

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - March 2019

News from Generalate

Important message by Sr. Bimla Minj, Congregational Leader

Sr. Bimla's keynote address to each Indian Chapter included a call for the delegates to pause in their ordinary life and to remember "who you are and whose you are."

The modern evolution of society and culture, which is undergoing rapid and unexpected and chaotic changes, demands new responses to face the challenges. It is an invitation to look at what is going on inside the wineskins of our consecrated life. The Province Chapter is calling you/us to face the very essence of your/our consecrated life and to be renewed in our commitment to God as Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk.



We are invited to shift from the old paradigm of the consecrated Life to a new paradigm of the consecrated Life. We need to move gradually with every discernment process, attentive to the Spirit based on the Gospel teaching.

Visit to India

Sisters Bimla, Nirmala and I spent time in India in January and February for the Chapters of Ranchi, Gumla and Ambikapur. We left Belgium with snow on the ground and were greeted by sunny days in India. From start to finish our visit was rewarding and enriching.

Republic Day in Ranchi featured colorful dances and parades by the students on the grounds of the Ursuline Intermediate College. The Chapter was held in the new Ursula Center at Kanke Rd. The accommodations were perfect.



Visit to waterfalls in Hut Bay. l-r: Srs. Angela Hansdak, Jyoti Bhengra, Dolores Murmu

Following the Chapter I travelled with Srs. Victoria and Kiran to the Andaman Islands to visit the Sisters there and to share their community life and ministry in the parishes and villages where they work closely with the Pilar Fathers. Port Blair is the capital of the island and is large compared to Wimberlygunj and Hut Bay. Wimberlygunj is a short ferry boat ride from Port Blair, but Hut Bay takes about 7 hours by ferry. The major attraction for me during the daylight crossing was to see flying fish - small fish that jump out

of the water and "fly" for a considerable distance and re-enter the water! I learned a lot about the archipelago of 556 islands of which the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are included. They lie east of the India mainland. There are sandy beaches, forests and coconut-palms.

The work of the Sisters is greatly appreciated by the people. We spent almost every evening with a family in one village or another. As I stood in the path where the tsunami had passed through, an onslaught of feelings overcame me. The pain and terrible damage is still evident.

We visited Mt. Harriet, shrines, churches, an Anthropological Museum, the Cellular Jail, beautiful beaches and more.

Upon returning to Ranchi, a cancelled flight gave Sr. Victoria and I the opportunity to spend a night with our 2 Sisters in Calcutta.



l-r: Roshni Topno, Shakuntala Kujur, Pushpa Panna, Jane Quinlan, Sushila Minj, Kiran Kiro, Dolores Murmu, Victoria Lakra

All in all the joy of accompanying our sisters was worth the journey to and from India. I have nothing but gratitude for this opportunity. Tears flowed as we said our farewells. My hearty thanks go to each and every one.

Sr. Jane Quinlan

CANADA

"We are called to live respectful, loving, caring, joyful, and Christ centered community at each stage of life."
General Chapter Direction Statement 2014

Our Sisters in Winnipeg need special prayers as their health is declining. Sr Joan Adams has been diagnosed with aphasia making it difficult to communicate, she remains in the hospital where she has been for several months.

Our Sisters are under the care and support of the Grey Nuns of Montreal. Sisters Joan Adams, Mary De Pape, Lillian Gaboury, Joice Richards, and Juliette Robidoux continue to be joyful and optimistic despite their individual health conditions. We remain united in love and prayer for all of our dear Canadian Sisters as they continue the mission of the Congregation through prayer and financial support.



Ranchi

The Ranchi Provincial Chapter was held from January 29-February 4. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the new Provincial Leadership Team.



I-r: Sisters Angela Dolorosa Lakra, Mary Grace Toppo, Shila Ergat, Suchita Shalini Xalxo(Provincial), Matilda Dungdung and Eileen Kujur



I-r: Sisters Madhura Toppo, Kumudini Tirkey, Maria Swarnlata Kujur (Provincial), Anna Kujur and Gemma Rose Minj

Gumla

Gumla Province held its 7th Provincial Chapter February 5 - 10, 2019 Congratulations and Best Wishes to the new Provincial Leadership Team:

Dear Sisters, with joyful and grateful heart on behalf of the new Provincial Team, I thank you all in the Province for your

prayers and sacrifices for the successful Chapter. The fruit of your constant prayer is the gift of the new Provincial Team. I request you all to accompany us on our journey as we begin and continue our ministry of leadership. Thank you very much.

Ambikapur

Ambikapur Province held its Provincial Chapter February 12 - 16 Congratulations and Best Wishes to the new Provincial Leadership Team:



l-r: Sisters Philomena George (Provincial), Florencia Samad, Susanna Bara, Regina Lakra and Fabiola Toppo

Gumla

Entrance of Postulants



The entrance of 17 Candidates took place on January 14, 2019. We wish them fervent perseverance in their vocation.

Candlelight in Delhi

Following the deadly attack by a suicide driver on a convoy of soldiers on February 14 in the State of Kashmir, over 500 Christians from churches in New Delhi gathered for a candle light service in Sacred Heart Cathedral. The service included songs, prayers and remembrances of the "martyrs" as they are called. The entire nation, especially in the capital of Delhi, showed their love for the victims and solidarity with their families. Prayers for the eternal rest of the souls of the men killed was central to the prayer service led by Bishop Anil Couto of Delhi.

From our Sisters in Mayur Vihar Delhi

Farewell to Bishop Emeritus of Port Blair

A farewell evening for Bishop Aleixo Das Neves Dias, SFX was held for the religious of the diocese. Bishop Dias, 74, is the first bishop of Port Blair that covers Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a union territory of India. The diocese was erected on Aug. 18, 1984 by Pope John Paul II.



Sr. Kiran Kiro, OSU represented the members of CRI (Conference of Religious India) and presented the bishop with a bouquet.

Tezpur

On 5th February after a long train journey of 16 hours, three hours of waiting at the railway station to get transportation to Tezpur and after a four hour bus journey our 2nd year juniors of Ambikapur, Gumla and Ranchi arrived in Tezpur Ursuline Provincial house. They were welcomed by the Provincialate community by washing their hands and offering them a traditional gamocha (towel) of



Assam with great rejoicing and singing as you see in this picture along with the 2nd year Juniors of Tezpur Province. After lunch they had a good rest ready to begin their programme in the evening of 5th February with a gracefilled prayer service conducted by Sr. Lucienne Kakkanatt, the Provincial Superior of Tezpur Province.

Blessing of the hostel building at Borbam

With a grateful heart towards the Fr. Vekemans Foundation I'm happy to say that the project application of 2014 for a hostel building for the tribal girls was approved in March 2017 by the Father Vekemans Foundation.

The building was completed in January 2019 and was blessed by Bishop elect Rev. Father Albert Hemrom of Dibrugarh Diocese on 23rd January. A good number of sisters from nearby convents, a few priests, all the catechists of the parish, women from the women associations of the parish, and boarding children were present. After the blessing of the building, there was a Eucharistic celebration. After that the guests were felicitated along with the catechists and the women leaders; a delicious lunch followed. Everyone felt happy and satisfied.



News of the United Nations

International Women's Day ~ March 8th Theme: #BalanceforBetter

How will you celebrate women's achievements, while calling for a more gender-balanced world? We welcome news for April ENEWS of how your area celebrated March 8th.

World Water Day ~ March 22nd Theme: "Leaving no one behind"

Pope Francis has underlined the fundamental connection that exists between the environmental crisis and the social crisis that we are experiencing. He often reminds us "Everything is interconnected." "...access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right..."~Pope Francis, Laudato si' #30 On Care of our Common Home

PRAYER FOR Our Communities

Joseph, strengthen in our communities every bond of love which unites us. Joseph, protect our Sisters from every danger from without and from every threat to peace, unity and harmony within. Joseph, teach us to be kind and loving towards one another, careful for one another, tolerant of one another, forgiving towards one another. Joseph, may contentment with our lot and joy in each other abound in our communities, as we seek faithfully to serve and love God.

Prayer adapted from "Devotions to Saint Joseph" by Brian Moore, S.J.,

Statue of St. Joseph in Ste. Marie Church in Brussels.

