

REFLECT



Ursuline Sisters
Generalate
Rue Musin 1
1210 Brussels

September 2014

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Since August 2014, everywhere in Belgium events are being arranged to "Commemorate THE BIG WAR". The memories of the atrocities, the hundreds of thousands of people killed, citizens as well as soldiers, and the miserable conditions of the population, are still alive and present today. During that war, 1914-1918, there were English, Canadian, Indian, and Congolese soldiers fighting in Belgium.

Now the emphasis of the commemoration is



on bringing and keeping PEACE .

During the war Tildonk had a difficult time. The German army of occupation had been in the convent for about three months. Meanwhile the Belgian troops were on the other side of the canal, fighting against them.

In the convent more than 500



German soldiers and 87 Belgian soldiers received medical care. Among other things, most of the windows in our buildings were broken.

In that time our Sisters experienced the protection of Our Lady. In one inner wall, more than 200 bullet holes can be counted even today. Still there are a Cross and a little Statue of Our Lady which were not damaged.

Could it be Father Lambertz who, 45 years after his death, brought to his

foundation the protection of Our Lady of Dolors? The sisters always saw it as a wonder, and other people too.

Let us ardently and with great faith pray to



After a few questions from Sisters requesting for news, I believe that it would be a good opportunity for me to let you know about my actual mission as an Ursuline working with the Jesuits for the good of refugees.

Since August 1st 2014, I have been working with the Jesuit Service for Refugees (JRS). It is

a Catholic NGO of Jesuits working for refugees throughout the world. Its mission is to accompany, serve, and defend the rights of refugees and other people forcibly displaced.

It finds inspiration in the **compassion and love of Jesus** for the poor and the excluded. This compassion urges them to lighten the suffering of the poor by giving them hope and dignity. JRS is committed to giving a spiritual as well as a concrete answer to the weakest, especially to refugees, by offering them hospitality and by being a voice for the voiceless, for

Our Reverend Founder and to Our Lady of Dolors, asking that they will accompany us during the coming General Chapter. Let us also pray for peace throughout the whole world. (Sr. Bernadette Uytterhoeven)

it also advocates for justice on behalf of the voiceless.

As these values are so near to the values that inspired our Mother Angela Merici, and as I believe what our Constitutions propose in number 28, "We believe that the mission of our Congregation is accomplished wherever one of our Sisters is sent", I

firmly trust that for us Ursulines, it is one way of responding to today's call to go out and meet the poor, and care for their human needs. It is a manner of putting into practice our compassion, just as our

Mother Angela wanted us to be women of compassion. The circumstances I find here are those in which we could say that nothing can be done, and still, last Sunday when the Pastor of the parish presented me to the Church, the people cried out: « Peace has come back, the Sisters are back ». It was a long time since people had seen any Sisters, and many young people do not even know what it means to be a Sister.



Concretely, what I am doing and where I am - I am in Masis, 80 kilometers from Goma, but you need four hours of driving to get here during the dry season, and a whole day, if not two, during the rainy season. This zone has been experiencing war since 1990; in fact all the wars in the DRC began here. In my section there are 7 camps for displaced persons, and the Jesuits have erected schools there, and they support

those you will see on the photos. We need to try and give them hope, for sometimes they are obliged to move from one camp to another, looking for a more secure environment, and others turn to armed groups, thinking they will be better off there. So I regularly pass through the camps to greet them and show them my presence and support. We protect the girls as much as we can, for they are the first



victims of rape from armed groups. JRS foresees education for adults, to help them acquire personal responsibility; that is why we supervise mothers in basket weaving, and fathers in woodworking. Many children are naked and undernourished, for it is difficult to work in the fields because of rebels hiding everywhere. We work with some organisations of the United Nations

other schools elsewhere, so as to give access to education and instruction to the displaced persons. The JRS support 105 schools, and all these schools are in camps for displaced persons or not far from these camps. But all these schools need someone to supervise them by helping the teachers give their pupils the necessary level of education, and also sustain the very vulnerable children and encourage them to study. There are several problems in these schools, especially since most of the children have no houses. Their houses are

(UNHCR, Doctors without Borders), and the Monuc are here on the spot, for if needed, the soldiers of the United Nations are ready to evacuate us, for this zone is a dangerous one.

There is a tremendous and fascinating amount of work to be done, and, at the same time, without the help of prayer, nothing can be done here. There are several challenges and some revolting scenes. On Wednesday, a father brought us his five year old daughter, who had been horribly raped by armed forces. Our work

in this case consists in bringing the child to Doctors without Borders, and if special surgery is needed, one of us accompanies her to Goma. Sever scenes of this type have occurred here.

We shall be 5 in our team in January. We are now three on the spot (a Sister of the Good Council who came here before me from Tanzania, a priest for the parish and myself). We are expecting two Jesuits who



will join us in January. I am involved in education and financial administration and the other Sister in social and psychological aspects; this means listening to displaced persons, accompanying the elderly and

helping them build their huts, then take care of the sick and transfer them to the NPO on mission here. We have here some local collaborators; a few persons help us and guide us too. We are accommodated by the JRS and we have some field cars to move out wherever a car is capable of running.

The MONUC (UN Mission in the DRC) reports every week on the state of security, to let us know if we can move out or not. The telephone works sometimes, but we use radios for communication. We are constantly on the alert. Every month, I have an opportunity of going back to Goma for a week-end of rest, and when I do not return to Goma, I give some instructions to young people of the parish or to mothers. I admit that I have now taken a risk for my life, but it is a risk in view of life. **“God will do marvellous things in His own time... for He wants nothing for you, but only your joy »** (Counc.8,9; Rule 10,18: Angela Merici).

A big thank you for your support and prayerful union, Sister Espérance Hamuli



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY:

Ursuline Convent Middle School, Fudi in collaboration with Asha Kiran Shelter Home celebrated International Literacy Day on September 8, 2014. The purpose was to highlight the importance of Education for sustainable development as envisaged by UNESCO. Mr. Lal Sing Kurilchi, District Welfare Officer, Khunti was the Chief

Guest. Mr. Ansari, Child Protection Officer, Khunti was the guest of honour.

The children staged a skit highlighting the benefits of education in life. The skit brought out in a poignant way how lack of basic education is a stumbling block to sustainable development.

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The Chief Guest encouraged the children to make every effort to study well remaining focused on their goal. Education

to make a survey of the 16 villages in order to ascertain the literacy rate of the villagers. Their survey report is attached and the report indicates that more than 50% of the villagers are still illiterate in spite of the government program: **COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR ALL** by 2015. We plan to make all the illiterate literate. We want to engage our students also in this effort using the maxim: **Each one Teach one.**

Our students can teach one person in their neighborhood to write her/his name, to read and put signature. This would be a significant contribution of our children towards the literacy campaign. We are glad to announce the Website of Asha Kiran Shelter Home.



is the key to success in one's life. Along with education, he motivated the children to develop job oriented skills. Three of our students spoke on the importance of education particularly of Girl children. Educated Girls function as a beacon in the family and society. People are awakening to understand the value of education.

After the function, the two officers inspected the Shelter Home and were very please with the set up and arrangement for the well being of the inmates.

Our children come from 16 villages around Ursuline Middle school and Asha Kiran Shelter Home. Prior to September 8, the students of Class 6, 7 & 8 were instructed



Survey Report

S.N	Village	No. of Families	Number of illiterates in each village			
			Female	Male	Girls	Boys
1.	Fudi Bada Toli	270	65	55	65	85
2.	Fudi Kumar Toli	786	209	178	185	129
3.	Fudi Kusum Toli	302	22	10	00	00
4.	Silda Bada Toli	187	32	25	10	24
5.	Kalamati Tiril Toli	224	15	25	12	18
6.	Pandhan Toli	64	72	39	03	05
7.	Kaparia	253	27	18	00	05
8.	Hutar	250	26	10	00	00
9.	Darih Orontoli	30	50	30	00	00
10.	Darih Teli Toli	52	20	05	02	07
11.	Rai	75	65	45	05	15
12.	Ghaghara	40	05	07	06	03
13.	Giarappa	120	80	90	50	60
14.	Chalangi Munda Toli	68	40	50	00	00
15.	Chunsuli	600	200	100	50	90
16.	Kanadih	45	30	10	03	02
Total population		3366	958	697	391	443

www.Ashakirankhunti.org

Our Benefactors, stake holders and well wishers can have access to information and new about Asha Kiran Shelter Home, a unit of Ranchi Ursuline Society. Sr. Julia George



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Visit to CANADA: In August, as you know, we celebrated the Centenary of our

catered a special luncheon for the sisters. On the same occasion we celebrated the



Congregation in North America. In Winnipeg, our seven sisters celebrated with Sister Margaret and with Mr. Wade Lawrence, their financial advisor, who



70th Jubilee of Sister Maria De Pape. Our warmest congratulations to our sisters on this blessed occasion. We thank them for their service to the Congregation and assure them of our prayers.



In August, leaders of congregations around the United States gathered in Nashville, Tennessee, for the **Annual Assembly of LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious)**. Sister Margaret from CLT and Sisters Catherine Talia and Judith O'Connor from the US were in attendance.

The theme of the assembly was "Holy Mystery Revealed in our Midst."

In a reflection delivered at the opening of the assembly, biblical scholar Sister Nancy Schreck, OSF explored some of the long biblical history of God working with people in the mystery of darkness. Noting that mastery of navigating the dark takes time, she said, "All we need do is to ask the mystery of darkness to teach us, to follow the darkness wherever it leads, and to become intimate with darkness."

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During the assembly, the LCWR officers updated the members on their work with the bishops delegated by the Congregation

for the Doctrine of the Faith to implement a mandate of reform. The sisters agreed to continue the conversation with the bishops.

