

# Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



## E-News - December 2014

### From Congregation Leadership:

**Advent 2014:** Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. While it expresses the deep longing of all humanity for God, it celebrates the three-fold coming of the Lord: remembering the events that surrounded the Lord's coming long ago, celebrating his coming among us today, and looking forward to his final coming in glory.

Advent is a season of devout and joyful expectation. Its four Sundays (with its actual length determined by the weekday of Christmas) highlight our desire and longing for peace, justice and unity.

The first part of Advent looks forward to the parousia, the Lord's glorious return at the end of time and reflects on his presence among us today.

The second part - from December 17th to 24th - is a direct preparation for Christmas the yearly commemoration of Jesus' coming among us in human flesh.

Advent once was generally celebrated as a season of penance (St. Martin's Lent), its character today is expressed in terms of anticipation, longing and incompleteness. Enlivened and united in the Spirit, we journey through Advent toward the consummation of human history and prepare for the Christmas feast. Advent is a period of quiet and moderation; a time inspired by anticipation rather than penance; a season that acknowledges our incompleteness.

Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face  
and we shall be saved.

**Year of Consecrated Life:** Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life, starting on the First Sunday of Advent, the weekend of November 29, 2014, and ending on February 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated life. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of Perfectae Caritatis,



a decree on religious life, and *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council's constitution on the Church. Its purpose, as stated by the Vatican is to "make a grateful remembrance of the recent past" while embracing "the future with hope."

Please visit the website mentioned below to read and to print it out for your Provinces/ Vice-Province Pope Francis letter to consecrated men and women titled:

***"REJOICE!***

***A letter to consecrated men and women"***

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccsclife/documents/rc\\_con\\_cscrlife\\_doc\\_20140202\\_rallegratevi-lettera-consacrati\\_en.html#Listening](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccsclife/documents/rc_con_cscrlife_doc_20140202_rallegratevi-lettera-consacrati_en.html#Listening)

**From United States Province:**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR  
ST. URSULA CENTER, BLUE POINT, NY**



It was a glorious, sunny autumn day, Saturday, November 8, 2014, as hundreds of people from the local community and from all over Long Island walked through the doors of St. Ursula Center to attend the **ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR!**

This year, there were approximately 15 vendors, including the Ursuline Associates table and the local historian, Gene Horton's table. Gene sold his books about the history of Blue Point and the Ursuline Convent. We were happy to welcome two special new vendors this year:

The sisters from All Saints Greek Orthodox Monastery in Calverton, Long Island, sold organic candles and soaps handmade by the nuns.

A Fair Trade table, sponsored by "Sobornost For The World Foundation, Inc." displayed and sold articles handmade in Guatemala. The workers for the Foundation are all volunteers and 100% of the proceeds go to support



international orphan programs for food and education in Africa and India. The work of the Foundation offers justice for marginalized growers and producers: Fair Trade.

Approximately 50 gorgeous Raffle baskets, made by our dedicated volunteers, were a highlight of the day! In addition, there was a 50/50, and six beautiful Premium raffles that were all valued over \$250 each. Thank you to all who donated the most delicious baked goods - always one of the best "sellers" at the Fair! And once again, "photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus" were a big hit with both the young and "young at heart!"



**THANK YOU** to our Event Planner, Liz Wilson, and her more than 35 volunteers for making this Craft Fair a most successful event!!