



Jaargang 52 - 359

Oriëntatie FIC

For Inspiration and Communication

2025 - 2 - June



All Pilgrims of Hope

*At St. Peter's Square in Rome, several times a year many thousands gather together,
Each with their own wishes to make something meaningful out of their lives.
In 2019, Pope Francis unveiled a monument in this special meeting place
Showing people, refugees, from all times and cultures.
They are on their way to a better future, carrying their baggage.
Visitors and refugees, we are all pilgrims of hope.*

All Pilgrims of Hope

Let's go back to the cover photo and text.
Have another look...

Then you see that in the middle of the monument, two wings stick up.
The Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz called this boat full of migrants and refugees 'Angels Unawares', the angels that go unnoticed.
After Hebrews 13,2: Friends, continue to love each other.
And don't forget to be friendly to outsiders;
for in so doing, some people, without knowing it, have entertained angels.
A nice symbol for what solidarity with refugees can bring.
Further reflection on this sculpture can bring us the hope
These wings belong to a guardian angel guiding the pilgrims and keeping them safe.
We, Brothers, associated members, and people around us
May recognize ourselves in these boat people:
We are all pilgrims of hope
And among us there may be angels.
And every now and then we are given an opportunity to be an angel for others,
to offer hope.

In this issue we give you the stories of five fellow Brothers who passed away.
They have completed their pilgrimage.
We commemorate: Nico Brunott, Dick van der Geest, Agustinus Sakiman,
Yosapat Suko Suwito, and Simon Andrus Briyanto.
We also take a look at three fellow Brothers who are still on the road.
Two of those are Michael Sidharta and Agustinus Marjito.
As new members of the General Council, they have been placed in our boat, to steer us.
The third, Theodorus Suwariyanto, has found a new place after twelve years at the helm.

We are all pilgrims of hope,
And sometimes we are angels to each other.



In Deo Nico Brunott

Nicolaas Johannes

(Br.o Johannes Berchmans, Bro. John)

Wim Swüste



Nico Brunott was born on 13 November 1929 in Amsterdam. He made his first vows to the FIC Congregation on 15 August 1950. On 20 February 2025, he received the Sacrament for the sick. On 1 March 2025 he died at the Care center De Beyart in Maastricht.

Hold on to the Lord

“Hold on to the Lord,

He will always be with you.

Then, you will live to the fullness of days.”

This verse from Psalm 91 was a clear guideline for our dear Nico, whom we say goodbye to today. During his long stay in Malawi, and after that in the Netherlands, this was his aim in life: to be good and do good for his fellow human beings.

Father died early

Nico was born as the fifth in a family with 8 child-

ren. His father died when Nico was eight years old. The family was poor. Nico often spoke of it. In his room, he kept a picture of his mother with her children. And the note his father wrote in the morning of Nico's fifth Birthday was stuck on his noteboard. His father never came home that day.

Talented Brother

In 1942, Nico left home and reported to the FIC congregation to join the juvenate. In September 1948, he became a postulant, in August 1949 he was a novice, and on 15 August 1950 he made his first vows as an FIC Brother. He successfully did the teacher training (1949). In the next ten years, he got all the diplomas he needed as a teacher, including French, sports, and secondary school English.

All of which shows he was very good at languages. And such a talented man would be very useful in Malawi.

Malawi

In 1961, Nico started on an adventure that would go on for 43 years. “Hold on to the Lord. He will always be with you.” He joined the community at Mzedi and taught at St. Patrick's Secondary School. At his own request, he was given the opportunity to study at the Catechist Institute of Gaba, Uganda. He felt it was his calling to train students for teaching religion based on what he learned there. And so, from 1968, he taught at the Catechist Training Institute of Likulezi. He also taught religion at the Montfort Teachers' Training College.

Zambia

Eleven years later, in 1979, Nico was moved to our new work station in Zambia. He taught religion there for some ten years at St. Clement's Secondary School. As school chaplain, he worked for the young people there. Nico, Bro. John, was very popular there because of his great dedication to his students.

When in 1989, the Congregation left Zambia, he rejoined the Brothers in Malawi (Limbe – Formation House).

School chaplain

Nico continued to “hold on to the Lord” and started writing books about the Bible and religion. He also became school chaplain again, to

help the students. He protected their interests, gave personal guidance, and regularly organised religious services.

Nico was also one of the editors of the 'Moni' magazine and gave technical support for the 'Care' magazine. Until 2004, he also took care of the students of St. Patrick's Secondary School. After that, he returned to the Netherlands and joined the Xaverius community at De Beyart in Maastricht.

Very strong faith

Nico was a man with a very strong faith. He did not always completely agree with his fellow Brothers, who tend to be more relaxed in the way they regard mass practices. I can only admire him for holding on to his own ideas, while equally valuing the religious line of thought of others. He had an open ear and a benevolent look when church matters were discussed. But he would also calmly express his own honest view of the matter.

Riding a tricycle

Nico did not have very good health. He had problems with his legs and he had to wear braces always, up to his knees. He didn't normally mention that to others. It was hard for him to keep his balance on a bicycle. That was a nuisance to him, because he much enjoyed cycling through the beautiful Limburg hills.

The problem was solved when he was offered a tricycle. So he could go to the church of St. Mary's every day for morning prayers. The tricycle was parked in the chapel, and Nico could go in to services.

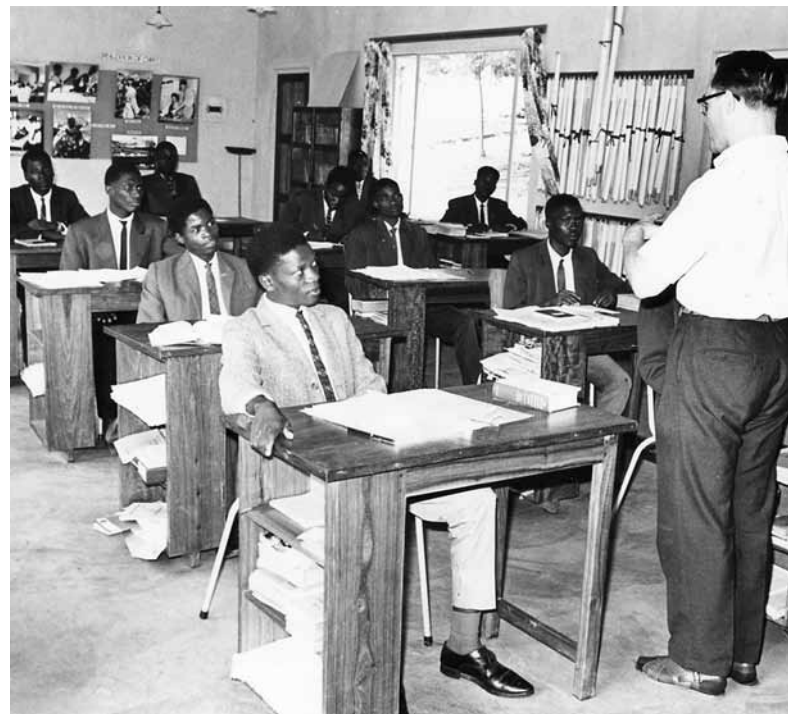
For Nico, cycling was a connection with God and Nature. Anyone encountering him in the road would have to be careful, for Nico's tricycle went quite fast both in town and in the country roads. Unfortunately after a fall, even the tricycle was no longer possible. But he made his peace with that. "Hold on to the Lord, hwe will always be with you."

Photographer and community man

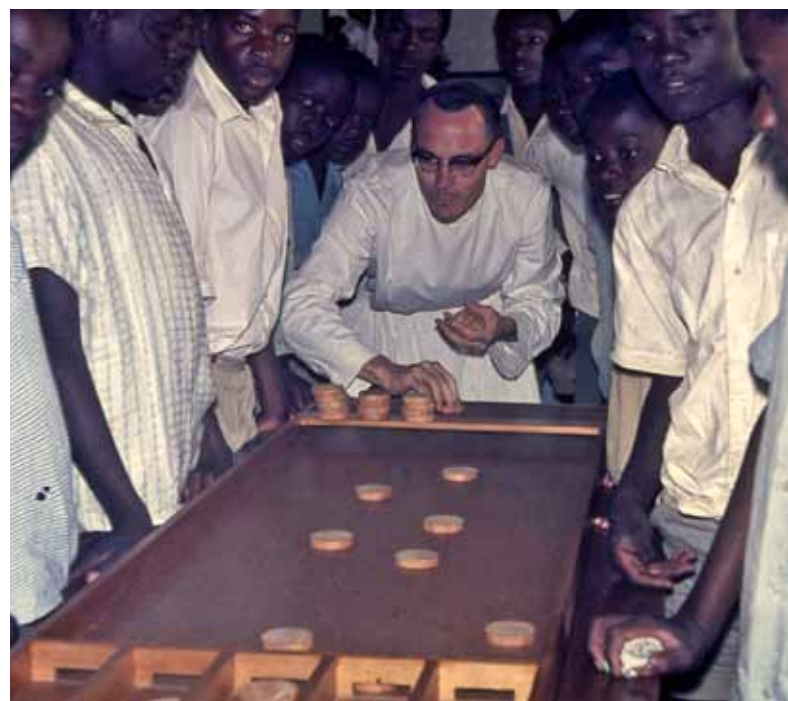
When years ago, a new 'book of faces' was prepared for all the FIC Brothers, Nico proved an able photographer for portraits. I am still grateful and pleased with the portrait he took of me at



Malawi: handing out candy to children in Limbe-Mzedi



Teaching future catechists in Phalomba and playing a game with students of St. Patrick's





Limbe-Marij View, 1962. Bosco Hendrixx, Theodotus Bosman, Nico Brunott, Aloysio vd Broek, Godehard Rijnja, Agnus Janssen, Gatianus Tenwolde



Above: 2006, celebration at De Beyart. Back row Gerard Hermans, Remy Nyukorong, Wim Brands and Jos Bom



2018, outing on the Maas. river In back Gait Welling, Han van Wieringen, Maarten Bouw, Jos Straates. Nico quietly enjoying himself on his own

the time. When I complimented him on his art, he made a face like "Oh, it's nothing!"

In the communities he was part of, he was always a loyal and attentive fellow Brother. He'd always be there during Recreation. And he showed himself an inventive companion, finding new games to play to occupy his house mates when they had nothing left to talk about.

Joining his fellow Brothers at Anjoulaan

When we stand at the Anjoulaan cemetery and look at all those grave monuments there, we feel surrounded by all the goodness, warm fraternity, and great efforts for others of all those who rest there.

Nico will amply strengthen that feeling for us. We will lay our beloved relative and loyal fellow Brother to rest with all those who have passed before. Here will rest a man who held on to his Lord in full surrender. A man who lived in the strength of Love, which he radiated until the very end.

May he now rest in eternal Peace with his Maker.

Hold on to the Lord



Tongerseweg, 1946. A. Campman, H. vd Sande, Koos Baijer, Baptista Somers, L. v. Duren, Nico Brunott



1961: departure from Schiphol. From left, Rafael de Groot, Nico Brunott, Ignatius vd Made



Wimbledon, 1960; language training. Aubertus Holla, Egbertus Peters, Nico Brunott, Rafael de Groot, Mercurius Moedijono, Eustatius Tohar Wiryamartaya



Above: Salatiga 1994, General Chapter. Staff: Everard Verhoeven, Sr. Ursula CB, Honoratus Knaapen, Sr. Stella OSU, Carlo Hillenaar, Sr. Emma OSU, Wim vBerkel. In front Dismas vd Valk, Willy Bastiaans, Nico Bruontt

Left: Maastricht, recreation. Nico Brunott, Gait Welling, Frans Turkenburg

Our uncle Nico

Niece Thea

On 1 March, we were phoned around 8 in the evening by Bro. Gerard Langelaan, who told us Uncle Nico had passed away peacefully. 1 March, in the middle of the Carnaval weekend. In one way, it fits perfectly, because our Dutch Carnaval celebrations are part of a religious tradition, even though for him it needn't all be so loud. But the jokes and quotes that are part of it also fit, he was one of those who were good at them and enjoyed playing along with a serious face. The music of the Carnaval celebrations wasn't really his kind of music, but music in and of itself was always an important part of his life.

Can I add anything to all those stories and shared experiences Nico shared with his fellow Brothers over the years? I'll give some stories from my own perspective.

Uncle Nico came into my life in 1985. I was going out with Bernard and in his family, they were always talking about the uncles living abroad. That autumn, Uncle Nico came to the Netherlands on leave and he stayed in Amsterdam at the Postjesweg house. From there, he'd go visiting

around the family, and one Saturday evening he stopped with his sister and brother-in-law. We were there and we had a good time, talking together. I told him enthusiastically about our plans to go and travel in Africa for six months. To my great surprise, Uncle Nico said that wasn't possible. But how could anyone say that who had been living in Africa for years?! I'd been in Africa before, and I said that I'd found there were bus services, and places to eat. And the local people were using those. So why couldn't we?

So, young and enthusiastic as we were, we went anyway and we had a great six months. Of course that included a visit, in fact two visits, to Uncle Nico, his fellow Brothers, and their dog Charley. We experienced at first hand what it was like to live and work in Zambia and want the best for all those boys. Uncle Nico was trying to teach them as much as he could, and so he'd arranged for a group of boys to correct tests, to work the land, and to help with other activities. For me, just being a guest felt strange and not right, so I helped to make a Diary for the coming school year. I'd cut out Bible texts and quotes, and paste them at the bottom of each page. By way of thanks, he sent me a copy.

I was also very interested to find out how Uncle Nico did his teaching, so I asked if I could attend one day. And my idea was, to sit in the back and listen and watch the proceedings. But Uncle Nico had other ideas, and after introducing me,



The community in Mansa in 1980. From left, Wim van Berkel, Maurus Collignon, Valentius Boonman, Gerard van Geel, Nico Brunott

he invited me to tell them about my journeys in Africa, show them the guide book 'Africa on a shoestring' and to answer the questions of the boys. We had a great time. But I never found out what his usual style of teaching was like...

Above our bed, on the wall, there was a huge spider. We weren't allowed to remove it, for that was an important assistant for catching mosquitoes. Uncle Nico also told us how to remove leeches from our legs. And fortunately he came with us to talk our tent out of the hands of the Customs service, it saved us a lot of money.

Bernard and I were the first and only members of the family who visited uncle Nico in Africa. It created a strong connection, and we found each other in telling stories and exchanging experiences. That bond remained always.

When he came on leave, Uncle Nico visited not just the family, but also the farmer couple that housed him during the war. He really enjoyed his stay there and helped at the farm. During the years Uncle Nico lived in Africa, contact was maintained through postcards and letters and his leave times.

After he retired and came to live in the Netherlands, that changed. Teaching had become too exhausting, but otherwise he was quite fit and very interested in life all around him. So when the time came to celebrate his 50-year FIC jubilee, great celebrations were planned. He asked Bernard and me to make the arrangements, which we really enjoyed. We spent a family weekend together, and he showed us all the buildings that had been important for him. I won't surprise you that he had lots of stories to tell, about a shirt made from a flour bag, the obligatory smoking of a pipe to calm oneself, which he disliked intensely, and the weekly exercises and chastising. All made visible in the museum in the attics of De Beyart.



Above: Nico in Limbe-Mary View in 1962, with Bosco Hendriks and Ignatius vd Made, at the hut where at night, the watchman stayed who was hired to chase monkeys from the fields

Below: image from the celebration booklet for Nico's 50-jarig jubilee



**Het is altijd feest als
oom Nico in het land is**

1940s: Nico (with glasses) with is mother, brothers and sisters. Life wasn't easy for them ather he lost his father



Nico with tricycle and (below) with nephew Bernard and niece Thea on a duo bicycle



The celebrations at De Schark lasted all weekend. It was all very relaxed and we had lots of fun. So it was a great success, and as a Brother he couldn't lead a mass so we skipped Church on Sunday. For September next, Nico was looking forward to celebrating his 75-year jubilee. We won't be able to do that now, but he was the eldest of his fellow Brothers when he died.

Of course, taking pictures for the picture newspaper and making programmes for the monthly classical music meeting was important to Nico, but his greatest hobby was cycling. Logical, the Netherlands is a country made for cyclists. So Nico was given a bicycle all to himself! It was the first time in his life he had a bicycle and he was so proud! After that, he had a tricycle on which he rode many kilometers a year in the region around Maastricht. He kept a pile of notes on the connecting points of the cycling network that was a couple of inches thick.

One time, Bernard and I suggested we go cycling together, and that he really enjoyed; he'd never made a cycling trip with anyone else. We took shelter under the portico of a big apartment building once when it rained, we stopped to eat 'bitterballs', ate pancakes in the square, had coffee in a cheerful old café, you understand we made it a real outing. But wherever we went, Uncle Nico always found people to talk to, that's a real talent he had!

When he could no longer ride his tricycle, we found the duocycle, a great invention for two people side by side on the same tricycle. Bernard had planned a route, and he helped to push us uphill, otherwise we would never have managed. Jack and Zeljka from Canada also made a trip with him like that, they found it a great and relaxing way to be out of doors together, and they visited some nice places with him.

To Uncle Nico, all the world was new that way. And when we were on the road with him, we found out when we stopped for coffee that we'd never make it to De Beyart in time for lunch, so we let the house know and they kept lunch back for us!

Uncle Nico was very happy with the way they took care of him at De Beyart, and with the support of the Team FIC people. For almost all his



Nico at his 50-year jubilee in 2004, being congratulated by Mrs. Wilma Weerts

life, he had been with other Brothers, and it was very good for him.

All of this inspired us to make a special flower arrangement for today, showing what was basic to Uncle Nico. Faith was the fundament on which his all was built, a flexible but strong faith that kept developing. He had a special antenna for others and for the world around him. Of course that antenna was also and mostly aimed at the Lord, his focus was always the Light. As he was, a remarkable Brother, he was a beacon of light himself. For that reason we would like to light the candle in the arrangement. For safety reasons we'll do that outside at the cemetery later on.

At the grave site:

This burning candle gives off light and warmth, especially during the dark hours. Uncle Nico experienced that warmth and light himself in his contacts, and in living together with his fellow Brothers. For that reason we want to give this flower arrangement to the FIC community here. May you keep on experiencing light and warmth with and in each other.

And may Uncle Nico, Bro. Johannes Berchmans, Bro. John, be with you a little longer in this way.



Funeral meal with the family

Flower arrangement: "Faith was the fundament on which his all was built, a flexible but strong faith that kept developing. He had a special antenna for others and for the world around him. Of course that antenna was also and mostly aimed at the Lord, his focus was always the Light."

All Pilgrims of Hope





BR. HONORATUS
S.FR.I. KNAAPEN

19-9-1921
25-02-2006

BR. JO
BUIZER
19-9-1921
20-9-2002

R. MA
M.J. S
22-10-
15-8-1953

BR. V

The blessings of growing old

Nico Brunott



We inhabitants of De Beyart are on our way to old age,
Or we have reached old age.
Growing older, a blessing? You'd say "We know better."
Most of us live with ailments.
We are forgetful;
We are a nuisance to ourselves and others by making mistakes;
We don't hear or see very well;
We can't bend or bow very well;
We aren't moving very easily, considering all the strollers, wheelchairs,
mobility scooters we use;
Not to mention tricycles.
Many of us Beyart dwellers can't go out anymore
And spend many hours in our rooms;
And perhaps some of us find it difficult to get through the days.
Outside, the hurried world rushes on.
It sometimes seems everyone forgets us;
And we could feel lonely and deserted.
And perhaps useless and a trouble to others.
So, how can you speak about the blessings of growing older?

It was given to me to view my old age with faith.
Life blooms, and then slows down again.
Life comes nothing.

To nothing?
Jesus' life came to nothing.
He was crucified and bled to death.
Deserted by his friends.
And God?
His feelings cried out:
"My God, why have you forsaken me?"
Jesus hung on that cross from nine in the morning until three in the afternoon.

I see this stage of my life as if nailed on the cross of old age, until the end.
What I'm looking forward to is the most beautiful thing: being vested in the glory of Christ.
Old age!
It can't be reached without losses, pains, pain and suffering, deterioration, diminishment, exhaustion.
But when I connect it with the suffering of Christ,
Which He accepted in faith and love,
Old age is fertile, liberating,
A blessing for those around us,
For all people,
For the world.

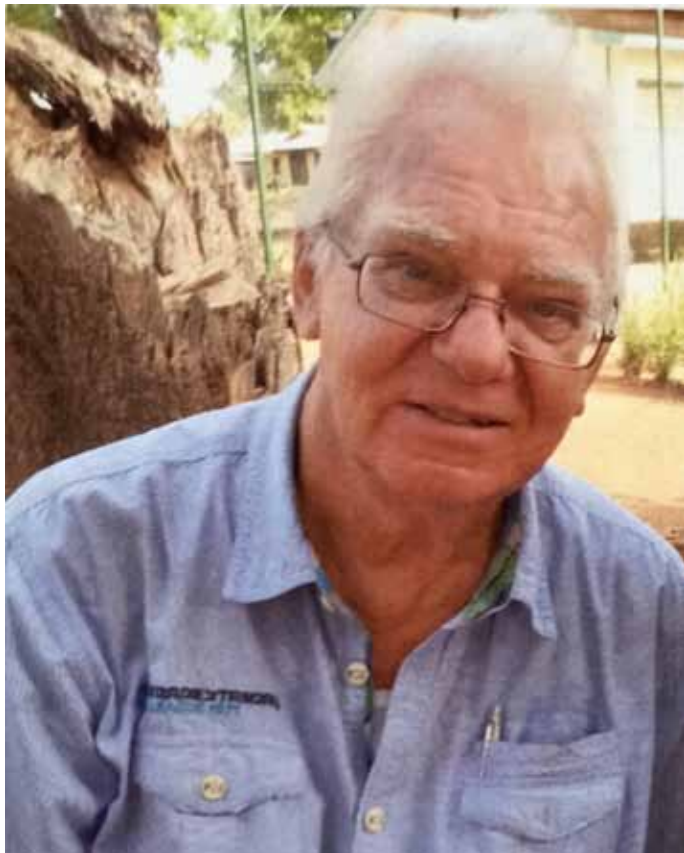
Yes, in that way growing old is blessing.



*On the road of our existence,
God have mercy on us,
Teach us to live in Your Light,
Kyrie eleison
Give us hope wherever we go*

In Deo Dick van der Geest

Theodorus Jacobus Maria



Dick was born on 26 July 1941 in Leidschendam, the Netherlands. He made his first profession with the FIC congregation on 15 August 1962. From 2006, Dick worked independently to set up schools in Ghana. He died on 12 November 2024 in Zoetermeer, the Netherlands.

Dick about his work in Ghana

When I retired in 2006, I decided to start this project in Northern Ghana. I had noticed that many villages there had no school, and if there was any teaching done, it was often done outside under a tree by some idealist (but mostly unqualified) teacher. Those were young people from the village who had been lucky enough to have had some school years elsewhere.

With them, I was of the opinion that the many children in the more remote villages should at least be given the chance to learn to read, write

and calculate. The Chiefs and the villagers, who were almost all illiterate, also thought so. A real school in their village had been a dream for them up until then, which would probably never come true.

I had no network of donors or an NGO to support the project financially; I only had my own pension. The fact that we have succeeded in building schoolrooms in ten villages since then is mainly due to the enthusiasm with which the villagers volunteered during the construction. They collected suitable sand and pebbles in the bush for making mortar and concrete; and they also carried water for this every day. Their efforts reduced the construction costs by perhaps 30% (to around 4,500 euros per classroom). In the provincial capital Wa, I bought, among other things, cement, corrugated aluminium sheets for the roofs, wood for roof trusses, window frames and doors. Transporting these materials to the building sites was not easy because of the poor dirt roads and paths. The volunteers provided manual and other services, but for the actual building I hired professional construction workers and carpenters from Wa. Those were paid.

Before we decided to build a school somewhere, we'd have a meeting with the villagers. We then discussed what they could expect from me and what I expected from them. I also always asked the education inspectorate for a declaration that it agreed with the new school and was prepared to appoint sufficient teachers when the school was finished.

In order to make it attractive for teachers in the city to come and work in those remote villages (which were without electricity), we often built rooms there for their accommodation. In retrospect, I now consider it a blessing that we had only a limited budget for the projects. That forced us to call on volunteers. Their work in the blazing sun was not easy. But it did result in them cherishing the new school as a treasure, as something of their own. That also became apparent when after a heavy tropical storm in the village of Dieh part of the roof of the new school had come off. The village seemed to be in deep mourning.

In 2014, our school project was discovered by a German philanthropist. He started supporting us. As a result, we were able to build more

classrooms. So far, we have been able to build 48 classrooms and also 48 rooms/offices for the teachers. The number of children who have now benefited from education thanks to this project is approaching 3000. I hope to continue with this work, which is so appreciated, for a while yet. (as of 2018)



Photos sent by Dick to the Netherlands, taken in the various villages where he built schools



Prayer Card

Brothers and sisters of Dick vd Geest

Dick grew up as the seventh child in a family of nine. In our memories, we often had arguments with him as a child. And that has always remained the case to some extent. The boys went to school in The Hague with the Brothers of Maastricht. Two of them, Ted and Dick, decided to become brother teachers themselves. Dick attended the secondary school in Zevenaar and the teacher training college in Maastricht. After joining the brothers, he became a teacher ("the best time of my life"), then a lecturer at the teacher training college and finally a school supervisor in The Hague.

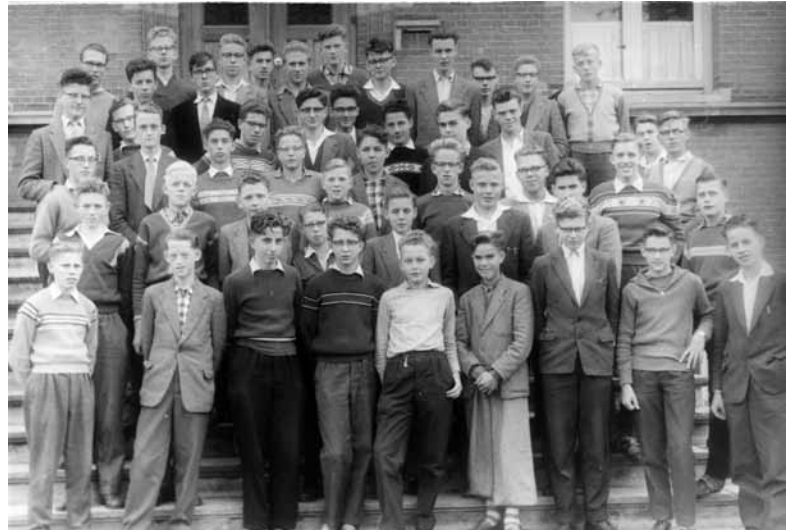
In 1989, he took unpaid leave to provide school supervision in Ghana; he thought there were enough people in the Netherlands who could do that work. When he arrived in Ghana, he discovered that the most basic requirements for education, such as a school building and teaching materials, were often lacking. This is how the idea of building schools came up. He was also assigned financial tasks. He had the talent for it. In that position, he got into conflicts about incorrect accounts. The conflicts escalated and led to painful lawsuits, after which the Congregation expelled him as a member.

Dick decided to stay in Ghana and to focus entirely on building schools, which he financed with his own generous pension. Through his strict and professional management, he was able to build ten schools. A German philanthropist donated money for five more schools.

Dick's 'new life' and good relationships with Ghanaian friends and workers were a missionary passion for him. But the years were starting to count and when he came on holiday for a few months this year, he decided to return to Ghana only one more time to complete his project. Things turned out differently; he turned out to have tumours in his brain. Recovery was no longer possible. He died two months later at Iris-



Maastricht, 1959: Dick vd Geest and Cornelius Vercoelen



1959, Tongerseweg. Dick last row 2nd left. 3rd left: Albert Ketelaars. Justi in front of them 2nd left Arnold Smal. Front row 4th right Yos Baskoro Berkemeijer.



Wimbledon, 1966. Dick vd Geest, Leonius Lubbers, Manfred de Baaij, Jos vd Kerkhoven, Luigo Jansen, Zacharias Dijk (kneeling)

hof, a palliative care unit in Zoetermeer. We are left with a jumble of memories.

Dick was a talented, idiosyncratic and passionate brother. We are grateful that he was able to mean so much to others after that tumultuous beginning.

Tribute to the Late Dick v.d. Geest

Augustine Kubdaar, Superior General of the Brothers FIC

“At death, life is changed, not ended. When our earthly battle is over, we rise to a new and glorious life with God” (cf. Luke 17:7-10). On behalf of the Brothers FIC congregation, I present this tribute to our brother in Christ and friend: Dick v.d. Geest. The news of Dick’s death has left us deeply shocked and saddened, as his ill health was unknown to many brothers and his friends. His demise feels profoundly painful for those of us who knew him, especially in Ghana, where he devoted himself to serving the poor. Dick ministered to those whose hope seemed lost, drying the tears of the brokenhearted and standing by the forgotten. His death, without a chance for goodbyes, leaves an ache in our hearts.

I first met Dick during my time in formation at the FIC Tamale community. Over the years, our paths crossed during several occasions and celebrations, leaving me deeply grateful and admiring his steadfast commitment and many contributions to the mission of our congregation. Though he eventually left the FIC congregation, yet Dick upheld the values we hold dear, living his vows and promises to God with faithfulness until the end.

His service to the poor and compassionate personality spoke volumes about his character. Dick was a true servant of God and a champion for the suffering and marginalized. His passion for education, particularly in remote areas in Ghana, led him to build schools that will continue to benefit generations long after his death. He was a man of justice, fearlessly advocating for equality and the dignity of all people.

I am especially grateful for my last encounter with Dick at Zoetermeer, where he lay on his sickbed. That moment, marked by a heartfelt handshake, carried profound meaning beyond words. Though very sick and weak, Dick struggled to engage me in conversation about Ghana, a land he loved deeply. At that moment, there was true reconciliation—between him and the FIC brothers. Our hearts were united in mutual forgiveness. In my prayer for Dick during that visit, I committed him to the will of God.

I trust that Dick rests now in the eternal embrace of his Creator. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, *“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit”* (Psalm 34:18). May we find comfort in knowing that Dick, who spent his life uplifting the brokenhearted, is now at peace with God. His legacy of compassion, justice, and service to the poor will forever inspire all who knew him.

Rest well, my dear brother Dick. May your soul find eternal rest in the light and peace of God.

Bro. Augustine and Bro. Gerard Langelaan visited Dick on his death bed

All Pilgrims of Hope



*See us as we are today,
With desires, fear and pain,
Teach us to live in your light,
Kyrie eleison*

Give us hope wherever we go



In Deo Agustinus Sakiman

Bro. Agus



Brother Agustinus Sakiman was born on 15 May 1963 in Klaten, Indonesia. On 2 July 1989, he made his first vows as an FIC Brother. He died on 21 January 2025 in Klaten, Indonesia.

The apostolate of Brother Agustinus Sakiman within the FIC congregation was always in education, first at a primary school, then in agricultural education. From 2002-2009 he was director of the Agricultural Vocational School and the Xaverius Senior High School in Belitang, Coordinator of the Xaverius Foundation in Belitang and Head of Dormitory. Later he became director of SMP Pangudi Luhur Boro. After his retirement in 2014 he continued to do pastoral work. He also enjoyed gardening.

Br. Agustinus was known as a humble, loving and faithful servant. In his relationships with fellow brothers he always tried to be kind and bring joy.



Above: Belitang, 1993, community. Thomas Sumariyadi, Anton Masdihardjo, Aristides Hutjens, Agus Hardono, Aloysius Sumarno, Agustinus Sakiman

Below: sporty, riding a motorbike



The life and work of Agustinus Sakiman, FIC *Eustachius Ekowijayanto*

I had the privilege of knowing Brother Agustinus Sakiman, FIC, closely during the years we spent together in Yogyakarta, where we both studied at different universities. During that time I experienced his calmness and his unconditional willingness to help those around him.

His joy was contagious and his presence radiated peace in the midst of the daily routine. Agustinus always showed a serenity that touched the soul, a heart that was always ready to serve and a quiet dedication to the mission he undertook in his life. By his example, I learned that true greatness lies in humility and dedication to others.

Brother Agustinus left us a profound lesson on humility, faith and quiet work. In the Eucharistic celebration in his memory, we felt that his

life was intertwined with the sacrifice of Christ, which reflected his love for the community and his dedication to serving God. His passion for the simple things, such as avocados and orchids, was not just a hobby, but an expression of his appreciation for God's creation and his life according to the values of the Gospel.

By his humility and tireless work, he touched the lives of all of us who had the privilege of knowing him, and left an impression that extends beyond his passing. At his funeral, as we prayed for his eternal rest, we were comforted by the assurance that his soul is in God's peace. Today, his example continues to guide our steps and reminds us that true greatness lies in humility, selfless dedication and fidelity to God.

Brother Agustinus, may your memory inspire us to live with the same love and dedication as you.



In Deo Yosapat Suko Suwito

Bro. Yosapat



Boro, 1970. Yosapat with Wilhelm Leensen

Brother Yosapat was born on 10 February 1940. He did his first profession on 2 July 1960 and he died on 28 January 2025 in Semarang, Indonesia.

Bro. Yosapat was an example of a true FIC brother. Living in brotherly love was the value he strove for. In all difficulties and challenges he showed loyalty to his calling and service. He was known as a Brother who lived a simple life, full of dedication, joy, and gratitude, relaxed but serious, flexible, diligent in his work and spreading love to others. He also gave abundant love to his brothers. He passed away after a visit from his family, from whom he derived much support. Now the pilgrimage of his life is completed.

*Semarang, 2017.
During a meeting for older Brothers.
with Bros. Marianus and Arnoldus*



Marianus, FIC

Br. Arnoldus

Br. Yosaphat, FIC

Insights

Yosapat Suko Suwito

I am often strengthened by the words of the song:

*"Increase your effort and initiative,
build the world.*

*Even if there are obstacles in your path,
keep moving forward, we will win.*

Do not hesitate."

I often sing that text. It is a mantra for me to get through the difficult times of life. A life full of waves on which I play happily like a surfer. It feels like a skill to play on the waves of life, until I am able to faithfully endure the struggle in the vastness of time, and thus create opportunities to welcome the gift of gaining experience with Divine Providence, gaining experience with God.

My original motivation for living as a brother was worldly and superficial. But that is how God called me. That is part of the story of my life calling. As time passes, I find myself discovering more and more the deepest motivation for choosing this calling as a brother in life.

The commemorative shirt for the 90th anniversary of FIC in Indonesia had the following question: "What are you looking for in this monastic life?" That question shocked me. Especially when I realized that I initially wanted to become a brother because I wanted to live a comfortable life. But my life history shows that I did not direct my life in the direction of the desire for a comfortable life. I was given a divine experience: the divine providence within me. This experience has made me stronger, so that I can increasingly be a blessing to the people God has brought to me.

I wrote this piece after living as a Brother for 54 years. I am grateful for this gift. I hope that God will always support, guide and protect me as I continue to search for the meaning of my life as a FIC brother. God has been faithful in giving me a divine life. Therefore, I want to entrust my life and my calling to His care until the end of my life.

Muntilan, 1962. All together, helping to put the letter foundry together



1978



In Deo

Simon Andrus Briyanto

Bro. Simon



Simon was born on 5 October 1971 in Magelang, Indonesia. He made his first vows with the congregation on 2 July 1997. Simon died on 26 February 2025 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

*“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
(Matthew 25:40)*

This quote from the Lord sums up the entire life of Brother Simon Andrus Briyanto FIC. His service and concern for others go beyond mere duty; they are a manifestation of his love for God. His life stands as an offering to the Divine, which is expressed in every act of kindness toward those entrusted to his care.

In every phase of his life’s journey, Brother Simon demonstrated sincerity, a spirit of service, and a deep love for God and his community. As a Brother, Brother Simon is known for his sociability, enthusiasm, and unwavering presence for others. His life was not dedicated to himself, but

to the service of others. He dedicated himself to various missions, ranging from teaching and printing to leadership positions in various institutions of the FIC congregation. Wherever he was assigned, he continually brought joy, served with sincere dedication, and strived to give his best.

Yet, beneath his busy exterior, Brother Simon was a Brother of prayer. In simplicity and dedication, he relied continually on prayer. During his life, Brother Simon faced many health problems, including blood sugar problems and a major kidney stone operation. Despite these difficulties, he remained steadfast in spirit and continued to radiate love. He never complained or used his ailments as an excuse to stop his service. Even in his suffering, he turned his heart and attention to others, as if his pain was only a small part of his sacrificial love for God and the community.

On Sunday, February 23, 2025, when his hemoglobin levels were dropping and a blood transfusion was necessary, Brother Simon was taken by his fellow Brothers to the hospital in Yogyakarta. In a state of full consciousness, he humbly accepted this situation as part of God’s plan. As his health deteriorated and his body weakened, Brother Simon, with unwavering faith, expressed his desire to receive the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as a sign of surrender and submission to God’s saving love. After this sacrament, he passed away quickly, peacefully and in complete surrender to his Creator. He had accomplished his mission and left an indelible mark of love in the lives of many.

The passing of Brother Simon has left a deep sadness among his family, friends, and all his fellow brothers in the congregation. Yet, in the midst of this sorrow, there is a steadfast belief that he has completed his career with honor, remained true to his calling, and now rests in the embrace of God’s love.

Simplicity and dedication

Final farewell

Theodorus Suwariyanto

I intended to visit you tomorrow in the hospital, but this afternoon our Simon met God in eternal heaven. We had just spoken, and I was full of disbelief when you told me that you had gone on a motorbike from Muntilan to Semarang.

Simon, thank you for always talking to me so honestly and openly, thank you for all your help, you were always there for everyone, that was your special talent. You helped so many people...

We will miss you very much Brother, I will too, and we pray for you.



1994: profession



Above: Semarang, 2023. With General Superior Augustine Kundaar during his visit to the schools in Semarang.



Rigth, middle ppicture: during a meeting in 2022.



Bottom right: Salatiga 2012, General Chapter. Simon joking with Gregorius Bambang.

*When we fall, help us rise,
Give us hope wherever we go,
Teach us to live in your light,
Kyrie eleison*

Give us hope wherever we go



God is Love, He made me possible

Theodorus Suwariyanto

I still remember clearly the election of members of the General Council at the General Chapter in 2000 in Wa-Ghana. The delegation from Indonesia had to discuss finding a candidate to replace me as a candidate for the General Council 2000-2006. I was too young and needed a broad and deep knowledge of the congregation. I also needed to gain experience living in the international community. I still must grow and develop my faith and calling as a FIC brother. I was grateful that, finally, Br. Christ Sukarman provided himself to replace me, and the chapter member then accepted and elected him as the General Council member. God understood my situation and condition and gave me opportunities to grow and develop in my vocations and missions. Thank God, you are perfect.

At the 2012 General Chapter in Roncalli, Salatiga-Indonesia, after I reflected on my call as an FIC brother and considered the process of electing members of the General Council, I made myself available to be elected as a member of the General Council. My heart said I felt prepared to serve the congregation in the leadership ministry, assisting the Superior General. Of course, I was constrained humanly, but I was convinced I could carry it out because of God's strength and work. I lived and worked according to my abilities and duties. The most important thing was assisting with the Superior General's attendance and responsibilities.

I learned to be good and to do good. I experienced spiritual fertility while living in the community and through encounters with fellow brothers and co-workers in various provinces and RHN (Religious House Netherlands). My knowledge of the congregation grew and deepened. I experienced happiness as an FIC brother. I was also grateful that I was able to write some books so that I could use my time for various ideas and experiences for many people (especially my



book readers). For me, books are like a vehicle for education, fulfilling my love for the world of education as a teacher. I am grateful that we were able to form a solid and satisfactory team.

At the 2018 General Chapter in Denekamp, The Netherlands, my name again appeared as a candidate for the 2018-2024 General Council. The vote was still significant; many wanted me as the General Council member. In days of contemplation, I finally prepared myself again to be elected as a member of the General Council, but not as a Superior General. The Lord wanted me to assist the new Superior General in the leadership ministry of the Congregation.

In the beginning, of course, we had to learn and accept each other's personalities and leadership styles. There were challenges and difficulties, but because we prioritised teamwork and healthy community building, we could generally overcome these challenges and problems. Spirit for better service and assisting Superior General overcome our challenges and difficulties. The

spirit of collegiality is accurate. I was keeping 'one voice out' as a guaranteed decision. In this period, even though the outbreak of COVID-19 hindered it, the General Council still managed to carry out the mandate of the 2018 General Chapter well. I am grateful to the Superior General and fellow brothers because I learned how to be a brother to anyone, especially with lay colleagues (because it became my spirit when I worked at the Pangudi Luhur Foundation). My encounters with brothers and co-workers enriched my life as a religious brother. I grew and developed as a human being and as a religious. The spirit of collegiality greatly coloured the leadership in this period. God is perfect.

I want to thank all those who have supported and assisted me in carrying out my duties as a member of the General Council and my fellow brothers and associated members, especially the members of the Emmaus Community who have coloured and nourished the life of my vocation and mission for approximately 12 years, and the RHN brothers who have supported me with warm and positive prayers and relations-

hips. I am blessed to be here with my senior brothers in The Netherlands. I learned a lot about how to be genuinely an FIC Brother. I have had the excellent opportunity to have a close spiritual relationship with our founders, Msgr. Rutten and Bro. Bernardus Hoecken. At the same time, I also had the chance to build good relationships with my fellow brothers here in the Netherlands. Most of you taught me how to be a better human, Christian, and religious. From some of you, I have been enriched by your presence, significant support and help. So, from my deep heart, I am grateful for everything you have been and have done for me. May God grant an abundance of blessings to you all and grant you health and happiness. For sure I will miss you. Thank you very much.

Thanks to every member of the staff and our secretariat staff: Willy Bastiaens and Leny Last, my fellow brothers Remy Nyukorong and Lo Koeleman and of course Paul Sabogu, Margreet de Rijke, Joke van Daalen, Johan Steuten, Jo Boetzen, Eric Nengerman, and Mary and Ton Raymakers.

General Council 2012-18: Guido Sukarman, Martinus Handoko, Raphael Besigrinee and Theodorus Suwariyanto



Hopefully, through our prayers and support, the members of the General Council 2024-2030 can carry out the congregation's mandate by implementing the resolutions and recommendations of the 2024 General Chapter. I pray for them and ask them to pray for my life and my mission in Indonesia. In the spirit of synodality, let us renew our way of life and mission together by the call of the times. I will miss you all. Thank you very much.

building good relationships

General Council 2018-24: Augustine Kubdaar, Theodorus Suwariyanto, Raphael Besigrinee and Valentinus Daru



*Be a comfort in our grief
You who see and know us always,
Help us rise forever
Kyrie eleison
Give us hope wherever we go*



My Story

Michael Sidharta Susilo

I believe life is not a series of singular, unrelated events. Even if the experiences we face are filled with sorrow, it seems these stories hold a role and meaning for our overall life journey. Perhaps, in understanding life this way, we can be guided to feel the touch of God's hand in every life event.

I was born into a family not yet fully prepared to build a household. My parents were not mature in terms of economics and psychology. Their young family was not carefully planned, resulting in constant struggles that coloured our lives. I was born in Surakarta on January 3, 1971. Just a few months after my birth, our small family moved to Salatiga and then to Tanjung Karang in South Sumatra. These relocations were due to my father's lack of a stable job. My father also seemed less diligent and loyal to his work.

From my father's character, I learned about perseverance and loyalty. If my father tended to lack these traits, they might also be genetically passed down to me. Thus, in living my life as a Religious FIC Brother, I pay great attention to perseverance and loyalty.

Our family lived in Sumatra until I was eight years old. Then, we moved to Salatiga on the island of Java. When I was nine, my family moved to Cepu. However, I did not join this move. Instead, I stayed with my grandparents in Salatiga. Since then, I have not lived with my parents and siblings. The distance between Cepu and Salatiga is over 100 km.

Separation from my parents during childhood brought psychological and emotional trauma for me. With my limitations as a child, I had to learn to comfort myself in times of sadness. Yet, this also shaped me into an independent individual. From this event, I learned about life that is imperfect but still liveable. I also learned to be flexible with my desires.



During my middle school years, I lived with my father's family in Sragen, a city east of Surakarta. I faced many challenges during this period, living in a poorly managed family. I experienced many traumas during this time. This period taught me the importance of education and guidance for children, particularly parental support.

My high school years were spent in Salatiga, where I returned to live with my grandparents and aunt. Life became more stable, allowing me to reorganize my life. This period allowed me to reflect on my journey, desires, and life plans. Perhaps this was the period that God gave me to decide my life's direction. It was during this time I chose to become an FIC Brother. After high school, I continued to the FIC Postulate, starting life as a Brother candidate in Muntilan and Surakarta. My first profession took place on July 2, 1994, and my perpetual profession on July 4, 1999.

During my first year as a Brother, I worked in administration at an FIC middle school in Semarang. In the second year, I was assigned to study nursing in Yogyakarta. This was an unusual task for FIC Brothers, as they generally pursue education and teaching studies. However, I managed to complete this task successfully.

After completing my nursing studies, I served the elderly and chronically ill Brothers for three years. During this period, I learned about the essential aspects of human life while living with these elder Brothers. Witnessing and aiding them, particularly those nearing death, continuously made me ponder the most critical aspects of life.

These elder and ill Brothers became my life's teachers, asking reflective questions: "What are you seeking in life? What should you attain as an FIC Brother? What should you strive for as a religious Brother? What must be consistently pursued as an FIC Brother?"

They guided me to live more simply, honestly, and straightforwardly. I believe this was a period of grace in my life. Living with these elder Brothers was an important formation stage for me as both a person and a religious Brother.

Subsequently, I served in administration at the Syalom Retreat House in Bandung, worked as a teacher at an FIC middle school in Sema-

rang for two years, and studied philosophy in Yogyakarta. After completing philosophy studies, I became a novice master in Muntilan.

I served as a novice leader from 2009 to 2018. During this time, I also participated in various commissions of the Provincial Council of Indonesia and, since 2012, became a member of the Provincial Council.

At the end of 2018, I became Vice Provincial Superior, ending my tenure as a Novice Master and relocating to the Provincial House. Since then, my days have been spent fulfilling internal congregation duties, particularly those related to the Indonesian Province.

Much of my life as an FIC Brother has been spent on congregation responsibilities, often involving challenging and self-demanding moments. I believe my experiences from childhood have influenced and prepared me for subsequent stages of my life. May I continue to skilfully experience the touch of God's hand in every moment of my journey.

Below: Michaël during the 2023 OASIS in Maastricht. Here he speaks for the Indonesian participants



Called to serve people faithfully

Agustinus Marjito (Bro. Marjito)



Family

My name is Agustinus Marjito. I was born in Kulon Progo, August 6, 1970, to the simple family of Mr. Mujiutomo and Mrs. CX. Legiyem. I am the first child in the family and I have one younger brother. My father and mother were simple farmers, working daily to farm in the fields. My younger brother now lives in Lampung, the island of Sumatra, so my father and mother live alone at home.

As a child, I never dreamed of becoming a Brother or a religious person. My childhood life was very simple. Every day, I herded goats, looked for grass, and found firewood for cooking. I lived this way with my family until I was 15 years old. After that, I lived in the Teacher's School dormitory in Muntilan for three years. In 1989, I graduated from the School of Teacher Education.

Apostolate

In 1989, I joined the FIC Congregation and began the Postulate period in Muntilan. We were nineteen young people in the group. In 1992, I completed my education as a postulant FIC brother and made temporary vows with 12 of my friends. What prompted me to become a FIC Brother at that time? First, I was interested in the life of the FIC Brothers who taught me at the Teacher Education School in Muntilan. The life of some was very strict, others were very gentle, and close to the children. That's what interested me. So when I wanted to join this congregation, I wanted to make my life as good as possible and be like them. That's all that drove me, and it's not something special.

As an FIC Brother, I devoted myself to extensive educational ministry in schools, starting in

elementary school, junior high school, and high school. My love for children who are still searching for their identity drives and motivates me to always work in an educational environment. I feel called to be a travelling companion for those entrusted to me.

The following are the assignments I have received until 2024. In 1992, I was assigned as an elementary school teacher at SD Pangudi Luhur Jakarta. In 1993, I was transferred to Yogyakarta to pursue a Bachelor of English at Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta. In 1997, I completed my Bachelor of English program and was subsequently assigned to Brawijaya Senior High School, South Jakarta. I lived there until 1999. In 1999, I was transferred to the Pangudi Luhur van Lith High School Dormitory in Muntilan to assist teenagers in their search for their identity. Here, I also discovered that my calling as a teacher was to be a travelling companion to those with me.

It was this discovery that influenced the implementation of my leadership. From 2005 to 2010, I worked as a Principal in the Klaten area. From 2010 to 2015, I studied School Leadership Management in Manila, Philippines. From 2015 to 2024, I was a principal in various schools in Ci-

karang, Semarang and Yogyakarta. As a principal, I always saw the teachers and the students as travel companions, and I am always ready to help them grow and develop according to their abilities.

In August 2024, I was elected to the General Council of the FIC Congregation in the Netherlands, and I now live with the Brothers in the Emmaus Community in Maastricht. Thank you for the opportunity to get to know this community, and may God bless this effort and good intentions.



Above: Marjito in 2012 during the General Chapter of that year in Salatiga

Below: Marjito in 2016 with other religious in the Philippines during his course of School Leadership Management in Manila





*Shape us humans in your image
Lovind and strong and mind
Teach us to live in your light,
Kyrie eleison
Give us hope wherever we go*

Orientation page

Flame of Love, my Hope is Burning

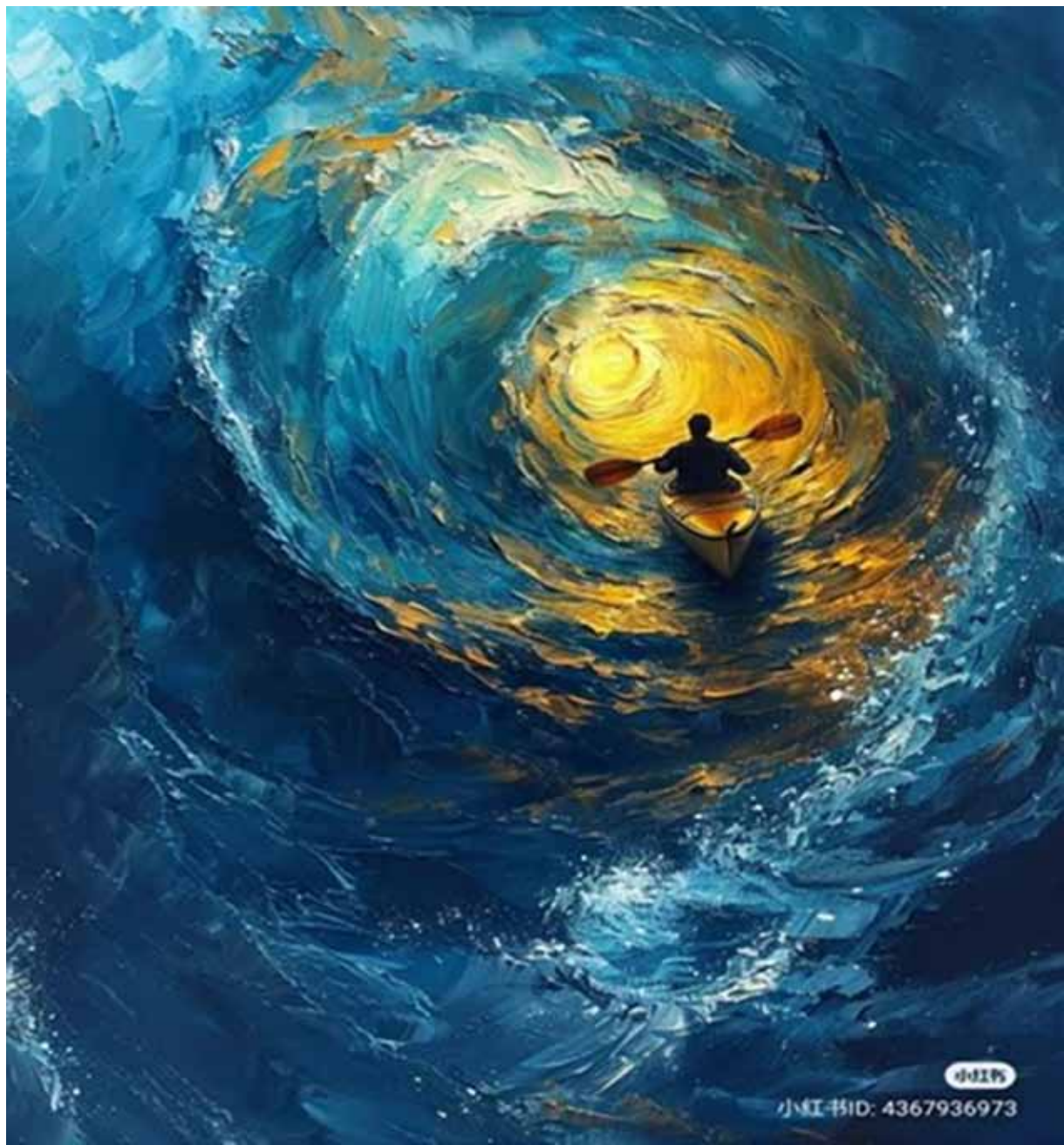
The hymn of the Jubilee Year is also sung by brothers and associates. In the Rotterdam Diocesan Journal we read a beautiful explanation of this song:

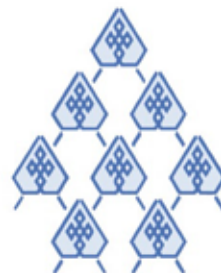
The tempo of this hymn is going. This reinforces the idea of singing together, being on the way together. In both the chorus and the verse, practically every sentence begins with two short notes followed by a jump upwards in the melody. This gives the feeling that there is hope on the horizon.

Where the melody of the chorus is in major, that of the verse is in minor. Especially the return after each verse to the chorus in major, reinforces the hopeful character of the text. The spirit of Pope Francis is palpable in the song. The care for the little ones, the broken, people that we all actually are. The song has a certain humility, a Franciscan simplicity. And the song calls on us not to go along with the people who harden, but to remain meek.

(From an interview with Frank Kazenbroot by Jolanda de Wolf)

*The light
of hope is
a beacon
in the
distance*





Pelgrims van hoop

Hymne voor het Jubeljaar 2025

Refrein



Vlam van lief-de, hoop die ons doet le-ven, hoor ons lied, een lof-zang uit ons hart.



Gij, de bron van vred' en eeu-wig le-ven, laat ons vei-lig voort-gaan aan uw hand.



1. Al - le lan - den, vol - ke - ren en ta - len
2. Goe - de God, ge - dul - dig, vol er - bar - men,
3. On - ze o - gen zien de nieu - we mor - gen.



die in nacht en dui - ter - nis ver - dwa - len,
toon uw trouw aan klei - nen en aan ar - men.
Gij komt na - der, houdt U niet ver - bor - gen,



zien een licht: uw Woord komt hen be - zoe - ken.
Bron van hoop, Gij scheidt een nieu - we aar - de.
zendt ons uit: 'Ver - kon - digt al - ler - we - gen:



Wie ge - bro - ken is, mag uw Zoon ont - moe - ten. Vlam van
Zend uw A - dem, God, laat ons niet ver - har - den.
Ik ben God-met - u. Ga, ont-vang mijn ze - gen!

oorspronkelijke tekst: Pierangelo Sequeri
Nederlandse bewerking: Bas Suijkerbuijk
muziek: Francesco Meneghello

Pilgrims of Hope

official Hymn for the Jubilee Year

Shape us humans in your image
Lovind and strong and mind
Teach us to live in your light,
Kyrie eleison
Give us hope wherever we go

**Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.**

Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
find a home in your dear Son.

Like a flame...

God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.

Like a flame...

Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
who will find the way in him.

Like a flame...



A message from Pope Francis: Consecrated life

Pope Francis presided over a Holy Mass on 2 February 2024, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This day is also the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

. In his homily that Wednesday evening, the Pope's guiding theme was the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The Pope reminded us of two elders, Simeon and Anna, who were waiting in the temple for the "fulfillment of God's promise to his people: the coming of the Messiah". Pope Francis pointed out that Simeon:

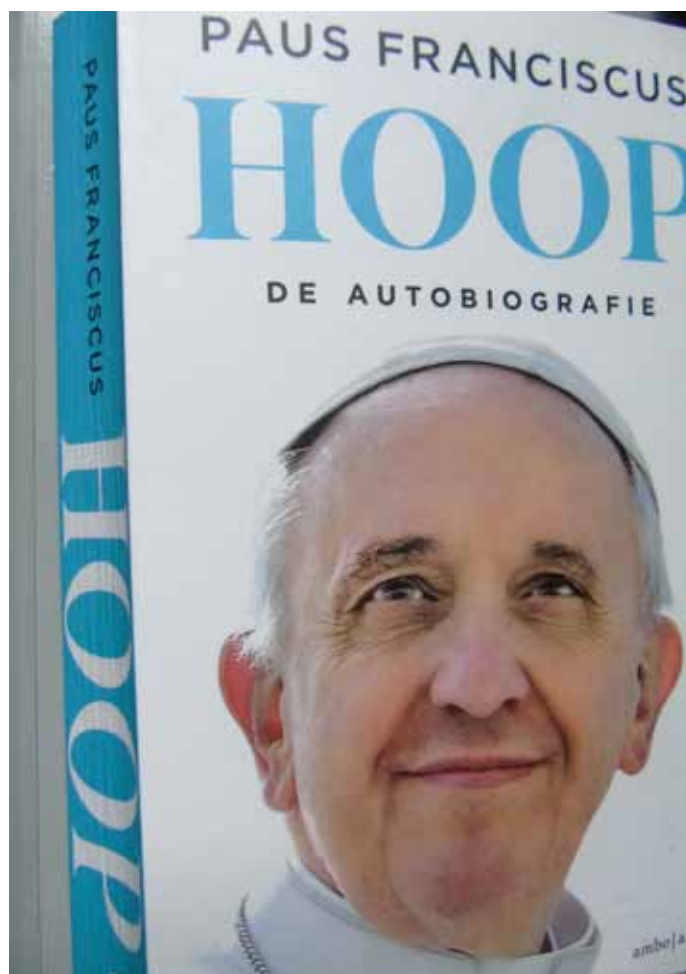
- is inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit (1)
- then he sees salvation in the Child Jesus (2)
- and finally he embraces that Child. (3)

(1) What moves us?

The Pope considered these three gestures and then asked: "What moves us?" He explained that the Holy Spirit, as with Simeon, enables us to recognize the presence of God and His action. Not in great things, in appearances or displays of power, but in smallness and vulnerability.

Then he asked: "What moves us most? Is it the Holy Spirit or the spirit of this world?" On the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, the Pope was accompanied by members of religious and apostolic communities. He noted that everyone, and especially religious, should ask themselves this question.

The Pope continued: "The Spirit shows us God in the smallness and vulnerability of a baby, but we, on the other hand, try to see our vocation more in terms of goals, results and successes. We look for influence, for visibility, for numbers. The Spirit does not ask this of us at all. He wants us to seek daily fidelity and attention to the little things entrusted to our care." Pope Francis emphasized the importance for religious people to examine their inner motives and to remain aware of their spiritual passions. In this way, the renewal of religiousness will begin above all from within.



(2) What do we see?

The Pope then called attention to the question: "What do we see?" He noted that God looks at us with a "sympathetic gaze" and gives us new eyes to look at ourselves and at the world. It is a gaze that does not stop at outward appearances but penetrates even into the smallest cracks of our weaknesses and shortcomings in order to discover God's presence there too.

In spontaneous remarks, the Pope continued that it is very beneficial for everyone to visit our older religious brothers and sisters, to look at them, to talk to them, to ask and to listen to what they think. That is an excellent medicine. The Pope emphasized that the Lord is continuously inviting us to a renewed vision of our religious life.

Open your eyes

The Spirit invites us to renew our lives and our communities even in times of crisis, times of declining strength and declining numbers of vocations. During his homily, the Pope warned against the temptation to look back for security, out of fear, to keep the faith, to hold on to the basic rules. Neither Simeon nor Anna were conservative, they were free and joyful.

(3) Embrace God

Finally, the Pope asked for attention to the third question: "What do we embrace?" Sometimes we risk getting lost by holding on to a thousand different things, by focusing on unimportant things or by diving into new projects.

"But," the Pope said, "the heart of everything is Christ, embrace Him as the Lord in our lives." The Pope warned: "When religious men and

women have no words to praise God and people, when they do not experience joy, when they lack enthusiasm, when their fraternal life is only a duty, it is not the fault of anyone or anything else. It is because we no longer embrace Jesus. When this happens, we fall prey to bitterness, we complain that things do not happen automatically, we fall into rigidity and inflexibility, and we are destroyed by the illusion of our own superiority."

A renewed vision

Finally, Pope Francis invited every religious to renew their vows, to ask ourselves what moves our hearts and our actions (1), what new vision we want to foster (2), and above all: let us embrace Jesus, just as Simeon and Anna did (3). Simeon and Anna: Embrace God.

Simeon and Anna: embrace God



A Flame Ignited in Us

Ferrie Kompier

Once we were spoken to by someone.
He knew us and took us by the hand.
That day he ignited a flame in us
and thus burned his name into our name.

We were young – and had ideals.
We grew old – and yet we ploughed on.
A time came when we went astray,
but nevertheless we stayed on the right track.



**Give us Hope
wherever we go**

**As a common thread
in this issue, we use
six illustrations from
a Polish children's
bible,
Orbis Pictus 1991.
The artist is Nora
Musatová.
The illustrations
are always
accompanied
by a verse
from a song by
Nico Binnendijk,
street pastor
in The Hague
and leader in the
Jozefkapel of the
Stadsklooster.**



News from the Provinces

The Netherlands

In April, the new members of the General Board, Brothers Michael and Marjito, made an introductory round to visit all Dutch FIC groups. Here, first with with Henk Rolvers in Halfweg, then with Frans Wils and Victor de Mos in The Hague/Westeinde, and with Bep van Eijden, Annemiek Jacobs and Nick van Wouwen in Scheveningen.



On 14 and 15 May 2025, the Dutch chapter was held in Maastricht, where a choice had to be made for a new board of the Religious House Netherlands. The consultation was led by Mrs. Judith de Raat, and in addition to the voting brothers, two associate members were also present (Bep van Eijden and Claudia Theinert).

Ultimately, a new three-person board was elected, which has the task of developing a vision for the coming years.



The two advisors of the previous RHN board were warmly thanked for their efforts.



The new board consists of Lo Koeleman, superior, Frans School, vicar, and Gerard Langelaan, member. We wish them much success!



Colofon

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