

Celebrating 175 Years of Grace: Sisters of Notre Dame Mark a Historic Milestone in Pekalongan



On October 1, 2025, the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) joyfully commemorated its 175th anniversary - a momentous occasion especially for the Indonesian Province. Held in the vibrant city of Pekalongan, the celebration embraced the richness of the mission and culture of the Indonesian sisters: to proclaim God's goodness and love to all.

The heart of the celebration was the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Mgr. Christophorus Tri Harsono, Bishop of the Diocese of Purwokerto. He was joined by Fr. Yohanes Suratman, Parish Priest of St. Petrus, Pekalongan, and 12 other priests, including diocesan clergy and members of the Society of Jesus. Among them was Fr. Bagyo, a former student of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) and alumnus of Boromeus Junior High School in Purbalingga. The liturgy brought together more than 500 attendees - including religious from various congregations, two Sisters representing Sisters of Notre Dame of Amersfoort (SPM), co-workers, partners, students, and donors - all united in thanksgiving and celebration.

A highlight of the day was the honoring and celebration of four Sisters who renewed their religious vows: Sr. Maria Valeria (50 years), Sr. Maria Marsela (40 years), Sr. Maria Shinta and Sr. Maria Marsiane (25 years). Their fidelity to the vowed life reflects the enduring beauty of a true vocation and gives witness to God's faithful love.

In his homily, Mgr. Tri Harsono reflected on the divine origin of religious life and the faith that sustains it. "Any religious order that comes from the Holy Spirit will continue to exist. SND has been around for 175 years because it is rooted in God, the Vine." His words echoed the Gospel of John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches." This spiritual foundation continues to nourish the sisters' ministry in education, pastoral care, and social outreach.

The celebration also honored the congregation's foundresses, Sr. M. Aloysia Wolbring and Sr. M. Ignatia, whose vision and courage continue to inspire generations. Their spirit lives on in the sisters' tireless efforts to bring hope and healing to communities across Indonesia and beyond.

The event concluded with the release of doves—symbols of peace. This was followed by a joyful reception with ministry partners. Renewed in the Spirit of Notre Dame, sister reaffirmed their commitment to serve with compassion, care, and love in our ever-changing world.