



First Profession in Ruteng

FLORES, Indonesia - On May 31, 2022, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth, 14 novices made their first profession as Montfortians in the chapel of *Novisiat Montfortan*, Labe Carep, Ruteng, Flores, Indonesia. They are: Heribertus AMA BUGIS (Herdi), Yulius SOWE WERUIN (Lius), Wenseslaus JUGAN (Wens), Yulius DARUS (Yusli), Marto Pusius PALENG (Marto), Yulianus Ewantus HAMAT (Evan), Yulianus L. NASAR (Lion), Charolus GERVANSO DE SANTOS (Charol), Bernadinus NGGOTANG (Dinus), Nur Oktavianus YEVAL (Vian), Agustinus FORDINI (Frido), Kladius MARJON ALAN (Marlon), Bernadino YULIANO (Bernard), Kristoforus Juliano ILHAM (Yano). Two of them professed themselves as Montfortian brothers while the other twelve as priest candidates.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided by the Provincial Superior of Indonesia, Fr. Antonius TENSI, SMM. He was accompanied by the formators of the novitiate and some Montfortian priests in Flores. There were also some religious sisters including the Daughters of Wisdom from the Novitiate community in Tenda and Pondok Marie-Louise, Poco, members of Confraternity of Mary Queen of All Hearts (MQAH), family members of the newly professed and also the Catholics around *Novisiat Montfortan* community.

In his homily, Fr. Anton said that the encounter of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Elizabeth is both humane and divine encounter. Mary who carries the Son of God in her womb meets her cousin, Elizabeth, and bring her God-made-man.

In the same spirit as that of Mary, he reminded all religious who were present at the celebration especially the novices that the religious should be men of God, men for others, men of prayer, and men of faith. Blessed Virgin welcomed the Son of God in her womb. She brings God to Elisabeth. Mary is a woman of prayer by which she lives her life faithfully for God Alone for the rest of her life.

Citing the theme of the celebration "God Alone" chosen by the 14 novices, Fr. Anton underlined the meaning of self-commitment to God alone in their lives as Montfortians. He invited the family members of the novices to support them that they may grow in their liberty of giving themselves freely and joyfully to God through service to others according to the spirit of St. Montfort.

The day before, the 14 novices consecrated themselves to God through the hands of Mary according to the teachings of our Holy Founder.

Fr. Lodofikus NDONA, SMM