

INDONESIA - JAVA PROVINCE

Official Language: **Bahasa Indonesia**

Vision Statement

The Word of God that comes from love of the Holy Trinity, that fosters genuine brotherhood, inspires us to give witness by our lifestyle as SVD religious missionaries to loving and serving the peoples of other creeds and cultures based on the truth, justice and peace of God's Reign.

Mission Statement

The liberating Word of God, that lives in the hearts of all people and that inspires the whole creation, inspires us to reach out in dialogue with love and solidarity to those who travel with us in the pilgrimage toward the Kingdom of God.

1. Societal Setting

The missionary journey of IDJ as a province began in 1978. SVD presence in this area, however, had started earlier in Bali-Lombok (1935), Jakarta (1954), and Surabaya (1963). IDJ now offers its missionary services in 13 dioceses located in the western and central parts of Indonesia, precisely on the islands of Sumatera, Batam, Nias, Kalimantan, Jawa, Bali, and Lombok. This covers almost half of the entire Indonesian territory. Due to this vast area of mission, IDJ is orga-



nized into 7 districts, namely: (a) Bali-Lombok, (b) Surabaya-Pandaan-Malang-Batu-Yogyakarta, (c) Jakarta-Bogor-Tangerang-Bekasi, (d) Central Kalimantan, (e) West Kalimantan, (f) East Kalimantan, and (g) North Sumatera-Aceh-Batam-Sibolga-Nias.

In the Post-reformation era (1997), Indonesia has proudly described itself as a democratic country with an emerging economy and the biggest Muslim population in the world. The country is also facing lights and shadows. The emergence of transformative leaders, both at the national and local levels, and anti-corruption movements have given us a promising outlook. On the other hand, we are also concerned with the rise of radical Islamic groups, religious into-

lerance, persistent economic disparity, and ecological degradation.

In general, IDJ confreres serve in the areas where the Catholics live as a small minority. 87% of the Indonesian population are Muslims, 7% Protestants, and 3% Catholics. Islam is the religion of the majority in Lombok, Jawa, Sumatera, and Kalimantan. Nevertheless, we have a different picture in North Sumatera where 56.5% of the population is Muslim and 39.7% is Christian. The Batak and Nias tribes of this area are predominantly Protestants. In Kalimantan, despite the fact that the overall statistics shows Muslims 78%, Protestants 8.9%, Catholics 8.8%, we can find significant “pockets” of Catholic and Christian communities on this island. In Bali, the majority is Hindu (83.5%), only 0.8% of the population is Catholic, and 1.7% is Protestant.

2. Ecclesial Setting

The Catholic Church in Indonesia understands its role as “God’s little flock” committed to contribute to the common good of the people and the progress of the country. Through its pastoral letters, the Bishops’ Conference of Indonesia (KWI) has consistently called the Catholics to participate and contribute to the transformation of the country in all sectors, from promoting anti-corruption *habitus* to developing eco-pastoral movements. As SVD, we promote *sentire cum ecclesia* and seek to empower “God’s little flock” to share the mission of building his Kingdom.

In response to the latent problem of religious intolerance, the Catholic Church in Indonesia has long been promoting interreligious dialogue and collaboration. One of the formal institutions established nationwide for this purpose is the Interreligious Harmony Forum (FKUB). We are heartened to see that some of our SVD confreres have actively participated in the FKUB to build bridges with other religious leaders and communities.

As a blessing in disguise, its “minority” status in Indonesia has helped the Catholic Church grow into a vibrant Church. Our lay-people are eager to participate in the Church’s activities. Every year, we see churches being built or renovated. Sunday Masses are packed with church-goers. As a result, the Catholic Church in Indonesia has been able to send missionaries abroad. Financial self-reliance is still a problem for many dioceses, except for a few affluent dioceses such as Jakarta and Surabaya.

3. Intercultural Mission –*Ad Extra*

Those in Final Vows

IN ACTIVE MINISTRY	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
Parish	67	41.6	45.7	41.7
Education	10	6.2	3.4	4.9
Schools	6	-		
Universities	4	-		

Formation/ SVD Vocation	9	5.6	6.6	6.6
Administration/ Support	18	11.2	8.4	17.0
Other Apostolates	29	18.0	19.9	10.4
JPIC	5	-		
Bible	3	-		
Communication	3	-		
Mission Animation	4	-		
Others	14	-		

Those in Final Vows

NOT IN MINISTRY	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
Studies/ Orientation	7	4.4	7.8	5.6
Retired/Sick	9	5.6	4.2	4.9
Others	12	7.5	4.0	9.0

Main Ministries

Parishes: Most of our confreres work in parish ministry (47%), both in rural and urban areas. Parish ministry offers great opportunities to share our Characteristic Dimensions with our lay-partners. We are blessed to have many vibrant parishes, both in rural and urban settings, where we can easily promote and organize various activities, from spirituality to

advocacy. Currently, we are entrusted to serve in 34 parishes spread over 11 dioceses, namely: Denpasar, Surabaya, Malang, Jakarta, Palangka Raya, Sanggau, Pontianak, Samarinda, Medan, Sibolga, and Pangkalpinang.

Retreat and Soverdi houses: The province runs 3 retreat houses, namely: Tugu Wacana Cisarua, West Jawa; Graha Wacana, Ledug, East Jawa; and Palangka Wacana, Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan. IDJ also owns 9 Soverdi houses in the districts. These houses are designed for district meetings, transit housing, recollections, workshops, and other purposes.

Schools: The province runs the Soverdi schools (pre-school, elementary, secondary, and high school) in Bali. In Jakarta, some confreres are officially in charge of the management of parish schools due to their position as parish priest. In Palangka Raya, one brother is entrusted to manage the Catholic school owned by the diocese. In West Kalimantan, we have started a vocational “school” (*Balai Latihan Kerja*) designed for the out-of-school youth who want to learn computer, agriculture and furniture making skills.

Teaching and Research: In Malang, some confreres collaborate with the Aditya Wacana missiological research center. Some of them also teach at the Widya Sasana College of Philosophy and Theology, Malang. In Bali, we inherited the Widya Wahana, library-museum of Bali mission, a legacy of the late Father Norbert Shadeg, SVD.

Special Apostolates: Some confreres work for special ministries, such as biblical apostolate, communication, mission animation, JPIC-VI-VAT, family commission, youth ministry, and pastoral care.

Characteristic Dimensions

We are committed to share our Characteristic Dimensions through our living witness and various ministries. In 2015, we organized workshops in all districts, involving our lay-partners from parishes, to rekindle our commitment to live out the SVD Characteristic Dimensions. To translate this commitment into concrete actions, with the help of an *ad hoc* team, the province has set up a systematic “action plan” to help us better plan, execute, monitor, and evaluate our programs. IDJ has formed 4 commissions to promote these characteristic dimensions in our mission *ad intra* and *ad extra*.

Parish ministry offers great opportunities to share our Characteristic Dimensions with our lay-partners.

Biblical Apostolate: The commission offers various programs to inspire our confreres and lay-partners to be rooted more deeply in the Word and committed to his Mission.

Mission Animation: The commission organizes mission animation programs such as giving recollections, forming communities of SVD lay partners known as the Soverdia, publishing

buku renungan harian misioner (daily reading and reflection book with special features on SVD mission), and now initiating the “Mission Sunday” program in SVD parishes.

JPIC: The commission encourages and empowers confreres and our lay-partners to work together with Vivat International and many other institutions on the issues of human rights, migrant-workers, disaster mitigation, indigenous people, mining, the palm-oil industry, deforestation, and other issues.

Communication: The commission publishes *Berita Provinsi Jawa* (IDJ newsletter) and *Berjalan Bersama Sang Sabda* (Walking with the Word), a daily reading and reflection book. The commission is also looking for new ways of communicating the Good News through the internet and social media.

Priorities among Congregational Directions

In line with our Congregational Directions, IDJ has chosen family and youth **ministry and integrity of creation advocacy** as our *ad extra* mission priorities.

Family Ministry: All confreres have paid attention to family ministry in their own ways, such as doing family visits, giving retreats/recollections/seminars, offering counseling, training counselors, and many others. Some efforts are worth noting in this area. The “*Tulang Rusuk*” retreats, by Fr. Yusuf Halim,

SVD, have been widely recognized for helping many couples improve their marriages. In Surabaya, Fr. Tobias Muda Kraeng, SVD has initiated family counseling programs.

Youth Ministry: All confreres are encouraged to be involved in youth ministry. All districts have carried out the IDJ's program of *Jumpa Orang Muda Misioner* (JOMM). This retreat-training program is designed to inspire the youth in our SVD parishes to love the Catholic Church and her mission.

Integrity of Creation Advocacy: We spent our 2016 annual retreat contemplating the integrity of creation. Some confreres in East Kalimantan, with the support from our JPIC-VIVAT team, have made this commitment more “down to earth” and prophetic by initiating an ecology center in Long Bentuk and helping the indigenous people of the Wehea tribe protect their ancestral forest in Nehas Liah Bing.

Impact and Challenges: The action plan has helped us implement our mission priorities in a more organized way. Most confreres show their enthusiasm to support our mission priorities, especially in family and youth ministry. Pertaining to “the integrity of creation” advocacy, we face two major constraints needing to be addressed—the lack of competent personnel and inadequate financial support.

Collaboration with Others

SSpS: We have developed good collaboration with our beloved sisters in formation programs, spiritual exercises, communal activities, leadership, finance, and many other programs. The SVD-SSpS Arnold Janssen Spirituality team is an example. In doing *ad extra* mission, the SVD-SSpS team-work is institutionalized in a joint JPIC-VIVAT office in Jakarta.

Other Religious Congregations: All confreres are encouraged to work together with other religious congregations in parish ministry, JPIC-VIVAT advocacy, bible apostolate, family and youth ministry, education, and other apostolates. As an example, we have some confreres working together with priests and brothers from other congregations at the Widya Sasana College of Philosophy and Theology, in Malang. Our confreres in the JPIC-VIVAT team have also formed a solid network with other religious congregations for social and environmental advocacy.

Local Dioceses: We are fully committed to offer our services to local dioceses in our area of mission. Meanwhile, we are also seeking to have a formal and binding contract with each bishop. This has become one of our concerns because some of the bishops are still hesitant to sign our proposals for a *conventio scripta*.

SVD Lay Partners

Collaboration with our lay partners opens up an opportunity for mutual enrichment. They support our mission through their prayers, presence, funds, expertise, and involvement. We promote SVD lay partners in our province by encouraging them to get involved in our various ministries, setting up formal and informal communities, and inviting them to join our feasts, recollections, and other activities. Sometimes, we also invite them to share their life experiences and expertise in our initial and on-going formation programs.

The Soverdia: Since many years ago, our confreres have initiated the formation of a formal community of SVD lay partners, i.e., the Soverdia, in some districts. Our provincial chapter of 2015 supported the formation of the Soverdia in all districts and SVD parishes.

Tulang Rusuk: Fr. Yusuf Halim, SVD has given the *Tulang Rusuk* Family Retreats for thousands of couples. Over the years, the alumni have formed their own communities in some dioceses. Out of gratitude, these communities have helped our province financially in building and renovating our SVD houses.

Catholic Missionary Youth: As a result of the recollection and training programs in 2016-2017, we now have our networks of the Catholic Missionary Youth (JOMM) in all districts. It is a challenge for us at this point to design follow-up programs to deepen their commitment and engage them in our mission.

4. Intercultural Life – *Ad Intra*

MEMBERSHIP	2018	2012	2005
Bishops	0	1	1
Clerics	141	145	123
Brothers (final vows)	20	21	20
Brothers (temporal vows)	8	9	14
Scholastics	42	44	47
Novices	26	18	22
Total	217	238	227

AGE AND COUNTRY	2018	2012	2005
Average age	49.7	48.6	39.6
Nationalities	4	4	4

The IDJ provincial chapter of 2015 calls for “conversion, transformation, and revitalization” in all aspects of our *ad intra* mission. In this regard, some efforts are worth mentioning.

Spirituality: To build a praying community, all confreres are reminded to observe communal schedules for prayer, Eucharist, *lectio divina*, recollection, retreat, and other spiritual activities. We also choose relevant themes, aimed at rekindling our spiritual life, for our recollections and annual retreats, such as SVD Characteristic Dimensions, the integrity of creation spirituality, and recently the spirituality of interculturality.

Community: We have conducted workshops in all districts and communities to develop our “intercultural competence” to live in multicultural communities. This will be followed by a workshop on “conflict resolution”.

Leadership: Since our province has adopted “the participatory leadership style”, we have conducted workshops and training programs to help our confreres develop good leadership qualities.

Finance: Initiatives toward financial solidarity, accountability, and self-reliance have long been promoted in the province. We are confident to

see that some districts have launched their initiatives toward these objectives, from doing fundraising to initiating organic farming projects.

Formation: In 2012, we made a comprehensive evaluation of our initial formation system. We are committed to use the findings to bring forth renewal and transformation in our initial formation. We also have the SVD Indonesia Manual of Formation as our guideline. For ongoing formation, all confreres are called to develop a solid habit of prayer and build a praying community that enables us to give genuine witness to the world. To be faithful to our mission in this “runaway world” requires a vibrant and deeply-rooted spirituality.