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**CB** *Inter In*

**FORMATORS:  
Walking Together In the Footsteps of Mother Elisabeth,  
Bearers of Love and Hope**



*Sisters of Charity of St. Charles Borromeo*





# Preface

Welcome to the special edition "A Reflection" from the formators who took part in the Pilgrimage program, last July 2025. We would like to thank the participants who gave of themselves and opened their hearts to God's invitation.

The various expressions of gratitude and experiences of grace shared by the participants are also expressions of gratitude for all of us, as the unity of heart forged through these encounters and the sharing of faith truly provide strength, hope, and love to continue the Congregation's mission.

Each of us is called to a specific mission, including being a formator. Sometimes we may feel unworthy or unsuited to be a formator. However, as individuals with hope in Christ, we are reminded that whatever mission we undertake, there is certainly a "pearl" that can often only be seen with the inner eye through our dialogue with God, the Owner and Giver of the mission.

Being a formator is not easy for some. Not easy doesn't mean impossible. No human being is perfect, and formators are no exception. As mere mortals, they sometimes feel like they have failed in mentoring their candidates. In such situations, they need to be acknowledged, appreciated, supported, and assisted in carrying out their mission. Serving as a formator can be God's way of educating and shaping us so that we can bear fruit 30, 60, or even 100 times more. Becoming a formator is also an offer and that offer is free. We can choose to grow with Jesus or reject it. God gives us the freedom to choose. "Yes...the freedom of God's children."

The blessed experiences they found in the "holy" places of Leut and Maastricht ignited their passion. Their encounters with the sisters in the Dutch Region were an oasis of rejuvenation for their bodies and souls. These encounters connected their hearts. Despite the sadness of parting, the fire of hope ignited, fueling their spirit, leaving them ready to be sent out and share this valuable experience with everyone they meet, especially the candidates they accompany.

Let us support each other and walk alongside the formators; let us be bearers of love and hope, growing and developing together, for the sustainability of the Congregation.

May we always be aware that we are formators for ourselves and for others. (\*)

Editorial Staff

**Sr. Yetty, CB**



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## PILGRIMAGE: A Journey to the Mission of Life

Sr. Cheryl Ebarial, CB

*This pilgrimage has been a profound grace and a unique opportunity for growth, deepening, renewal, and revitalization in my human and spiritual journey as a CB religious.*

Walking in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth, I have come to realize that reality gradually surfaces when I pause, listen, and reflect on the path she walked.

During this pilgrimage, I was deeply moved and touched as I returned to the birthplace of Mother Elisabeth, striving to follow her footsteps by visiting the places significant to her growth and formation. Listening to my sisters' sharing, feeling with my senses inside the underground of the

castle, and allowing myself to be present where she lived and moved – all these experiences revealed to me the seed of faith and love for God that was planted, grew, and was molded in her heart. This shaped her beliefs, mindset, and perspective, and grounded her in deep and living faith, always seeking God's guidance and how God loves her to fulfill her purpose. These brought me also to go to the deep, immersing myself in my own underground, the underground of the congregation through the place significant to Mother Elisabeth, where hidden treasures,

enriching and life-giving information, and encounters surface and are being heard. Her experiences in the Castle, especially with her family, and with her father, were a training ground for facing suffering and shaping her values – a crucible where her heart's desire to serve God and others was refined. This marked the beginnings of Mother Elisabeth's unique spirituality and charism, which only deepened through



*Vilain XIII Castle in Leut, viewed from the rear of the building*



*Devotional Renewal of the Vows at the Onder de Bogen Chapel, Maastricht*

her journey to Maastricht, her powerful encounters at Mr. and Mrs. Nijpels' home, the challenges in the first community in Lenculenstraat, the Calvarienberg, the birth of another congregation in Sittard, and even in her death – all holy moments that led to the continuing expansion of the Congregation, a living testament to God's compassionate love, and the breaking of bread to be shared for the salvation of others.

This pilgrimage deepened my understanding not only of Mother Elisabeth's charism and mission, but also my love and gratitude for her courageous zeal and faith-filled journey in fulfilling God's will amid sacrifice and suffering.

One of the most significant graces from this journey has been a profound sense of communion – walking together with my sisters, sharing stories, laughter, prayers, quiet moments, and the challenge of confronting our own personal and communal shadows. The communal grace that emerged was a renewed sense of solidarity, mutual encouragement, and shared hope in following the footsteps of our Foundress – not as isolated individuals, but as a united body, a CB

Family. I realized that her journey is not only mine, but truly ours: each step is an invitation to walk together, to support one another, and to witness to God's love as a community. This is especially deepened and assured through Mother Elisabeth's word before she finally closed her eyes and breathed her last: "My daughters, continue God's work with courageous zeal in continuous prayer and cooperation. Leave everything to God and submit to His Holy Will. Keep your hands to the plough; the foundation that has been laid will continuously be blessed by our Dear Lord. In the difficult time, take your cross, keep silent, and surrender all into the hands of our Lord. Pray for patience, often fix your eyes on the Crucifix; then, believe me, my daughters, everything will come right; nothing will be wanting anymore... What to say? Everything is self-evident. May the Name of the Lord be blessed in all Eternity!" This invites and reminds me to always remain faithful to God and persevere in His love until my death, as Mother Elisabeth did in her life on earth, regardless of the challenges and difficulties in all aspects, remain in God's love, whatever happens. God's will is the first for the growth and salvation

of people or others and the glorification of the lover of my heart, who is my companion and buddy, and boss in this life journey.

This pilgrimage experience fills me with a new energy and vision, especially as I return to our CB Study House in the Philippines and continue my role in the regional leadership ministry. I feel called to share the fruits of this journey in tangible ways – inviting the junior sisters to enter more deeply into the spirit and story of Mother Elisabeth through creative and contemplative practices, even from afar. It is clear to me that the physical distance from our Foundress’s homeland is not a barrier to the living encounter with her legacy. Rather, our local house is rich ground for renewal if we truly open our hearts.

- a. I will strive to consciously create more spaces for communal and personal sharing of faith journeys inspired by Mother Elisabeth’s life – inviting each sister to name and cherish her own experiences of God’s love in daily life.
- b. I feel called to foster moments of silent prayer and reflection modeled on Mother Elisabeth’s times of trust and surrender – incorporating regular silent adoration, journaling, or group lectio divina centered on her writings and the Scriptures that shaped her.
- c. I will encourage the practice of “spiritual pilgrimage” at home – designating small

“sacred spaces” or prayer corners in our community where we can symbolically retrace her steps through images, relics, or simple rituals, especially around key moments in her life.

- d. As a regional leader, I hope to inspire other communities to hold “pilgrimage novenas” or interactive retreats focused on Mother Elisabeth’s legacy, including sharing meals and stories, artistic expressions, and spiritual conversations.
- e. I will develop guided reflection materials that focus on episodes from Mother Elisabeth’s journey, encouraging formees and sisters to “walk” inwardly through questions, prayer exercises, and creative responses.
- f. I will lead regular “Virtual Pilgrimage Days,” where we set aside time as a community, perhaps once a semester, to virtually travel through the milestones of Mother Elisabeth’s life – using readings, music, art, or online tours – to foster spiritual solidarity and connection.
- g. I will facilitate opportunities for community service inspired by her example, helping formees and juniors to reach out to the marginalized in our local context with compassion and humble presence.
- h. I commit to be a living witness – endeavoring to accompany others with the



*Together with the sisters, Bishop Wiertz (Emeritus), Fr. Ignatious Julian, and Christ Wouters (organist) in the Cecilia Room after the Closing Mass of the Program*

same attentive, hope-filled spirit Mother Elisabeth embodied – walking with, listening to, and praying for each sister as she travels her own path of formation.

In all these ways, I desire that our local Philippine community, and particularly the junior sisters in our study house, may experience this pilgrimage spirit: a renewal of faith and zeal, deeper communal bonds, and a vibrant connection to our Foundress, regardless of distance. Through continual prayer, sharing, and acts of service, I hope we all may courageously and joyfully “walk” together in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth, faithfully responding to God’s will in ever-new circumstances and for the good of all whom we serve, and God entrusted to our care.

All these I offer back to the Lord as I thank His for He mysteriously and miraculously works in simplicity and ordinariness of life,

Surprisingly unfolding His grace and blessings through you dear Sisters in the General Board, Regional Board of the Dutch Region and all the sisters involved from different Areas, as well as the Unit of Leut. To all of you dear sisters, thank you very much for making this pilgrimage a sacred and significant journey of my Religious Life as a CB sister. May God bless all these insights and reflections as I carry and tried to live out each day increasingly aware and imbibing Mother Elisabeth’s way of life in responding to God’s will and becoming more attentive and receptive in listening and following God’s will in my daily living decreasing the self-interests and courageously facing my shadows through reconciliation and allowing God’s grace to penetrate and work in me and through me in whatever ways and means. May the Name of the Lord be blessed in all eternity! Amen. (\*)



*The former home of the Nijpels family is visible from the inner garden, with towers of St. Servaas Basilica (left) and St. John’s Church (right) in the background*

## A Spiritual Journey to the Heart of the Congregation

Sr. Maria Imaculada Mateus Dasilva, CB

*The pilgrimage became a powerful reminder  
that spiritual growth often begins in ordinary moments.  
What starts as a routine or a task can become a life-changing encounter  
if we are open to God's movement.*

When I first received the WhatsApp message from Sr. Yustiana, I felt quite ordinary. My emotions were neutral, since I was deeply focused on my current work assignment in Jakarta, a project that required my full attention for three months. There were many deadlines and tasks to complete, so my mind was fully occupied. At that time the idea of a pilgrimage, or even any journey outside Jakarta, did not cross my mind. I simply continued with my daily duties, committed to fulfilling my responsibilities.

Then, in March, Sr. Marie Yose approached me with a question regarding the passport requirements for Timor Leste citizens specifically, whether a visa on arrival would be possible. Only at that moment I was reminded of the trip to the Netherlands. Surprisingly, there were no deep or special feelings in my heart. I did not feel excitement or anxiety. However, somewhere deep inside, I heard a gentle voice reminding me that this would be a significant responsibility. My heart whispered that God had a plan for my participation in this pilgrimage, not only for my personal growth but also for the congregation in Timor Leste. Even though I did not initially sense any special calling, I realized that what lay ahead would be very important. I began to open myself and trust that God's plan is always good, even when it is not immediately clear. This awareness gave me the courage to follow the flow and be present for whatever was about to come.

During the preparation and the journey, itself, I underwent a deep and personal process. It was as though I was invited to enter the heart of the congregation the spirituality upon which our community is founded. Arriving at the birthplace of Mother Elisabeth, something within me awakened. It was not just a visit to a significant historical site; it was almost as if Mother Elisabeth



*One of the cellars at Vilain XIII Castle in Leut*

herself welcomed me, taught me, and guided me. I felt her spirit gently leading me, inviting me to see myself honestly and to reposition my life as part of the Congregation.

An experience that deeply touched me was entering the basement room. In this place, I truly felt the inner turmoil that Mother Elisabeth experienced when she saw people suffering, and all of this while she was still very young. It was truly extraordinary. Her love for the salvation and well-being of others began at such an early age when she still considered a child in many ways. This moment deepened my conviction that the

of life for a CB sister. The true purpose of our congregation is the salvation of others to bring as many people as possible back to God and to live a holy life before Him. It is not about a luxurious house or the best facilities but about having a heart always united with God.

I greatly admire Mother Elisabeth's personality because she was not influenced by outward appearances. Instead, her heart was always united with God, which moved her to go beyond herself and to be deeply aware of the sufferings of the world. A heart united with God can change everything with peace, calmness, and joy. Such a



*Sr. Imaculada and Sr. Cheryl in Mother Elisabeth's room at Mr. Paul's family home (formerly owned by the Nijpels family)*

spiritual roots of our congregation are profoundly strong. It also helped me understand why God chose Mother Elisabeth to be the foundress rather than just an ordinary sister. She had an exceptionally close relationship with the weak, the poor, and those who were in distress. This connection was not only spiritual but deeply personal, showing her great heart for those in need.

Another very touching experience was when I visited Mother Elisabeth's small bedroom in Mrs. Nijpels' house. The room was tiny and narrow, just enough space for sleeping and praying. Even though the house was huge, Mother Elisabeth lived in that small room. Yet the room's size was not her focus or goal in life. What mattered most to her was the salvation of Mrs. Nijpels. This experience reminded me that simplicity is the way

heart overcomes fear and is able to give itself totally to others. I deeply felt how much Mother Elisabeth loved the Crucified Jesus in that small room. Her pure and perfect love was truly experienced by her, and she responded to God's love with all her heart.

Along the journey, I faced profound questions within my heart: Where am I right now in the context of the Congregation? What is my true place, my commitment, and my contribution to this legacy? These were not just intellectual questions. They touched my identity and my life's journey as a member of the Congregation.

Each step of this pilgrimage, every prayer, every reflection, every moment of silence, left a deep impression on my soul. The experience gave me the opportunity to reconnect with our founding values in a real, personal, and tangible way. I felt



*After the Closing Ceremony in the Chapter Room*

as though I was being shaped, taught, and perhaps even reborn by Mother Elisabeth. Every little event along the path became a lesson, and each lesson was etched in my memory.

Looking back at the entire journey, from the initial indifference to the profound spiritual transformation, I see that God truly has a beautiful plan behind every event. Nothing is accidental. Even when my heart seemed unmoved at first, God prepared me step by step allowing me to journey physically and spiritually toward a deeper understanding of my vocation.

The pilgrimage became a powerful reminder that spiritual growth often begins in ordinary moments. What starts as a routine or a task can become a life-changing encounter if we are open to God's movement. I learned that responsibility and calling do not always arrive with strong feelings or clear signs; sometimes, they come quietly and unfold as we move forward in faith.

Through Mother Elisabeth, I experienced a living example of love, sacrifice, and devotion. She inspired me not only to admire her, but to follow her example in my daily life. The invitation is to build a life rooted in love, continually renewed by prayer, and strengthened by community.

In conclusion, this pilgrimage has taught me to appreciate every moment and trust in God's plan, even when I do not fully understand it. I realize now that becoming like Mother Elisabeth a person of whole-hearted love and responsibility is an ongoing journey. I am called to be faithful, to persevere through challenges, and to allow God's love to shape me from within.

May every member of our Congregation, and all those touched by our mission, courageously follow the example of Mother Elisabeth, and may they experience the burning love of God and salvation for their souls. May everyone I serve be able to see and feel God's love through all my service. (\*)





## LETTER TO MOTHER ELISABETH

*Dear Mother Elisabeth,*

*I come to you as your daughter, still learning to walk in the path you have shown me. My heart feels fragile, and sometimes I am weak when facing the people and challenges around me.*

*I often wonder if what I do truly reflects the love, faith, and spirit you taught me the love that comes from Jesus crucified. Mother, I humbly ask you to hold my hand and guide me. Please teach me to be calm and patient as you were. Show me how to carry every joy and sorrow with peace and humility. When I feel afraid or discouraged, let me remember the courage, deep faith, and simplicity that you lived every day.*

*I will never forget when I entered your small bedroom in that large house.*

*It was a tiny, simple place that you chose not for comfort, but because your heart was focused on the salvation and well-being of others, not yourself.*

*You taught me that the real purpose in life is not about big houses or the best things, but about a heart always united with God and open for others.*

*You always showed me that what makes life beautiful in God's eyes is not what I own, but who I am inside and how much I am willing to give for others.*

*Mother, I want to be a light for others, just as you are for me.*

*I hope that, through my words and actions, people around me can feel the love, hope, and spirit that you carried. When I lose my way,*

*I will remember how close your heart is to those who suffer, the poor, and the weak, and how you always went beyond yourself to care for them.*

*Please pray for me, Mother, so I can grow strong in faith and love.*

*I want to hold firmly to your spirit, to stay faithful to God and to your example, even when life is hard.*

*I trust in your prayers and your love to guide me, step by step, with a sincere and humble heart, as your daughter.*

*Sr. Maria Imaculada*



## **FORMATORS: Bearers of Love and Hope Walking Together, In The Footsteps of Mother Elisabeth**

**Sr. Regina Chibibi Mang’ungwa, CB**

*“From the beginning of my Pilgrimage,  
I felt the Spirituality of Mother Elisabeth is alive  
in all the areas where I visited.*

**O**n my first day in the chapel at the Motherhouse, I felt a deep encounter with Mother Elisabeth. I was moved to kiss the holy ground where she once prayed *“If pleases God, that here in this City Maastricht a Convent could be founded, in which God would be sincerely served.”* From that prayer, our congregation was born. Nearby stood the Castle, the Leut community, and the humble room in the former house of Mrs. Nijpels and the Motherhouse, the places rich with the presence of our Dutch sisters. Another moment that deeply touched me was reflecting on the painful separation between Mother Elisabeth and Mother

Seraphien. Both women sought only to do God’s will, and from their surrender came new life, the birth of another congregation, the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Truly, God’s mysterious ways always lead to grace and new beginnings.

The childhood of Mother Elisabeth in the Castle is another experience which made me shed tears. She was so close with the suffering from the beginning these were the prisoners, she took the responsibility like a mother to take care and moved with compassionate love passing in a horrible way (the underground) reach them and give food. She totally gave her time and life at that moment to the



*Thanksgiving prayer for the safe travel of the sisters from Tanzania at the Onder de Bogen Chapel, Maastricht*

suffering Christ. To me the society which she experienced is the society today which is very much wounded need to be given hope, listened because of lowliness; touch for healing because is wounded. From this experience I need to walk on the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth to reach out the marginalized, suffering and those have no hope.

With my eyes, I have seen and touch and steep in the simple room of Mother Elisabeth in the house of Mr. Nijpels and his wife EG 105 is in this room she prayed and contemplate the suffering of Jesus for the salvation of the soul of Mr. and Mrs. Nijpels and from this room found the Charism of the Congregation. To me Mother Elisabeth is role model in prayer and deep contemplation and her compassionate love to those who are suffering. On the other hand I experience the love of God to me to see this house and that small and simple room which lives though the house was big beautiful and rich but for her the important was the salvation of souls for the two I mean Mr. and Mrs. Nijpels. Secondly is in this house I found from the owners of the house now are highly respect the leaders of the Congregation to welcome



*Kneeling at the tomb of Mother Elisabeth – inside St. Pater and Paul’s Church, Wolder*

the Sisters any time when there's a need or for the Congregation function to visit there. What I learned from them is their kindness and welcoming also God using them as instrument for keeping the history of Mother Elisabeth and the Congregation this still a for me to enter inside the room and house as well as the very beautiful and organized compound.

The second one is the room in Mother House the Onder de Bogen which she lived the whole life until death. She lived simple life with, compassionate love to the people to touch and save the souls in Calvarienberg. I met the Old Sisters to have a cup of tea and share meals for with them also sharing and listening their feelings and experiences, two among them expressed themselves that before they were many, used to be full in the dining room but now they are few and old. Looking at their face, they were still calm smiling with big hope of the continuity of the Congregation, so grateful of what they have done for the Congregation and now they are no longer working but are taken care by the Sisters. For them now they have one and big responsibility of praying for all members of the Congregation. This experience I related with Leut community where they are only two missionary sisters, no more vocation need missionary sisters from other areas of the Congregation. To the Motherhouse many rooms are empty. This is another painful experience on the situation in Maastricht. As a formator I feel to share this experience of my reflection to the Sisters as invitation for Missionary Spirit, is a call for sharing, be united and solidarity as Congregation.

Another place or area which became my second encounter with Mother Elisabeth was in the Cemetery where she has united with Lord in heaven. I knelt down and her tomb which is inside the church of St. Peter and Paul, Wolder, again I was moved to kiss and listening to her whisper in my ears the same and her strong message which she experienced before the establishment of the Congregation which is still a great concern for the continuity the mission she started, her desire is still flesh “... In which God would be sincerely Served. ....” (EG 5).

The area which I was surprised is an archive; I saw her handwriting book with important documents like the first construction among others again was another miracle to me many years ago and

centuries up to day I saw with my eyes. Is a reminder to me in keeping records and documents wherever I am also in writing daily and important events especially the events which are historically relate to the Congregation and by making historical screen of the communities. These are my experiences from some of the places I visited among the others.

The Pilgrimage wasn't only for visiting historical places but also inputs were given by different resources. First was presented by Fr. Dennis SVD with the topic, *Formators: Bearers of Love and Hope Walking together in the Footsteps of Mother Elisabeth*. From the sharing of Him, I was very

already built her relationship with Jesus therefore her spirituality is from her childhood in the Castle serve the prisoners by giving them food. If I am mature enough, I love the Congregation and the Spirituality of Mother Elisabeth.

Another topic was *The Foundation and Development of the CB Congregation in the Netherlands: Pre - and Post - Vatican II and the Present Situation of the Congregation in the Netherlands* were given by Sr. Lisbeth the Regional Superior of Dutch Region.

The topic presented the situation which the society, Church and the Congregation was passing



Sr. Lisbeth and Sr. Paulie during the session 'The Development of the CB Congregation in the Netherlands'

much encouraged in the area of the ministry given by the Congregation, that to be a formator is privilege, blessing, and grace. It is a mission within mission, it is a call to me in order to give love and hope to those I journey walking together in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth. The next was the *Growth Towards Spiritual Maturity* by Sr. Carolina member of the General Board. It was a touching topic since it pointed my spiritual journey in maturity way. I reflected my relationship with God through all the formation stages and discovered the important of self-formation as was presented by sister. That where there is self-formation there is On-going formation as is stated in EG 140: "For I prefer from time to time to sit with my beloved Jesus...." Mother Elisabeth since her childhood

especially war the French revolution which brought suffering, the luxury life with no fear of God. People were suffering materially and spiritually. I have come into awareness that whatever situation face society, either positive or negative will also touch the Church and the Congregation from this Mother Elisabeth was moved to start the Congregation (EG 5). From painful experiences there found blessings. When I saw the situation in society today is another which needs spiritual weapons. From the Congregation in Maastricht is a call for Missionary Spirit, unity and solidarity from all CB areas.

Lastly not in list, *The Journey of the 1<sup>st</sup> Community in Sittard toward Becoming a New Congregation*. The topic was shared by the General Superior



*Visiting the Tomb of Mother Seraphien at the Precious Blood Convent Complex, Windraak*

Sr. Sofia CB. From the sharing I had mixed feelings first I felt happy to hear the story which widened more my understanding what was the reason behind which led to the separation. But as I continued listening to the story it was touching and painful when the two Sisters Mother Elisabeth and Mother Seraphien were in difficult situations of discernment. When I find myself in such a situation, I entrust myself also to God so that His will may be done, with firm faith in Him and relying on His providence (EG 23), perseverance and let it go though is not easy. Here is a mystery the newborn Congregation and the call for Mother Seraphien be a foundress. Therefore vocation as a call is mystery.

From the above experiences in the places and inputs both, have helped me to understand the root of Mother Elisabeth's Spirituality, Charism and Mission I feel blessed to step on the footsteps God, relationship with Him in their daily prayer. To journey with them one by one as each is unique and individual experience as well as group step by step. Together to live and help each to see the goodness of the call and vocation by living prayer life, community and apostolic ministry happily as

the life and legacy of Mother Elisabeth, to integrated and deepened in the formation process.

I experience the love of God and the Congregation by giving me this opportunity of the Pilgrimage, with sharing experiences, inputs brought me to the awareness in the situation which moved Mother Elisabeth to establish the Congregation, the journey and growth of the Congregation and how already reach in many areas and the present situation and the future of the Congregation. As a formator I found Mother Elisabeth is a role model to me in accompanying the formees, to make a solid foundation to from the beginning with their background and their first encounter with where is the source of the Congregation. This is a grace and gift to me I feel that these expenses are renewal for me to start fresh as individual and the area of my ministry, to in this newness which I have received. And after this pilgrimage I go back to continue deepening what I have seen, touch and receive, share and with other members try to be "BEARERS OF LOVE AND HOPE, WALKING TOGETHER IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MOTHER ELISABETH". (\*)

**MY LETTER TO MOTHER ELISABETH**

*Dear Mother Elisabeth Praise be Jesus Christ!*

*Dear Mother, I take this opportunity to thank you  
for your Love and kindness to me  
from the first day of my arrival  
to the Chapel accompanied by the General Superior,  
her Board, the sisters and Pilgrimage participants to  
encounter with you in this Holy Place.*

*Mother Elisabeth really you are loving Mother  
since your childhood you loved the Suffering Christ  
through his people and this moved you to establish  
the Congregation. The journey was not easy  
but because of your strong faith to God's Providence  
that everything will come and truly with my eyes  
I have witnessed.*

*Dear Mother, time has come to an end allow me to go back  
to continue share the mysterious and wonderful deeds  
which God has done to me.*

*Remember Maastricht where was your desire that....*

*"If it pleases God, that, here in this City Maastricht  
a Convent should be founded,  
in which God would be sincerely Served"  
and all the areas where your Spirituality, Charism and  
Mission are shared.*

*Take care the sisters remaining here the General Board,  
the sisters with special ministries here and my group mates  
who we are going back to the areas.*

*With Love and Prayer,  
Your daughter*

*Sr. Regina Chibibi*

## Drawing Inspiration From The Founder

Sr. Baptista Kristi Handayani, CB

*I am very grateful and thankful for the opportunity given by the Congregation to participate in the pilgrimage program at the Motherhouse in Maastricht. This experience was truly meaningful and inspiring for my life as a CB, especially in my mission to accompany young sisters.*

During this pilgrimage, several things left a deep impression on me. The first was visiting the castle where Mother Elisabeth spent her childhood. I was touched, moved, and speechless when I entered the basement where prisoners were held. It was a narrow, dark, cold, and inhumane place. Even after being tortured and killed, the bodies of the prisoners were thrown into the Maas River. Every day, Mother Elisabeth witnessed their suffering. What is amazing and inspiring is that Mother Elisabeth was able to process her childhood experiences, which made her sensitive to the suffering of others. Through her

processed childhood experiences, Mother Elisabeth always prioritized the salvation of souls. Unpleasant childhood experiences, when diligently processed, become a strength, reflected in compassion for those who suffer and even in participating in God's work of salvation, namely the salvation of souls.

Secondly, I was also impressed by the sisters in Leut community. Although there were only two sisters and no house helpers, these sisters were generous in their service. Amidst the difficult situation and conditions of the Church, the sisters showed creativity, resilience, and openness of



*Vilain XIII Castle in Leut, viewed from the front*



In front of the Leut Convent building with members of the community: Sr. Mariani (right) and Sr. Aufrida (left)

heart in their pastoral work. The spirit of Mother Elisabeth is very much alive in this community through her mission. This strengthens and inspires me.

Listening to the long history of the Dutch Region was also very interesting. It was inspiring to hear how, in the past, the number of sisters grew steadily, and their works expanded to almost all of Maastricht. At the same time, it was concerning to learn that, gradually, the number of sisters in Maastricht began to decline and the community grew older. As a result, the many ministries that had once been spread across the region were closed one by one, and today there are no longer any apostolates outside.

However, this is a reality that must be faced with a big heart. *“We do not need to be to be many in number to become a powerful instruments of God. We don’t need to be many to be significant. We only need to be vessels of clay, ready to be broken so that the light inside us may shine out to the world around us.”* (GC 2017). This sentence is truly interesting and touching for me. Physically,

the number of sisters and ministries in the Netherlands is physically dwindling, but it is hoped that the spirit of Mother Elisabeth will continue to burn brightly and spread to many regions. This encourages me to love the congregation even more and to spread the spirit of Mother Elisabeth to everyone I serve and wherever I am.

The experiences of Mother Elisabeth and Mother Seraphien in Sittard were full of struggles and ultimately gave birth to a new congregation. Their experience in Sittard was a cross-bearing experience. Their obedience and openness of heart in listening to and carrying out God's will be a beautiful inspiration to me. Obedience in listening to and carrying out God's will require humility and freedom, which are sometimes not easy.

Mother Elisabeth's life experience was the way of the cross, prioritizing the salvation of souls and closeness to those who suffer. It was a way of the cross walked with joy because she was loved by God unconditionally. The experience of



*With some Dutch Sisters after the cultural performance in the Cecilia Room, Onder de Bogen*

participating in this pilgrimage was like going on a three-week retreat. Together with the other sisters participating in the pilgrimage, I was invited to draw inspiration from Mother Elisabeth directly from the source, namely at the mother house and by visiting the places where Mother Elisabeth once lived and stayed. Through the materials, sharing, reflection, encounters, and fellowship during the pilgrimage program, I felt strengthened, refreshed, and invited to continuously nurture my relationship with Jesus crucified. Listening to the sharing about the story of Mother Elisabeth and coming into direct contact with Mother Elisabeth's residence, I felt invited to renew myself in loving others and the sisters. The togetherness and encounters with the sisters at the Onder de Bogen

motherhouse brought warmth, sisterhood, and God's boundless love.

In this experience, I felt a sense of unity as a CB who shares the same hope for the Congregation. God truly loved us during this pilgrimage through the love, kindness, and generosity of Sr. Sofia and the General Board, Sr. Lisbeth and all sister of the Dutch Region and the committee who accompanied, assisted, and provided our needs during the pilgrimage. The spirit of Mother Elisabeth and the love of the sisters that I received during the pilgrimage are worth sharing with the sisters and fellow members at the mission.

May His Name be glorified forever. Amen. (\*)



## In The Footsteps of Mother Elisabeth Gruyters

Sr. Marlisa Nursulis Setyowati, CB

*"... we could not praise and thank enough the Good God." (EG 79)  
The opportunity to visit the motherhouse  
and follow in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth Gruyters was a special gift for me.  
I shared many experiences with the participants from other Areas.*



*In front of the Redemptoris Convent, Wittem*

**I** truly felt God's work in action, from preparing our documents, to departing for Maastricht, and returning to the community. The goodness of God has taken care of everything, ensuring that all activities run smoothly and meaningfully.

There were moments that touched my heart while participating in this program. I felt with

gratitude when we were welcomed with great hospitality and love by the sisters in Onder de Bogen, when we visited the community and castle in Leut, the Redemptorist Monastery in Wittem, St. Servaas Church, Calvarienberg Hospital, the Nijpels Family house, the first community in Lenculenstraat, Vrijthof, the Congregation of the Precious Blood Sisters'

community in Windraak, and even praying at Mother Elisabeth's tomb in Wolder and Rijckholt – all of which were a series of affirming encounters.

This pilgrimage helped me get to know Elisabeth Gruyters better, a humble woman chosen by God to found the CB Congregation. When I visited her childhood home in Vilain XIII Castle, I imagined Elisabeth's childhood amid the turmoil of the French Revolution. How did Elisabeth grow up amid hardship, oppression, and war? At that moment, I remembered a quote from the story of the Gruyters family in the book *Lustrum in het Silver*, and I found traces of kindness. Amidst the rebellion and war during Napoleon's reign, Leut was recorded as a safe city. Leut provided protection for many people seeking asylum for various reasons. Many priests were able to hide in the basement of the castle controlled by Dame van Mewen de Flez.

What did little Elisabeth do at that time? I don't know. However, I believe that she did not remain silent in fear. Since childhood, Mother Elisabeth and her family had been God's hands and feet for those who suffered. Historical

records show that the Gruyters family house was always open to anyone who was in distress. A strong foundation of faith and compassion for those who suffer was ingrained in Elisabeth's heart. She witnessed and experienced how the castle and her family house became a place of refuge for those who were persecuted and suffered the ravages of war. I believe that since childhood, Mother Elisabeth had been so concerned and attentive to the welfare of others, so it is not surprising that these values continued to grow and develop, shaping her heart to always be focused on the welfare of others. "The welfare of others is very important to me" (EG 40). Encounters with people who were suffering deeply touched Mother Elisabeth's heart. The situations of distress, oppression, and violence that occurred around her moved Mother Elisabeth's heart to show love to others. For me, this was the embryo for the growth of the seed of her calling to take part in divine suffering.

During her journey, while working in the Nijpels family home, Elisabeth not only took care of continued to act and creatively sought ways to



Visiting the former house of the Nijpels family. The current owner is Mr. Paul



the household, but also watched over their spiritual well-being. In difficult times, she do good, so that God's name would be glorified. From the small and cramped room in Mrs. Nijpels' house, love flowed from her heart as vast as the ocean. Her kindness flowed from her deep relationship with the Crucified Jesus, whom she called "the sweet lover of hearts." It was truly an intimate and personal relationship.

During my subsequent visits, Mother Elisabeth's figure increasingly captivated my heart. I felt as if I was being brought closer to the Beloved. Just as I entered the door of the Onder de Bogen chapel, I felt as if Mother Elisabeth was guiding me to "look" at the huge cross with the corpus located in front of the entrance of Onder de Bogen chapel. The position of this cross captivated my heart. I tried to find out why the large cross was placed outside the chapel and not inside. Why was it placed beside the entrance and not in front of or above it, as I usually see in Indonesia? In her journey, while working in the Nijpels family home, Elisabeth did not only take care of the household but also watch over their spiritual well-being. In difficult times, she continued to act and creatively sought ways to do good, so that God's name would be glorified. From the small, cramped room in Mrs. Nijpels' house, love flowed from her heart as vast as the ocean. Her kindness flowed from her deep relationship with the Crucified Jesus, whom she called "the sweet lover of hearts." It was truly an intimate and personal relationship.

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*The cross in front of the Onder de Bogen Chapel*

banquet, where every heart experiences union with Him and is ultimately sent forth to proclaim God's goodness and love; to become Eucharistic bread that is ready to be taken, blessed, broken, and shared with others.

Thank you, Mother Elisabeth, for the simplicity and purity of your life, which has brought me closer to Jesus Christ, the sweet Lover of Hearts. Your footsteps are now not only on the streets of Maastricht or Leut, but also in our hearts, your successors. Those footsteps will remain – a reminder that true love is love that gives itself completely, like the unconditional love of Christ; love that invites and enables me to become more involved in His work, especially in accompanying the next generation of Mother Elisabeth's successors.

My heartfelt thanks to Sr. Sofia and the General Board, as well as the committee who facilitated this pilgrimage for us. Thank you for your generosity and support. Thank you, Sr. Lisbeth and the sisters in the Dutch Region for your generosity and love. Thank you, Sr. Patromana and the sisters in East Indonesian Region, for this opportunity given to me to join this blessed pilgrimage.

May the Name of the Lord be glorified forever and ever. (\*)

## Listen to His Will

Sr. Agnetta Miming Handayani, CB

*Praise be to God who has graciously revealed Himself to me.  
He has opened my eyes and sharpened my hearing,  
so that I may come to know more deeply the longing of His heart.*

I am grateful to Him for granting me this blessed opportunity: to be invited to join this pilgrimage, that I may better discover His will through the life of Mother Eliabeth, foundress of our Congregation by walking, feeling, and breathing the very air where Mother Elisabeth once lived, I came to a deep realization that she is still alive today. Her life and witness touched me profoundly and reaffirmed the gift of my own

vocation. I remembered that the beginning of my call to devote myself to God was rooted in one simple truth: I felt deeply loved by the God who created me. It is this same love that continues to sustain me today.

From this point onward, I have come to recognize that everything I possess is a gift from God. I am convinced that God has a definite plan for my life, and since then, my journey has been a continual



*Pilgrims in front of the Motherhouse, Onder de Bogen (under the arches)*

search for His will. I firmly believe that behind every experience of joy and sorrow lies God's loving purpose for me.

By walking in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth, I have found my vocation growing stronger and deeper. At first, I was meant to be introduced to the Franciscan and Dominican congregations. But one day, when I went to the CB formation house to buy hosts, I saw the postulants praying in silence and absorbed in meditation. In that simple moment, I felt a deep stirring within me – as if God was quietly drawing my heart. From then on, I knew I had fallen in love with this place and with the way God was calling me here.

As time went by, I found myself growing ever more joyful in living as a CB Sister. Mother Elisabeth has become a true model and inspiration to me. Her life was deeply united with the Crucified Jesus- a union sustained by her perseverance and faithfulness in prayer.

When I entered the underground of the Castle, I could almost feel how Mother Elisabeth

must have witnessed the suffering of the prisoners there. In her compassion, she was reminded of the pain of the Lord Jesus, who suffered because those He loved were in pain. Her heart was moved to pray fervently for their repentance and salvation.

This profound experience of compassion and prayer reached its fullness when Mother Elisabeth served in the household of Mrs. Nijpels, where her love for Christ and for those who suffered found expression in humble service.

Mother Elisabeth's longing to share in the Lord Jesus' mission of loving and serving others was strong and alive in her heart. She expressed this through her concrete acts of love-giving a solid foundation to the children, preparing Mrs. Nijpels and the patients for their final journey, and accompanying orphans with compassion and care.

Her deep faith in God made her attentive to the signs of the times and courageous in responding to them. I imagine her as a simple woman, yet

capable of initiating truly great and meaningful works not by her own strength, but through her trust and surrender to God.

This experience has deeply inspired and affirmed me. It reminds me that only by being united with God, surrendering myself completely to His will, and allowing myself to be part of His plan can everything find its true meaning and fulfillment.

When I was praying in Mother Elisabeth's room, I took a moment to contemplate her as lay on her bed. In the silence, I

listened with the heart to her final words, words filled with faith, love, and surrender. I was deeply moved and felt a quiet conviction within me: Mother Elisabeth was inviting me to continue her mission so that God's work of salvation may go on.

Her message echoed gently in my heart, to pray unceasingly, to work together in love, and to entrust everything to God especially in times of trial. In that sacred moment, I felt her spirit alive with in me, reminding me that the patch of



*Heading to Vilain XIII Castle, the historic site of Mother Elisabeth*



*Pray together in Mother Elisabeth's room in Onder de Bogen*

discipleship is not easy, but it is full of grace when walked in faith and total surrender.

As I look at the Cross and learn from Jesus Crucified, listening to His voice, I desire to live out his message by allowing myself to be led by God. I continually ask for the gift of a heart that longs for prayer and remains close to Him, so that my thoughts, words, and actions may always reflect His love and will.

loved by God with my community, students, junior sisters, and all those I serve, so that they too may feel the tender presence of a God who loves them deeply. I also seek to help others, giving them space and freedom to be instruments of God's grace, allowing His love to work through them. Above all, I want to remain ready and open to whatever God asks of me, trusting that everything is for His greater glory and in accordance with His will. (\*)



## Bloom Where You Are Planted

Sr. Yosepha Boniface Kimario, CB

*My beloved Jesus! I love you; I praise you and I worship you, my Lord.*

*Thank you for the gift of my vocation.*

*Thank you, Lord, for the precious gift of Mother Elisabeth to our Congregation.*

*Through her life and example, your presence has been made known to us.*

*As we come together as one family of Mother Elisabeth makes us ready and willing to imitate her virtues, so that we may continue to live out her spirituality and hand it to the young sisters who join our Congregation.*



*The arrival of the sisters from Tanzania at Motherhouse for the first time was greeted with great joy*

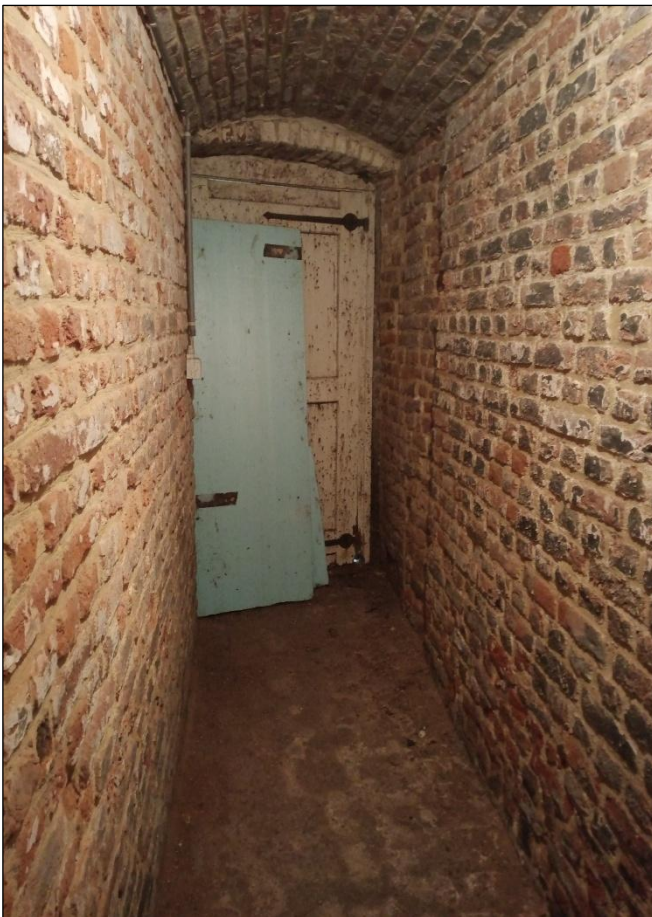
**D**ear loving Jesus in a special way, I thank you for the gift of Congregation's leaders, who have given me the opportunity to come to this 'holy land' – to see, taste, and experience Your love revealed through the life of our foundress, Mother Elisabeth Gruyters.

Jesus my Lord, how wonderful you are my Lord. Thank you for numerous graces that I received from you, my Lord. Since I came here to the Netherland you have accompanied me, my Lord until I reach the city of Maastricht - Onder de Bogen. I was happy especially when I saw all my sisters Onder de Bogen welcoming us to their

community. Then when I entered the Chapel, I was very excited. I was asking myself who I am my Lord that you call me in this holy land! Then I kissed the flower and I thanked the Lord for His great love for us. I felt my heart is burning with full of joy and gratitude to my beloved Jesus and Mother Elisabeth in my life. I really experienced many things in my spiritual journey as a religious CB. Maintaining my relationship with my beloved Jesus and Mother Elisabeth and Virgin Mary who were always accompanying me give me courage to say "Yes" to do the your will in my life no matter how difficult it is, I accept it and I am trying my level best to do it.

My sweet Jesus, thank you for the opportunity that you have given me through the leaders of the Congregation to learn, to study more and to work on the footstep of Mother Elisabeth Gruyters.

Dear loving Jesus as I was reflecting the life of our foundress Mother Elisabeth, I see you were accompanying her since she was born. She was getting self formation, redness to share with other, having the heart of love and compassion to Share



*The current state the underground passages at Vilain XIII Castle*

with those who are suffering in different ways. Jesus My Lord, I was touched by the life of Mother Elisabeth especially when she was in the underground prepare bread for the prisoner, I feel how difficult it was at that time. But Mother Elisabeth never give up but she sacrifices and offer herself with love to take care all and sometimes she was witnessing the prisoners dying how painful it was to Mother Elisabeth at that time! It was real touching me much as I continue reflecting the situation of Mother Elisabeth in underground, I feel painful and my tires come down and I pray for her soul and all the prisoners whom they died in the underground.

Jesus my Savior, I see you my Lord, you are challenging me through the life of Mother Elisabeth our foundries that I should share my talents with others having the heart of generosity, kindness and compassion to others. Dear loving Jesus I wish to be like Mother Elisabeth by accepting everyone and taking care all without looking their background.

Jesus my Lord, I heard that you are speaking to me, that I need to have faith especially to Mother Mary Star of the Sea. Mother Elisabeth was believed that's why she gets message of courage from God that all things will come, dear Lord how happy Mother Elisabeth she was feeling that time, God answered her request after praying for long time with groan and tears day and night. Thank you, my loving Jesus, for allowing me to see and to test your loving kindness through all the experiences that I learn from Mother Elisabeth. Praying and doing her mission silently without talking more.

Jesus my Master, thanks you for reminding me that I should work in silent doing my mission silent even though there is challenge and difficult I need to keep silent sometimes. To let my action speak more than my words as Mother Elisabeth did, I wish to do so.

Jesus my Lord, I see you, my Lord that you are speaking to me through the life of Mother Elisabeth that I as a formators I need to have a spirit of missionary to be ready to be sent any were as Mother Elisabeth did she came from her own place and start the Congregation in this country of the Netherland in the city of Maastricht. And this moment it was not easy for her, but she was trust and surrendering everything in the hand of God to let the will of God to be done but not her own will. Thank you, dear Lord, for such experience that you

granted to me to be ready and to inherit to the young sisters that I am leading the spirit of missionary, being ready to go anywhere that the Congregation assigns us to go. Having the heart of trust in God's providence that with Him everything is possible.

As we were going to Mary of Banneux, I learned a lot about Mother Mary who appeared to the people of Belgium and doing miracles, healing many peoples through her intercession. Dear loving Jesus, thank you for increasing my faith. I was grateful to love you more my Lord, for such miraculous things you have done to your people of Banneux to continue loving you more and more. I wish to show good example to the people whom I served so that they may continue loving you and come closer to you always through the intercession of Mother Mary.

Jesus my Master, Mother Elisabeth was a strong woman she was able to do many things without fear. I learn a lot from her especially to be strong in faith in doing my mission. Thank you loving Jesus for the gift of Mother Elisabeth in my life I wish to be like her my Lord so that Your Name may continue to be praised through the work of my hand.

Oh my Jesus, as I continue reflecting the life of our foundress Mother Elisabeth, I see that she was very sensitive to her spiritual journey trying her

level best to receive the sacrament of penance/ doing her confession many times. Working from very far, from Maastricht to Wittem where she found her confessor Fr. Ferdinand how many kilometers that Mother Elisabeth was walking? It is many kilometers, Jesus my Master, I see you challenging me through the life of Mother Elisabeth that I should be sensitive to my spiritual journey to make my confession every time, having my spiritual director who will guide me. Mother Elisabeth was realizing that she was not living as an angel but as a human being that is why she was able to recognize that she is a sinner and need to make confession so that she may live in the state of grace. Yes! My Lord it is my desire. Lord, I want to be like Mother Elisabeth, may you continue to remind me, my Lord, so that I may be open to recognize my weakness and come to you, my Lord to repent my sins and working in the state of grace and I may be able to do my mission loving, joyful and courageously. Loving Jesus as I continue reflecting the life of Mother Elisabeth, I see you my Lord that you are reminding me to be simple especially when I was visiting the house of Mr. Nijpels the house it was very big but the room of Mother Elisabeth was very small how this Mother was very simple I can imagine may be she enter in her room only sleeping praying and crying for salvation of the soul of Mr. Nijpels to receive Jesus in his life but at last he was able to receive him. How joyfully



*Our Lady of Banneux, Belgium, one of the pilgrimage destinations*

it was to Mother Elisabeth after witnessing Mr. Nijpels was received Jesus by getting the sacrament of baptism the door of heaven was open to receive him and the angel of heaven and saints praising God for the conversion of one soul. Thank you, dear Jesus, for reminding me that I should pray unceasingly for the poor soul and bring them to You, my Lord, I long to be like Mother Elisabeth so that I may be able to bring many people to you my Lord as Mother Elisabeth did.

was decreasing in numbers of the members of the congregation their house is taken by government like ours. Today I was really challenged by the elderly sisters they work hard in their lifetime for the future of the Congregation so now they are becoming old, and the young sisters are few. I compare with our Congregation especially here at Netherland were the Congregation founded no young sister all are old. Thanks be to God that they are missionary sister from Indonesia are taking



*Closing of the Recollection in the Prayer Room of the Servaas Building in Onder de Bogen*

Jesus My savior you were leading Mother Elisabeth and giving her courage to face the challenges without fear I remember when she was taking care the sick in Calvarienberg she was facing many challenges, but she was never give-up but was trusting in God and doing the work of God silent. Also, she was able to take that poor soul in her heart and bring all to Jesus and Mother Mary Star of the Sea intercede for them. Jesus my Lord, I see You my Lord that You are reminding me through the life of Mother Elisabeth that I should take care all people especially those who are poor in spirit and bring them to You, my Lord. It is my desire Lord, I wish to be a prayerful person so that I may be able taking care everyone that I meet in my life especially my formees sisters in the community and the sick and the poor and bring them all to you my Lord as Mother Elisabeth did in her lifetime.

As we were visiting Sittard to the community of the Sisters of Precious Blood, I see how generous the sisters were. They welcomed us and shared with us their history of the congregation. It was really touching to know that the congregation also

care of them. And they are grateful to be with them according to the sharing of the old sisters. So from this I see Jesus is reminding me that I as a formator I should promote love to the young sister that is instructed to me to have the heart of generosity to take care of each other themselves and the elderly sisters.

When I was visiting the tomb and kissing were Mother Elisabeth lay down her life and close her eyes peacefully it was real touching me and I learn that our life is like flower it blooms and at the end it died. This I compare with the life of Mother Elisabeth and the other sister who they go before us, they were like us but now no more they are resting at the hand of God, they were working hard for the future of the Congregation. Now I get challenges from them how about me? What have I done to the Congregation as remembrance. If God call me today, what have I done to the one I left? They will eat my fruits? For the little thing that I was doing? Who will visit me at my tomb? This is a painful experience for me. And I see Jesus is reminding me that I should do everything for the



*Mother Elisabeth was honored by having one of the residences in Maastricht named after her*

glory of God while I am alive. Working hard for the future of the Congregation. Thank you, Lord, for reminding me and encouraging me. It is my desire Lord, I wish to work hard like our pioneer sisters who enter the convent before me so that the congregation may continue flourishing day by day.

Jesus my Lord as I continue reflecting this journey of pilgrimage, working in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth I see you my Lord, You are so wonderful. He make me to experience many things in working in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth. I see God was teaching me and reminding me many things through the life of our foundress Mother Elisabeth as CB Sister and as a formator too. I was enriched through the sharing of every sister, and I am so grateful to everyone that I met especially this time of pilgrimage we nourish each other strengthen each other. For sure through this experience, it increases my faith and to continue to maintain my relationship with my beloved Jesus and Virgin Mary.

Jesus my Master, I am grateful to have You my Lord, thank you for allowing me to test and to see Your miracles especially in the blessed

Sacrament, thank you dear Lord, for numerous graces and blessing that I receive from you since I was started this pilgrimage until now, I really feel that my spiritual is renewed. I really get strength and courage to persevere in doing your will. I really experience you are so close to me. The more I am ready and open to do your will in my life, the more you reveal to me and making me aware that your love is unconditional I never compare it with anything. The more I open to you, the more graces I receive for you, my Lord.

Thank you loving Jesus for the gift of our leaders' General Board, who they prepare everything for me to come here and joining with other sisters from different country joining this pilgrimage. I have nothing to offer to them, but I surrender them all to You my Lord. May You continue blessing them and granting them all the graces they stand most in need in their life so that you may continue maintaining love and unity among themselves so that they may lead us according to Your Holy will. Jesus my Master, I surrender my life and mission into Your Hand; do to me according to your will. (\*)

## When God Speaks to The Heart Love Becomes The Language

Sr. Liani Sri Mulyani, CB

*My dominant feeling as I walked in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth was one of deep gratitude. I truly see this pilgrimage as a precious gift given to me, a lowly woman. I am fully aware of my own shortcomings, yet God never ceases to show His love and Mercy.*

I feel profoundly loved beyond measure, especially because, before embarking on this pilgrimage, I was given the blessing of a 6-month self-improvement opportunity at Roncalli through a course in spiritual direction. That experience opened my heart more deeply to the great love of the crucified Jesus and prepared me to encounter Him anew through this journey with Mother Elisabeth.

During the Jubilee Year, I feel truly blessed to have made a pilgrimage with Mother Elisabeth from her birthplace to her resting place in Leut and Maastricht. Along the journey, I encountered countless inspirations, values, and faith experiences that deeply touched my heart. I truly felt the gentle hand of the invisible God guiding every step of the way, granting smooth passage through passport and visa processes, and leading



When the participants from Indonesia, Timor Leste and the Philippines arrived safely at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam

us safely to the Motherhouse.

Through the recollection experiences, both in Indonesia and at the Motherhouse, I felt profoundly loved. These sacred moments invited me to look back on the journey of Mother Elisabeth's vocation and reflect on my own. Within me grew a deep thirst, to know more, to understand more deeply, and to live more fully the spirit of Mother Elisabeth and the love of God she embodied. Like Mother Elisabeth, I too found myself echoing her words: "Lord I am thirsty; give me living water". This pilgrimage became for me a grace-filled encounter with the God who continues to quench my thirst through the living witness of our beloved foundress.



*Pilgrims on the stairs leading to Mother Elisabeth's room at the former house of the Nijpels family*

A faith experience that deeply touched me was visiting the castle, especially when I entered the dungeon where Mother Elisabeth often passed to bring bread to the castle. On both sides of the porch were cells filled with suffering, and she must have witnessed pain, death, and even bodies being cast into the Maas River. Standing there, I was moved by the profound spirituality of the Cross that shaped our Congregation. From her childhood, Mother Elisabeth had seen the suffering of others, and this experience opened my eyes to how God molded her compassionate heart. I came to understand more deeply her tireless desire to work for the salvation of souls and her constant prayer for those in purgatory, acts rooted in the suffering and mercy she had witnessed since her youth.

I also witnessed Mother Elisabeth's remarkable resilience and strong will as I visited the historic places of her vocational journey. Travelling to Wittem far from home, she sought confession and discernment, opening her heart to God's call not to join an existing Congregation, but to found one. Her deep personal relationship with God was nurtured in the castle, at Calvarienberg Hospital, and with the Nijpels family. These experiences inflamed her heart with love for God, inspiring her to do everything to fulfill His will. Even during the painful separation from Mother Seraphien, she embraced surrender, allowing God's plan to prevail. In her life, the virtue of obedience shines clearly, showing how God's will triumph even in moments of difficulty and separation.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to enter into a process of continuous formation. Through this grace, I have come to a deeper awareness of my belonging to the body of the Congregation and the vital importance of ongoing formation in religious life. May all that I have received freely become a blessing for others, especially in the vocation and mission entrusted to me. With heartfelt gratitude, I thank Sr. Sofia and her board, Sr. Yustiana and her board, and all the sisters who have lovingly supported me in this journey of growth. May God be glorified, and may others be served with sincerity and love. (\*)

## Walking With Burning Heart

Sr. Maria Widyatindah, CB

*I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate in the pilgrimage for formators from different Areas of the Congregation. For me, this is an extraordinary gift. This pilgrimage feels like a call from God and Mother Elisabeth Gruyters to experience more deeply God's love within the CB Congregation.*

**I** was profoundly moved when I first arrived at the Mother House and met the sisters; words cannot fully capture my emotions.

The three-week pilgrimage seemed to pass quickly due to the packed schedule, yet it was incredibly enriching. I especially cherished the

retreat with Mother Elisabeth. The modules led by the sisters and a priest offered me enlightenment, prompted deep reflection, and give me hope for the future in accompanying young sisters and the youth. I was inspired to share about the importance of continuously cultivating life, living the evangelical spirit and embracing the



*After Mass in the underground chapel of the Leut Community, Belgium*

spirit of our Congregation so that we may grow as strong disciples of Jesus and extend compassion to those who are poor and in need.

Indeed, the all-good God continues to shower His blessings upon me, just as He did for Mother Elisabeth. For four days, my co-pilgrim sisters and I stayed at the Leut Community, where Mother Elisabeth's family came from. This grace-filled experience allowed me to reflect on her childhood – growing up in a beautiful castle, yet nurtured

received that extraordinary answer: “It will happen” at the Basilica of the Star of the Sea. Mother Elisabeth's journey has taught me the profound value of repentance through the sacrament of penance, the gift of spiritual guidance, and the faithfulness of always turning to prayer and reflection.

We were also blessed with the opportunity to enter the Nijpel's house, now owned by a young couple. Fortunately, they allowed us to visit and



*Visiting the tomb of St. Servaas in the underground passages of St. Servaas Basilica, Maastricht*

in a family of strong faith. I also remembered how young Elisabeth came to know the suffering of captives who were imprisoned. In all of this, I felt deep awe at how God guided Mother Elisabeth from her earliest years. The location of Jacob's well and other traces recorded in her autobiography reminded me how important it is to recognize the history of the vocation of our fellow sisters and to treasure it. For I believe that God calls and loves His people in unique and marvelous ways.

We also retraced Mother Elisabeth's footsteps in several churches, including Wittem, St. Matthias Church, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Star of the Sea, and St. Servaas. These were the sacred places where Mother Elisabeth sought strength in her faith, confirmation of her vocation, repentance through confession, and most importantly

step into the small room that had once been Mother Elisabeth's. I was deeply moved, realizing how her life reflected simplicity, faithfulness, hard work, and responsibility. We also visited the Calvarienberg Hospital, which will soon be converted into apartments and restaurants. Although its purpose is changing, we could still see the church building and the former convent, now repurposed. Along the way, we passed by the original communities where the sisters once lived when they first began their mission. It was truly amazing to imagine how many sisters were present at that time and how today, these places remain as cherished memories of their dedication and service.

Next, we visited Sittard, where Mother Seraphien was assigned until the time she finally founded the Precious Blood Congregation. From this part of the



*In front of one of the Calvarienberg buildings, where our sisters used to do their ministry*

story, I came to know Mother Elisabeth as a woman who truly carried the compassionate spirit of Jesus on the Cross. She was wise, firm and free because heart was completely sincere for the Lord who she served. When we visited Mother Elisabeth’s tomb in Wolder and the cemetery of the Congregation in Rijckholt, I felt a deep admiration for her, how she lived her life with such fulness, striving to become holy like Jesus. After these three weeks of commemorating and reflecting on her legacy, my heart feels overflowing with joy and abundance, like wheat ready for

harvest. At the same time, I know I need more time to savor and re-evaluate the pilgrimage experience, so that I may share its richness with my fellow sisters and with the youth.

I would like also to express my heartfelt gratitude to the General Board and to all the sisters in Oder de Bogen who lovingly prepared and guided us throughout this program. Thank you for your service, your care, and your accompaniment.

May God’s name be glorified forever and ever. Amen. (\*)

## I Tell All This Out Of Gratitude

Sr. Anunsita Nonci Kause, CB

*I am grateful to God for the call to be a CB Sister. We had a foundress whose story is written in her own handwritten book, Foundress of a Congregation, and whose journey we continue to trace through our pilgrimage. Although she and her successor are no longer with us and are buried in Rijckholt, they have left a priceless legacy that will never be lost.*



*Pilgrimage to the graves of the sisters in Rijckholt*

### God Opens the Way

This is an opportunity from God through the Congregation. The first page is engraved in the history of my life. My soul glorifies God beyond words. Who am I that such a great gift has been bestowed upon me? I knew this was a precious opportunity, but I refused it. I was unworthy, not worthy of being chosen, not a

person of deep faith. There were many things that made me feel unworthy to be included. I asked to be replaced by someone else, but my request was denied. Every time I thought about my weaknesses, I refused to go. I knew and realized that I wasn't a good formator and leader. I preferred not to participate in the pilgrimage offered to me.

Furthermore, I knew that not all sisters in the East Indonesian Region had this opportunity, and some desperately want to go to the Motherhouse. A few years ago, several sisters had planned to go but it was canceled because of the Covid pandemic. I truly felt there was no need to go. I am already involved in the International Spirituality and Formation Committee (ISFC) and had the opportunity to attend the General Chapter. I felt that was enough, even more than enough. I refused it. Another reason was that July and August will be very busy months with activities: the "silent day" for our novices as they discern their vocation, the canonical year retreat, and the preparation for first profession and perpetual profession. As the person in charge, I felt I couldn't prepare optimally. At the same time, Sr. Tavana would also be going to Yogyakarta to give retreat. I wondered who would replace me, since there was still so much to do. I had very little time to prepare for this pilgrimage in Maastricht.

In my heart, I said, "Lord, what do you want from me? If you want me to learn like Mother Mary, and say, 'I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done unto me according to Your word,' then so be it."

Finally, I tried to stop complaining, making excuses, and be more still and let the Holy Spirit work with all the consequences. I am just an instrument of God. Slowly, I began to open my heart and prepare myself. I did everything I could, making plans for the novices before my leaving and sharing tasks with Sr. Tavana and the sisters who would accompany the postulants and novices. But suddenly something happened.... After Easter, on April 26, I got sick. My head and face were swollen, followed by intense itching that caused my skin to peel like a snake's skin. I wondered if it might have been caused by stress. I went to the doctor several times, but there was no improvement. I hoped that I would recover within two weeks, but even after a month I was still not well.

In June, I had still not recovered when I went to Jakarta to apply for my visa. I prayed, "Lord, if you want me to go, please give me a sign of healing." Throughout the process and the many preparations, I continued to pray and surrender myself to God's will. Finally, I recovered three days before my departure. Thanks be to God.

### Open to His Grace

I want to share a beautiful experience deeply engraved in my soul. From Salemba Tengah, Jakarta, we departed promptly at 8:00 PM, accompanied by prayers and the beautiful song of *Mary the Star of the Sea* on our long journey: Indonesia to Doha and Doha to Maastricht. Love and togetherness strengthened us throughout the long trip. When we landed in Amsterdam, I looked out the window, and it was raining outside. In my heart, I prayed, "Thank you, God, for everything. You have accompanied us on this journey. Thank you too, Mary, the Star of Sea who guided us." Tears of gratitude flowed. I whispered to myself, "God has granted a great miracle." At precisely 1:55 PM, the plane landed at Schiphol Airport, my heart was filled with gratitude.

We continued our trip for about 3 hours from the airport to Maastricht. When we arrived, I saw from inside the bus the sisters waiting at the door. They welcomed us with warmth heart, like a mother



Statue of Mother Mary, Star of the Sea

waiting for her children. It moved me to tears. This is our Motherhouse; it felt like Mother Elisabeth was embracing me with warm love flowing like water. We were led to the Chapel. I knelt there with tears that still streaming down my face, grateful for all that had happened. “Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to be here”. We were greeted with beautiful prayers. It felt like Mother Elisabeth and all of heaven were rejoicing, the angels were overjoyed. God allowed me to experience this. All my struggle before I came to the Motherhouse

and free of pollution because there were many trees. Today, however, people seem busier with their own lives. Large families with many children are no longer common, and some people even choose to live alone. Many people experience loneliness due to the lack of friends in their later years. Most of them live in an apartment and become individualistic. The number of priests is declining, and many of those who remain are elderly. As a result, many churches, monasteries, convents, and seminaries have closed or stood



*For the first time, the Pilgrims stepped into in the Chapel of the Motherhouse - Onder de Bogen*

was part of my formation process; God was testing my faith. He was cleansing my heart to experience His love. In this beautiful chapel, I expressed my gratitude and praise Him for His grace which allowed me to experience all this feeling. I felt that God has been so good to me. He loves me so much, and I felt unworthy to reject His goodness. Therefore, I resolved to accept whatever was given to participate joyfully in all the activities of the program.

The pilgrimage began with Mother Elisabeth's childhood in Leut, Belgium, and ended at the tomb of Mother Elisabeth and the sisters in Rijckholt. Today, the situation in the Netherlands is very different from what it was in Mother Elisabeth's time. In the past, people were very supportive and friendly. The environment was beautiful, clean,

empty. Some have been repurposed as concert halls, while others have been rented out or converted into apartments, bookstores, hotels, restaurants, and other uses. Awareness of the Eucharist has waned, although some people still have a devotion to Mary, some still attend some celebrations such as baptisms, first communions, weddings, and funerals. At least, the elderly still attending the daily Eucharist. This situation is truly sad. It has had a significant impact on our church, society and our Congregation as well. New vocations have ceased, and there are no longer ministries outside the convent.

**Hope That Does Not Disappoint**

I am grateful to experience this pilgrimage, from Leut to the tomb of Mother Elisabeth and our pioneer sisters. I was in awe of Mother Elisabeth.

And felt proud of her. She was a simple, humble, and strong woman. From the beginning of her life, she did not seek her own pleasure. Her sole purpose was to serve God in the suffering of others. This was her priority. She accepted God's guidance with patience and love. She did not act according to her own desires. Instead, her heart became increasingly sensitive to God's will. Jesus Christ Crucified was her beloved. In Jesus, she found a love that forgives and saves. She was a woman of great maternal love, open-hearted enough to consider everything that might happen to her fellow sisters, yet willing to accept it if it was God's will. Suddenly I have courage and tell myself, "I will bring His love to my life, and I will share it with His people, especially to my co-sisters and our candidates in the formation house.

I remember the message from some Dutch sisters:

*"Now that I am old, I hope you can carry on the spirit of Mother Elisabeth wherever you're sent."*

*"You will always be in my heart, I will always remember you in my prayers, you are the ones who will carry on the spirit of Mother Elisabeth."*

*"This will be the last time we meet, but you will always remain in my heart..." (The sister said this while her eyes were full of tears)*

*"I love you; I pray for you every day..."*



*The participants visited the graves of Mother Elisabeth, Dean Van Baar, and 224 sisters (next to St. Peter & Paul's Church, Wolder)*

*"I'm glad there is young sister who will carry on the spirit of Mother Elisabeth..."*

*"If one day this place is empty, that's okay, I'm glad you have ignited this spirit in your country."*

Remember their touching message for me, my tears started to flow again. I believe that the flame will not be extinguished. It may seem dim, even nearly extinguished by the wind, but it will not be extinguished.

Indeed, the golden age has passed, but the spirit lives on, deeply rooted in the hearts of many. We are grateful that many people still remember Mother Elisabeth as a model, both in Leut and Maastricht. Her name is even remembered in the city of Maastricht as the name of a street.

Just as the hope of the elderly sisters never fades, so does mine. As Pope Francis said in "Spe non Confundit" that *hope lies in the desire and expectation for good things to come, even though we do not know what the future holds. However, uncertainty about the future can sometimes give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confidence to worry, from serenity to anxiety, from strong conviction to doubt and uncertainty. We often meet people who are hopeless, pessimistic, and cynical about the future, as if nothing can bring them happiness. For all of us, may this Jubilee Year be an opportunity to renew our hope.* I believe that hope will never disappoint. The spirit of service and the hope of the sisters in Onder de Bogen and in Leut, radiate love and hope for the future of the Congregation. Their sacrifice and endurance through living witness grow my faith in

Divine Providence. From time to time, I witness the decline of the sisters, but instead of complaining and grieving, I am grateful to have witnessed the mystery of God. The answer of “Yes” that will surely come from Heaven on August 15, 1836, will live on. That mission was planned by God, fought for with tears and suffering, but miracles will continue (remember her experience in EG 54).

I am grateful for my experience in Mother Elisabeth's room. I made a dialogue from heart to heart with her. I expressed all my hopes and love. I feel that she is alive. She listens and brings all my prayers to Jesus and Our Lady. I learned to be sensitive to the inner voice and to listen to God's will. As a formator, our task is not easy. We should find many ways or good methods to help our young sisters in finding God who is full of love and compassion. We are called to bring hope to a hurting world and to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ Crucified.

Mother Elisabeth's words towards the end of her life will be the source of my strength: *"My daughters, continue the work of the Lord with zeal and courage. Pray constantly and work together in unity. Surrender everything to God and His holy will. Hold firmly to the teachings, so that the foundations laid may be blessed by our beloved Lord. In difficult times, take up your cross, be still, and entrust everything to the hands of our Lord. Pray for patience, often fix your eyes on the cross; believe, my daughter, everything will be well; there is no need to wait any longer...what else can be said? Everything will happen by itself. May the name of the Lord be glorified forever."*

Thank you, dear sisters. Through you and this pilgrimage, I have truly experienced His grace and love.

*Blessed be God in His Saints, and holy be He in His works. Amen. (EG 144). (\*)*



*The name of Mother Elisabeth Gruyters has been honored as the name of a street in Maastricht*

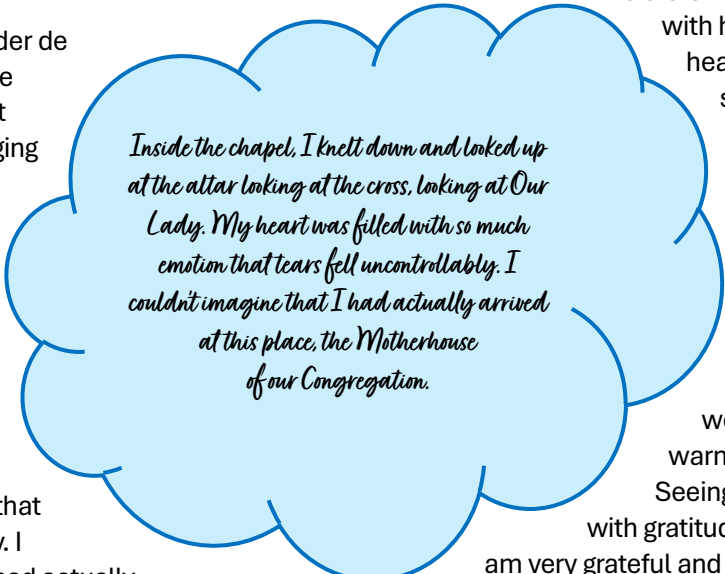
## My Hear is Burning Because of His Love

Sr. Felicie de Deus Maia, CB

*Allow me to share my reflections from the pilgrimage program held in Maastricht and in Leut, Belgium. My first experience arriving at Schiphol Airport felt like a dream, I could hardly believe that I was there. I got off the plane with my group and went to immigration to report our arrival. After completing the immigration process, our group went to baggage claim area to collect our luggage. Two sisters were already there to pick us up at the airport. When I saw them, my heart was overjoyed. I really felt happy to be welcomed by my sisters.*

**O**n the way from Amsterdam to Maastricht, I kept looking to the left and right, taking in the scenery. The view was beautiful. The green grass, trees and plants made me reflect on how wonderful God's creation is.

When we arrived at Onder de Bogen convent, we were greeted by the sisters at the door with joyful singing and applause. We were ushered into the main chapel. Inside the chapel, I knelt down and looked up at the altar looking at the cross, looking at Our Lady. My heart was filled with so much emotion that tears fell uncontrollably. I couldn't imagine that I had actually arrived at this place, the Motherhouse of our Congregation. Not long after, the sisters invited us to pray together. The prayer was deep, full of gratitude and grace, an expression of faith that strengthened our belief that God was always with us. It was also a reminder that we had arrived at a very meaningful place: our Motherhouse, the place where our Congregation was established.



*Inside the chapel, I knelt down and looked up at the altar looking at the cross, looking at Our Lady. My heart was filled with so much emotion that tears fell uncontrollably. I couldn't imagine that I had actually arrived at this place, the Motherhouse of our Congregation.*

I was touched to see the elderly sisters welcoming us with their faces full of joy. It felt so deep in my heart, because I never expected to be in this holy place. I also felt very happy to see the elderly

sisters. How they welcomed us with hospitality and open hearts. The faces of the sisters radiated genuine happiness, as if to show how much they rejoiced in our presence. Despite the advanced age of the Sisters, their spirits were still burning as they welcomed us with joy, warm smiles, and real love. Seeing all that filled my heart with gratitude and deep emotion. I

am very grateful and thankful to the Congregation for the opportunity given to me to come to this place, to Motherhouse, to review and reflect on the history of the founding of the congregation. I was also able to look back at the experiences and life journey of Mother Elisabeth since the foundation of the Congregation. It is a great gift for me to have this opportunity.



*Group dynamics in the Leut Community in Belgium*

### **The Experience of Visiting Mother Elisabeth's Birthplace**

When I had the opportunity to visit Mother Elisabeth's birthplace in Leut - Belgium, we were invited to walk through the places in the village where Mother Elisabeth used to live. We especially visited her old house which was in a castle. The place felt so dark, quiet, from the sisters' stories about the past of the place about how people used to be imprisoned and experienced a lot of suffering. From Mother Elisabeth's own experience, it is said that every day she witnessed people suffering and even dying without being saved. Personally, when I saw those places firsthand, it was so dark and sad to say the least. Then I was reminded of Mother Elisabeth's experience that it was from these past experiences that moved her heart to help those who were suffering. When I entered Mother Elisabeth's house located in the Castle, I felt the atmosphere was so profound. I could imagine how hard Mother Elisabeth's life experiences were. Since childhood, she had seen the suffering of the people around her. From there, her heart was moved by compassion to help. She saw the crucified Jesus in those who suffered. When I

reflect deeply on Mother Elisabeth's experience at the castle, I see how she interpreted her difficult and painful past as a gift. For Mother Elisabeth, the experience was not just a wound, but something that moved her heart to be compassionate and do good to others, especially those who suffer from poverty and poverty.

Mother Elisabeth's experience taught me to look at my past experiences in a new way. That experiences, however painful, are not just bitter memories, but can be a way of self-development. I learned to no longer see my past as a burden, but as a gift that has made me more sensitive and encourages me to go beyond myself to help others in need. During my time in Leut, I walked the places where Mother Elisabeth once walked, and I truly felt that God's work is so extraordinary in calling an ordinary child from the village into an extraordinary person.

Such an experience that became a historical moment for me, also when I saw the place where Mother Elisabeth worked to serve Mrs. Nijpels' family, the place was simple, even the room where Mother Elisabeth lived was very small. However, it was there that Mother Elisabeth sincerely took on the responsibility of caring for Mrs. Nijpels. Even in

a very difficult situation and full of rejection, Mother Elisabeth still tried to serve this family wholeheartedly, while continuing to pray for them to repent and return to God. When I look back at those places, my heart is deeply touched and inspired. I was reminded of Mother Elisabeth's precious experiences both in the house of her birth, in the sanctuaries where she expressed her desire to answer God's call and in the homes of the families she served. All of them show how Mother Elisabeth was so sincere and humble, had a heart full of love for those who suffered, who lived in simplicity, and built a deep relationship with Jesus Crucified. Her dedication to service was a tangible manifestation of her love for God and her neighbor.

When I visited Mother Elisabeth's house where she started her ministry to the poor, sick and abandoned. Seeing the simplicity of the place and imagining her great struggle with very limited resources really moved my heart to realize that from that small place and simple ministry, a big Congregation was born which now reaches out to many people in different parts of the world. I was reminded that sincere love and perseverance in

faith can be the seeds of great change in the life of a Congregation.

This pilgrimage experience taught me to encounter God through the selfless spirit of service shown by Mother Elisabeth. In her, I saw the face of God who is present for those who suffer, a God who is merciful, generous and unwearied in love. When I reflect on the perseverance and sacrifice of Mother Elisabeth, especially in the face of suffering and the challenges of the times, I feel the presence of God who faithfully accompanies people who give up their lives completely for the love of others. The lives and places touched by Mother Elisabeth become a kind of "holy ground" where God's love is truly expressed in action.

This pilgrimage deepened my understanding of the charism and mission of Mother Elisabeth, that her mission was not only to help physically, but to touch the whole of human existence with the love of Christ. I learned that following in the footsteps of Mother Elisabeth means being a person who is ready to love without limits, serve tirelessly, and continue to open the heart for God's providence, wherever and in whatever situation. As a formator, I am inspired by the spirit of Mother Elisabeth who



*In front of the Maastricht Courthouse (formerly the Annadal Hospital, run by the Congregation)*

had a heart sensitive to the needs of the times and firm in her calling. She did not wait for the situation to become ideal in order to act, but answered God's voice with concrete actions, despite facing many challenges. This is a call for me to form candidates for religious life not only in the dimension of knowledge, but also in the sensitivity of the heart, courage to act, and faithfulness in small things.

One of the greatest gifts of walking together on pilgrimage to Mother Elisabeth's place was the deep sense of sisterhood in the same spirituality. As we walked in her footsteps from her house, the first hospital, the chapel where she prayed, to the tomb of Mother Elisabeth and the sisters, I felt that we were not only connected by history, but by a common passion and vocation. The communal insight that emerged was that religious life is not a personal project, but a shared response to the call of Christ's love lived out in the spirit of the Congregation.

I learned from the early community of Mother Elisabeth who lived in simplicity, supported each other, and focused on mission. I was reminded that community is not just a place to live together, but a place of grace where each member is called to grow in love, faithfulness and spirit of service. This pilgrimage experience united my heart in the desire to return to the original spirit of the Congregation: Building an intimate relationship with Jesus Crucified, simplicity, surrender, and compassion for the suffering, and fellow sisters. I felt that this pilgrimage experience became a very strong source of spiritual renewal and togetherness. Seeing firsthand how Mother Elisabeth lived, prayed and served rekindled the original spirit in me. I went back to my area with a new spirit to:

- a. Reviving the basic values of the Congregation in the community: simplicity, deep prayer, spirit of service, and sensitivity to others.
- b. Making the community a place of mutual growth, not just a place to live, but a space where the spirit of Mother Elisabeth is kept alive through sincere relationships and shared services.
- c. Strengthening the spirit of mission: I was reminded that every community, whether local or formation house, is not a static place, but a mission base to present the love of

Christ in the midst of the world. Especially in the formation house, this pilgrimage inspired me to introduce the formands more deeply to the roots of the spirituality of the Congregation, not only through theory, but through experiences, life stories, and real involvement in the works of love. Thus, the formation house becomes a place where the legacy of Mother Elisabeth alive through sharing our life and give a good witness for others.



*A dance from Timor Leste at the Cultural Performance*

That is all my experience and with a sincere heart I would like to express my gratitude to all sisters in Onder de Bogen and Indonesian Province, for your prayers, attention, support, services given to us during the pilgrimage. Your presence making me truly feel God's unconditional love in my life. Thank you once again for everything. God bless us. (\*)



## Gallery Photos



*Dean of St. Servaas Basilica, John Dautzenberg was blessed the pilgrims at the opening Mass of the program in the Onder de Bogen Chapel, Maastricht*



*Meeting with the General Board in the coffee room*



*A representative of the pilgrims lights a candle to mark the opening of the Pilgrimage Program in the Chapter Room*



*Together with Father Dennis, SVD, one of the speakers on the Pilgrimage Program*



*Together with Dean John Dautzanberg (right) in the balcony of St. Servaas Basilica, Maastricht*



*Together with Father Ignatious Julian during a visit to St. Matthias' Church, Maastricht*



*In front of the Statue of Our Lady of the Star of the Sea during a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Star of the Sea, Maastricht*



*Meeting under a tent, in the backyard of the Leut Community in Belgium*



*During a visit to the Vincentius Foundation, one of the places where the sisters of the Leut Community in Belgium doing their ministry*



*Together with Mr. Paul and Mrs. Olivia, the current owners of the house of Nijpels family*



*In front of the First Convent on Lenculenstraat, which is currently used as a student apartment*



*Visiting the Archives room at Onder de Bogen*




*Pilgrims received a blessing from Bishop Wiertz (Emeritus) following the Cultural Performance in the Cecilia Room, Onder de Bogen*



*An introduction to Dutch culture at Zaanse Schans, Amsterdam*



*With joyful and grateful hearts, the pilgrims received souvenirs from the General Boards and the Dutch Regional Boards*



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