



News items

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

Zonhoven, September 2026

September-Oktober 2026 no. 15

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Prayer at the start of a new working year

We have started our meetings again.
There is a lot to be done this year.
Who will prepare,
who will organize,
who will speak,
and who will do the regular work?

Come, Holy Spirit,
that we may change our world hand in hand.

One sweeps and another writes,
a third offers a moment of reflection
and yet another provides coffee.
There are also those needed who listen
and are simply present.
All are needed and useful
in God's eyes.

Come, Holy Spirit,
that we may, hand in hand,
change our world.

Let us, in the silence of our hearts,
appreciate the contribution of all.
and let us regularly thank one another
for the good that happens.
Come, Holy Spirit, that we, hand in hand, may change our world.

From: *'Words to pray in autumn'*

Tuesday, July 14, Sister Annie Timmers celebrated, together with all the sisters, for her 85th birthday earlier this year (namely May 19). It was a lovely gathering at the provincialate where there was singing and laughter over a cup of coffee and delicious cakes, and due to the heatwave, those presents were treated to refreshing ice cream. Sister Annie, as well as her fellow sisters, visibly enjoyed it together.

Thursday, August 20, the four sisters currently residing at the St. Catharina Retirement and Care Home, came to visit Sister Rosa, together with Valentine Metten. It could not take place earlier due to the extreme heat or Valentine's absence. However, it was finally possible to set a date.



From left to right: Sister Kristien, Sister Yvonne, Sister Rosa, Sister Maria and Sister Matheo

After a drink, we were all able to sit down at the table for cake and coffee. There was lively discussion about everything, from how things are currently going in the new residence, to pastoral care, the parish, etc. There was also some further discussion about the gathering in Tilburg two days earlier. Two hours later, the sisters had to leave again for supper at their residence. It was another lovely afternoon for everyone.

This coming Thursday, September 24, is the Feast of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, and you are invited to the provincialate at 4:30 p.m. for a joint celebration, followed by a sandwich lunch. A warm welcome to everyone! Please confirm your attendance before September 16, 2026.

The Sisters of Charity have been present in Zonhoven since October 26, 1851, and have lived among the people there and worked in education and care. To thank the sisters for their 175 years of presence in Zonhoven, the Zonhoven parish, consisting of the pastor and his team, is organizing a festive day on Sunday, October 18. The day begins with breakfast. This will be followed by a Eucharistic celebration in the parish church, and a reception will take place in the Acutis Hall. In the afternoon, a performance by Limburg singer Lisa del Bo is scheduled in the parish church. An invitation will follow! All sisters welcome!!!

On Sunday, November 1, we commemorate all deceased sisters and family members.

As is the annual tradition, the provincial/regional superiors and coordinators of all (post/pre)-provinces and regions will once again meet this year, accompanied or not by another sister, in the Netherlands for the ICB and the financial meeting. Sr. Marie-Louise Aerts will represent the Belgian Region together with Sr. Rosa Olaerts. The ICB takes place from November 8 to 11. Subsequently, on November 12, the financial meeting will be held.

CALENDAR: 2026

September 2026:

16.09: Formation of female religious Diocese of Hasselt at 14:00 – Speaker: Mrs. Liesbet Corvers, Episcopal Delegate for Catechesis and Youth, - Theme: “Dilexit Nos”;

21.09 : General Meeting of the Provincial House at 2:00 PM and General Meeting of the De facto Association at 2:45 PM;

24.09 : Feast of the Patroness of the Congregation, Our Lady, Mother of Mercy at the Provincialate at 4:30 PM;

27.09 : Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul.

October 2026:

18.10 : 175 years of the Sisters of Charity celebration by the parish from 8:30 AM – invitation and program to follow;

26.10 : 175 years of the Sisters of Charity in Zonhoven – invitation to follow later;

January 2027

31.01 : at 15:00 prayer service with our bishop in the St. Martinus 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 pleasant late summer and a good start to the next ‘working’ year !

Sister Marie-Louise Aerts

Sister Rosa Olaerts

Sister Annie Timmers