Per aspera ad astra
Inauguration of the Nursing Home of La Saggese
in Nggorang, Labuan Bajo, Indonesia

LABUAN BAJO, Indonesia - *Per aspera ad astra.* This is a Latin phrase meaning "through toil to the stars". By using this expression, Fr. Arnold SUHARDI, SMM, the Assistant General, in his homily, reflected on the time of illness, suffering and old age as an opportunity to get closer to God. This message was conveyed in a homily during the Eucharistic celebration of the blessing of the nursing home of La Saggese in Nggorang, Labuan Bajo on January 20, 2022.

The nursing home of La Saggese or House of Wisdom is the name given to the house where the confreres of SMM live who are unable to do active pastoral work due to health problems or old age. This house is located in Nggorang, Labuan Bajo, next to the building of the SMM aspirants.

The house blessing ceremony, apart from being attended by Fr. Arnold as representative of the Superior General, was also attended by Fr. Anton TENSI, SMM, the Provincial of the Indonesian Province, Fr. Kristian, SMM who is a member of the Indonesian Provincial Council, SMM priests who work in Ruteng diocese, the Daughters of Wisdom in Nggorang, as well as the KBG (ecclesiastical base community) people around the SMM Nggorang community.

In the first stage of the construction, there are two housing units that were built and are inhabited by four confreres, namely Fr. Kon, Fr. John Suri, Fr. Borgias, and Bro. Ero. The house is equipped with bedrooms, bathroom and WC, chapel, TV room and treatment room. Father Anton, in his opening remarks, said that by giving the name HOUSE OF WISDOM, it is hoped that those who live in it will be more united with Christ, the Wisdom, as Saint Montfort longed for.

The inauguration ceremony of this guest house, apart from celebrating the Eucharist, is also part of a series of the traditional Manggarai "*we'e mbaru*" events. This traditional event marks that a house is ready to be occupied. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Arnold.

Fr. Wawan, SMM