



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

July 13, 2026

Dear Confreres,

At the invitation of the Superior General of the Sisters of Saint Francis Charitas (FCh) of Indonesia, I had the joy of attending their centennial celebration, marking 100 years of presence and mission. The sisters' mission in Indonesia began when the Dutch SCJs invited the congregation in the Netherlands to serve there. A century later, the bond between our congregations remains strong, rooted in faith, friendship, spiritual care, and a shared love for mission.



General Superior and Council

The celebration on July 9 was truly something to behold. I had never before been in a room with 300 sisters from the same community. It was like a sea of white habits—filled with laughter, songs, smiles, and enough energy to carry the mission into the next hundred years.

One of the most touching moments was the procession of younger and older sisters walking side by side. It was religious life at its best: the energy of the young and the wisdom of the old, hand in hand. That day, I saw that beautiful truth come to life.

This experience spoke to me as we look ahead to our 2027 Provincial Assembly on intergenerational living in community. My hope is that we will create space to listen to one another—our hopes and dreams, frustrations and questions, sorrows and joys. If 300 sisters in white can

fill a room with such life and grace, surely we SCJs can keep walking together with patience, humor, and respect.

While in Indonesia, I visited several FCh apostolates and communities, including the novitiate house and the retirement community. I also met with the Superior General and her Council to discuss our shared mission in Mississippi. The sisters plan to send a third sister to strengthen their community life and support their ministry there.

Many sisters spoke with great pride and joy about their new mission in Mississippi. Their enthusiasm was contagious, so we should be ready to welcome not only their faith and dedication, but also their wonderful energy. The United States is now one of the three countries where the sisters serve outside Indonesia, along with the Netherlands and Suriname.

Please keep the sisters in your prayers as they celebrate this important milestone and continue their mission with faith, joy, courage, and perhaps a little holy laughter along the way.

Fraternally,

V. Lee



Novices and Postulants



With some of the retired sisters