

News items
Sisters of Charity of Our Lady,
Mother of Mercy
Belgium Region

Zonhoven, Oktober 2026 november-december 2026 no. 16

Editorial staff: Gaby Swenters

Prayer: God has a face

There was a time when people, in these short days by the twilight and with the half-open lid of the stove, did nothing but long: an ancient longing for spring and the lengthening of the days.

Now we create something of the same atmosphere with twilight and colored candles. But our longing is so much more, reaches so much further than spring and the lengthening of the days.

In the dark tidings of our days, we long for a land and a life without fear and lies.

Let all the darkness be cleared tomorrow, its deepest causes known, the right decisions made and judgments passed, so that our land can breathe again, healthy.

There is a dynamic of its own in every darkness, irresistibly the morning grows out of the night, spring out of winter. Thus God conceived his creation.

That same restless dynamic resides in people: irresistibly, with every injustice, grows a discomfort and a resistance and that will to finally and for good make justice.

We pray for Advent, for light that is greater than the light of men and for love from on high, more beautiful than spring!

By Manu Verhulst

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Thursday, September 24 was the feast of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, and we celebrated this at the provincialate, with a prayer vigil and afterwards enjoyed a delicious sandwich meal together.

The celebration of 175 years of the Sisters of Charity in Zonhoven, organized by the parish, did not go by quietly. On the contrary! There was a full day of festivities starting with a convivial breakfast, followed by a 'solemn' Eucharistic celebration presided over by Mgr. Hoogmartens and Father Wim Simons, who also blessed the new parish house, Casa Acutis in St. Catharina, that same day. At 1:00 PM, a delicious lunch was provided at the Grand Café for all guests, and at 3:00 PM, attendees enjoyed a beautiful concert by Lisa del Bo in the parish church, with a birthday cake to conclude the day. In short, the sisters and their guests enjoyed this wonderful day. Once again, thanks to the organizers for this successful day!









On Sunday, November 1, we commemorate all deceased sisters and family members. All Saints' Day is a day to reflect on those we miss. Their names echo softly in our thoughts, their love remains forever in our hearts.

Sr. Amandine Spronkmans and Sr. Kristien Raskin celebrated their 75th and 65th convent anniversaries on October 27 and November 5, 2026, respectively. Heartfelt congratulations to both sisters !!

This coming Monday, November 9, Sister Matheo turns 90. Sister Matheo, congratulations on this wonderful birthday! May you enjoy many more years of rest in good health! The above celebrations will be held together on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at the provincialate at 2:30 PM. All sisters welcome!!!

On Tuesday, December 8 at 1:30 PM, the Sisters of Charity have been invited by Director Maarten Alen and the entire team of the kindergarten ‘de Kleurdoos’. The kindergarteners will give a performance especially for the sisters to thank them for their dedication to education and support in the past. This school is, after all, one of the charitable works that the Sisters of Charity started in Zonhoven in 1883.

AGENDA : 2026 - 2027

November 2026
17.11 : celebration invitation see above
23.11 : anniversary of the founding of the congregation

January 2027

31.01 : at 15:00 prayer service on the occasion of the Day of Religious Life, with our bishop in the St. Martin's Church in Hasselt;

May 2027

18.05 : Belgian Regional Day
26.05 : Formation of female religious Diocese of Hasselt at 14:00 – Speaker: Mrs. Kolet Janssen, religious scholar and author, - Theme : “the wisdom of old age”;

The regional board wishes you all a wonderful time of preparation for Christmas, the time in which the birth of Jesus is commemorated and His Second Coming is awaited.

Sister Marie-Louise Aerts
Sister Rosa Olaerts
Sister Annie Timmers