



FDNSC GENERALATE – NEWS UPDATE

August 2015

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Greetings from the Generalate Community for our Foundation Day! When this letter reaches you, we all would have celebrated this Feast Day already. In the “Daily Readings” selected by Father J. Bovenmars msc we read:

**1874: Foundation by Father J. Chevalier of the Society
of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart as a sister-congregation
to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.**

At the beginning of the year of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis asked us to remember the past with gratitude. And indeed, it is important for us to rejoice and be grateful for the many gifts that have been so much a part of the life, the history and the tradition of our Congregation. Gratefulness makes us happy and we want to be part of a happy Chevalier Family full of love, in which we are true friends and where every heart is connected, every soul is touched, every voice is heard and every person is important. How could Father Chevalier ever have imagined that our little Congregation, the beginnings of which caused him so much trouble, has now spread to 27 countries all over the world, that we have more than 1,000 members and that we feel more and more united within our Chevalier Family. There are reasons enough to be very grateful to God, to our Founder, to the sisters who preceded us and to all of you. And we imagine that Father Chevalier smiles when he looks down on us from heaven and thinks back to the beginning.

As a little gift to express our gratitude towards you all, we would like to share the good news that we now have a new website! The system of our former website was already old and it was very difficult to maintain. Luckily for us, nowadays, the systems are more user-friendly which is good because at the Generalate we still have to learn a lot to maintain this website well. We are only beginners. Of course, your suggestions and remarks are very welcome and we will do our very best to keep the site interesting and up to date. The address is: www.olshgen.com. Please check it out!



Spirituality of the Heart: Yesterday, Today, Towards the Future

From 5 July to 1 August 2015, the *Cor Novum* Team held its last Spirituality of the Heart program in Issoudun. With 43 formators from the whole Chevalier Family participating, including six lay members, it was a fitting end to *Cor Novum*'s 20 years of excellent service in the area of formation in our spirituality, charism and mission. Sr Madeleine Ngoy, General Councillor for Formation, was one of the participants. Here she expresses her gratitude and shares with us what the experience was like for her.



FDNSCs at the 2015 Program and Closing of *Cor Novum*:
Top row L to R: Rosaleen, Jenny, Rotee, Madeleine, Gerardine
Middle row: Josefa, Maiango, Pauline, Linda, Angèle
Front row: Glacidalva, Lidwina, Marife, Merle, Angelina, Monica, Cathie

I would like to thank God, who gives me life and the graces I need for His mission. My thanks go to Sr Marife and the general administration team for giving me the opportunity to participate in the last session of Cor Novum for formators.

The experience that I lived in Issoudun allowed me to commemorate, as Pope Francis suggests we do, the beginnings and historical development of the charism and spirituality of the Chevalier Family, in order to give thanks to God. Also it has made me aware of how this charism and spirituality have been lived throughout history, despite the difficulties and to see how these were overcome. (cf. Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis to all consecrated people, #1)

I want to thank our founder Jules Chevalier for having left a spiritual heritage so rich and deep: the Spirituality of the Heart. It is a relational spirituality. That is to say "a very compassionate way to be in relating to God, to myself, to my neighbour and to the world around me, following the example of Jesus in the Gospels."

My sincere thanks to the team of Cor Novum who organized this session.

From Sr Madeleine Ngoy, fdnsc



Sisters Marion and Catherine

Madeleine in England

I was happy to be in England with our two sisters, Marion and Catherine, for two-months. I was both touched and grateful for their hospitality, their kindness and availability. The welcome they gave me allowed me to feel part of the family and to learn my English lessons.

Dear sisters, thank you and I pray for you.



Study of the Constitutions during the Visitation to Indonesia

Because of the death of Sr. Mary Fyfe, a planned visitation to Indonesia in 2013 could not take place, and that is why this Province had to wait a long time to be visited. But when another visitation was finally planned, many sisters started to prepare with much excitement. So when Sr. Marife and I, Sr. Elly, arrived there on 7th April, everything was very well organized and we felt very well cared for. Although our visit lasted 8 weeks, unfortunately we could not visit all the communities, because of the enormous distances in this huge country. Instead, some communities came together, so that we could nevertheless meet each sister. We really experienced how good it is to be together as sisters and as Chevalier Family because, wherever we were, we also met MSCs and Lay Associates.

At the last General Chapter in which we approved our new Constitutions, Pope Francis inspired us with his “Joy of the Gospel” and, during this visitation, we meditated on the Pope’s letter to consecrated people, which he wrote for the beginning of the Year of Consecrated Life. We also used the opportunity to further incorporate our revised Constitutions into our everyday lives.

In the visitation report that you will receive soon, you will read how we had to discuss some parts of the new Constitutions with the communities because of a change that has consequences for the organisational structure of the Province of Indonesia.

We also looked at Constitutions number 31D which says that “we will seek opportunities to deepen our understanding of ecological issues and to promote care for the environment.” The 2014 General Chapter had recommended that the General administration make sisters aware of climate change and therefore we also had conferences on this subject. At that time the Pope’s Encyclical “*Laudato Si*” was not yet published. We hope that the study of this Encyclical will enable the Indonesian Province to deepen their knowledge even further.

In a group of ageing sisters, Sr. Marife spoke about what is written in our Constitutions about ageing and dying. We read Constitutions numbers 32, 42D and 86, because caring for the elderly and the sick has an important place in our community life. The care and concern which these sisters deserve, does not only arise from an obligation of charity or gratitude, but also from an awareness that their witness greatly serves the church and



our own Congregation, and that their mission continues. Sister Marife also quoted Pope Francis’ message to the elderly: “We, older people, can remind ambitious young people that a life without love is barren. We can tell fearful young people that worrying about the future can be overcome. We can teach young people who are in love with themselves too much, that there is more joy in giving than in receiving.”

During our visitation we felt that our Constitutions really “constitute a book to live with and to live out of” and that they really become “a source of life for our Congregation” (Father Jules Chevalier 1898 – *Analecta* 1, 31). So let us go on studying them! We are blessed that, until now, Pope Francis has been very much present to us on our journey of renewal. We are very grateful for that and for this marvellous visitation, in which there was so much joy where we, as Daughters, were together!!

Sr Elly's Visit to the Netherlands

Two weeks after my return from Indonesia, I went to the Netherlands, where our Dutch Sisters, especially the missionaries, were eagerly waiting to hear all the stories about our Indonesian Province. Although I arrived in Tilburg on 25th June, the sisters had to wait until 20th July, because the first two weeks of my stay in the Netherlands were reserved to working on our new website. That was the time when Frank Kraak, who regularly volunteers in Holy Family Care Centre in Ofcolaco (South Africa) and who has built Holy Family's website, was available to help me. Also Corine Craje, the lay administrator in the Dutch Motherhouse, offered her help during those weeks, before she went on holidays. These two weeks also gave me time to prepare a PowerPoint presentation on Indonesia for the sisters, because I had hundreds of photos and I really had to choose which ones I wanted to show. Finally, in the afternoon of 20th July, I was able to share my experiences. Nearly all the sisters came and they spent the whole afternoon watching pictures and listening to my stories. Of course, the former missionaries were very touched by the fact that the Indonesian Sisters haven't forgotten them and that they still appreciate and are inspired by the work they have done. But what even struck our Dutch sisters more, was to see how the Indonesian Sisters continue with their mission and carry the flame of our charism further. You can find a shortened version of the PowerPoint presentation on our website, www.olshgen.com under *News*.



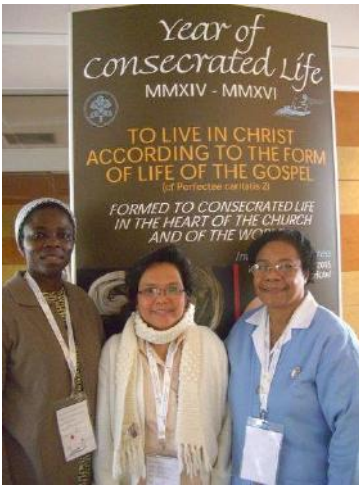
I also used my time in the Netherlands to make a retreat. Together with my friend, Hanneke, who works at the Diocesan office, we stayed for five days in Oase, the house in the garden of the Motherhouse. In silence we reflected on the Encyclical of the Pope "*Laudato Si*".

With Sr Immaculata, Sr Jeanne and Sr Francesco, I also went to a meeting organized by "People with a mission". During this meeting, Poengky Indarti and Lian Gogali spoke about the situation of human rights in Indonesia. This was a very welcome addition to the experiences that I had during the visitation. You can read more about it in our JPIC Bulletin.

I was very happy that Sr Anne-Marie, the Belgian Provincial, came to visit me. After she had met our Dutch sisters over cups of coffee, we enjoyed a nice time together sharing our experiences and having some time for relaxation. It was good to hear that the construction in Rumst can start soon, because the permission to build has been received. Let us pray that the work goes well.

Another day, I spent with my brother and sisters. Of course, I was also very happy to be in Tilburg again and to spend time with our sisters, to be in my former community and in our own chapel.

I had a great time and, going back to Rome, I realized how many friends I had met, inside and outside the convent. I also realized that "we cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together" (quote of Bill Richardson). I am very grateful to everybody who made this time possible for me.



International Congress for Formators in Consecrated Life (7 to 11 April 2015) Rome

This Congress was organized by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) as part of the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life (November 2014 to February 2016). About 1,300 formators from almost 500 different congregations and institutes and 106 different countries came to Rome to participate in this historic Congress. It opened with a Prayer Vigil in the evening of Easter Monday, 7 April. This was followed by three full days of conferences and workshops at the Ergife Palace Hotel in Rome. It ended on Saturday, 11 April, with the celebration

of the Eucharist in St Peter's Basilica, followed by an audience with His Holiness, Pope Francis, in the Pope Paul VI Hall at the Vatican. The closing conferences and ceremonies were then held back at the Hotel.

The aim of the Congress was "to reflect upon the fundamental aspects of consecrated life in the Church and in the world in a multi-cultural context, and the demands on formation that this contemporary context entails" - (from the Schedule booklet for the Congress).

Nine of us from the Chevalier Family were able to attend the Congress - 3 MSC priests, 3 MSC Sisters and 3 FDNCSs. In spite of the very large number of participants, most of us (if not all) felt we were able to participate actively in the Congress. This was possible because we were divided into tables of about 8 to 10 persons where we had the chance to reflect together on the topics presented, share ideas and ask questions. Two important points from



From L to R: Merle, Mary, Nicola, Nords, Cathie, Madeleine and Bona

the Congress were: first, that all formation is ongoing - everyone is in formation until death; second, which is a consequence of the first, that we should form our sisters to not only learn, but learn how to learn! It is when we have learned how to learn that life can truly be formative and formation can truly be a lifelong process.

Thank You!

For the whole month of May, I was at home with my mother and family for my holidays. During this holiday time, I was also able to spend some days with our sisters in Manila, have some meetings with them, share stories, and even to share on Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with members of the Chevalier Family. It was a truly blessed time for me. Thank you, Generalate community, and thank you, sisters in Manila, for your very warm welcome! – Sr Merle



Lay Meeting in Lyon, France (April 17 to 19)

The European Lay Committee headed by Ms Rita Cleuren from Belgium also acts as the International Committee of the Lay Members of the Chevalier Family. The committee meets twice a year in Lyon, France. Lay representatives from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain attend these meetings as well as a representative from *Cor Novum* and once a year, in April, a representative of the Tri-Generalate also joins their meeting. At the moment, they are in the process of organizing the next International Assembly of Lay Members of the Chevalier Family which will be in 2017. Let us pray for this project and let us continue to support our Lay Associates in the different countries, with our interest, prayers and participation in their various activities and ministries. Let us remember what our Constitutions and Directory say: “In fidelity to



the desire of Fr Chevalier, we welcome lay women and men who wish to share our spirit and mission as Associate members. We support them in whatever way we can as they make the Heart of Jesus known and loved in their particular circumstances, according to their vocation.” (FDNSC Const. 9D§1)

Last April, aside from the meeting, the group also had a tour of the hermitage of Mount Cindre just beside the place where the group came together. Here, we see Rita and Josefa (Belgium) enjoying the tour.

Welcoming Cor America to Rome (April 20 to 24)

In April, we had the honour of welcoming to Rome three of the four members of Cor America (Sr Martha FDNSC, Sr Carolyn MSC and Fr Marvin MSC), the Regional Formation Team of the Chevalier Family in the Americas. They came with Fr Luis Carlos MSC who acted as their translator. As part of their formation as a team, they spent a week in Issoudun with the *Cor Novum* Team and a week in Rome with the Tri-Generalate. Aside from the days of meeting at the MSC Generalate, they also had a chance to attend a general audience of Pope Francis, visit the three Generalates and make a pilgrimage to Assisi. They came to our Generalate on 22 April where we welcomed them for a simple lunch. We support this team and their projects with our interest and prayers.



Cor America – Tri-Gen meeting at the MSC Generalate in Rome



L to R: Luis Carlos, Carolyn, Martha and Marvin at the FDNSC Generalate



A “friendly visit” to Japan 2015

From June 7 to June 13, the Japan community had their annual retreat in a beautiful retreat house owned and run by the Brothers of St John of God in Kobe. The theme of the retreat was “Spiritual Exercises of the Heart.” It was largely based on an eight-day Ignatian retreat given in Rome by Fr Claudio Barriga SJ in 2012. Sr Merle, who facilitated the retreat, also incorporated texts from the new Constitutions in the prayer exercises - thus it was also a retreat on our new Constitutions.



A prayer spot at the Retreat House in Kobe



End of retreat sharing and celebration

Right after the retreat had finished on Saturday, 13 June, the sisters proceeded to the Cathedral in Nagoya where their new pastor, Bishop Michael Goro Matsuura, was installed. The next day, Sunday, six children from Johokobashi parish made their first communion. The children were prepared by Sr Cecilia. After the Mass, we enjoyed going around and shopping a little in the parish bazaar.

On the morning of the 15th, the sisters renewed their vows during the Eucharistic celebration. The rest of the day was reserved for the community meeting which was a follow-up to the October 2014 canonical visitation. This annual visit to the Japan community ended with a sumptuous Japanese meal. As we continue to discern and work on the future of our Japan community, the Generalate has committed itself to visiting the community annually. Let us continue to include the Japan mission and its future in our prayers.



The first communicants in Johokobashi

Let us remember in our prayers
the following visits and travels
for the rest of 2015:

August 20 to September 19
Congo and Angola
Sr Madeleine and Sr Laurentia

September 1 to 19
USA
Sr Marife

October 6 to December 9
Brazil and Venezuela
Sr Marife and Sr Elly



Meetings in the month of August!

When the rest of the Romans were on vacation, we at the Generalate were busy with activities and meetings.



First, Sr Marife and Sr Merle went to Issoudun to attend the last week of the Spirituality of the Heart Program and participate in the honouring of *Cor Novum* on 31 July 2015. The three superiors general (Fr Mark, Sr Barbara and Sr Marife) as well as the international coordinator of the laity (Rita Cleuren) were there to lead the celebration. It was a day

of sadness as we mourned the end of the team in Issoudun. It was also a day of thanksgiving as we honoured Fr Joannes, Fr Hans, Sr Gerardine, Sr Linda, Fr Nick, Roland and Sr Cathie for their many years of dedicated service to formation in our international family. It was also a day of hope as we looked to the future and recognized what *Cor Novum's* ministry has helped give birth to - the regional formation teams and the future Basilica Team. Even as the team in Issoudun ends its 20 year life, our commitment to formation in our world-wide Chevalier Family continues. Again, thank you, *Cor Novum*!

After the *Cor Novum* session, we proceeded to our Mother House for a meeting of our International Formation Team (IFT) from August 4 to 6. Three sisters from the Generalate (Marife, Madeleine and Merle) and three sisters from the IFT (Gerardine, Linda and Cathie) met, reflected, discerned, prayed, listened and shared as, together, we searched for God's will for our IFT, seeking to see the road ahead. We thank Sr Raymonde and the French sisters for accommodating us in No. 20 *Place du Sacré-Cœur* (August 1 to 8), for nourishing us in St Joseph's community (August 4 to 6) and for giving



us free use of the meeting room in the Mother House. We have been very happy recipients of our sisters' unfailing generosity. Thank you so much, sisters.



Two of our sisters who attended the Spirituality of the Heart Program, Sr Angèle from Senegal and Sr Pauline, PNG sister from Cameroun, proceeded to Rome to spend some days with us at the Generalate. Srs Laurentia, Elly, Bernadette and Madeleine took turns taking them around the different sites. On their last day, August 12, they attended the papal audience. Sr Angèle returned so excited because she was able to shake hands with Pope Francis! Of course, everyone at home wanted to touch her “blessed” hand! With such joy, they boarded the plane for Africa that evening.



Srs Angèle and Pauline saying “thank you” and “goodbye” to the community



and Merle (FDNSC) - and the three APA Team members - Fr Sam (MSC Indonesia), Sr Sophy (MSC India) and Sr Cathie (FDNSC PNG). The team members are expected to be in Manila by mid-January 2016 and we are dreaming of being able to offer the first APA Program for Formators in 2017. Sisters, let us support this project with our interest and prayers. After the meeting, as part of their “team building,” the team (who met each other for the first time in Issoudun in July) spent the next days together, attending a papal audience, visiting the FDNSC Generalate and making a pilgrimage to Assisi.

By the end of the week (August 14 to 16), it was time for the General Administration Team’s days of reflection, evaluation and planning. In choosing the venue for this year-end meeting, we decided to go back to Nemi, the place where it all began for us as a General Team. With Lake Nemi in the background, we spent three days of prayer looking at the past year with gratitude, celebrating what we have at present, particularly the gift of our team and community, and looking

Back in Rome on August 8, we just had enough time to prepare for the next meeting which was the Tri-Generalate meeting with the newly formed APA Regional Formation Team. The meeting, held on August 11 at the MSC Generalate, was attended by representatives from the Tri-Generalate - Frs Mark and Wahyudi (MSC), Srs Barbara and Bona (MSC Sisters) and Srs Marife



The APA Team (L to R):
Sr Cathie, Sr Sophy & Fr Sam



to the future with confidence and hope. Sr Jenny, our funding officer, and Sr Cathie came to Nemi with us and supported us with their prayers and sustained us with sweets from the pretty town - these kept us awake and full of energy. We came back home to Rome with our 2016 calendars full and our hearts confident that God is indeed with us every step of the way.

When we returned to Rome, the meetings continued, this time with Sr Jenny Christie, our new funding officer. One of the fruits of the days in Nemi was that we created a name for Sr Jenny's Office: ***Ametur Mission Office, FDNSC*** or ***AMO, FDNSC***. For Italians, this simply means "I love, FDNSC" and "LOVE" is truly the spirit that animates this office – the love of God for those most in need. Our Constitutions express it well: "We endeavour to bring Christ's love to others... We are attentive to emerging needs, particularly those resulting from poverty, violence, oppression, the degradation of the environment, and the dislocation of peoples." (Const. 59) We thank Sr Jenny for all the work she is already doing - (e.g. she is studying International Development, she has made contact with International Development Officers from other congregations and is learning from them) - and for her enthusiasm and dedication. She is here not only to meet with us but also to attend the annual workshop for funding officers given here in Rome, as well as to go to Ireland to attend a funding course at *Misean Cara* in Dublin and continue expanding her connections. Again, thank you, Sr Jenny!



After the meetings, it was time to celebrate Indonesian Independence Day (August 17) and Sr Laurentia's birthday (August 23) and to send off Sr Cathie to PNG (August 18) and Sr Madeleine and Sr Laurentia for their visit to Congo and Angola (August 19). With so much to do, we did not realise that we are now at the end of the month. It is again time to remember in thanksgiving our 141st Foundation Day! God is truly "He Who Is!"... our yesterday, our today and our tomorrow! Knowing that we are in his loving hands, we face the next year with courage!

APPOINTMENTS

Belgium Provincial Council

Sr Margriet Robben
Sr Martha Huybrechts

France Provincial Council

Sr Germaine Gourret
Sr Nelly Moras

Netherlands Provincial Leader

Sr Lies Alkemade

Netherlands Provincial Council

Sr Irmgard Bos
Sr Francesco Moens
Sr Hermien Lorist

PNG Provincial Leader

Sr Relida Gumur

Congo Regional Leader

Sr Christiane Botelua

Congo Regional Council

Sr Bibiane Dilou
Sr Chantal Nsongisa
Sr Gabrielle Moseka

First Professions – 22 Aug. in Africa:

Cameroon	Sr Béatrice Mvondo
Congo	Sr Marie Nafisa Ekila Sr Grâce Ikote Yoka Sr Natacha Nseke Yando
Senegal	Sr Géraldine Sabadou Preira Sr Thérèse Coumba Sene Sr Marthe Adame Sarr

Perpetual Professions – 30 Aug. in Indonesia:

Sr M Alexa Riyati
Sr M Elisabeth Rahayaan
Sr M Epifani Harbelubun
Sr M Katarina Dwi Astuti
Sr M Lydia Rondonuwu
Sr M Oliva Silubun
Sr M Natalia Maturan
Sr M Yermin Welerubun
Sr M Yosefina Luan

Africa Provincial Councillor

Sr Philomène Iketa
(replacing Sr Christiane Botelua)