

ROME: INTERCULTURAL EVENING WITH INDONESIA

“From every Nation, People and Language: Sharing Intercultural Life and Mission” was the theme of the 17th General Chapter. An Indonesian cultural evening was held at the *Collegio del Verbo Divino* in Rome on 17 January 2019. The reason behind it was to promote more mutual respect and mutual understanding and to enrich each other with various cultural and spiritual values of different countries. The theme of the evening was “*Bhineka Tunggal Ika*” (Unity in Diversity).

The event started with the intercultural celebration of the Holy Mass, presided over by Fr. Markus Solo, accompanied by the Indonesian born General Superior, Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and the former Indonesian missionary, Fr. Sylvester Pajak. During the Eucharist, there was a blessing (*asperges*) with green and young coconut fruit. The first reading and the preface was done in Bahasa Indonesia. Also was the use of *Gamelan* music and Indonesian songs during the celebration.

The intercultural evening ended up with a typical Indonesian dinner prepared by the young Indonesian confreres of the *Collegio* under the supervision of Fr. Victor Bani. The menu included such *Nasi Putih* (white rice), *Nasi Kuning* (yellow rice), *Nasi Merah* (red rice), *Bakso* (soup), *Rendang* (beef), *Sate*, *Mie Goreng* (fried noodles), *Kerupuk*, *Sayur Pakcoy* (salad), and *Kacang Dua Kelinci* (typical Indonesian peanuts). A short video entitled “*Bhineka Tunggal Ika*” (Unity in Diversity) gave more comprehensive information about Indonesia. It should be noted that around 25% of the members of the Society are Indonesians and working in different SVD missions worldwide.

The confreres of the *Collegio* expressed their appreciation for the SVD Indonesian confreres for the preparation and dedication to put up such a beautiful and significant evening. Indeed all of those who participated were enriched with a better understanding of the history and the culture of Indonesia.

Markus Solo, SVD

