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CEP 2009

KEES DE JONG

Keanekaragaman bentuk Kekristenan Global

THE DYNAMICS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN INDONESIA¹

GREGORIUS BUDI SUBANAR, SJ®

Abstraksi: Dalam artikel ini dikemukakan dinamika eklesiologi dalam tubuh Gereja Katholik di Indonesia, yang mengelaborasi arah misi baru yang ditetapkan dalam Konsili Vatikan II yakni dengan menempatkan realitas sosial Indonesia sebagai ranah misiologinya. Teori dari Victor Turner tentang 3 proses untuk lepas dari khaos dan masuk ke dalam situasi baru yakni : pemisahan, liminalitas dan reaggregasi, akan diuji ketepatannya untuk konteks Indonesia. Faktor-faktor yang menjadi tantangan sekaligus panggilan eklesiologis, yakni faktor sosial, ekonomi, politik, konflik tersembunyi dan konflik yang terbuka, secara signifikan selayaknya diperhatikan apabila Gereja hendak menyatakan daya tranformasi dari makna dan fungsi kehadirannya di bumi Indonesia. Dengan demikian Gereja seyogyanya dapat merumuskan tanggapan profetisnya secara tepat pada situasi yang konkret. Artikel ini mengerucut ada penggarisbawahan pemihakan Gereja kepada kaum yang tertindas dan menjadi korban dalam karut marut situasi sosial-ekonomi-politik Indonesia sebagai bentuk penghayatan dan praksis iman dari kenyataan penghayatan Gereja sebagai bagian karya nyata Kerajaan Allah di tanah air dalam segala kompleksitas krisis kemanusiaan yang ada.

Key words: changing concepts of mission, chaotic situation, specific mission, post Vatican II, Indonesian context, victims, lamentation, paschal mystery, The Kingdom of God.

This is a good occasion for me to explain "The Dynamics of the Indonesian Catholic Church" as suggerted by Prof. Karel Steenbrink, although, it is not an easy task. There are some possibilities to explain the topic:

- showing the coat of arm of the Indonesian bishops' which show their efforts inculturating the message of the good news into their specific regions,

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- showing various publications which reflect how the dynamic of translation, daptation, and inculturation happen in the Catholic Church in Indonesia,
- showing various events which reflect the Catholic Church involvement during ne current of time in Indonesian society.
- prefer the last point. I would like to explain mostly of the period after Suharto's resignation a May 1998. It is an important and interesting period since Suharto had governed Indonesia or 32 years. Therefore, the period after Suharto's resignation is a transitional one.

itroduction

In explaining the history or the dynamics (of mission) of the Catholic church in idonesia, there are at least two factors which are necessary to put into consideration. Its, the changing concepts of mission as it is formulated in various documents of atican Council II. As an aggiornamento of the Catholic church, Vatican Council II as greatly influenced to the theological concepts of mission as well as in praxis. Second, the specific situation of Indonesia in which the Catholic church is Indonesia exists in a suralistic society consisting of various factors such as ethnic, language, religiosity, and the control of the catholic church is Indonesia exists in a suralistic society consisting of various factors such as ethnic, language, religiosity, of the control of the catholic church is Indonesia exists in a suralistic society consisting of various factors such as ethnic, language, religiosity, of the catholic church is Indonesia exists in a suralistic society consisting of various factors such as ethnic, language, religiosity, of the catholic church is Indonesia.

The documents on mission after Vatican Council II are continuously developing.

ney come from the universal church as well as from the local church. The Vatican ouncil II renewal influences mission at two levels. First, on the theological concept the church, as it is formulated in the dogmatic constitution of the church, Lumen entium, and the pastoral constitution of the church, Gaudium et Spes. These documents rmulate a new concept of the church and her involvement on mission. The image of e church refers to the experience of the Chosen People, as People of God in a grimage with others to the eternal life. Second, at the practical level, the Vatican ouncil II offers institutional reforms in the organization of missionary activity. On I Gentes, the document on missionary activities of the church, the renewal is not ly on the theological concept. The document refers to all the faithful —clerics, igious members, and lay people—under the guidance of the bishop bear the task d responsisbility to do missionary activity2. The renewal stimulated by Vatican Council followed by other documents, e.g. Evangelii Nuntiandi, Redemptoris Missio. These t two documents include the task of new evangelization and the new situation on ious matters of mission, e.g. the frontiers of mission, new possibility of missionary ivity through the new perspective. Whereas, documents from the local church give spective on the nature of the local church and its realizations through various concepts dialogue, inculturation, etc3. Besides, there is also another factor which gives inof the society. Based on the recent situation, this paper will see the possibilities are propose what could be realized in such situation.

Where the Indonesian Church Stands

Giving consideration to Indonesian context, John Prior (a missiologist from Flore writes a phrase "Out of Chaos"⁴. As the Indonesian people expects, he expects that the Indonesian crises would end soon. During the chaotic situation of 1999 and 2000, he refers to the apocalyptic prophets of Ezekiel and Daniel as comforts. Similar to Joh Prior's expression, Gerald A. Arbuckle writes a book under title Out of Chaos discussing to re-found the Religious Congregation after Vatican Council II⁵. Arbuckle's propose is based on the liminal theory of Victor Turner, in which a renewal process should passome phases of separation, liminality, and reaggregation to enter in a new situation after passing the chaotic situation. This dynamic of the process could explain various changes in the current of the church history, as well as of the world history⁶. Could be applied to the Indonesian situation?

The last two decades were a crucial moment for the Indonesian Church. There a many factors from various dimensions of the society life come to the surface, ar challenge the daily life of the Indonesian people⁷. The Indonesian Church which i tegrates herself to the Indonesian society could not escape from this reality. At the same time, globalization and its impact force the church to formulate her existence and involvements. They challenge the Indonesian Church to redefine its existence and evaluate her involvements as manifestation of her mission in the dynamic of the strugg of the society⁸.

Below are some factors which challenge and call for the involvement of the Churcin Indonesia:

1) One of the traditional involvements of the Church to the Indonesian society through schools and various health care institutions i.e. hospitals and clinics. The involvements are in a critical situation in two aspects. First, the practical-operation aspect. In the 1980 (nineteen eightieth), as the impact of *oil boom*, the Indonesia government built schools from primary to the high schools, reaching into the remo areas. This development gives influences to the Christian schools in which they let their students. On the other side, the government cut its supports, no longer giving teachers to Christian schools. It means that the Christian schools would face financing problems. Second, the legal aspect. In 1989, the government launched a new policy abolished certain terms which give specific christians.

- 2) Prior to the resignation of Suharto in 1998, the government had lost its legitimacy since the moral degradation of the commitments among the government officers personally and institutionally, even its bureaucratical system, as the bureaucratical system is corrupt, and unjust. This situation gives no support for the social life of the society in reaching an ideal in which the government maintains and assures the welfare of the citizen. ¹⁰ The crises of the government and its various governmental institutions continue until today.
- 3) The hidden conflict as historical burdens of the impact of the national tragedy in 1965 come to surface. ¹¹ Since the problem was suppressed and was kept under cover during Suharto's regime, it creates social unrest at the last moment before he resigned ¹².
- 4) Various conflictual situations is upsurge and come to surface in the name of religious and ethnic factors¹³. Hundreds of churches were set on fire and were destroyed during the last two decades. Thousands of people have been injured, killed, or displaced. These are some of the various problems without mentioning problems on economic and political dimensions.

Chances for the Indonesian Church:

In these critical situations, how should the Church redefine its identity and her mission? YB Mangunwijaya writes the characteristic of the Indonesian Church through the concept *church in diaspora*, small in number, spreading in various and remote areas among various beliefs and cultures¹⁴. There are some proposal how the Indonesian Church has chances as well as the challenges of the universal church. The Asian bishops, through FABC documents, mentioned about threefold dialogue: dialogue with other religions, dialogue with cultures, and dialogue with the poor to realize the church mission in Asia¹⁵. JB Banawiratma (an ex Jesuit theologian) writes in various articles, showing what kind of chances the Indonesian Church has¹⁶. He proposes some agendas which are necessary to do by the Church as the involvement to the issues in the society as realization of the Church mission. Mentioning some activities, he lists some activities in various fields: social justice as the empowerment of the poor, involving on gender's issue as an equality struggle between man and woman, environmental movement, formation on values consciousness, and building the Basic Ecclesial Communities.

Similar to the previous proposal of the Church agenda, at the international level, the universal Church has the same possibilities. There are some *megatrends* which become chances and challenges for the universal Church in order to realize her mission. Those are resurgence of cultural traditions, revival of religious experience, basic ecclesial

What is the Specific Mission of the Indonesian Church?

Prior to the Indonesian Independence, there were some missionaries who for the sake of the native people in confronting the colonial government. He Kraemer and Fr. van Lith, SJ were some of the figures who represented the positive As the Indonesian Church joined into the new Republic of Indonesia follow proclamation of independence on August 17, 1945, Mgr. Soegijapranata call faithful to join into the dynamic of the Indonesian society, state and nation to she Christian spirit in the daily life. He realized his call through various actions are honored by the Indonesian government as a national hero¹⁹.

Responding to the renewal of Vatican Council II, a theologian of the Indo Bishops' Conference formulated how the Indonesian church should involve it the dynamic of the society. "... berdasarkan situasi konkret merumuskan tang Gereja: Apakah tepatnya yang dapat disumbangkannya? Bagaimana Gereja mer kan peranan profetisnya?" Continuing in the formulation of the church's rostated, then, "Development in post Vatican II ecclesiology rightfully emphasi importance of particular churches as the concrete presence and realization of the unchurch and its salvific mission." "... How are Christians to respect whatever povalues are found in ancient cultural and religious traditions, in Indonesia adats, help people become aware of those value heavely challenged today by moderniand technological progress? What contribution can the church render to soci that the inheritance of cultural and religious value will be preserved, and new disclosed in all efforts for development and social welfare." It was, then, contin realized through various programs and were evaluated annually through the meeting of the Indonesian Bishops' Conference.

One of the prominent figures of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Justinus Dyuwono, as the Archbishop of Semarang and the Chairman of Indonesian Bi Conference continued the policy of his predecessor, Mgr. Soegijapranata, invo the dynamics of the state and nation. His last notes after resigning as the Archbis Semarang, the Cardinal remarked how he had delayed the implementation of the roof Vatican Council II because of the impact of the 1965 tragedy²². In time of cha Cardinal proposed not to join into violent action²³. He chosed to involve on behal victims²⁴. His principle in doing mission was proclaiming the Good News the concrete actions in order to balance the apostolate of the word, which otherwise be trapped into lip-service³⁵.

siden 27 Juli 1996 (Team of Voluunter Rescuer of Incident of 27 July 1996) nes Tim Relawan untuk Kemanusiaan (Team of Volunteers for Humanity). participants in a democracy movement. On his plea, defending himself on uring the last trial since he was accused of giving an asylum to activists who r a military operation's target, Sandyawan explains his spirituality, that is of the victims, victims of developmental ideology cost, victims vis a vis ower. Sandyawan puts his efforts on the horizon of presenting the coming dom of God²⁶. It is in this spirituality that the mission of the church becomes e action. Such activity is part of realization of the dialogue of life and dialogue It is in the same spirituality that is fighting for justice and liberation on he victim, a Moslem lady, Mrs. Karlina Leksono, who was the chairperson lawan untuk Kemanusiaan finds that her involvement is to realize that one religion is to give the spirit and power for life. Amidst the conflict situation, ly of religious leaders to bring hope, spreading the image of hospitality to rents. Based on moral convictions, she commits with her efforts to assist the various conflicts28.

int situation, conflicts in various areas continue. There are victims, those are ho wait and look for assistance. In Sumatera, Java, Madura, Bali, Nusa larat, Timor, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, the Moluccas islands, and Papua, there supread in various places. *Tempo* magazine noted, totally, there are 1.305.690 There are refugees from Aceh in various places in Sumatera. In Aceh there refugees; in Sumatera Utara (North Sumatera) 37.590 refugees; in Riau gees; in Jambi 2.103 refugees; in Sumatera Selatan (South Sumatera) 1.700 here are various refugees from Aceh, Kalimantan Barat (West Kalimantan), apua spread in Jawa Barat (West Java) 9.275, in Jawa Tengah (Central 15. in Jawa Timur (East Java) 161.566. In Madura island there are 97.300 m Kalimantan Tengah (Central Kalimantan). In Bali, there are 2.974 refugees limor. In Nusa Tenggara Barat, there are 13.013 refugees from East Timor. there are refugees from Poso and Maluku, 39.785 in Sulawesi Utara (North 58,005 in Sulawesi Tengah (Central Sulawesi), 36.104 in Sulawesi Selatan awesi), 161,226 in Sulawesi Tenggara (Southeast Sulawesi). In Maluku ith Maluku), there are 212.000 refugees. In Ambon, there are 300.091 Papua, there are 16,600 refugees²⁹. Those people are victims of the conflicts. for them? It means that there are still various chances to realize the mission reh. Assisting the refugees is one among the many.

Though there were various movements in the society, Jesus did not join the parties which tried to get independence from the Roman colonial. His intention is proclaiming and showing that "the Kingdom of God is at hand" (MK. 1, 15). Jesus realizes his mission until the end of his life through the Paschal mystery. It is in the Eucharist that the spirit of the Paschal mystery of Jesus is repeated and invites to the faithful to realize it on the daily life ³⁰.

There are various experiences in the conflict situation, how the people fight for their fate and their future. They struggle from their misery, they fight against the trauma. Even they become the reconcilers with the oppressors. Since 2000, various dioceses in Indonesia set up a new commision namely *Justice and Peace*. One of the tasks from this commision is to promote reconsiliation among the victims of various conflicts. Budi Hernawan, a Franciscan Brother as the director of Justice and Peace Commision of Merauke diocese writes his reflections on his involvement among the papua people against the deforestation on the region. They have fought against the multinational corporation actions on the area.³¹

There is a PBHK sister in Ambon who works with other women from various communities, promote to built a community which work for peace movement, curing the trauma after the conflict and violence in Molluca region. In Flores, there are communities of coffee's farmers who fight peacefully against the land conflict against the land lords.³² In Kupang diocese-Nusa Tenggara Timor, there are resetlements for the refugees from the Timor Leste conflict previous to the independence of Timor Leste.³³

These are movements in various places who live under the suppression, bearing the trauma since they lost their family members who fight for their fate and build for their better future based on the Paschal mystery, freeing themselves from the trauma and become the reconciler with others. They do this effort through a process of curing from their trauma and make a mechanism which invite the oppressors to confess their faults and propose to do conversion. This mechanism refers to the spirit of Paschal mystery³⁴.

Similar to the experience above, Gerard A. Arbuckle proposed a lamentation rite of various tribes in the world as a process to set free from trauma and get a new spirit of life. He refers to lamentation process as the experience of the Chosen People on their exodus and exile. It refers also to the experience of the women in front of the empty tomb until they meet the risen Jesus³⁵. It means that through lamentation, the

a seach to the experience of Paschal mystery

burden. The refugees still bring with them their traumatic burden. Using the lamentation process in assisting the refugees, there are three aspects psychological - set free from psychological burden, social - to invite the solidarity of others, and theological - to give a meaning of the experience in eschatological horizon which could be applied to help them to set free from their traumatic burden. As well as, it creates the people to find a new spirit of life. It is the message of the Paschal mystery. It is also a change for the church to create an atmosphere of life in the horizon of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

- ⁵ Gerald A. Arbuckle, Out Of Chaos, New York, Paulist Press, 1988
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- ¹⁸ Ion Bria-Dagmar Heller (ed.), Ecumenical Pilgrims. Profiles of Pioneers in Christian Reconciliation, WCC Publications, 1995, pp. 124-131
- ¹⁹ G. Budi Subanar, "Seabad van Lith Seabad Soegijapranata", in: Gereja Katolik Indonesia Pasca Vat Yogyakarta, Kanisius, pp. 419-441
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⁴ John Prior, "When All the Singing has Stopped. Ecclestiastes: A Modest Mission in Unpredictable Times", in: *International Review of Mission*, Vol. XCI, No. 360 (2002), pp. 7-23