

70 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE CELEBRATIONS IN HOLLAND



September 8th 2021 was a day filled with joy and celebrations in Cadier en Keer. The fathers and Sisters joined in a simple celebration to mark the date 70 years ago in 1951 when Sr Paula Maria Wever, the youngest surviving Sister in Holland, made her first profession of vows. Because of the COVID restrictions, the celebration was smaller than usual but it was beautiful. Simple and joyful gratitude for a missionary life lived to the fullest and for the missionary spirit that is alive and well to the present moment.

Because it was impossible for family to come to join the celebrations in Cadier-en Keer, a second celebration was held in Sittard Parish where Sr Paula Maria spent so many years. Her niece Annelies gives an account of this celebration below.



We, the Wever Family had a beautiful celebration and a great day to celebrate my Aunt Sr Paula Maria's 70 years of Religious Life. We started this special day in church, with a beautiful celebration. The church was beautifully decorated and it was wonderful to say thanks for so many years of serving and giving.

We went to the community centre afterwards for coffee and cake. A lot of people from the parish came to congratulate my aunt. She was showered with presents and gifts.



After that, when it was only family, my mother made a speech. My mother is Sr Paula Maria's youngest sister, who witnessed her profession in 1951 as a twelve year old girl. The gift we gave to Sr Paula Maria was a cheque for Liberia. I think my aunt was a little bit shocked. The money was not only raised by the family, but also by a crowdfunding on Facebook.

We had a nice buffet and had a lot of fun gathering as a family. We are all very grateful for having our aunt happy and healthy in our midst.

Kind regards, **Annelies van Diepen** (Niece to Sr Paula Maria)