

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°88 – JANUARY 2022



Dear Sisters,

We are finishing this cycle of INFO in which the Territories were presented one by one. It is significant to gather stories, realities, photographs... to get to know each other better and to increase the sense of belonging to the Congregation. Perhaps because there are few of us and we are far away, it has been so important to bring us closer through these presentations. We know that everyone has appreciated being able to remember or get to know who we are, where we are, what we do?

In the following pages we meet the sisters of Asia, and paradoxically, it is in the cradle of Christianity that our newest foundations are located. It is there that a very diverse reality calls us to especially practise religious tolerance and inter-religious dialogue, one of the priorities of our Apostolic Plan.

Asia is the largest and most populated continent on earth (60% of the world's population is Asian) and it is good to be reminded of this, with a great cultural, historical, political, diversity etc. It took us 187 years to get there, and we entered through India (a whole continent), and although there was also a presence in Japan, it did not prosper. Was the undertaking a bit ambitious?

It was the sisters from Hawaii who, from the middle of the Pacific Ocean, thought of Asia and decided to make inroads there. The brothers encouraged them with their missions already

established in India, Indonesia and Japan. And today we have 31 Asian sisters in the Congregation, in a Territory that is growing at a leisurely and unhurried pace.

As we will see in their presentation, it is a young, enthusiastic, and enterprising group. Dispersed, like Asia itself, which extends far to the East, which makes it always more difficult to meet, to travel... and what can we say in times of pandemic! But our sisters are there, making the ss.cc. mission flourish in India, the Philippines and Indonesia.

These sisters knew neither Convents nor the semi-monastic way of life which was ours in the past. They arrived after the changes brought about by the Council... They started in small, inserted communities, serving exclusively the poor... We can recognise in them the spiritual sensitivity of Asia, its contemplative essence. Today, they have the beautiful task of giving the Congregation an Asian face; to reread the Charism of our founders with their own insights, and above all to experience faith in anonymity, in places sometimes hostile to the Christian faith, but with people so in need of God's love, of the mercy of the Father who is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

The sisters speak English. But English is not the language of Asia. They speak Hindi, Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Oryia, Javanese... to relate with the people of the village. English is used to communicate with each other.

This year, the Indonesian foundation celebrates its silver jubilee. I could not miss this opportunity to greet the sisters who have prepared their celebration with care, dedication, and the secret desire that 25 years will be but the first of many more to come. On the 9th of July, the feast of Our Lady of Peace, we will remember them in prayer, joy, and hope that the small group will continue to grow and strengthen as they contemplate, live and proclaim God's love.

As a theme of going deeper in this INFO, we invite you to meditate on the presence of Saint Benedict in our origins. Sixteen centuries later, he still has something to say to us.

Affectionately,