



Two New Montfort Priests, Province of Indonesia

PUTUSSIBAU, Indonesia - The Montfort Missionaries, Province of Indonesia, is grateful and happy for the two confreres who were ordained priests on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 09:00, local time, on the Celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary which took place at the "Deo Soli" Mission House, Kalimantan. The two new priests were Nikodemus Hermiawan (Niko) and Oktavianus Klido Wekin (Vian). They were ordained by Mgr. Samuel Oton Sidin, OFM. Cap, Bishop of Sintang Diocese.

Father Niko took the motto *"Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid."* (Matt 14:27), while Father Vian took the motto from the story of Isaiah's vocation *"Here I am, send me!"* (Isaiah 6:8b). These two mottos were commented on by Mgr. Samuel in his homily. The bishop invited the two new priests to seriously carry out their mission as priests in the midst of the challenges of this complex world. For that, both must always believe in God's Providence. Prayers and support from families, priests, religious brothers and sisters as well as the assembly attending the celebration also accompany their next life journey.

This ordination is quite unique. In the midst of the never-ending Covid-19 pandemic situation, the celebration did not involve many people. The number of invitees is limited (250 people), choir members are limited. All follow health protocols imposed by the government. Considering that the parents of the two new priests were unable to attend, and so that other people could take part, the committee of the celebration created a special team to operate Live Streaming via Facebook "Deo Soli".

The two new priests, represented by Fr. Niko, expressed their gratitude to God who always cares for their lives, to the SMM Province of Indonesia, to their parents and families, teachers and lecturers, formators, donors and people who always support their life journey.

Meanwhile, Fr. Anton, the Provincial Superior, in his remarks, invited the two new priests to be grateful for the grace of this sublime priesthood ordination as the greatest gift in their lives. He hoped that these two new priests would always persevere in prayer so that their priestly life will grow and bear fruit for the salvation of the people they serve.

Father Anton also announced the places of mission of these two new priests in front of the assembly. Fr. Niko, SMM received a new mission at the Mission Community of "Montfort" in Menyurai, Sintang, while Fr. Vian, SMM will continue to carry out his mission in the same place in the Parish of Queen of Rosary at Lebang, Sintang Diocese, where he was living his mission as a deacon. Before carrying out their respective duties, the two new priests celebrated Thanksgiving Masses in several places. The first of which took place on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at the Mission House "Deo Soli".

Congratulations and good luck to your mission, Fr. Niko and Fr. Vian.

"I am all yours and all I have is yours, O dear Jesus, through Mary, your holy Mother." (TD 233).

*Bro. Hyronimus Dominggus Ario, SMM
Scholastic*