

NEW PASSIONIST BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SANGGAU

Kalimantan Barat, Indonesia



The Passionist family rejoices at the announcement by the Vatican on 18 June 2022 that the Holy Father, Pope Francis appointed **Father Valentinus Saeng, C.P.** as Bishop of the Diocese of Sanggau in Indonesia where the Passionist Missionaries have engaged in the work of evangelisation in the Indonesian Archipelago since 1946.

Fr. Valentinus has been the Director of the Passionist Spirituality House in Malang and he replaces Bishop Giulio Mencuccini, C.P. who presented his mandatory resignation to the Holy Father on reaching the age of 75. Bishop Mencuccini served as Bishop of the Diocese of Sanggau for 32 years. We thank him for his wonderful pastoral leadership and service and wish him every blessing in his retirement.

Fr. Valentinus Saeng, C.P., was born on 28 October 1969 in Keramuk, Diocese of Sanggau. He attended the St. Gabriel Passionist Minor Seminary in Sekadau. He joined the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (Passionists) in 1989, and pursued philosophical and theological studies at the Interdiocesan Major Seminary in Malang, Java. He made his perpetual vows on 22 August 1996.

He was ordained a priest on 26 September 1998.

He subsequently held the following positions: Licentiate (1999-2001) and Bachelor of Philosophy (2005-2009) at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas - Angelicum in Rome; Formator and Vice-Superior of Passionist Postulants and Novices (2001-2004) and Lecturer in Widya Sasana High School in Malang (2002-2004 and again since 2009); Member of the Passionist Formation Commissions in Indonesia (2009-2011); Superior of the Passionist Studentate in Malang (2009-2013); Translator of the official documents of the Passionist Major Superiors (2011-2012 and since 2019). From 2016 until now he has been Director of the Passionist Spirituality House in Malang.

He has also been a Member of the Formation Commissions in the Congregation of Passionists in the Asia-Pacific Region since 2001. He is also an Invited Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy at Widya Mandala Catholic University in Surabaya and at St. Thomas Catholic University in Medan.



**The Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P.
sent the following message on 18 June to Fr. Valentinus:**

Congratulations, dear Fr. Valentinus on your appointment as Bishop of Sanggau!

We are all so happy and proud with your appointment for service in the wider church, even if we will miss your presence and activities for our Congregation.

Today in Rome, the community in the General House celebrated this joyful news of your appointment with a festive lunch and sentiments of our prayers, support and best wishes.

Trust in the Lord, dear brother, who calls you to be a Good Shepherd to the people of Sanggau.

My prayers and blessings,

Fr. Joachim cp

Let us support Fr. Valentinus by our prayers as he prepares for his episcopal ordination and transitions into taking up his new pastoral ministry as the Chief Shepherd of the Diocese of Sanggau.

~ General Secretariat, Rome
Sts. John and Paul, Rome, 19 June 2022,
Solemnity of Corpus Christi.