



## OBITUARY

**Sr. M. Savio Bouma CPS**

**\* 12. 05. 1935 † 21. 01. 2024**

Sr. Savio was born on 12 May 1935 in Nijland, municipality of Wymbritseradeel, Province of Friesland, the Netherlands. At her baptism, she was given the name Arnolda Clasina. Her parents, Wytze and Regina Bouma, had a small farm where the large family of children grew up.

After her primary school in the village, Nolda obtained a diploma in "Linen Sewing" in Bolsward in 1950, and the diploma "Costumiere", Costume Seamstress, in 1951.

On 7 January 1957, she entered the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood in the faraway Tienray, in the province of Limburg, NL. For her, as a Frisian-speaking young woman, that felt like living in a foreign country.

In the same year, her brother Johannes, who had become a Mariannahill Father, was ordained a priest. She was admitted to the Novitiate on 9 February 1958, made her First Profession on 10 February 1959 and her Final Profession on 11 February 1962, each time in Tienray. In 1962, she received a diploma from the agricultural home economics school in Horst.

On 15 April 1963, she left for Irian Barat, present-day Indonesian Papua, first for Manokwari, where she worked in housekeeping and learnt some of the language. On 29 August 1963, she left for Ayawasi, also for housekeeping. She worked there mainly in the kitchen and also looked after the pilots. On Dec. 28, 1966, she went to Fak-Fak, where she stayed for many years. She was in charge of the boarding school there, but also took care of the sewing for the sisters. Together with Sr. Anno Hylkema, also from Friesland, she supported the Chinese community in its joys and sorrows. In 1972, when this area became a Region, she became regional assistant, later assistant to the superior for Irian Jaya. Her health was not so good; in 1978 she contracted a severe eye infection that affected her for a long time. However, she experienced great joy in 1982 when she was allowed to go to Ixopo for her brother Johannes Bouma CMM's silver jubilee.

From 1984 on, Sr. Anno and Sr. Savio were the only two CPS Sisters left. They remained in Fak-Fak until they returned to Tienray on Oct 12, 1991. Sr. Savio would not stay there long; already on 22 Jan 1992, she went to the Sint Janscentrum in 's-Hertogenbosch, to the priest seminary. There she took care of the refectory, of the staff's work schedule and, from November 1993, was superior of the small CPS community, to which also Sr. Anno belonged. The priest students would always remain "her boys". On Nov 1, 1999, she returned to Tienray, where she came to work in the kitchen.

In 2002-2003, when the Sisters in Tienray went in different groups to Aarle-Rixtel because the convent was sold, Sr. Savio was among the four sisters who stayed longer in Tienray, so that the building would not stand empty. This was at the request of the new owner, who wanted to turn it into a hotel. In February 2004, this group too moved to the Mission Convent Heilig Blut in Aarle-Rixtel, that had now become a Dutch Region. From May 2004, Sr. Savio was regional assistant. She helped in the kitchen and took care of the shopping. She would continue to do this until early 2018. Then her short-term memory began to fail her and she fell several times, breaking first a hip and later her upper arm, and thus she moved to the care ward, something that did not come easily to her.

Sr. Savio loved flowers, games and jokes, and especially people. She participated in recreation whenever possible and she could often be found in the chapel. She also always looked forward to visits from friends and family. She liked to be as independent as possible, and fortunately, she was able to do so.

Two days before her death, she wanted to go to the chapel to say goodbye to her fellow sisters, which she did by uttering the words "THANKS - THANKS - THANKS for everything". Upon receiving the Sacrament of the Sick in her room, in the presence of her priest brother, her sister-in-law and several fellow sisters, she sang the Marian song "Star of the Sea" by heart.

In the early morning of 21 January, Sr. Savio responded to her Lord's call,  
"Come, follow Me."

Thank you for everything, Sr. Savio!  
R. I. P.

The way you go is your own  
It is the path of life  
that you seek,  
that you find,  
that you go.

On that road  
let yourself be known  
and you will be found.

On that road you will be loved,  
if you live with an open hand and an open heart.

On that road,  
someone always turns up  
who supports you  
and shows you the way in joy and sorrow.

Wonderful is the path  
that chooses you.