

# INDONESIA - RUTENG PROVINCE

Official Language: **Bahasa Indonesia**

## Vision Statement

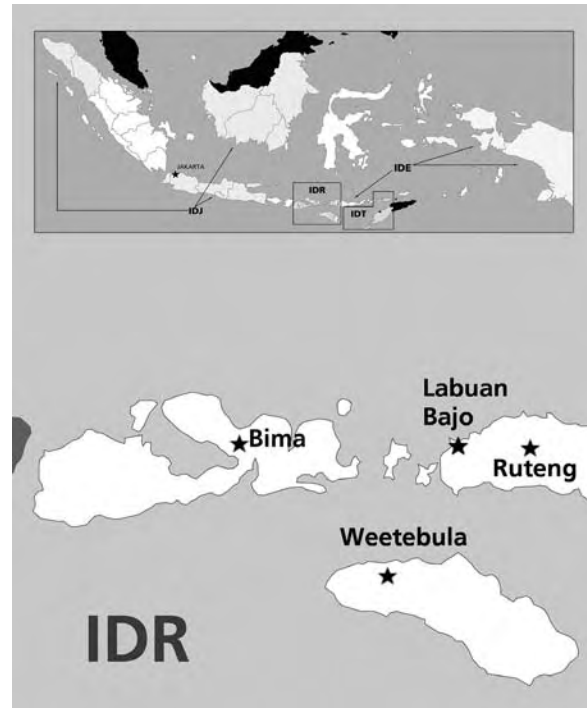
*United with the Incarnate Word of the Father, and rooted in our communion with the Triune God, we dedicate ourselves to support and animate one another as builders of loving communities open to all people from every nation, tribe, and language.*

## Mission Statement

*Guided by the Holy Spirit as followers of the Divine Word, we live out our intercultural witness to the values of the Kingdom of God in the challenging situations of poverty, injustice, and divisions by being among the people and collaborating with the poor, the youth, the victims of injustice, faith seekers; in this way we grow in our identity and mission.*

## 1. Societal Setting

For the last three years, since Mr. Joko Widodo has been elected as our new President, the economic situation of the country has improved. There are a lot of programs that have been implemented for the development of the country. In the transportation sector sea, air and land infrastructure has been under construction from Sabang (Aceh) to Marauke (Irian). People in Irian who have been poor and neglected are now



able to experience a better life as other people of Indonesia. People are really experiencing unity as one country in every aspect of life in Indonesia. On the other hand, we are still fighting for “real democracy”, there is still majority and minority religious divisions in elections to the parliament. For example, in the last election of the governor in DKI Jakarta Province, we could see how the majority played with the rules in the election in order to win. This is one of the challenges that has to be faced by the minority, and also dealing with corruption. There are some members of the parliament from the group of the minorities who could speak out against the corruption but the group of the majority is still

having the power to oppose it. The population of Indonesia is 257.6 million and it is steadily increasing every year.

In the province of East Nusa Tenggara with a population 4.9 million, people also are striving to improve their economic situation. A lot of young people and young couples have to leave their villages and look for a job in Kalimantan and Malaysia. One consequence of this is a large number of broken families. SVD Ruteng province consists of the islands of Sumba, Sumbawa, and Manggarai in the western part of Flores Island. The big issue in our province now is human trafficking along with the mining problems.

## 2. Ecclesial Setting

We are present in the dioceses of Ruteng, Denpasar, and Weetebula. Our missionary service to the local Churches consists of working in parishes, schools and specialized apostolates such as youth ministry, informal education, retreats, family apostolate, JPIC and Bible apostolate. Since the local Church has a good number of diocesan priests, we look for specialized services such as the formal and informal education apostolate. We have one junior high school in Sumba, one junior and senior high school in Ruteng Diocese, and one vocational school in Borong East Manggarai Region. These services are answering the need of the people for education. On the other hand, we also work with NGOs and some commissions of the diocese, such as JPIC, communication and family care. In Denpasar diocese, since there are a lot of Muslims we try to work in dialogue with

the people and right now we are still building the parish Church in Bima parish. It was really hard to get permission from the local government but through a good dialogue with the Muslims, we were able to get the permission. Sumba has good number of Protestants. Our mission in Sumba is mainly education. Thus in our special chapter last year, we agreed that Tambolaka would be a community for education ministry. Through education ministry we try to improve the life of the Sumbanese.

## 3. Intercultural Mission – *Ad Extra*

### Those in Final Vows

IN ACTIVE MINISTRY	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
<b>Parish</b>	21	21.2	25.3	38.7
<b>Education</b>	22	22.2	25.9	15.2
Schools	16	-		
Universities	6	-		
<b>Formation/ SVD Vocation</b>	11	11.1	9.6	6.9
<b>Administration/ Support</b>	21	21.2	9.6	16.2
<b>Other Apostolates</b>	11	11.1	8.7	10.3
JPIC	2	-		
Bible	1	-		
Communication	4	-		
Mission Animation	1	-		
Others	3			

## Those in Final Vows

NOT IN MINISTRY	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
Studies/Orientation	1	1.0	7.7	3.9
Retired/Sick	4	4.0	8.6	3.9
Others	8	8.1	4.6	4.9

## Main Ministries

**Parish:** As the local Church is getting a good number of diocesan priests and improving in its financial aspect, we have to look for other ministries. The number of diocesan priests in Ruteng diocese is 170 and in Weetebula diocese 70 priests. And we only have 10 parishes now and 5 of them have contracts with us. This is a time for us to go beyond our present horizons to look for other meaningful ministries.

**Retreat:** For the last 3 years, giving retreats has become one of the main ministries of our province. We have three retreat houses and are well known by the people, schools and also the government. We have Ketentang Family Centre in Labuan Bajo, Wisma Kisol in Borong, and Wisma Siloam in Ruteng. Through giving retreats we bring alive again the spirit of our founder St. Arnold Janssen. The students use our retreat houses during the Lenten and Advent seasons. The government uses our retreat houses for workshops and also for meetings. The religious congregations also use our retreat houses for seminars and personal retreats.

## Characteristic Dimensions

**Bible Apostolate:** Our Church in Indonesia is developing small ecclesial communities (Komunitas Basis Gerejani) and has underlined the role of the Bible as “the book of life”. We try to respond to this situation through programs of the Bible apostolate courses, Bible Festival, recollections, retreats, Bible reading and sharing, Bible Month and workshops. Since two years ago, a new initiative that we have undertaken is the Bible Festival for kids of the elementary schools. We try to help them to develop interest and love for the Scriptures. All activities and initiatives aim at putting biblical spirituality into practice. A number of confreres still struggle with the idea of Bible sharing as a way of prayer with the Word in the communities. However, over the past three years we have made great improvements in this regard.

**JPIC:** The JPIC commission is giving a good name to the province. All the activities of JPIC commission are based on its motto, “Option for the Poor”. The JPIC commission for the last three years has become part of the people, and its name has been planted in the heart of the people. Our JPIC personnel have been working with NGOs and HIV/AIDS groups both at the national and international levels. We work together with the government and diocesan JPIC to challenge the mining company. JPIC also has established a Credit Union named SOVERDIA. The members of the Credit Union are increasing every year. Many of our confreres became members of this Credit Union. JPIC also is planting trees with the people

on the land that was exploited by the mining company.

**Communication:** In the year of the canonization of our two Saints, we started “LUMEN 2003”, a Radio Station (FM Program). It is dedicated in honor of Sts. Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz who brought Lumen / Light to people. Our communication commission manages the radio. Through various radio programs (spiritual program, interactive dialogue, news, reports, sharing mission experiences, etc.) we reach many people. If it is not on the air, we would be called several times a day, just to complain “the radio is not on the air”. We really experience a vivid and personal dialogue with people widely and daily. The most challenging matter is finance. Anyway, whatever problems we face, we still move on. We also have BPR – the province newsletter which is published quarterly.

### Priorities among Congregational Directions

**Education:** The educational apostolate is one of our main ministries. In the educational apostolate, our confreres engage in formal education as teachers and lecturers, giving animation to the parents in every parish where our confreres are assigned. We cooperate with the government in order to get support financially. We encourage students to take part in informal education such as workshops, retreats, and recollections and we also take care of the boys’ and girls’ dormitories. In this triennial, we collaborated with the Catholic University of Atmajaya Jakarta in building up the non-formal education called BLK.

In the education apostolate, some efforts such as reactivation and revitalization of the foundation were made already and now it is on the final process of legalization. We hope that through these steps, as mandated by the resolution of the province chapter, we can help to increase the quality and organization of the education in our province. Our schools are also open to students from other religions Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Schools are a strategic medium for dialogue. Our schools still face a lack of professional teachers and limitations of educational facilities such as school buildings, laboratories and other facilities. Therefore, the foundation and the province must still work hard to help increase personnel and financial self-reliance.

### Poverty Eradication and Integrity of Creation

We are proud of all achievements that have been made by the JPIC commission of the province. Their efforts and the involvement of the commission to advocate human values have energized the province. Besides, every unit and community have also indicated positive signs of their involvement in JPIC apostolate. In implementing the results of the chapter and the latest annual assembly of the province, the provincial and the council have added personnel to assist the work of the JPIC commission. Activities that have been done by the JPIC commission include human rights advocacy and assisting people’s groups through creative economic efforts, such as credit unions, cattle, small industry and organic farming. Local units and the communities support JPIC activities by robust activities and keeping the environment

clean. The local government also supports JPIC activities. We are also aware that to maintain environmental sustainability and to utilize the lands of the congregation in a proper way is also a form of our involvement in the JPIC work. But there are a lot of our lands that have not been used well.

### Collaboration with SSpS and others

Some activities are being done together by SVDs and SSpS. For the last three years, we have retreats together for the SSpS and SVD novices. It is given by our AJS team. We celebrate the family feast together, and we also had the centennial jubilee of the presence of the SVD in Manggarai together with the SSpS. This year, we have formed a committee for the celebration of 75 years of presence of the SSpS in Manggarai. Together with the SSpS, we visit the people at their parishes and give some inputs for the youth and sessions on health and sacraments. With the SSpSAP, we always have Mass together during our family feast, as well as the feasts Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz. Also we celebrate together the feast days of 8<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> December every year. Regarding the collaboration with other congregations in the diocese, we have regular activities in proclaiming the good news with FKRR (Forum Komunikasi Antar Religius Keuskupan Ruteng).

### SVD Lay Partners

Persaudaraan Misioner Sang Sabda (PMSS) is a lay partner group in our province. In Jawa, Ti-

mor, and Ende they called them **SOVERDIA**. In Ruteng province this group was comprised of Ex-SVDs since 1990. We celebrated this group's silver jubilee recently. In the beginning its members were only the Ex-SVDs, but now it consists of other people too. They really have a good heart in helping our missionaries in praying and doing some missionary activities. They pray as a group once a month on First Friday. They pray for the missionaries and for vocations through the intercession of Saints. Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz. They come to celebrate with us during our feast days. The numbers of our lay partners are increasing. Since 2012 they already have a group in each parish where the SVDs are working. One of the tasks that they have assumed is fund raising for our Indo-Leste mission office. We promote our lay partners group by visiting parishes and introducing to the parishioners our vision and mission and encouraging them to join the group.

### 4. Intercultural Life –*Ad Intra*

MEMBERSHIP	2018	2012	2005
Clerics	82	91	86
Brothers (final vows)	17	19	13
Brother (temporal vows)	1	0	0
Scholastics	0	3	3
Novices	118	64	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>203</b>

AGE AND COUNTRY	2018	2012	2005
Average age	52.0	52.0	36.1
Nationalities	7	8	6

**Spiritual Life:** Through various spiritual activities such as personal prayer, Bible sharing, monthly recollection, reading the Bible, etc., we animate each other to accept and contemplate on the call of God to unite ourselves with Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word. Daily Bible reading in our four communities after dinner has raised a sense of our identity as Divine Word Missionaries. The communities also keep up Bible sharing once a month, although some confreres seem to be allergic to Bible sharing. To be honest, sometimes we find a lack of self-discipline for the spiritual program, and the demanding work could cause a burn-out experience. We are aware that the joy, the simplicity of life, and the commitment to the mission we experience, are fruits of our spirituality.

**Community:** We spend time together in community meetings, recreation, meal time and life sharing. We are open to each other and always try to build a harmonious community. While promoting the community life and team work, we also realize that some confreres are living alone in isolated places and others live in community but lead an individualistic life style. Realizing this situation, the present leadership team, since the beginning of its administration, has provided programs of community animation for rectors and district superiors. In

assigning confreres to formation and parishes, we always take into consideration the intercultural dimension. We have been bringing up consciousness and awareness in the province and communities that interculturality is our richness and not a stumbling block or obstacle in our pastoral commitment.

**Leadership:** The most important thing in this triennial term is the change of the election method from I B to III A. The issue about ethnocentrism was the big issue during our provincial election and it affected us very much. We really want to build the spirit of interculturality in our province, but the spirit of interculturality somehow gets watered down especially during the election time. We find time to visit our confreres in each community, district and parish. Having a personal, persuasive approach towards the confreres who are dealing with their problems is important.

**Schools are a strategic medium for dialogue.**

**Finance:** One of the concerns of SVD Ruteng Province is finance. The mismanagement of the Petrol Station was one of the causes of this problem. In facing this concern, we remind all the confreres to support the province in financial matters. All the confreres are to submit their salaries and optimize use of the lands in the province to support the province. Through the Action Plan, we are encouraged to respond to the resolution of our provincial chapter 2015 on self-reliance. In strengthening the province financially, we formed the treasurer teams with

three categories: for the financial report and budget preparation, assets and making proposals, and fund raising. Changes of attitude, honesty, transparency and accountability are ways of improving our financial situation.

**Formation:** We have a Novitiate at Kuwu. We try to give our best in forming the novices. In deepening their love for the Society, we have a spe-

cial program for the second year novices, “experiencing SVD community life” for one month in every SVD community and SVD parish. For the confreres, sessions are held on SVD Characteristic Dimensions, improvement of human resources, interculturality, and the real needs of the province. We are reinvigorating the spirit of our pioneer missionaries through informal education, such as a vocational training center and a biblical center.