



INDONESIA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

June 2021

MATER ADMIRABILIS COMMUNITY

SILATURAHIM 35/2021

Greetings to each one! We share with you our life in the month of June. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Self-Isolation – Strange and Special

Yolanda Alina Diwu

Since the end of May 2021, the Novitiate Community and the *Sacred Heart* community in Bandung experienced a challenging experience as well as an opportunity to experience an encounter closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

When Sr. Gera arrived in Yogyakarta on 30th May for her 8-day retreat, she received word from Borromeus hospital that one of our sisters in our *Sacred Heart* community was Covid positive. So Sr. Gera asked us in the Novitiate and *Sacred Heart* communities not to panic and to self-isolate as advised by the hospital. Of course this experience made us as a community feel anxious and scared.

For 4 days of total self-isolation, we in the community followed our order of day in community, but individually, without meeting each other face-to-face. All the novices' classes were conducted online. In addition, online Mass, community prayer and even the novena of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was done through zoom in community. It was so hard for us not to meet and sit together in the

community to pray, eat and relax. This experience was strange.

I struggled with this kind of routine and asked myself what can we do so that we feel in communion? I spent much time in prayer asking Jesus and Mother Mary to help me. Then came an idea! I knew this was the answer to my prayer. Instead of us all being scared and being away from each other, we decided to spend time with God in Adoration.



Each one took an hour to stay with the Blessed Sacrament and pray for each other and the intentions in her heart. This experience calmed us and made us feel united in a very different way. We met God personally as well as communally. The isolation made us more rooted in God. We became more aware as well to live our lives in a healthy and wholistic way. Every day we drank herbal drinks made in our villages to help us build a strong immunity.

How proud we all were to share with Gera on her return from her retreat that the novitiate community were tested COVID

negative. For me, this all happened due to God's design for our community. *"For my design is not your design, and your way is not my way, says the Lord."* (Isaiah 55:8)

We are also grateful to Borromeus hospital, specifically one of our CB friends, Sr. Ika who promised Sr. Gera that she would take care of us in her absence and yes, she surely did!

Covid-19 Discussions

Renevergia Hibur

The Covid19 pandemic has already lasted more than a year and has not yet ended. Even now it's back on the rise. Not to mention the increased fear of the spread of new variants



such as the delta variant. Although we have all received the vaccine twice, it does not prevent the possibility of becoming infected. So on 12th June we listened to a presentation on Covid-19 prevention efforts from Sr. Ika CB. This presentation was done online so that everyone in the District could participate. Incidentally Sr. Ika, who besides being a religious sister, is also a nurse and the director of Borromeus hospital. She generously gave us her time. We were encouraged to strictly adhere to health protocols such as; always wear a mask, keep your distance, wash your hands, take a shower after coming in from outside, drink herbal medicine and exercise.

Listening to Sr. Ika, showed me how serious this situation is. The efforts that Sr. Ika

suggested we have done more seriously in the community.

In touch with our World

Yudith Nubatonis

In this year, I became more aware that when we receive and share God's love, nothing, not even the pandemic, can be a barrier. We have found many simple and significant ways to do this. We have had a number of zoom meetings not just for our classes but for the people in our parish. We conducted the month of the Rosary in May for different small Christian communities. We prepared the novena for our Sts. Peter and Paul, the patrons of our parish and shared our vocation stories on Vocation Promotion Webinars. We continued our interfaith programs in different ways online.



We were also in touch with the world of our Society as we grieved the deaths of our beloved Sisters Sol Navidad from the Philippines and Sister Monica from Kenya. We have heard about the preparations for the Special Chapter after our delegates from the District have had their meetings and we feel part of our beautiful Society. Now, we are all praying for Sr. Barb in our daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Our simple out-reach program of cooking and sharing food once a week is always a joy for us. We come together, cook, pack food packages and stand at our community gate every Monday at noon. The people around now know that they will be served lunch so our friends come with their carts, carriages, motorbikes or on foot, to receive a food packet for themselves and their families. I see the joy of being a disciple of Jesus who is called to make a difference to our world.

JPIC Zoom meet

Emilia Seda

RSCJ of the ASIANZ region conducted a zoom meeting on our JPIC involvements. Listening to our sisters share their experiences, especially during this time of the pandemic, makes me very grateful to belong to the Society. What touched me most was the way our sisters work with young people. I could see our mission of Education experienced so clearly in the young people, making them creative and making them sensitive to themselves as well the people who are marginalized.



End of First Year of Novitiate

Rofin Woja

We five novices are deeply grateful for our canonical year, our first year in the novitiate. We consider this year as 'extra special' and unique because of the pandemic. We received so much despite the lockdown. Our formators worked very hard to provide a program that would be creative, deep and fun as well. We spent time to go through each experience that we had in this year.



Each of us wrote our evaluation and saw how God had been working in us, changing us and calling us to keep changing. Our Society is the place where all this is happening and from this place we move to the world sharing our lives with our communities, our parishes, the people around and our families.

We all experienced the graces of the Long Retreat especially choosing the way of Jesus. We see the fruits of following this way. For one of us her vocation as a seed now has tender shoots, for another her symbol of a road, open door and key became more clear and for another the stream of water is now a river. We thank you for accompanying us with your prayer and we ask you to continue to pray for us as we enter into the second year of this important time in the Society.

Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart with a difference!

Gerardette Philips

This year we wanted to share the meaning of our Sacred Heart Spirituality with as many people as possible. We have been wanting to do this for a while now but somehow it did not happen. The situation of the pandemic lent itself to a creative way of doing this. We had a Triduum online – *Journey to the Heart of Jesus with RSCJ sisters*. The first day was the *Welcoming Heart*, the second day the *Forgiving Heart* and the third day was the *Loving Heart*.



The sessions were simple – we began with a hymn, a personal sharing, an input on the theme followed by a short meditation. The

session ended with the Litany of the Sacred Heart and the Novena of Confidence. The zoom meet was attended by people from our parishes, friends and some members of our families.

The personal sharing was much appreciated and our three sisters Lulud, Heni and Nata did us proud in the way they shared their experience of God on the theme of each day. On the feast day the six professed renewed their vows in the presence of our zoom friends. The triduum ended with consecrating our families to the Sacred Heart.

Our feast celebration has surely opened hearts to the possibility of an ongoing journey deeper into the Heart of Jesus.

Birthdays of Sr. Yola and Sr. Fily

Melyana Susanti Juita

Besides the celebration for the Feasts of the Sacred and Immaculate Heart of Mary in the month of June, we also had three birthdays in the District and 21 years of Sr. Gera in Indonesia!

In our community we celebrated Sr. Yola on the 17th and Sr. Fily on the 20th. We invited Father Leo Van Beurden, OSC to celebrate the Eucharist for us. Father Leo is Sr. Yola's spiritual director. Sr. Fily's birthday was on a Sunday so again we had the Eucharist in our community by another OSC friend of ours. Our birthday celebrations had a simple menu to suit the taste of our two sisters. At our community prayer we thanked God for the journey of their lives and thanked them for sharing their journey of life with us, especially their journey in the Heart of Jesus. This gives colour to my own life and encourages me to keep journeying also, to and in the Heart of Jesus. Our celebrations, as always ended with dancing and singing of our favorite songs.



12 years in Indonesia!

Nancy Murphy

So many graces have come from my time in Indonesia. One of the most significant experiences for me has been the chance to live out the vow of education with our younger sisters in formation and with the seminarians in Jakarta. It came as a pleasant shock, after so many years out of the classroom, to feel the joy of interacting with young seekers at the seminary and to feel the joy too, of living and working with our newest members from Indonesia and East Timor. Their energy and goodness called out the best in me.

I also learned to respect Islam in a new way through the people I met and through daily experiences, including the opportunity to live in predominately Muslim neighborhoods. To know the Indonesian people is to be in awe of their friendliness, patience, kindness and generosity.

Another great joy for me was the chance to meet so many of our sisters, both young and not so young from around the world, through living in international communities with sisters from East Timor and Indonesia, and from England, Korea, India, Japan, the Philippines and the US, and through welcoming sisters visiting from other countries, as well as through participating in meetings held with rscj from the Asianz region. In all these experiences I felt a deepening of the sense of being One Body.

I thank God for each of our sisters who live(d) and serve(d) in Indonesia, and in my prayer, I return there, asking God to bless all those who have so blessed my life over the course of many years.

