



The Joyful Moments in the Indonesian Province during COVID-19 Pandemic

INDONESIA - We are grateful to our Lord Jesus and to His Most Beloved Mother, the Virgin Mary, who have enlightened our Province throughout this year. We are especially thankful to God for giving us the possibility to share joyful and significant celebrations which we would like to share briefly. Our SMM Province is indeed happy because we were able to carry out important activities despite the outrage of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Firstly, "The Renewal of Vows". Last August 15, 2020, forty-eight young Montfortian brothers renewed their religious vows before the Provincial Superior. We unceasingly give thanks to God who faithfully guides and shows to our young brothers the way to become a good Montfortian religious. In addition to this, on August 14, four of our brothers: Bro. Us Dopo, Bro. Bronislawa Saryono Nasredin, Bro. Severinus Njo and Bro. Hironimus Edison consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary, according to the teachings of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort.

Secondly, "The Perpetual Vows". The Eucharistic celebration was presided by Provincial Superior, Fr. Antonius Tensi, SMM together with several Montfortian priests (the formators of the scholastics) and the parish priest of Pasuruan. In his homily, the Provincial Superior invited the four candidates to ponder on the substance of their vocation and on the value of the Perpetual Vows for their life and vocation. Despite the virus outbreak, we were able to

celebrate solemnly the liturgical event. The participants were obliged to wear face masks. Several brothers joined the celebration from their seats outside the Chapel.

Thirdly, "The Ordination of Deacons". Our brothers: Bro. Us, Bro. Roin and Bro. Njo were ordained deacons. At 8.00 A.M., the Bishop of Malang, Mgr. Henricus Pidyarto, O' Carm presided the Ordination Mass. His homily was centered on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. He later on invited the candidates to be generous, faithful and good servants. After the Mass, the Father Provincial gave a piece of advice to the newly ordained deacons. He emphasized that the diaconate should not be deemed as a mere step towards priesthood for it is really a state where one is called to serve the Church as a "servant" or "lay down the Word of God" in order to serve tables (cf. Acts 6:2).

Again, we are immensely grateful to God for blessing our Religious Montfortian Province and our Congregation as a whole, with new members. The newly ordained deacons were sent to do their ministry in different places in Indonesia and Portugal. Deacon Us was commissioned to serve in Saint Peter Kanisius, a Parish in Kandui of the Diocese of Palangkaraya. Whereas, Deacon Roin is assigned in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish in Lebang, in the Diocese of Sintang and Deacon Njo will be serving in Fatima, Portugal.

In the afternoon of that same day, the community of Montfort Seminary, "*Pondok Kebijaksanaan*" in Malang, welcomed their newly appointed superior. After a sabbatical year in Canada, Fr. Dwi Watun, SMM was appointed as the new superior of the aforementioned community, a position previously handled by Fr. Goris Pasi, SMM.

The day after the ordination, the community of Montfort Seminary thanked God through a Eucharistic celebration for the 75th Anniversary of Indonesia's Independence. During the Mass, the community invoked blessings for our confreres – nine brothers and two deacons – who were asked to carry out missionary activities in Borneo and the Flores Islands. They also thanked God because two of the newly ordained deacons have finally completed their Theological and Philosophical formation. The Mass was presided by Fr. Markus, SMM, the assistant superior of the community.

We are grateful to our Lord Jesus and to the Blessed Virgin Mary who have guided and blessed us throughout these moments. May we continue to live our mission faithfully and abide to the enlightenment and aid of our Lord Jesus, his Most Beloved Mother and our Founder, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, now and forever.

Fr. Fidel Wotan, SMM