

2022, August (no. 4)



Bros. Augustine Kubdaar (General Superior), Theodorus, Severious, Aaron, and traditional chiefs of Chinchang (Tumu) during their canonical visit to Ghana Province (2022)

Herewith we present to you the fourth issue of IGC in 2022, which will inform you about the following:

- * A reflection on: Community Life among Consecrated Persons
- * Congregational Conference finally scheduled in Ghana
- * Celebrating FIC life in Indonesia
- * Celebration of Profession Jubilees in The Netherlands
- * In Memoriam: Bro. Herman Yoseph Kuwat
- * Special birthdays in the coming months

Community Life among Consecrated Persons

(From the book *Consecrated Life: The Past, Present and Future* ed. by Kanu I. Anthony, OSA)

Introduction

As we continue to celebrate our vocation as consecrated persons, it is important to reflect on a common practice by consecrated persons: **community life**. We live our lives in community and carry out all our apostolates and different services to humanity through the community.



Common living can be a very beautiful form of life if those who live it truly work together and make personal sacrifices to let go of personal interests and depend on one another and work for common good. Vatican Council II Fathers, in *Gaudium et Spes* recognized that man is by his intimate nature a social being who cannot live and develop with qualities without his fellow beings.

Interdependence and communion are not just means of achieving productivity and making progress, but rather, a human necessity and a form of living that derives from man's intimate nature. St. Augustine anticipated this when he said that —"we need our fellow beings in order to be ourselves". All the teachings of the Church regarding the life of consecrated persons insist on the importance of communion.

Religious Community Life

Religious Community life which is the main focus of this reflection goes beyond mere social contract or collective pursuance of a set of goals or objectives. Religious Community is the *I-You* relationship, and it necessarily includes God and faith. The core centre and inspiration of a Religious Community life is God, whom the members primarily come together to seek. Different Religious Institutes search for God differently, under different inspirations. A religious Community is therefore built on faith in God and in the Charism and Spirituality of one's particular religious institute.

Opting to live in a religious community presupposes that one participates in each other's personality, and in the values of the other persons that make up the community. The community is not merely to be used for achieving personal gain and self advancement, to the detriment of the community. Religious community requires that those who live it be involved with other people, in sharing their lives. This is why a religious community of consecrated persons, cannot truly stand if there is no **genuine love of Christ** among the members. In this kind of community attention should not only be focused on the common work or project without concern for the community itself. Work is not the paramount thing in the community but the particular life style that is lived with others.

As religious, our life is far more important than the work we do.



Our work should proceed from our community life and the community should affect the way we carry out our work.

Congregational Conference finally scheduled in Ghana

In the April 2022 issue of the Information General Council (IGC), the GC announced that the Congregational gathering that was scheduled to take place in Indonesia had to be aborted due to the covid-19 regulations regarding non-Indonesian citizens entering Indonesia. This compelled the GC to change the venue of the **Conference** to The Netherlands. In the month of June, it became clear that this was once again not possible due to challenges with the issuance of visas to our brothers outside The Netherlands. Consequently, in a letter dated 10 June and addressed to the Provincial Superiors, the General Superior wrote, “the GC dared to reschedule the 2022 Congregational Conference (ConCon) once more. The venue will now be in the Ghana Province and will be held from 18 to 30 September, 2022. We are aware of the huge challenge that the Provincial Council of Ghana now has in preparing and hosting the conference at this short notice. We thank them for the courage to accept this task.”



St. Louis community,
Wa

Hence, this means the Congregational Conference and Formators' Meeting (for Ghana and Malawi formators) will both take place in Ghana. It was already planned that the Formators' Meeting be held in Ghana from 7 - 15 September 2022. So this remains unchanged. It would be recalled that the Formators' Meeting in Indonesia (for Indonesia formators) had to be postponed to next year due to the same reason given above. The GC has decided on a separate theme for the Formators' Meeting namely *Formation for Consecrated Life*.

The theme of the Congregational Conference remains the same, that is, "*Prayer as the Source of Community Living and Apostolate*". Resolution 19A of our General Chapter 2018 requires all brothers to continuously pray and reflect on the three pillars of our life, namely *Community, Prayer and Apostolate*. It is hoped that this deepening will be a source of enrichment and inspiration for us and further motivate us to undertake our apostolate in accordance with the spirit of our founders.

Undoubtedly, all these changes will cause some inconveniences, thus we plead with all of you for your brotherly understanding. Please, once again, keep these events in your prayers while we look forward to meeting our Provincial Superiors and formators in Ghana soon.

Celebrating FIC life in Indonesia

As a long-standing tradition in Indonesia, the month of July, particularly the 1st and 2nd have become days of celebration of profession of vows and other transitions in the life of the brothers. This year, three significant events of “celebrating FIC Life” took place, namely admission of candidates into novitiate, first and final professions, and renewal of vows.

On July 1st we ritualized with a prayer service the official initiation of our postulants into the canonical novitiate. Six (6) postulants in the persons of *Frs. Yakobus, Yohanes, Fransiskus, Jaimoto, Gregorius, and Diniz*, were officially admitted into the canonical year novitiate.



On July 2nd, five young brothers, namely *Joao Maia, Jose Maria, Ignasius Andri, Aloysius Riyanto, and Fransiskus Saptono*, renewed their religious professions. The ritual was integrated in the Morning Prayer of the day. On the same day, in a special and solemn Eucharistic Celebration, one novice, *Fr. Thomas Eka Bima*, made his first religious profession, while two temporary professed brothers, *Antonius Teguh Nugraha, and Laurensius Baharu* made their perpetual profession in the FIC Congregation. The two who made their perpetual profession have the following to say:

Bro. Antonius Teguh: “Making perpetual profession is for me the beginning of a long process of pursuing my vocation as a young brother and a new chapter in my vocation. As a young perpetually professed brother I am required to be more mature in maintaining the balance of living the pillars of religious life. I have been through my vocation as a young brother for seven years, during which time I dealt with the

dynamics of my vocation, marked by ups and downs. *“Something (the perpetual profession) that is difficult to achieve, will not be that easy to let go”*. I came to a firm decision of making perpetual commitment due to the continuous and faithful support and encouragement by my fellow brothers and other people. Indeed, God has called me, and as a mature person, I have freely chosen to respond to it positively. I am very grateful to God for this call and for enabling me to say YES to His call to live not only for myself, but also to give myself to God and others through the congregation”.

Bro. Laurensius Baharu: “Making perpetual profession is for me an act of faith which in itself gives me a particular sign and meaning. During this event I really experienced and felt God calling me through the Congregation, my relatives, the brothers and sisters, and all those who took part in the celebration, each of them offering me some support to live the FIC way of life”.



These events were attended by scores of FIC Brothers of Indonesia, family members of the candidates, some relatives and close friends of the brothers. In all, it has been a blessed celebration, hence we were filled with gratitude for God’s gifts and goodness.

Bro. Guido Sukarman

Celebration of Profession Jubilees in the Netherlands

The festivities began in the evening of Sunday 14 August with a beautiful prayer service, in which almost all brothers of the RHN and some associates were present, and two brothers from the Emmaus community: Raphael Besigrinee and Remy Nyukorong. The theme of the celebration was *"Brothers touched by God and moved by people"*. Facilitators were Bros. Frans School and Lo Koeleman. The small Beyart choir, without organ support, led by Bro. Johan Muijtjens, performed the songs. Readings were taken from the spirituality of Dag Hammarskjöld and Vincent Depaul, Psalm 97 and the hymn of thanks from Mary. After the celebration, everyone gathered in the guest room of the Beyart for a delicious cold buffet.



Celebration of the "actual" feast took place on Monday 15 August at our country estate, De Schark. Being the feast of the Assumption of Mary, we celebrated the Eucharist together at 11:00 a.m. in an open tent under the trees in front of the entrance to De Schark. The theme of the celebration was *"Moving forward together with resilience"*. Mrs. Wilma Weerts welcomed those present and introduced the celebration with a short sketch of

being a brother and a personal word for each of the jubilarians. Pastor Jo Wolters of De Beyart presided and Bro. Wim Luiten delivered the homily, composed by Bro. Wim Swüste. Bros. Lo Koeleman and Frans School took care of the readings from the book of Psalms and the intercessions. The musical support was given by Corrie Dam on the electronic organ and the choir led by Johan Muijtjens.

After the celebration, all took their seats in the main hall for an aperitif, and later followed by a true celebration of dinner with meat, fish and creamy fruit quark with fruit for dessert. Starting at 2 p.m., we were treated to a musical performance by a lady singer from Malaysia, accompanied on the electronic organ by an elderly gentleman who had been at school with the brothers in Brunssum. They performed well-known songs and arias from various operas, and also an Indonesian lullaby. The brothers and the guests listened breathlessly and appreciated the beautiful singing with a warm applause. During the break, Bro. Frans School encouraged the group to join him in a humorous song of praise for the six jubilarians in the manner of "farce majeure". Around 3:30 p.m., there was coffee or tea for everyone with a delicious pastry.



Around 4 p.m., the celebration came to a conclusion with special thanks to Wilma Weerts, Carin Metsemakers and Tamara Oosterbosch of the FIC team and our FIC volunteers and "special helpers", who made this beautiful day possible, thanks for their great efforts.

Bro. Frans School

In Memoriam

Brother Herman Yoseph Kuwat FIC

Bro. Herman Yoseph was born in Muneng, Tirtohargo, Kretek, Bantul, Yogyakarta on May 10, 1950.

He made his first profession in our Congregation on December 8, 1975.

He passed away on June 30, 2022 at Wisma Bernardus Semarang.



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS



September 2022

- 07 Agustinus Mujiya (60) - Jakarta-Haji Nawi
- 10 Isidore Aabeisie (65) - Wa-St Louis Community
- 19 Eustachius Ekowijayanto (50) - Talca-San Luis

October 2022

- 21 Maarten Bouw (90) - Maastricht-Bernardus

November 2022

- 28 Gregorius Suhadi (50) - Semarang-Dr.Sutomo
- 30 Gait Welling (85) - Maastricht-Bernardus