



2026 – OCTOBER (NO. 5)



Brothers Michael Sidharta (2nd from left) and Augustinus Marjito (3rd from right) on their first visit to Chile for a canonical visit to the brothers (October, 2026)

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Herewith, we present to you the October 2026 issue of IGC, which will inform you about the following:

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The Value of Religious Consecration

Consecration through public vows is a special response to God's prior gift of love and call. By professing the evangelical counsels, which the Church receives, we dedicate ourselves totally to God in a new and special way. The three vows are not separate commitments but expressions of our wholehearted "yes" to God. They enable the religious (us) to follow Christ more closely, seek God above all things, overcome obstacles to perfect love and worship, and dedicate our whole life to God's service. Through these vows, we also express our unbreakable bond between Christ and the Church.

1. The Three Evangelical Counsels

- *Poverty*: Following Christ, who became poor for our sake, we renounce the free use and disposal of personal property, share gifts and earnings in common, rely on the Congregation for material needs, and embrace a simple lifestyle. This witness challenges consumerism and excessive attachment to material possessions.
- *Chastity*: Following Christ, who loved with an undivided heart, we embrace consecrated celibacy for the sake of God's Kingdom. This commitment requires total dedication to God, responsible relationships, and a way of life that credibly bears witness to self-giving love.
- *Obedience*: Following Christ, who came to do the Father's will, the religious commits to obey the lawful directives of superiors in accordance with the institute's constitutions and accepts a particular obedience to the Holy Father through the vow. This requires a willingness to surrender personal autonomy in seeking and fulfilling God's will.

2. Commitments Arising from Profession

The vows must be clearly set out in the constitutions of each religious institute. Profession also entails a commitment to common life, communion with brothers or sisters, fidelity to the Congregation's charism, purpose, spirit, character, proper law and sound traditions, and to a radical, continuous conversion in response to the Gospel.

3. Witness to the World

Although social protest is not the purpose of religious vows, our faithful observance offers a powerful witness to the Gospel values. Poverty challenges consumerism; chastity speaks against discrimination and the misuse of sexuality; and obedience challenges hatred, violence and oppression. Thus, consecrated life calls both religious and society to conversion, solidarity and a more faithful expression of Christ's values.



The act of prostration is a sign of our total offering and surrender to God at our Consecration



Jubilee Celebrations Religious House, Netherlands

The Religious House, Netherlands (RHN), held its jubilee celebration on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 August 2026. The jubilarians were brothers Crispinianus Mooren (75), Gait Welling (70), Wim Swüste (65) and Frans Wils (65).

The celebration commenced on Friday evening at 5:00 PM with a prayer service in De Beyart's chapel, organised by Br. Wim Swüste and the FIC Team. Led by Br. Gerard Langelaan, the service focused on the theme "*Travelling together.*" Gerard's introduction followed the song "God who has provided for us" and emphasised the importance of community heritage: "... *This is exactly why we may be borne by a community with a wonderful past. What brothers and associated members have built over the years lives on among us. We may carry forward the heritage of our founders.*" The worship included prayers for our Dutch jubilarians and those of other FIC provinces, and gratitude to God for our congregation's mission and shared blessings. Afterwards, brothers, associates, and guests enjoyed a delicious cold buffet and fellowship in the hall "Kras."



From left:
Bro.
Crispinianus
Mooren and
Bro. Gait
Welling



From left: Bro. Wim Swüste and Bro. Frans Wils

Saturday, 15 August

The jubilee celebration continued on 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the Cellebroeders Chapel in De Beyart garden. At 10.30AM, the Eucharistic celebration began with the same theme “*Traveling together*” presided over by Pastor Jo Wolters. The brothers’ choir was led by Br. Johan Muijtjens, with Mrs. Hisae Kuijpers at the organ. Br. Lo Koeleman welcomed all those present, especially the jubilarians Cris, Gait, Wim, and Frans. He told the story of the master potter who, with great patience, teaches his apprentice the art and skill of pottery. If the apprentice is so capable that he can succeed the master, then he takes the master’s finest vase, shatters it, and mixes it into his own clay, with which he creates a new masterpiece. And so the story of our older Dutch brothers continues in the renewing power of our younger provinces.

Br. Clement Naapire, our new Superior General, read the first reading from the Constitutions: “As weak people” (art. 38). The Gospel reading was from Luke 1: 39-56, and Br. Frans School delivered the homily. He painted a portrait of the biblical Mary, highlighting her human qualities, which we also see in the persons and lives of the four jubilarians. Just as Mary was, so too have they been favoured by God. After the prayers, our General Superior invited the brothers to renew their religious vows. On behalf of the Team FIC, Mrs. Yolanda Kort addressed the four celebrants. She painted a humane, empathetic portrait of each person and their life, which moved everyone. The celebration concluded with the blessing and the “Salve Regina.”

After congratulating the jubilarians, the celebration continued in the Cellebroeders’ garden. There, the aperitif was ready, and we raised toasts to the celebrants. The brothers, associates, and invited guests then enjoyed a warm buffet and spent time together.

As part of the entertainment, Br. Ted van der Geest performed his jubilee song “*My Bonny is over the ocean.*” Following tradition, Br. Frans School delivered a humorous hymn of praise to the four honorees in the style of “farce majeure,” which everyone sang along with enthusiasm. Br. Frans Wils honoured three fellow club members: Br. Gé van Vugt, celebrating his 65th profession anniversary in Chile, and two deceased members: Br. Nolasco Vermeulen from Indonesia and Br. Willen Sondeijker from The Hague. Finally, Br. Wim Swüste offered brief thanks to the gathering. Br. Lo Koeleman also thanked everyone who helped make this celebration special.

FIC Jubilees in December, Malawi

Professed for 50 years: 8th December



Br. Ivo Heatubun

FIC Jubilees in December, Indonesia

Professed for 50 years: 8th December



Br. Petrus Paijan



News from Ghana Province

Final Profession of Vows, Nandom

The Brothers of the Immaculate Conception, Ghana Province, joyfully celebrated the Final Profession of Vows by two members, Br. Prosper Ganye and Br. Calistus Yengdem. During a solemn Eucharistic celebration on Saturday, 5 September 2026, at St. Theresa's Minor Basilica, Nandom, the Brothers committed themselves permanently to God by professing vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. The ceremony was attended by the Superior General, Br. Prof. Clement Naapire, who received the Brothers' vows.



Most of the FIC Brothers from the Province, along with religious men and women from other congregations, attended. Also present were the families, friends, relatives of the two candidates, and the lay faithful from Nandom Basilica Parish to witness the ceremony. The Holy Mass was led by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Wa,

Most Rev. Francis Bomansaan, M.Afr., and was concelebrated by the Minor Basilica Rector, Very Rev. Dr. Paul Bekye, together with several priests. During the most significant part of the liturgy, Brs. Prosper and Calistus, after years of formation and discernment, publicly professed before God and the Church their lifelong commitment to living the charism and mission of the FIC Congregation.

In his homily, Most Rev. Bomansaan commended the two Brothers for their courage and loyalty in responding to God's call. He highlighted that a religious vocation is a unique gift to the Church and a profound reflection of God's everlasting love for humanity. He encouraged the newly professed Brothers to stay grounded in prayer, cherish their brotherly bonds, and remain humble in serving God's people, so they can authentically embody Christ's compassion in today's society.

In a vote of thanks, Brs. Prosper and Calistus expressed profound gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of their vocation and to their formators, parents, families, and all who have accompanied and supported them throughout their formative journey.

Br. Prosper Ganye, FIC

First Profession of Vows, Wa, Ghana

The Brothers of the Immaculate Conception (FIC), Ghana Province, celebrated **Br. Emmanuel Naamwinle's** First Profession of Religious Vows on 3 September 2026 at the In-Service Training Centre in Wa. The event, which began at 10:00AM, was themed *"Sealed in Christ's Love, Sent to Shine His Light."* The celebration brought together many FIC Brothers, Emmanuel's family, friends, and well-wishers to support and honour the newly professed brother. The occasion was filled with gratitude and joy as the Congregation

warmly welcomed Br. Emmanuel into a deeper commitment to religious life and its mission.

Rev. Fr. Titus Maaseg presided over the Holy Mass. The celebration was introduced by the acting Provincial Superior, Br. Fabian Bezel, who welcomed everyone and emphasized the importance of the event. The sacred moment came when Br. Emmanuel Naamwinle professed his religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. He was fortunate to have Br. Prof. Clement Naapire, the Superior General of the Congregation, present to witness and accept his vows. Br. Naapire's presence greatly enhanced the solemnity of the occasion, serving as a profound reminder of the spiritual journey and unwavering commitment involved in religious life. It motivated the brothers to honour and celebrate this important milestone in Br. Emmanuel's religious vocation and lifelong dedication to his spiritual call.



Bro. Emmanuel flanked by his parents

At the conclusion of the celebration, Br. Emmanuel Naamwinle expressed gratitude in his vote of thanks, thanking God and everyone who supported his formation and journey to First Profession. After the Holy Mass, the community held a reception to wrap up the event. The community raised a toast in honour of the newly professed Brother, followed by shared food and drinks among Brothers, family members, friends, and guests. The reception allowed everyone to continue the celebration in a warm, relaxed atmosphere, ending the day on a joyful note.

Retreat, Transitions in Initial Formation and Renewal of Religious Vows, Ghana

The Brothers FIC, Ghana Province, concluded its 2026 Annual Retreat with a notable celebration. The event marked the induction of candidates into various stages of religious formation and the renewal of vows by some Brothers. Held from 28 August to 3 September 2026 at the St. Louis Community, Wa, the retreat centred on the theme: *“Call to Religious Life: The Role of the Community and the Role of the Individual Brother Living the Commitment of Religious Life in the Present Dispensation.”*

Rev. Fr. Timothy B., SJ, led the retreat and guided reflections on this theme. He offered a timely reminder of the enduring call to religious life and emphasized that, despite evolving circumstances and challenges, the core call to fidelity, commitment, and service remains unchanged. The brothers were encouraged to take their vows and mission seriously while contributing to the community's health and spiritual growth. He stressed the importance of each brother's role in building community through mutual support, charity, dialogue, collaboration, forgiveness, and responsible participation, fostering an environment in which every member can develop in his vocation and

contribute meaningfully to the collective mission. The retreat offered an opportunity to pause, reflect, and renew their commitment to God and the mission. It also provided a spiritual backdrop to celebrate milestones in the formation of several FIC candidates and for some brothers to renew their vows. The exercise concluded on the morning of September 3, 2026, with a prayer service prepared by the Liturgy Team.

The Transitions

The ceremony of transitions, held on 3 September 2026, marked an important moment in the candidates' formation journey and in the continued commitment of brothers renewing their religious vows. Religious formation is a continuous process of transformation. The journey into religious life is not simply a progression from one stage to another; rather, it is a gradual process through which the individual is invited to deepen his relationship with God and become increasingly available for the service of others and the Church.

Three candidates - Robert Abban, Calvin Peter Semani and Bernard Kalliati - officially



*Acting Provincial Superior
officiating during transitions
ceremony*

transitioned from the Pre-Novitiate to the Canonical Year of Novitiate. This transition marks an important step in their discernment and preparation for a deeper commitment to consecrated religious life. Br. Fabian Bezel, the acting Provincial Superior, presided over the ceremony, which was witnessed by scores of FIC Brothers. Similarly, Brs. Justine Naa Loree, Gannet Liphave, Isidore Paanga and Steven Mandeve moved to the Apostolic Year of Novitiate, marking another significant stage in their formation.



During the transition ceremony

Renewal of Religious Vows

This compound celebration also provided **six brothers** with the opportunity to renew their religious vows. Brs. Edmond Mopuure, Jonas Porekuu, Michael Besigrinee, John Vianney Aabeyir, Frederick

Kyiileyang and Prince Kob took turns renewing their vows before the Superior General, Br. Prof. Clement Naapire. The renewal of vows served as a public expression of their continued commitment to God and to the Brothers FIC's mission. It also reminded everyone that religious profession is an ongoing response to God's call, requiring daily fidelity, perseverance, and openness to continual conversion.

Br. Elijah Abugri



News from Malawi Province

Empowering Young People through Skills Provision

The charisma of the Brothers of the Immaculate Conception (FIC) is expressed not only in words but also in concrete actions that respond to people's needs, especially those of the poor and vulnerable. Rooted in education, formation, teaching, and a preferential option for the poor, the FIC Brothers of the Malawi Province continue to seek meaningful ways to accompany young people, helping them to discover their dignity, develop their potential, and contribute positively to society.

In this spirit, the FIC communities in Malawi brought together young people from the established FIC youth clubs in Mzedi, Bethel, Mitengo and Maryview for a practical skills-training programme on 3 September 2026. The initiative targeted young people from poor and needy backgrounds, offering them the opportunity to acquire useful skills for personal development and future livelihoods. The training took place at St. Patrick's Secondary School in Mzedi and was facilitated by Sr. Kadzala, SBVM.

During the programme, participants received practical instruction in preparing dishwashing liquid soap, laundry liquid soap and glycerine-based body products. Through hands-on experience, they learned to make these products and gained knowledge they could apply in their own communities.

The initiative went beyond transferring practical skills; it invested in young people's future. At a time when unemployment, poverty and limited training opportunities remain significant challenges, such initiatives can help young people become more self-reliant and explore small-scale income-generating activities. By focusing particularly on disadvantaged youth, the programme gave concrete expression to the FIC's commitment to a preferential option for the poor. It affirmed that young people should not merely receive assistance but also be empowered to recognize and develop their own gifts and abilities.



Sr. Kadzala demonstrating soap making

To help participants apply their newly acquired skills, the FIC communities provided starter materials for them to take to their respective villages. These materials offered a practical starting point for producing items for household use and for possible sale. The support therefore bridged learning and action, with the hope that the young people would gradually develop small income-generating activities, meet some daily needs, and move towards greater self-reliance.

Although the training in Mzedi lasted only one day, its benefits may extend well beyond the event. Each skill acquired can open new possibilities, and each young person empowered can become an agent of change within their family and community. The experience was more than a skills-training session; it was the FIC charism in action—educating, forming and teaching young people while standing alongside those with fewer opportunities.

Br. Gerald Nyakulama

In Memoriam



Brother Gait Welling

Gait was born on November 30, in Lochem, in 1937. He made his first profession on August 15, 1953 and his final profession on August 15, 1958. He passed away on September 8, 2026 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.



Brother Crispinianus Mooren

Crispinianus was born on November 24, in Haarlem, in 1930. He made his first profession on August 15, 1951 and his final profession on August 15, 1957. He passed away on September 18, 2026 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.



Special Birthdays



November

15 Savio Gino Nataprayoga (80) Muntilan-Postulate

December

19 Hans van Wouwen (70) Wa-Sombo

31 Thomas Tefa (50) Ketapang