



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

August 24, 2025

Dear Confreres,

On Friday, two sisters, accompanied by their provincial councilor, arrived in the United States to begin a new partnership in ministry with our US Province. With the help of the SCJ Provincial Superior in Indonesia, I was introduced to the leadership team of the Sisters of St. Francis Charitas (FCh), and together we established this collaboration. I trust it will bring lasting blessings to the people of Mississippi and to both of our religious communities.



The Sisters of St. Francis Charitas (FCh) have their roots in the Netherlands. In 1926, their first missionaries, along with an SCJ, arrived in Palembang, Indonesia, where—with the support and guidance of the SCJs—the community established itself and thrived.

Today, the FCh Sisters minister in several dioceses across Indonesia, including Palembang and Lampung, where our SCJs also serve. They are engaged in healthcare, education, and social services, operating hospitals, schools, and homes for the poor, orphans, and the elderly.

Their mission is rooted in three spiritual values:

1. **Penitence** – humbly standing before God in ongoing repentance, with self-denial and ascetic discipline
2. **Recollection** – inner stillness before God, in imitation of Mary's Immaculate Conception, always centered on God's kingdom
3. **Charity (Charitas)** – undivided compassion for the sick, the poor, and all in need

During my last visit to Indonesia, I toured one of their hospitals and saw firsthand their strong dedication to both spiritual and physical healing. The

FCh Sisters often remember with gratitude the support of the SCJs during their early years and have shown us hospitality and medical care—free of charge—in return.

With the successful presence of the Philippine sisters serving in South Dakota, I am hopeful that the Indonesian sisters will continue this tradition, ministering with passion and heart. The sisters preparing for ministry in the United States are Sr. Leonora and Sr. Susana. They will begin their orientation at SHSST through the ECS Program and plan to move to Mississippi in December 2025.

If you meet them, please extend our SCJ hospitality.

I kindly ask for your prayers and support for them. Thank you.

Fraternally,



Sr. Leonora, FCh (Marince Sitohang)



Sr. Susana, FCh (Susana Susmiyarti)