

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk

E-News - February 2014



From Congregation Leadership:

Extended Council Meeting:

Congregation Leadership Team (CLT) thanks each and every one of you for your prayers for the success of the Extended Council 2014.

Extended Council was very satisfied with all it could accomplish. We continue to pray for God's guidance as we continue to prepare for the General Chapter in October 2014.

We can change lives through education.

Some quotes:

It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon 12 June 2013 *Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.*

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

If you are planning for tomorrow, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people. Chinese proverb

Is it still necessary to teach about the United Nations?

Is it still necessary to teach about the United Nations? Absolutely—now, perhaps more than ever. The challenge to educate young people around the world about the UN must continue if we are to remain true to the UN charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We Ursulines promote peace education and respect for human rights and the environment, but as 2014 begins, I ask myself how we can do it more effectively?

- Unless students come to know and appreciate the mandate and the role of the United Nations to help their world become safer and more humane, far too many of mankind's failures will simply be repeated.
- Unless students understand the nature and breadth and depth of the global issues that confront the United Nations and its Member States,

the less likely their creativity and resourcefulness will be employed in solving such issues.

- Unless students discover how and where they can one day apply their readiness and enthusiasm to work within the United Nations System and/or support its endeavors through its related NGOs, the poorer the world body will be.
- Unless students learn to recognize false claims and unfair criticism about the United Nations, the harder the road to overcome such issues as human rights abuses, poverty, literacy, climate change and terrorism.
- Starting with the K-12 curriculum and moving on to higher education, there is a need to update and improve the existing curriculum and, at the same time, encourage the development of new, technologically enhanced units and lessons. More specifically, there are at least a minimum of six imperatives:

1. With respect to the plight of less developed and developing nations, it's important that students learn how the United Nations, from its founding, has played a major role in decolonization and the emergence of some 80 new sovereign States. Such history provides valuable insights and basic understanding of the hardships that many of these nations have had to overcome on the road to self-governing.
2. It is important to learn about the huge disparity between the haves and the have-nots. Without this broader perspective, younger generations are less likely to assist in the development of more improved ways to reduce the ravages of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, disease, tainted water, soil erosion and other conditions that many people have to endure.
3. Learning how the World Food Program, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization, among others, currently improve the lives of people is a critical part of this education process.
4. On a broader scale, young people have a fundamental need to learn the essential objectives of each of the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly in 2000, as well as what has been and what is not likely to be achieved by the 2015 deadline.
5. Discovering what happens to these and other UN program when Member States withhold or delay the payment of dues, when financial pledges are only partially met, when compassion fatigue prevails in wealthier Member States and when many parts of the world experience a decline in their middle class will hopefully spur efforts by today's and tomorrow's youth to dedicate their talents to reverse these obstacles to development.

6. The need to grasp and understand the scope of the United Nations impact on the daily lives of people from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe is substantial, but equally important is the need to carefully examine the nature and responsibilities of its principal organs:

- The Security Council
- The General Assembly
- The Secretariat
- The Economic and Social Council
- The Trusteeship Council

The question then is not whether it's still necessary to teach about the United Nations, but how such teaching can be improved and expanded to those parts of the world where it is not being done or done poorly or in a negative light.

Where can an educator get lessons on the United Nations? Cyberschoolbus as well as the rich library of UN resources available through the Internet and other social media such as Facebook and YouTube are examples. Many NGOs provide information on their web site. Sister Jane (quinlanosu@aol.com) is familiar with teaching material on the UN and is eager to assist you. Suggestions <http://www.unausa.org/>, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes>, <http://www.unicef.org/education/files>, www.ctaun.org/

From Ranchi Province:

News from Ranchi Province: Inter-Province Golden Jubilee Renewal Program, Nov. 17 - Dec.1, 2013 - Nine Golden Jubilarians of 2013 from Ambikapur, Ranchi and Tezpur Provinces arrived at Ursuline T.T.C., Lohardaga on Nov. 17, 2013 for a two-week renewal Program in order to begin a third phase in their life - journey as Ursuline Religious.

Sr. Placida Kispotta coordinated the Program, orientation sessions were guided by Sr. Suchita Shalini Xalxo, and the symbol of the life of a river gave the Jubilarians the insights to see their own life-journey as a river with its origin, ups and downs, obstacles, challenges, goal and purpose of their life. Sr. Julia George directed the group to be aware of the reality of aging process and how to age "Gracefully" and to make it more meaningful and richer by being God-centered and other oriented.

Sr. Eve Justina Romould reminded them how the decades of 70's and 80's are a period of ripening in wisdom, serenity and surrender when one learn abundant fruits for the kingdom by focusing on prayer-ministry which is equal to any other ministry such as education, healing and so on. She encouraged them to give more time for prayer, thus to be the power-house of the Congregation. As the three

resource persons used PowerPoint presentations which made their message clear and very effective.

Sr. Placida gave inputs and reflection on living a life of "Magnificat" at this stage of their religious life, having a spirit of "Surrender" and acceptance of "suffering" that are part of the advancing years and old age.

One day before the retreat started, all the Jubilarians were taken out on a surprise trip to Ursuline Provincialate, Gumla where they received a grand welcome by Provincial, Sr. Jacinta Baxla and Provincialate Community. After having a delicious dinner, the three Communities of the Provincialate, School and Novitiate put up a beautiful cultural program in the Provincialate quadrangle. The Jubilarians were flanked with garlands and gifts in gratitude for their 50 years of loving services given to the mission.

The Next day evening, they followed a six-day retreat directed by Rev. Fr. Alex D'Souza SFX. The retreat was very effective and helpful for them to enter into the true spirit of acceptance and surrender to the Lord in the remaining years of their life- journey.

On December 1, 2013, the concluding thanksgiving Eucharistic Liturgy was presided by Rev. Fr. Albinus Tete S.J. in the T.T.C. Church, the Choir being led by Sr. Shila Ergat, with melodious singing and inspiring hymns sung by the students of both B.Ed, and P.T.E.C. After the Liturgy, the Jubilarians were felicitated by both the Training Colleges. The cutting of the Jubilee cake amid singing and dance followed and gala breakfast was given to all present, after which all the jubilarians and guests dispersed towards their final destination. It was a memorable and enriching experience for the Jubilarians as well as for the T.T.C. Community hosting the program.

From United States Province:

PRAYER SERVICES FOR AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2014, the Sisters and Associates of the US Province, individually or in small groups, prayed a prayer for the end of human trafficking.

On February 8th, we again offered a prayer service remembering St. Josephine Bakhita and all victims of trafficking. The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) Committee on Migration has designated February 8th as an

annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947), who was kidnapped as a nine year old child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering.

Cognizant of the plight of the more than 27 million women, children and men trafficked throughout the world today, we re-commit ourselves to:

- **LEARN** about human trafficking - globally and locally.
- **PRAY** for victims of trafficking and for an end to this slavery.
- **DEMAND** slave-free products. Buy fair trade when possible.
- **ADVOCATE** for government legislation that protects victims.

Thank you to all our Sisters and Associates for joining with us in praying for and working towards an end to this terrible world-wide tragedy.

ANNUAL PROVINCE FINANCE DAY

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, the Sisters of the US Province will gather in St. Ursula Center for the annual finance day.

During the morning session, the End of the Year 2013 Financial Report will be given by the Finance Director and the Investment Report will be presented by the Investment Manager.

As part of the afternoon session, we are happy to welcome Sister Jacinta Baxla, Gumla Province Leader, who will give us a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting several projects that have been made possible by the US Province donations to the International Financial Aid Fund.

Also during the afternoon, we will review the energy savings we are experiencing because of the installation of solar power panels at St. Ursula Center. Leadership will present the major repairs planned for the 2014 year. Sister Catherine Talia will conclude by giving a report of the Extended Council meeting held recently in Belgium.

Each year, the Sisters look forward to attending this informative meeting.