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## THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND THE VICAR GENERAL VISIT LEUVEN.



### **Leuven/ Louvain.**

The Josephites took over a school in Leuven in 1842. Today the flourishing H.-Drievuldigheidscollege (Trinity College) educates over 1000 boys and girls.

Leuven is also a University town. The ancient Catholic University is an important international centre of learning. Since the 1840s generations of Josephites have studied there. Four out of five members of the present General Council studied at Leuven. Today Br. Willy Mikobi continues this tradition. He is in his second year of theological studies there.



### **A warm welcome.**

As always P. Raymond, the Superior of the community, gave us a warm welcome. The pre-lunch drinks provided an opportunity to catch up on community news. Fr Achiel is now the oldest among the Belgian confreres. He remains in good heart despite advancing years. P. Jozef continues to work in a local parish team taking care of funerals and baptisms. P. Willem, a very busy man, was not in evidence. P. Raymond continues to watch over the community with his usual fatherly concern.

### **A Vice-President.**

Br. Willy has just been elected vice-president of the overseas theology student body. Willy is hard at work preparing his end of year exams. He will also be ordained Reader on the 27th of May. This is a first step towards ordination to the priesthood.

**A surprise visit.**

During lunch we had a surprise visitor Frank Meersschaut “*un Ancien Melliste*” and now a member of the governing body of College Melle. Frank has known P. Achiel and P. Raymond since his days as a pupil at Melle. He was in town and was able to pay the community a visit before dashing of to his next meeting.

**Another visitor.**

After a very pleasant lunch we were able to meet with one of Br Willy’s fellow students, Patrick Akpanobong. Patrick is also studying theology at Leuven. A student from Nigeria, he is a good friend of Willy’s. Naturally the discussion turned to theology and the research both students are doing for their various theses. Theological research is one thing but do the ideas correspond with the reality on the ground? Time alone will tell.

**Back to Grammont.**

After a most enjoyable few hours in Leuven it was time to return to Grammont, the birthplace of the Congregation. Unfortunately, traffic jams and road works impeded our journey. P. Jacob decided the take us through the centre of Brussels which provided an opportunity to see the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as we drove past. It was a reminder of an autumn day in 1965 when the Congregations founded by the Canon Van Crombrughe, together with the pupils filled the Basilica to celebrate the centenary of the Founder’s death. Tempus fugit.

*RDH*  
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