

2024 – June (No. 3)



Bro. Theodorus (middle), Bro. Bonaventura Zeca Menezes (back row: third from right),
Bro. Blasius Supriyantoro (front row: second from left) together
with teachers and pupils of St. Teresinha do Menino Jesus in Becora, Dili,
Timor Leste. (Canonical visit to Timor Leste, 2023)

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

- 1. The Synodal Church in Mission (Part II)**
- 2. GC Visitation to The Religious House, Netherlands**
- 3. Delegates to the General Chapter 2024**
- 4. Temporary Professed Weekend Session, Wa.**
- 5. Jubilee Celebrations**
- 6. Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Malawi**
- 7. In memoriam**
- 8. Special Birthdays**

The Synodal Church in Mission (Part II)

Part 1 of the Synthesis Report presents more about the theological foundation, understanding, and practice of synodality that roots itself in the Trinity and unfolds through variety and unity in the Church. By reading this part meditatively, we can catch glimpses of inspiration about the Church and her mission. Here, we present three of them:



1. *The Church's mission in its nature is a participation in the mission of the Triune God*

“The Church is “a people brought together by virtue of the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”. The Father, through the mission of the Son and the gift of the Holy Spirit, involves us in a dynamism of communion and mission that moves us from the “I” to the “we” and places us at the service of the world”.

All the Church’s members are called to accept this task as a gift of the Spirit to be lived out in deference to his guidance. He leads us through the Pascal transition from “I”, understood in a self-centered way, to the ecclesial “we”, where every “I”, clothed in Christ, lives and journeys with his or her brothers and sisters as a responsible and active agent of the one mission of the people of God.

2. *The Church mission is a communal work of the faithful, men and women*

“Before any distinction of Charisms and ministries, we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body (1Cor 12”13). Therefore, among all the baptised, there is a genuine equality of dignity and a common responsibility for mission, according to the vocation of each. The Catholic Church is, by its very nature, a community of every tribe, language, people, and nation. This diversity opens for a greater participation in her universal mission to every people that it might bear more fruits. This is also a challenge that “requires a style of presence, service and proclamation that seeks to build bridges, cultivate mutual understanding and engage in evangelisation that accompanies, listens and learns”.

3. *People in poverty are the initial focus of the Church's Mission*

The mission Christ has entrusted to the Church corresponds to humanity's greatest need, particularly the poor and needy. “The preferential option for the poor is implicit in Christological faith: Jesus, poor and humble, befriended people in poverty, shared a table with them, and denounced the causes of poverty. For the Church, the preferential option for the poor and those at the margins is a theological category before being a cultural, sociological, political or philosophical one. For St. John Paul II, God offers His mercy first to them. This divine preference has consequences for the lives of all Christians, who are called to nourish “the same mind ... as Jesus Christ”.

In the synodal way, when deliberating or making a decision, the Church, at every level, must first understand how such decisions might affect those who are on the periphery. For the sake of Christ's mission, the poor and needy must be the first

group to benefit from the decisions made on behalf of the Church.



GC Visitation to The Religious House, Netherlands



In the month of April, the General Council paid an informal visit to the Religious House, Netherlands. Officially, the brothers of the Religious House live in one community called Bernardus, still located in De Beyart complex. However, there are others living in other houses, called “living groups” such as Capucijnengang, Prins Bisschopsingel and Vlaardingeng. Together with those living apart, they all form one community – Bernardus.

On 24 and 25 April the GC members visited Prins Bisschopsingel, Bernardus and Capucijnengang living groups. In all these communities, the GC members had a prayer service, prepared by each of the communities, a shared meal and an informal discussion with exchange of some information especially on the impending General Chapter of 2024. For those who wanted, there was also time for a personal conversation with any or all of the visitors.

In Bernardus living group in De Beyart, Bro. Augustine gave a picturesque presentation via PowerPoint on the situation of the four FIC provinces. There was opportunity for questions and clarifications. So far the visit in Maastricht was a success. The GC observed with satisfaction the interest of the brothers in knowing what the brothers are doing in the other provinces.



The visit is not over since we still have a few brothers and associated members living outside Maastricht, namely Vlaardingen, the Hague and Halfweg. The GC has arranged to visit them at a time convenient to both sides.

Delegates to the General Chapter 2024

The Superior General on 16 January 2024, declared the convocation of the 36th General Chapter of 2024. This six-yearly congregational gathering is scheduled to take place in Wa, Ghana, from Sunday, 4 till Saturday, 24 August 2024. The names of the delegates and substitutes submitted by the provinces and RHN are the following:

Ex-officio members:

General Council: Bro. Augustine Kubdaar
Bro. Theodorus Suwaryanto
Bro. Raphael Besigrinee
Bro. Valentinus Daru Setiaji
General Treasurer: Bro. Remy Nyukorong

Provincial Superiors: Bro. Lucio Torres (Chile)
Bro. Seregeous Dery (Ghana)
Bro. Fransikus Asisi Dwiayatno (Indonesia)
Bro. Lawrence Sitima (Malawi)
Bro. Wim Luiten (RHN)

Elected members:

Chile Province: Bro. Diego Izquierdo Gallego
Bro. Eustasius Rubert kowijayanto
Substitute: Bro. Javier Herman Solis Urbano

Ghana Province: Bro. Clement Nangpiire
Bro. Fabian Bezel
Bro. Irenius Nimbare
Bro. Isidore Nelson Aabeisie
Bro. Godwin Saabekone Kuu-ireme
Bro. Henry Surnye
Substitutes: Bro. Godfrey Ambang Naa-Tampah
Bro. Felicio Timyang Gyeyir

Indonesia Province: Bro. F. A. Galih Sih Hartanta
Bro. Agustinus Giwal Santoso
Bro. Petrus Suparyanto
Bro. Agustinus Marjito
Bro. Gregorius Bambang Nugroho
Bro. Petrus Anjar Trihartono
Bro. Markus Sujarwo
Bro. Michael Sidharta Susila
Bro. Martinus Hans Gendut Suwardi
Substitutes: Bro. Yohannes Bosco Purwanto
Bro. Albertus Suwarto

Malawi Province: Bro. Trustful Christopher Mwachande
Bro. Lawrence Benedict Nkonde
Substitute: Bro. Mike Mbato

Netherlands: Bro. Gerard Langelaan

Minutes Takers: Bro. Paul Sabogu
Bro. Godfrey Naah Tampah
Bro. Prosper Ganye

**General assistant/
in charge of logistics:** Bro. Williams Nyuzaghl



We invite all FIC communities and individual brothers to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during this preparatory period for the success of the coming Chapter.

Temporary Professed Weekend Session, Wa

The brothers in temporary vows held one of their weekend sessions in the St. Louis Conference Hall from 16 – 17 November 2023. This encounter was the second held in 2023. The encounter forms part of efforts to meet the ongoing formation needs and requirements of the Temporary Professed Brothers (TPBs) in the province. More significantly, these sessions provide a suitable platform, allowing young brothers to bond, share their joys and challenges and help inspire and encourage one another. This time, all twelve (12) Temporary Professed Brothers participated in the meeting, which was an unprecedented achievement.

The meeting opened on November 16 in the evening. The following day, we kick-started the program with an inspiring and reflective prayer service led by Bros. Callistus Y. and Frederick K. This was followed by a welcome address delivered by the Coordinator of TPBs, Bro. Alpitio Kog, on behalf of the Provincial Superior, Bro. Seregeous Dery.

The platform was then set for the brothers to share their experiences, encompassing joys and challenges. It emerged from the sharing that each brother's experiences were not entirely different from the others, creating a sense of similarity in what pertains to the FIC culture. Our first resource person, Fr. John of God Kpiala, had already arrived to give his input on the topic, "Living Consecrated Life as a Temporary Professed Brother in the Light of Spiritual Direction and Accompaniment." Fr. John of God encouraged the young brothers to safeguard our vocation by taking our spiritual direction and accompaniment seriously. According to him, spiritual direction and accompaniment help prevent deviations in life. Further highlighting the importance of spiritual direction, he intimated that the exercise helps us desist from subjective interpretations of our experiences.

Spiritual direction enables us to discern the true spirit from other spirits. The Holy Spirit is the principal director, assisted by human agents. Despite the spiritual benefits of spiritual direction, some people do not take it seriously or abandon it altogether because of specific reasons, for instance, a narrow and poor understanding of the concept, a false sense of self-sufficiency, refusal to examine themselves, neglect of prayer and spiritual life, among others. He concluded by encouraging the young brothers to be aware of the presence of God in our lives, hence the need to deepen our prayer life and conform our inner lives more closely to Christ through spiritual direction and accompaniment.

Our second speaker for the day, Bro. Methodius Kuusoru, also came through with his presentation on "The Consecrated Life: A Call to Availability and Service". In his introduction, Bro. Methodius

painstakingly took us through the rich history of consecrated life, exposing us to its different categories. He talked about the Societies of Apostolic life, such as Missionaries of Africa, the Secular Institutes, like Daughters of Charity and the Institutes of Consecrated Life, where the Brothers FIC belong. He cautioned the young brothers to be wary of greed and the craving for material possessions, which have now become the order of the day in the world. He encouraged us to remain focused on our growth in the life amidst the myriads of challenges that confront us. We must constantly ask ourselves: how resolved am I in my desire to follow Christ, especially when faced with life's storms and challenges? He further encouraged the young brothers to make their lives as profitable to the communities as possible, adding that we can derive a lot of fulfilment and enrichment from the service we render to our communities. We must endeavour to get actively involved in our community affairs so that other community members will feel our absence.



The young brothers with Bro. Methodius after his presentation.

After the second presentation, we evaluated the entire session and brought proceedings to a close in the form of another prayer service. In a nutshell, the encounter was very fruitful, and participants were enriched through the sharing and input of the two resource persons.

Bro. Prosper Ganye

JUBILEES

On the Day
of Your
Religious Profession

Uphold me, Lord,
according to your promise,
that I may live.

Psalm 119

FIC-JUBILEES 8 August – Indonesia

Ignatius Dalimin - 50 years - Frans Sugi



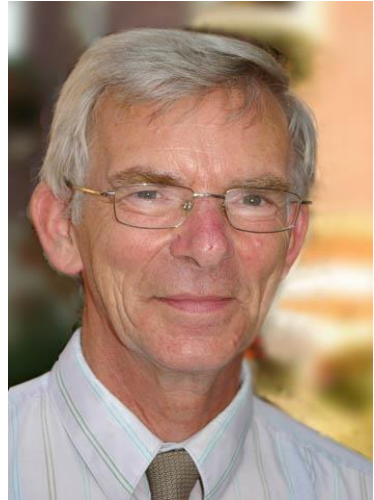
FIC-JUBILEES 15 August – Netherlands

65 years – Johan Muijtjens



FIC-JUBILEES 15 August – Netherlands

Ton Kropman - 60 years - Kees Gordijn

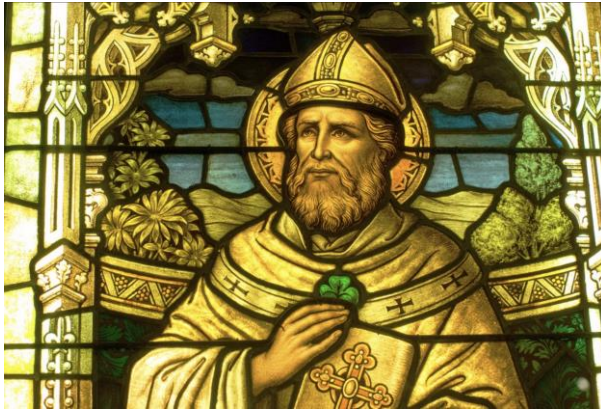


**15 September– Ghana
25 years – Peter Kuuniabom**

**30 September– Malawi
40 years – Andrew Makocho**



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Malawi



Saint Patrick

St. Patrick was a British saint who became famous in Ireland, where he served as a bishop. His feast is commemorated by the church on 17th March every year. He is the patron saint of St. Patrick's Secondary School in Mzedi. As part of paying homage to their patron, the students and teachers held a modest celebration this year. The festivity was honoured by the presence of the Archbishop of Blantyre diocese, Thomas Luke Msusa. Also in attendance were the Parish Priest of Mzedi, Fr. Alfred Msope, the Provincial Superior, Bro Lawrence Sitima, several FIC brothers, the Education Manager for Chiradzulu District, several alumni and the local chiefs of Mzedi.

The day began with a Eucharistic Celebration, which the archbishop presided over. In his homily, he highlighted the spiritual life and the personality of St. Patrick and urged the staff and students to emulate the admirable example of this great saint. "Though he was imprisoned for six years, St. Patrick was hopeful that he would be released one day. He remained prayerful in the face of hardship," he said.

After observing a brief respite, the congregation settled down again for speeches. The students spiced the event by reciting poems, singing songs and cultural dances. In his remarks, the principal of the school, Mr. Aleke Mtungama, commended all stakeholders for their excellent work in advancing the school.

The Archbishop, Thomas Luke Msusa took his turn, thanking the brothers FIC for upholding the values of St. Patrick's Secondary School and sustaining a commendable relationship with the diocese.

He extended his appreciation to the staff and students for their creditable support. He also observed that the school has performed well in national examinations such as the Junior Certificate (JC) and Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) examinations. He, therefore, asked the school stakeholders to maintain their collaboration for the betterment of the school.



On behalf of the Provincial Superior, Bro. Moses Mgunda urged the students to maintain a high level of discipline in the school. He further commended the teaching and non-teaching staff for their spirit of sacrifice. The chief alumnus inspired the students, advising them to maintain their hardworking spirit, trusting that the school could take them very far. He cited a few examples of successful past students who have passed through the school. He concluded his speech by urging them to continue this legacy.

The celebration ended with some refreshments provided by the school. The students also had ample time to meet and interact with the alumni.

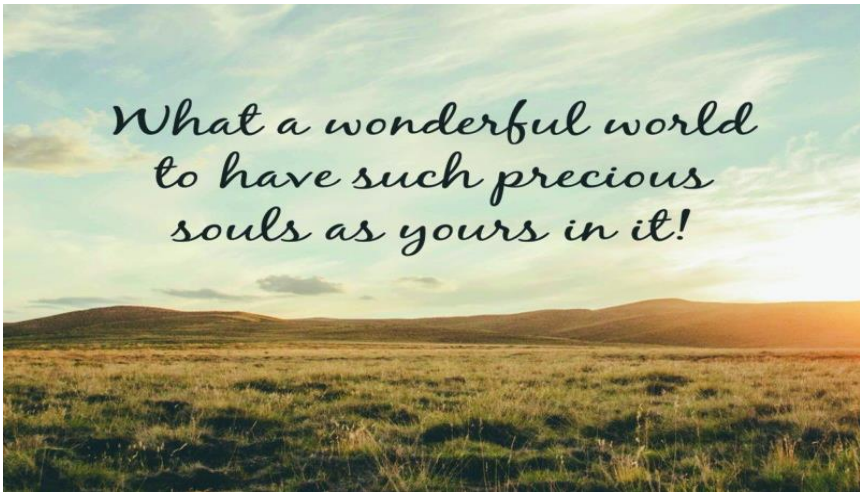
From Provincial newsletter, Malawi



In Memoriam

Brother Michael Poedyartana

Michael was born on January 24 in Badaban, in 1939. He made his first profession on July 2, 1958 and his final profession on July 2, 1963. He passed away on February 29, 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia



Special Birthdays

July

- 4 Petrus Ponidi (70) – Muntilan
- 12 Clovis Baaka (50) – Tamale - St Vincent de Paul House

August

- 5 Ignatius Dalimin (75) – Semarang-Wisma Bernardus
- 23 Raphael Besigrinee (60) – Maastricht - Emmaus
- 24 Alpitio Kog (65) – Nandom - Mt. Zion Community
- 27 Basilide Dong (60) - Damongo

September

- 15 Andrew Makocho (65) – Limbe - Formation house
- 28 Paul Sabogu (60) – Maastricht - Emmaus