Growing in Leadership, Rooted in the Love of Christ



Leadership is not merely about giving orders, organizing, or making decisions. It also requires self-knowledge, collaboration, and care for others. Mother Mary exemplifies this by directing others to Jesus with humility and deep faith: “Do whatever he tells you!” (John 2:5).

This spirit formed the foundation of the formation program for the Junior Sisters, held on October 9–11, 2026, in Salatiga. The program carried the theme “Called to Serve and Lead in the Spirit of Notre Dame.” Sr. M. Bertin, SND, as the Director of the Temporary Professed, accompanied the sisters in their formation and the growth of their vocation.

Through the material presented by Fr. Benediktus Bemba PBedi, MSF, the sisters were invited to understand the meaning of leadership in community life and apostolic work. The material was supplemented with reflections, group discussions, and sharing of experiences, which helped the sisters become increasingly aware that leadership begins, first and foremost, with the ability to lead oneself. The sisters also had opportunities to put these insights into practice through various activities. Another meaningful part of the experience was the hospitality shown by the sisters and postulants of the Formation House Community. Their warm welcome and spirit of sisterhood made the Junior Sisters feel at home and welcomed as members of the community.

This formation served as an opportunity to expand their knowledge while enriching their shared life experiences. As a result, the sisters came to understand more deeply that being a leader means having the courage to start with oneself, being open to others, working together with humility, and being wise and resilient in carrying out their mission.

This spirit aligns with Chapter Statement Section IV on *Sustainability for Mission*. In this way, the formation of the young sisters is an important part of the Congregation’s efforts to ensure the sustainability of the SND life and mission. The sisters expressed their gratitude to the Congregation for the care and financial support provided. This support became a sign of trust and an opportunity for the young sisters to continue growing, preparing themselves, and playing a role in responding to the needs of the SND’s mission in the future.