



2018, November (No. 5)



A 1965 photograph of newly professed brothers
in The Netherlands

Herewith we present to you the fifth issue of IGC in 2018, which will inform you about the following:

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Christmas Message 2018

Christmas: a celebration of love, humility, and peace

Dear brothers, associated members, and friends,

This Christmas season is coinciding with the end of my office as General Superior of the FIC Congregation. I have been in this office for 12 years now. Looking back on the past experiences I have to be sincerely grateful to all of you and so many other people for their support and good cooperation. My life has been enriched so much by all encounters and challenges in the past 12 years. I will take this opportunity to say goodbye to you all and at the same time to give you the last Christmas message as General Superior.

Every time I reflect on the Christmas celebration, my mind has always been drawn to these three key virtues: **love, humility, and peace**. To me and for us Christians, Christmas is first of all a celebration of **God's love for us**. As John the Evangelist says: "For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but so that through him the world might be saved" (John 3: 16-17). The birth of Jesus is a very concrete and tangible way of God's love for us.

The virtue of **humility** is clearly shown in the way Jesus was born. He was born in an environment of extreme poverty . "Mary wrapped

him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the living space. In the country side close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night" (Lk. 2:7-8). As we celebrate Christmas, we are invited to develop the spirit of humility in us, by coming down from our positions of comfort and power, to be with the poor and needy, and as far as possible to help alleviate the pain and misery of those people.

Despite the fact that Jesus was born under very poor conditions, we do not hear any complaint. Instead we get a message of **peace**. Mary and Joseph seemed to accept the reality without complaint. This acceptance of the reality brings peace to their hearts and this peace of mind and heart is then radiating to the people around. Everybody is becoming at peace. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favors" (Lk 2: 14). Let us develop a spirit of peace in our hearts by being grateful for what we have and what we are. By so doing we are contributing to creating peace in our world.



I wish you a very Loving and Peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year 2019.

Bro. Martinus Handoko
Outgoing General Superior

Reflection on "General Chapter"



Among the tasks of a General Chapter are to keep the heritage of the Congregation alive and promote appropriate renewal (Const. art 119). As FIC family, we have just ended our General Chapter and Provincial Chapters, during which a number of resolutions were adopted. As we begin to implement these resolutions, let us be guided by the following reflection from Pope Paul VI on

General Chapters of Religious Congregations (given: 23 May 1964):

The principal task of the General Chapter is to keep intact those norms of the Religious family which were set up by its Founder. Therefore, it is your responsibility to firmly shut the door against all those modes of conduct which gradually devitalize the strength of religious discipline, namely, practices which are dangerous to religious life, unnecessary dispensations, and privileges not properly approved. You must likewise be wholly on guard against any relaxation of discipline which is urged, not by true necessity, but which rather arises from arrogance of spirit, or aversion to obedience, or love of worldly things.

Moreover, with respect to undertaking new projects or activities, you should refrain from taking on those which do not entirely correspond to the principal work of your Institute or to the mind

of your Founder. For Religious Institutes will flourish and prosper so long as the integral spirit of their Founder continues to inspire their rule of life and apostolic works, as well as the actions and lives of their members. Religious Communities, inasmuch as they resemble living bodies, rightly desire to experience continual growth. However, this growth of the Institute must be based more firmly on the diligent observance of rules rather than on the number of members or the making of new laws. Multiplicity of laws is not always accompanied by progress in religious life. It often happens that the more rules there are, the less people pay attention to them. Therefore, General Chapters should use their right to make laws moderately and prudently.

In bringing about this renewal of your Institutes, your primary concern must always be the spiritual life of your members. Wherefore, among yourselves and among all other Religious whose duty it is to devote themselves to works of the sacred apostolate, we would be entirely opposed to see anyone espousing that false opinion which claims that primary concern must be given to external works and only secondary attention devoted to the interior life of perfection, as though this were demanded by the spirit of the times and the needs of the Church. Zealous activity and the cultivation of one's interior life should not bring any harm to each other; indeed, they require the closest union, in order that both may ever proceed with equal pace and progress. Therefore, let zeal for prayer, the beauty of a pure conscience, patience in adversities, active and vibrant charity devoted to the salvation of souls, increase in union with fervent works. When these virtues are neglected, not only will apostolic labour lack vigour and fruitfulness, but the spirit also will gradually lose fervour.

As a consequence, the Religious will not be able to avoid, for long, the dangers which lie hidden in the very performance of the sacred ministry.

Provincial Chapters 2018



Conclusion of Provincial Chapter Chile

The third session of the Provincial Chapter of Chile which started on Sunday, 30 September 2018, ended successfully on 3 October with the election of a new Provincial Council team to govern the province for the next three years. Issues discussed during the third session include the following: reviewing the proposals of the General Chapter 2018, some issues of the province that are directly related to the General Chapter proposals, namely the role of brothers in mission, the possibilities of starting a new apostolic activity and the study of our current apostolate. Lastly, the election process and the chapter message were concluded. Taking into account the specific situation of the Chile Province, the Provincial Chapter decided to limit the working period to three years: 2018-2021. The session which was held in Buin maintained the theme "Called and sent to encounter life", and concluded successfully with the election of the following brothers:

Bro. Diego Izquierdo Gallego	Provincial Superior
Bro. Patricio Guentelican P.	Vicar
Bro. Lucio Torres Martín	Provincial Councillor



Final Session of the Provincial Chapter Ghana 2018



The third session of the Provincial Chapter of Ghana was convened on September 23, 2018 at St. Louis community conference hall under the theme: “Deepening our Apostolic Mission through Prayer and Community Life”.

Apart from the most important task of this final session, namely the election of the new Provincial Council, the following issues, among others, were dealt

with during this session: finalizing the discussion on some proposals, discussing the report of the Financial Verification Committee and concluding the chapter message. On the fifth day, the main agenda item was the election of a new leadership team. At the end of this exercise the following brothers were chosen to lead the Province for the coming six years:

Bro. Seregeous Dery	Provincial Superior
Bro. Clement Nangpiire	Vice Provincial
Bro. Godwin S. Kuu-Ireme	Provincial Councilor
Bro. Fabian Bezel	Provincial Councilor
Bro. Patrick Binneh	Provincial Councilor

The chapter message which forms part of the fruits of this six-yearly gathering was also approved. An excerpt of it is as follows: "The future of our Province lies in the collective responsibility of every brother.

To keep the flame of our Founders burning, there is the need to invest in the human resource of the Province, promote vocations, and engage in a conscious and personal continuous formation as well as personally keeping a healthy lifestyle. The Chapter appeals to all brothers to be more prudent in managing the finances of the Province. This we believe will help improve on our financial base so as to enable us undertake more of the pressing needs of the Province. We have completed discussions on proposals and passed them into resolutions for the incoming PC to implement. Some of these resolutions will directly allow leadership to tackle the areas of attention for the development of the Province. We recognize that most of us brothers are gifted in one way or the other; we

should make ourselves available and willing to accept roles and responsibilities that will take the development of the Province to another level".



Conclusion of the Provincial Chapter 2018, Indonesia

From 1-4 November 2018, the brothers in Indonesia held the final session of their Provincial Chapter at Syalom Retreat House, Bandungan under the theme "Confirming the Identity and Mission of FIC Brothers in the Present Time". At the end of it, a new provincial team was elected for the next six years. The new Council consists of the following brothers:

Bro. Frans Asisi Dwiyoatno	Provincial Superior
Bro. Michael Sidharta Susila	Vicar
Bro. Anton Karyadi	Provincial Councillor
Bro. Yohanes Bosco Purwanto	Provincial Councillor
Bro. Martinus Hans Gendut Suwardi	Provincial Councillor



Final Session of the Provincial Chapter Malawi 2018

Having dealt with most of the issues in the last session, the third assembly of the Provincial Chapter of Malawi concentrated on a few matters, among others the chapter process, finalizing a new Provincial Statute, voting on proposals, concluding the chapter message and the elections. A full day of recollection preceded

the day of election which resulted in the choice of four brothers to form the provincial team for the working period of 2018 - 2024. The new Provincial Council is made up of the following brothers:

Bro. Lawrence Sitima	Provincial Superior
Bro. Andrew Makocho	Vicar
Bro. Thomas Chikoti	Provincial Councillor
Bro. Trustful Mwachande	Provincial Councillor

The chapter also decided to hold a mini-chapter in 2021 in order to evaluate the functioning of the Provincial Council. As would be expected, a number of resolutions were adopted to chart the course of the next six years.



New council Religious House The Netherlands

On 14 and 15 November 2018, the brothers in the Netherlands held their Religious House Conference at the office-house of Prins Bisschopsingel, Maastricht.

The meeting was attended by the six members of the interim-council (4 brothers and 2 lay people), eight members elected by the brothers (all brothers), and one associated member. Bro. Wim Luiten as co-ordinator of the interim-council was the chairman. Mr. Jos van Eijden, associated member, was the facilitator and Mr. Willy Bastiaens took care of the minutes.

On 14 November the topics discussed were: the report of the Provincial Council 2015-2017, the report of interim-council Religious House 2017-2018, the Financial Report 2012-2017, and some proposals. After that the election of the new council was prepared. This includes asking the brothers mentioned whether they were available to serve in the new council for the coming three years.

On 15 November the main topic was - beside the recommendations of the conference - the election of the new council. In three groups the members shared their opinions about the available candidates and 'constructed' one or two council teams of three brothers: one superior and two council members. After sharing and explaining the results of the three groups the real elections took place with ballot notes.

The outcome of the election was the following:

Bro. Wim Luiten	Superior
Bro. Frans School	Member
Bro. Gerard Langelaan	Member

These three brothers will lead the Religious House for the coming three years, with the help of advisors: brothers and lay people.



Rites of Transition, Renewal of Vows and First Professions in Ghana

On the 6th and 7th of September, 2018, more than thirty brothers ended the FIC common retreat in St. Louis community, Wa. In the evening on that day we witnessed the ceremony of transitions of one candidate into canonical year of novitiate and two candidates into apostolic year novitiate. On the same day, two brothers renewed their religious vows for three more years.

The ceremony was conducted in the context of a Eucharistic celebration led by the retreat preacher, Most Reverend Richard Kuuia Baaworb, Bishop of Wa. The celebration was under the theme 'At your service Lord'.

In his welcome address, the Provincial Superior outlined the purpose of the evening celebration as follows:

1. To formally bring to a close the FIC common annual retreat and to thank God for the life and wonderful works of the retreat preacher, Bishop Richard Baaworb.
2. To thank God for the successful end of the 35th FIC General Chapter and pray for the new leadership.
3. To witness the formal migration of the following candidates: Michael Besigrinee from Pre-novitiate to Canonical year of the novitiate; Yengdem Calistus and Ganye Prosper from Canonical year of Novitiate to the apostolic year of Novitiate, and
4. To witness the renewal of vows of Alexander Kofi Koomson and Nimorius Ganee.

The ceremony of profession for three brothers, namely Edmond Mopuuru, Elijah Abugri and Jonas Porekuu, came on successfully the following day. It was under the theme 'Here I am Lord, send me'. The Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Richard Baaworb Kuuia. The parish priest of St. Cecilia's Parish and other concelebrating priests were present. The program was attended by many brothers including the families of the brothers making their first profession. Friends, relatives and collaborators of the brothers also came to grace the occasion.



In his usual and practical style of delivering his sermons at religious professions and ordinations, Bishop Richard invited one of the candidates to be professed to share with the congregation the

reasons behind the theme they have chosen for the occasion. He appealed to the parents and relatives of the brothers yet to profess to understand that their sons joining the FIC family is a self-offering to serve the people of God and not an engagement to make money and come to solve their financial challenges in the families. He reiterated that they should commit the activities of the brothers to prayer so as to enable each brother respond to the call of God and carry on his tasks well.

The program ended with light refreshment in ISTC hall amid some traditional music, drumming and dancing.

Bro. Kuu-Ireme S. Godwin

FIC Jubilees December 2018 in Indonesia

15 December 2018 - 50 years



Joanes Warisa Pudjasusanto

08 December 2018 - 40 years



Petrus Ponidi



Marcelinus Senen

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS



December

03 Paulus Sumarno (50) - Bekasi-Delta Mas

15 Jos van Dinther (70) - Accra

17 Henk van Lieshout (85) - Maastricht-Bruss.str. Bernardus

January

02 Ignatius Purwana Surahna (80) - Semarang-Wisma Bernardus

06 Nicholas Yangtibr (80) - Wa-St Louis Community

08 Kees Gordijn (75) - Maastricht-Prins Bisschopsingel

14 Frans Turkenburg (85) - Maastricht-Bruss.str. Bernardus

24 Michael Poedyartana (80) - Jakarta-Haji Nawi

28 Ivo Heatubun (70) - Limbe-Mary View

February

15 Antonius Paryanta (60) - Semarang-Wisma Bernardus

17 Gregory Tang (70) - Tamale-St Vincent de Paul House

19 Fransiskus Asisi Dwiyatno (50) - Semarang-Wisma Bernardus