyart's for a delectable High Tea. The social togetherness was fantastic, and the environment was really friendly.

The main Jubilarian feast day was Tuesday, 15th of August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Mass began at 10.30 a.m. in the magnificent small chapel of the former Cellebroeders monastery, which is very close to the Beyart.

Mr. Hans Geerkens provided accordion music before the Holy Mass. The brothers' choir, led by Bro. Johan Muijtjens, sang very well. Pastor Jo Wolters was the main celebrant, assisted by Bro. Lo Koeleman. Mrs. Carin Metsemakers welcomed everyone in attendance on behalf of the FIC team. Mrs. Hisae Kuijpers, on the small, beautiful-sounding organ, accompanied the songs and chants. Bro. Lo Koeleman read from the FIC Constitution, while Bro. Noud Fonken read the Gospel (see Luke 1, 35-45). The homily was given by Bro. Wim Luiten and brothers present renewed their vows. Mrs. Carin Metsemakers gave a reflection on the lives and works of the four jubilarians. The four jubilarians then took their seats at the front of the chapel, where they were congratulated by those in attendance. But first, we sang the "Song of Resurrection" at the top of our lungs: "The steppe will bloom."

The following are excerpts from the homily:

> Mary is our patroness, who helps us in both good and bad times. Her life and attitude speak eloquently about how she responded to the call to be of warm support to others. She did not always take it for granted. As an example of obedience, she kept everything in her heart:
> - For instance, during the angel's visitation, when Mary's pregnancy was announced;
> - when Jesus left the parents home and told her "that he was going to fulfil his heavenly Father's wish";
> - at the wedding at Cana, where Jesus truly scolded his mother;
> - throughout Jesus' agony and crucifixion, where Mary stood helpless and accepted the crucifixion of her beloved Son with parental sadness;
> - at being present with the apostles, who walled themselves off from the outside world like cowards after Jesus' death.

Mary pondered over all these with faith and trust in God.
The celebration continued after the Eucharist in the Cellebroeder garden in front of the chapel.

All thanks to the members of the FIC team and their devoted volunteers, who treated us - old brothers - with love and grace. An aperitif was served first to brothers, associates, and guests, followed by coffee/tea and drinks. Everyone could subsequently enjoy the huge Italian buffet of pastas and salads. It was delicious.



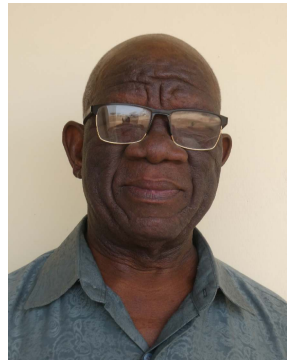
Bro. Frans School, true to tradition, led the entire festive gathering in a funny song of appreciation to the four jubilarians, in grand style, of the well-known Dutch song, "farce majeure." Bro. Valentinus Daru, elegantly attired and demonstrated his dancing abilities in a dance that originated in the palace of the Sultan of Solo. This dance was inspired by a Javanese story. The "Menak Koncar" dance shows the inner struggle of a noble knight faced with critical life decisions. When the four jubilarians chose to live as brothers, they faced critical decisions as well. The third performance was by a quintet of brass players known as "Beli" (3 Belgium musicians together with 2 Dutch). They played musical pieces from Bruckner, Schubert, Händel, and Scarlatti, as well as one more recent work. The music sounded excellent and was greatly appreciated. However, it was a little too serious for a party that required more lively music.



There was another sweet pastry, a dessert glass, coffee or tea, and some after-dinner conversation at 3.45pm. The party finished just before 4 pm, with special thanks to Wilma Weerts, Carin Metsemakers, Yolanda Kort, and Tamara Oosterbosch from team FIC, as well as our FIC volunteers Evelien van Veen and Marga Fraats, whose hard work made this beautiful day a success.



In Memoriam



Brother Mark Adamah Angdirayiri

Mark was born on Juli 4, 1957 in Konongo.
He made his first profession on September 15,1990 and his final profession on November 29, 1997.
He passed away on August 16, 2023 in Zebilla, Upper East Region, Ghana.



Special Birthdays

August
2 Lucio Torrés Martín (70) - Talca-San Antonio
3 Ton Kropman (80) - Maastricht, Bernardus
14 Joachim Naah (60) - Damongo

September
7 Frans Sugi (70) - Ambarawa
22 Patrick Binneh (60) - Tamale-St. Vincent de Paul House

October
1 Methodius Kuusoru (70) - Tamale-St. Vincent de Paul House