

MISERICORDIAE

October 2025



- ❖ **WORKING VISITS**
- ❖ **140 YEARS OF FOUNDATION**
- ❖ **CLIMATE CHANGE – A CALL FOR RESPONSABILITY**
- ❖ **HUMILITY AS A WAY OF SERVICE**





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Dear sisters, last month you received a special edition of *Misericordiae* containing a series of activities for the SCMM Pilgrimage

2025. These activities were very beneficial for the sisters who participated in the pilgrimage. It was also special to meet our sisters in the Netherlands and Belgium. It was an extraordinary and memorable experience. We hope this experience fosters their love and loyalty to their calling as SCMM sisters.

As usual, this edition of *Misericordia* contains information about the General Council's working visit and other current news from the various parts of the congregation. We would like to congratulate the Indonesian province on celebrating 140 years of the SCMM's presence in Indonesia as well as the five sisters who recently made their perpetual profession. We hope that the

Indonesian province continues to prepare for a better future.

We watch the current world situation on TV and other social media platforms. There are many things that make society unsafe, such as war, corruption, fraud and violence within families and throughout society. Even religion is often exploited, and other forms of action. This occurs at all levels of society. These are all forms of human greed where people seek personal or group satisfaction at the expense of others' happiness and comfort. Ultimately, the weak often become victims. They are increasingly marginalized, their voices are hardly heard, and they live in confusion and fear for their future. Faced with this situation, we must reflect deeply, as people who have received a special calling to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ by carrying out the congregation's work of mercy in the community and wherever we are. Are we consistently fighting for the interests of the many people, especially the weak and poor, or are we only fighting for our own

interests and those of certain groups?

We realize that what we do may not always satisfy those we serve, and that it may even cause disappointment. However, if we continue the right path and do what is required of us as members and as leaders, we believe that God will be with us. Our purpose is not to satisfy those we serve, but to provide for their needs. On September 27, we remember St. Vincent de Paul known as the father of the poor who

advises us: “You must submit to God's will and feel at peace, with the hope that everything will turn out well. Usually, “God's work bears good fruit in the things that do not satisfy us” (SV, 317 - July 9, 1660). Therefore, may the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul continue to inspire us to realize God's compassion wherever we are.

Best wishes and prayers,

 *Sr. Sofiani Warasi*

WORKING VISIT TO BRAZIL



The general council; Sr. Sofiani and Sr. Elisângela had their working visit in Brazil from August 7-14, 2025. The sisters arrived in João Pessoa airport at dawn of August 7 and were heartily welcomed in the community of Heitel Santiago, Santa Rita.

It was a great opportunity for Sr. Sofiani to know the works and the mission of the sisters here in Brazil as it was her first time.

The general council visited the schools in Bayeux (Escola Mãe de Misericórdia and Centro Educacional Madre Michelle).



They also visited the community of Cabedelo and had the opportunity to meet with the local group of the Movement of Mercy.



They also got the chance to visit some places/sceneries around the city like; the dike in Cabedelo, Forte Velho, and the coast of João Pessoa.



And the next day they visited the Elderly community center, where they met the seniors in the community who are attending regular activities in the morning and also the volunteer workers of the community center.



And in the afternoon, they visited the Dom Helder Center and the children welcomed them with great enthusiasm as they showcased their talents in music and dance.



And we also had a moment together with the associate members, we gathered in a prayer, sharing about life and had dinner together and for Sr. Sofiani to meet the members personally.



The working visit was a great opportunity for the general council to see the current situation in the country (being discussed and explained), to have an idea about the reality in the work and mission of the sisters and also for us (sisters) a chance to voiced out and being listened to through our personal conversation.

WORKING VISIT TO UK

On August 25, sisters Amy and Elisângela visited the sisters in Brynmair, Pantasaph. They went there to meet with the sisters and discuss a very important matter, which is the sale of the house in Pantasaph. There are still two sisters living in that house, but they will soon move to a nursing home where they will receive all the care they need.



With the sale of the house, there are many things that need to be checked and sorted out. Sisters Amy and Elisângela helped the sisters select what needed to be archived. Gratitude was expressed to all the sisters, especially Sr. Marie Therese for her dedication and continued service.



During the visit, Sr. Amy celebrated her 70th birthday together with the sisters and staff.





In August 2025, the board and consultative body met for a consultation. The topic of discussion was administrative communication. As a board, we devote a great deal of care and time to good communication: verbally, in writing, via our internal cable newspaper, board news, our

website, and in many other ways and by many other means. In our community, with sisters of advanced age, we notice that our message is sometimes not heard or understood. That is why it was useful to discuss with the three members of the consultative body what works better and what works less well.

Our administrative communication changes in line with our wishes and possibilities and is always open to improvement. Members of the board and the consultative body have entered into discussions with the sisters about this consultation.

PRESENTATION BY THE HERITAGE COMMISSION

On September 1 and 2, the Heritage Commission of the Dutch region presented its vision for the future of the Oude Dijk. With this vision, the Commission is responding to the assignment it received from the provincial chapter in 2021 and the follow-up assignment from the transition chapter in 2025.



We are very pleased to report that the Dutch sisters agree with this vision. The Commission received the green light from them to further develop this vision.

On behalf of the General Board, Sr. Amy participates in the Dutch Heritage Commission, so the General Board is also well informed and involved. At the initiative of the General Board, the vision will also be presented to the ICB, an important step in shaping the future.

WORK ON THE CHAPELS



The renovation of the roofs and facades of the chapels is proceeding as planned and according to schedule. So far, there has been no unexpected additional work.

On September 29, sisters, workers, and staff members present will celebrate the “highest point.” In our case, this refers to the rooster on the bell tower, which will be replaced on that day. French fries and ice cream will be provided in the Tuinkamer and garden at lunchtime.



NEWS FROM THE BELGIUM REGION



On July 24, Sr. Andrea Hermans celebrated her 80th jubilee at Het Pand. The sisters of the region gathered to honor this special occasion. Sr. Andrea was deeply grateful for their presence and thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations.

THE NEW BUILDING

A meeting was held on September 1 with the General Council, the Belgium Regional Council and the director of VZW H. Catharina to discuss the new rooms planned for the five sisters.

During the meeting, the director shared the background and motivation behind the new living arrangements. He gave us a tour of the new building, explaining the layout and features of the planned room, private accommodation for each sister, along with shared spaces such as chapel, and a reception area for visitors.





In addition to the sisters' living quarters, the director also showed us other facilities located on different floors of the building which the sisters will have access to during their stay. This gave us a clearer understanding of the building's purpose and the foundation long-term goals.

We were particularly impressed by the way the director's presentation, especially the way he shared the historical background of the congregation and highlighted the inspiration drawn from the sisters' ongoing commitment to serving the elderly and in solidarity with the needy in their local community.

The director and the chairman shared with us that they will put a garden and chapel in front of the new buildings.

We also asked when the rooms would be available and what would happen if there were no more sisters. They told us that the rooms would be available by November at the latest. A plaque bearing the name of the congregation will be placed in the building.



140 YEARS OF FOUNDATION



On July 12, 2025, the SCMM Congregation of Indonesia joyfully celebrated 140 years of God's abundant blessings and faithful presence in the country. This celebration is marked by various activities, including a singing competition featuring the song “Mars Belaskasih” and sharing of religious testimonies through the Congregation's YouTube channel.

This testimonies of faith came from the sisters who are celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, and 60th anniversaries of religious life in the SCMM Congregation this year. The 140th anniversary of SCMM in Indonesia is not only celebrated by the Sisters of SCMM but also by various units, including educational, health, and social units, who are also joining in the celebrations at their respective workplaces.





The highlight of the anniversary celebration took place at the SCMM Provincialate in Sukadono, Medan. The Jubilee celebration began with a Mass of Thanksgiving led by Mgr. Kornelius Sipayung, OFM Cap, Bishop of the Archdiocese of Medan, and 14 concelebrating priests.

The procession to St. James the Apostle Church in Sukadono was accompanied by a marching band from the Catholic Senior High School of Sibolga. The theme of the celebration was: “SCMM, Pilgrims of Love, United in the Mission to Build Hope and Heal Divisions.” During his homily, Bishop Kornelius Sipayung encourage the SCMM sisters to be grateful for their 140 years of presence in Indonesia, “Gratitude is not merely a remembrance of the past, but a celebration of God’s faithful love and his noble call to continue walking as Pilgrims of Love. God remains faithful in accompanying you on this journey, in a world filled with wounds and divisions. It is the memory of God’s love that moves the hearts of the sisters and is reflected through your works of service.”



Following the thanksgiving Mass, the jubilee celebration continued with a reception in Sukadono Church’s Hall. The event began with a welcome dance by students from St. Thomas 2 Senior High School in Medan. This was followed by a musical drama performed by the SCMM Novice Sisters. While

guests enjoyed lunch, the performances continued with a Nusantara dance presented by children from the St. Leo Orphanage and the Bintang Timur Dormitory in Padang. The reception concluded with a cabaret performance by the Catholic Senior High School Sibolga teachers and staff.



ACCEPTANCE

On August 1, 2025, six aspirants in Gunungsitoli - Nias officially began their postulancy period with a Mass of Thanksgiving led by Fr. Antonius Kustyanto, MSF. Representing the Provincial Council, Sr. Angelina Dakhi officially welcomed the postulants as part of the congregation's large family.



At the same occasion, seven other aspirants in the Sacred Heart community in Sibolga also began their postulancy period with a Mass of Thanksgiving led by Fr. Aloysius Barut.



The acceptance in Sibolga was officially carried out by Sr. Yesualda Simalanggo, SCMM, representing the provincial council, marking the first step for the aspirants in the further formation process. This postulancy period is the initial stage of formation. During this time, they are invited to become more familiar with religious community life, deepen their prayer life, and strengthen their service in accordance with the charism of the SCMM Congregation.

PERPETUAL VOWS

On August 15, 2025 – On the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, five sisters in Indonesia Province professed their final vows in the spirit of purity, obedience, and poverty. Bishop Fransiskus Tuaman Sasfo Sinaga, Bishop of the Diocese of Sibolga, offered the Eucharistic celebration with reverence. Family, friends, priests, the faithful, and sisters from SCMM attended the celebration.

The five sisters were Sr. Agnes Gaudensia Bulu, Sr. Paulina Vinni Alvionita Kaka, Sr. Adesya Hirim Makda Tambunan, Sr. Yenni Susanti Manalu and Sr. Theodora Evita Bella Lumban Raja.



They welcomed this moment of grace as tangible proof of God's love, that called and guided them in their sacred religious vocation. With deep peace and joy, they surrendered their entire lives entirely to Christ, immersing themselves wholeheartedly in the mystery of His endless love. The theme of the perpetual vow celebration raised by the sisters, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13), reflects the sisters journey of faith.

Through their formation period was marked by ups and downs, doubts, and inner struggles they were always strengthened by Christ faithful and unshakeable love. Before taking their final vows, the sisters participated in a 30-day retreat in silence and deep prayer. This retreat was a sacred time to reflect on their vocational journey with God and to entrust all their hopes and future to His loving hands. Their awareness of their vocation as a response to God's true love strengthened their commitment further.





NEWS FROM TIMOR LESTE REGION

After completing a three-month aspirancy period at St. Lukas Ossú community, Josefina Salsinha finally decided to begin her postulancy period on August 25, 2025. She joined five other postulants who began their postulancy period in May. The Parish Priest, Fr. José Gonzaga, celebrated a simple mass which was attended by the Sisters of the community and the Timor Leste Region team.



We are happy and grateful that even in the midst of the world's progress, there are people listening to God's call to join our congregation. There are now six postulants in the Timor Leste Region.





On August 26, 2025, Sr. Mariana Soares completed her studies and received satisfactory grades. May she use the knowledge she gained in college to help people in need, especially those in need of health care.



CLIMATE CHANGE – A CALL FOR RESPONSIBILITY



Climate change, also known as global warming, refers to the sudden shifts in temperature and weather conditions around the world. Many are asking why this is happening and why countries like the Philippines are so

greatly affected. The truth is that climate change is largely caused by human actions and our irresponsible attitude toward nature.

This issue is important to address because it directly affects human life, the natural ecosystem, the economy, and future generations. The Philippines has been and continues to be extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change.



Flash floods, landslides, falling rocks, and the overflowing of rivers have become common occurrences, leaving communities in ruins and endangering lives.

In my hometown, we have witnessed these painful realities firsthand. Years ago, our river flowed calmly and naturally. Today, however the water rises too high and too fast, especially during typhoon season.



On August 5, 2025, a 20-year-old relative of mine was swept away and drowned by the raging river. Despite tireless rescue efforts, his body was not recovered even after 28 days of searching. Such tragedies raise painful questions: Is nature simply

taking lives, or are these consequences of human recklessness, irresponsibility, and selfishness?



Our Creator designed the universe perfectly and providing everything necessary for our survival and that of future generations. Therefore, it is our duty to love, care for, and respect the Earth. Every action we take has consequences, so if we want to secure a liveable future, we must act responsibly today.

 *By Sr. Catherine Ba-a*



HUMILITY AS A WAY OF SERVICE



Saint Vincent was known as a servant for the poor and those who were marginalized. He did not seek popularity, yet he was present in the quiet places such as alleys, hospitals, and in the hearts of those who are hopeless. His humility was evident in the way he viewed everyone as his brother, rather than an object of mercy.

In his spirit, humility is not a weakness, but a strength that inspires us to serve others selflessly. He taught that in order to truly love our neighbour, we must set aside our egos, open our hearts, and recognize the presence of

Christ in the poor, sick, and marginalized.

Humility is the foundation of sincere service, where every action is taken not for personal glory, but for the love that glorifies God. Humility does not mean being excessively humble, rather it means realizing that all talents and opportunities are a gift. In the spirit of Vincent, a humble person does not compare himself to others rather he shares himself through acts of love. He doesn't demand anything in return, because his ministry is born of love, not of ambition.

Humility also opens space for listening. In a world crowded with egotistical voices, humble people choose silence to understand. They don't feel the best, but they're always ready to learn from anyone, including those considered "helpless."

Service born of humility is sincere service. It is not limited by time, position, or praise. It flows like water seeking out gaps to give life. Service is not a project, but a calling. That call can only be answered by a heart that is clean of

personal desires, and full of liberating love.

St. Vincent said: "we do not need to observe and pay special attention to the good that is not good and full of defects that exist in us. On the contrary, we must try to know the defects that are inherent in us for this is a powerful means of maintaining humility".

In a world that glorifies achievement and status, humility is often considered weak or irrelevant. However, in Vincentian spirituality, humility lies at the heart of true spiritual life and service. Saint Vincent a Paul, a servant of God who dedicated his life to helping the poor and the downtrodden, considered humility to be one of the main virtues that every person who wants to serve with love must embody.

Humility is recognizing one's limitations while remaining grateful for God's grace. The humbler we are, the closer we are to God. In community life, humility unites diverse backgrounds and characters, for example, respecting others' opinions, recognizing that no one is always right or knowledgeable but learning from

anyone, joyfully accepting small tasks without complaining or feeling degraded and admitting and apologizing for mistakes to repair relationships between one another.

Humility shapes a patient, openness, and understanding character, which is necessary for building healthy and peaceful relationships. However, living humility is not easy. The modern world encourages us to appear perfect, competitive, and full of ambition. We often feel tempted to seek recognition, find criticism difficult to accept, and are reluctant to admit our weaknesses. But it is precisely in the struggle that humility is tested and refined. Humility is not an instantaneous attitude but rather the fruit of reflection, prayer, and a willingness to continue learning.

Humility is a liberating force. It frees us from our egos, from imagery, and from the need to always look great. It leads us to sincere service, honest relationships, and peaceful living. In the Vincentian spirit, we are invited to embrace humility as a way of life that brings us closer to God and others.



Sr. Isabella Bili Lete, SCMM

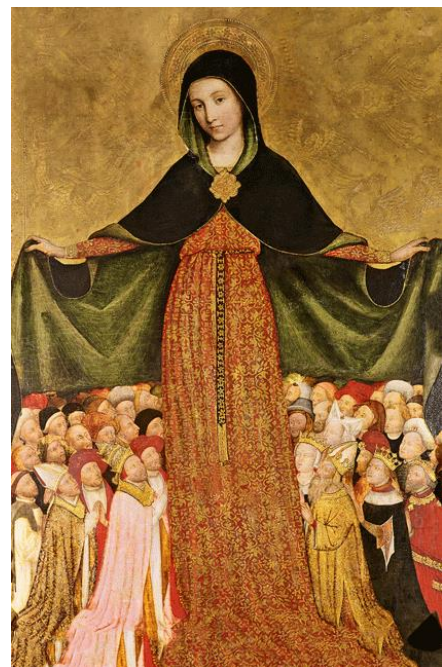


As I reflect on our congregation's title "**Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of Mercy**" I am drawn back to the early stages of my formation, a time filled with questions. I often wondered about the deeper connection between *charity* and *mercy* as expressed in

this name. What did it truly mean then and what does it mean for me now and in the future?

Our constitution explains that our founder added the title "Mother of Mercy" to emphasize our mission: of practicing mercy towards those who are suffering and in need. With time and experience, I have come to understand that this title is not just beautiful, but also a profound calling.

Charity and *mercy* are not merely virtues we admire; they are values we must embody in our daily lives. Charity inspires us to love and serve others selflessly, while mercy calls us to do so with compassion, understanding, and tenderness, especially toward those who are wounded by life.



As I look at the world around me today, the meaning of our title becomes even more urgent and relevant. We are witnessing the devastating effects of war in places like Ukraine, Russia and Israel, particularly in Gaza.

So many lives have been lost and so many families have been torn apart. Many children are dying from hunger. I was particularly touched by Pope Leo XIV's statement, in which he renewed his call for an immediate

ceasefire following an attack on a Catholic parish. The Holy Father expressed his deep sorrow for those who lost their lives and those who were injured. Like him, I, along with many others feel a profound sadness and grief over such suffering.



In the light of all this, I ask myself again: *What does our congregation's name mean to me both now and in the future?* For me it is a call to be a living sign of charity and mercy in a world marked by suffering and division.

At this moment, I cannot offer direct help to those people in need, but I can offer what I have: my prayer, my solidarity and my deep desire for peace. Even when action feels out of reach, mercy is never out of season. It reminds

me that Our Lady, the Mother of Mercy, walks with us and teaches us how to bring hope and healing, often not through grand gestures but through quiet presence and steadfast love.

Mercy is not just something we believe in; it is something we practice. And in practicing it, we do more than respond to the wounds of the world, we help shape a world that is not only more just, but more human. And so, bearing the name of mercy is not simply a title, it is a daily invitation to become who we are called to be; instruments of healing, hope and humble love in a world that needs it more than ever.

 *Sr. Amy Gitana*



On September 1, Sisters of the General Council and staff took a well-deserved break and went on a group outing. We visited the historic Heeswijk Castle where we enjoyed a guided tour that helped us learn about the rich history of the site. We were especially glad that the tour guide spoke in English language, which made it easier for us to understand and appreciate the stories being shared.



The castle itself is beautifully decorated, and it is surrounded by a tranquil moat that adds to its charm. We imagined what life might have been like for those who lived there centuries past. Some of us even wondered what it would be like to explore the castle by boat, seeing it from the water as people might have done long ago.



After the guided tour and a short walk around, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the castle restaurant where we were served a selection of bread and salads.



In the afternoon, the second part of the outing took place in Schijndel, where we participated in a workshop on candle decoration and making candle holders. We had had a great time creating our own decorations and enjoyed the experience of learning something new.



The day outing concluded with dinner at the “De Kabouter pannenkoekenboerderij” a charming pancake offering a variety of delicious flavours. We thank everyone who help make this day a wonderful, relaxing and meaningful moment of connection and bonding.

