

Circular Letter #4:

June 27, 2019

Dear Mothers and Sisters,

Although all of you will receive this letter after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I send all of you my prayerful best wishes that you may drink deeply today and always from the great fountain of salvation, the pierced Heart of our Loving Redeemer!

Today I come with news about the foundation of the Passionist Nuns in Borneo. After much consultation with various communities, I and the General Council have chosen eight Passionist Nuns to form the founding community of Kalimantan:

Sr. Martina Naiman (Tarquinia and pro tempore superior of the Kalimantan foundation)
Sr. Andreina (Maumere)
Sr. Gemma (Maumere)
Sr. Clarina (Vignanello)
Sr. Cornelia (Lucca)
Sr. Elisabeth (Malang)
Sr. Katarina Mogi (Genoa)
Sr. Veronika (Maumere)

I wish to thank the superiors who with magnanimity and selfless generosity have consented to allow one or more Nuns from their community to take part in the new foundation. I wish to thank also the various Nuns who made themselves available for this new venture. Each one who was chosen has already given her written consent.

It has been edifying and encouraging for the Council members and myself to witness a true spirit of collaboration in keeping with the spirit of Statute #12 which encourages all to be concerned with the common good and with all that pertains to the progress of the monastic life of the Congregation. This same Statute encourages the cooperation of all in executing [new foundations], both in terms of personnel and material goods.

The monastery in Malang, Indonesia, has offered to host the founding group for approximately two and a half months in their monastery, while the group prepares itself spiritually and forms the strong bonds of community. This will give them time to get to know each other and to live harmoniously under the guidance of and in obedience to the appointed superior.

Thanks to the kind understanding of Bishop Giulio Mencuccini, we have set February 2, 2020 as the date for the blessing of the new monastery and the inauguration of Passionist contemplative life in Kalimantan. In the loving providence of God, our Borneo foundation will take place during the Congregation's year of celebration marking the 300th anniversary of the foundation of the Passionists by St. Paul of the Cross, our beloved founder.

Much still remains to be done, as in any new foundation. Currently, we are negotiating the purchase and shipping of altar bread equipment which will be very, very expensive. Good sewing machines will also be needed. When I asked Bishop Mencuccini what sources of income he had in mind for the Nuns, he replied and I quote:

Regarding the source of income, I foresee the following possibilities

- *To run the bakery for hosts/altar breads*
(every month the diocese needs about 500'000, valued roughly 15 million Rupiah=€1'000)
- *Production of candles*
- *Sewing of vestments for the liturgy/church*
- *To handle the shop for (rosaries, statues, books, pictures...)*
- *To manage the retreat house*
- *To work in the garden*

As time goes on, we will know more details, but I wanted to make this announcement as soon as possible, and this is why you are receiving this letter now. I also ask each superior to make copies of my various circular letters for each Nun in her community, and to encourage them to keep in their hearts and prayers these first steps of our new Monastic Congregation.

The council came up with other ways to promote solidarity among the monasteries, and also ways for celebrating the 2020 anniversary of the foundation of the Passionists, and the 2021 anniversary marking 250 years since the foundation in 1771 of the Passionist Nuns. More details about all of this at a later date.

In conclusion, I ask each one to keep the Borneo foundation very much in your prayers and sacrifices that this new community may be solidly founded on the rock of the Father's will unfolding through the Spirit of Jesus for His glory and the salvation of the greatest possible number of the souls for whom Jesus died. I leave you with this precious exhortation our holy founder wrote to Mother Mary Crucified:

“Let us cry to the Lord continually, since this holy work must be the fruit of prayer. Continue to remain in interior solitude, resting like an infant on the divine bosom of the Great Heavenly Father, leaving the care of everything to Him, because everything will thus go well” (May 24, 1768).

Lovingly in JXP,

Mother Catherine Marie Schumann C.P.

Mother Catherine Marie, C.P.

Mother President