

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - January 2015

From Congregation Leadership:



On the feast of Saint Angela, we celebrate with joy the day on which her loving Spouse Jesus Christ led her to the glory of heaven. She lived all her life for the "sole love of God".

We take a moment to contemplate the life of Angela Merici. She grew in her spirituality gradually. The vision at Brudazzo was her foundational experience. In Sister Martha Buser's book, *Also in Your Midst*, this vision was a "Seed Experience which grew and blossomed in her life as a central event". She brought all that happened in her life and around her into contemplation and the fruit of it into action. She was actively present to the whole reality. That presence brought her to the Real Presence. She saw contemplation and action as one movement. Her writings are the fruit of her deep contemplation which have been handed over to us as a treasure. They are dynamic and transformative for all generations.

Angela Merici invites us to identify our foundational experience of God (General Chapter Direction Statement 2014) and deepen our spirituality.

It is only through the eyes of contemplation that she could realize and come to know her true self as being loved by God. Therefore, she writes, "the One who loves me or rather, the One who loves us all" - "My Lover, or rather, the Lover of us all" (Last Counsel). Contemplative love was a special gift of God for Angela - her charism. We, the daughters of Angela Merici, inherit the contemplative spirituality from her which sprang from her charism.

The message for us on the feast of St. Angela Merici is to "Live Contemplative Spirituality for Mission Today."

"I shall always be in your midst. I embrace you.
I give you all the kiss of peace, begging God to bless you."
(St. Angela - last Legacy)
Sr. Bimla Minj

Indian Province Chapters

The Indian Provinces Ambikapur, Gumla and Ranchi will have their Province Chapters. The dates of the Chapters are as follows:

January 26 - January 30, 2015 - Gumla Province

January 30 - February 4, 2015 Ranchi Province

February 6 - February 9, 2015 Ambikapur Province

We pray for them for their successful Chapters and ask God to bless them in all their endeavors, since all these Provinces will have the election for the leadership team we pray specially for God's wisdom and guidance.

Sr. Bimla Minj Sr. Jane Quinlan and Sr. Nirmala Kujur from CLT will be present for all the Chapters. May their presence be a source of joy and blessings to all of them.

Thanks to outgoing CLT (Congregation Leadership Team) and Sr. Leela

It is the time to say good bye to the outgoing CLT.

Each one of them is getting ready to leave Brussels:

On December 20th 2014 Sr. Gemma Rose Minj and Sr. Leela Muthu will return to India, followed by Sr. Margaret O'Brien who will return to US on January 1st 2015.

We thank them once again for their presence and their service to the Congregation and wish them God's Blessings as they continue their journey.

The United Nations has chosen a theme for 2015:

The International Year of Light

The Opening Ceremony of *the International Year of Light* will take place in Paris on Jan 19 and 20, 2015.

The theme of light was chosen by the United Nations to raise awareness of how optical technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to worldwide challenges in energy, education, agriculture, communications and health."

During the year, there will be activities on national, regional and international levels. Activities will be planned so that people of all ages and all backgrounds can gain an appreciation for the central role of light in science and culture.

The emphasis on Light, development and the advancement of sustainable development challenges us all to look for solutions to the lack of light in many parts of the world.

The importance of light as a principle symbol in our faith was emphasized by Pope Francis on the occasion of the lighting of the Christmas tree in Vatican Square, he said, "The lights glowing on the Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square, like Christmas lights everywhere, are reminders that Jesus is the light of the world."

During his pastoral visit to Assisi, Pope Francis was asked what the Church must strip away. And he replied: "[Strip away] every action that is not for God, is not of God; strip away the fear of opening the doors and going out to encounter all, especially the poorest of the poor, the needy, the remote, without waiting. Certainly not to get lost in the shipwreck of the world, but to bear with courage the light of Christ, the light of the Gospel, even in the darkness, where one can't see, where one might stumble.

The Vatican's envoy to the United Nations strongly hinted that Pope Francis would visit New York next year to address world leaders at the General Assembly. The UN turns 70 next year, so it would be the ideal time for the Pope's visit since Secretary General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations has invited him.

Sr. Jane Quinlan, osu

From Tezpur Province

1. First Profession



The 8th of December, 2014, was a great day of rejoicing for the Province. Our two Novices, **Sr. Jubita Mardi** and **Sr. Shushila Runda**, made their First Profession during a solemn Eucharist in the presence of two bishops, 20 priests, other religious, many Ursulines and family members. Everybody was

filled with joy and happiness and after the Agape all went home contented. We thank and praise the Lord for the gift of two new members to the Province and to the Congregation.

2. Silver Jubilee



Spiritual preparation programme from 28th Oct. - 28th Nov. 2014 was held successfully at Ursuline Provincialate, Gotlong, Tezpur. The concluding Mass was concelebrated by the Bishop of Tezpur, Rt. Rev. Bp. Michael Akasius Toppo, DD and neighbouring priests. Dinner followed the Eucharist.

The 15 Silver Jubilarians all agreed that during this spiritual Preparation programme they were led on their inward journey, acknowledging their gratefulness to the Lord for His unconditional love and mercy. Having time to listen to God, they deeply experienced a gradual purification and transformation. It was a time of renewal of a deeper relationship with God and a readiness to proclaim his goodness. The Eight Day Retreat at the Benedictine Fathers' Monastery was a unique moment of intimacy with the Lord. The perpetual adoration and peaceful atmosphere of the monastery was the source of experiencing God's gracious blessings. The Sisters were very happy to come together and praise God with the Psalmist-**"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, I will tell of all thy wonderful deeds"**. - PS.9:1.

From United States Province:



CONGRATULATIONS!

Sister Edith Menegus, OSU

We are very happy to announce that Sister Edith, the Director of Pastoral Care at St. Charles Hospital, Port Jefferson, Long Island, New York, has been selected as a Finalist for the 2014 **Patrick J. Scollard Leadership**

Award presented by Catholic Health Services of Long Island.

Talented leadership is the cornerstone of successful organizations and the Staff at St. Charles is very grateful to Sister Edith's colleagues who have chosen to



recognize her for her contributions to Catholic Health Services of Long Island. Recognizing and supporting the efforts of values-based leaders like Sister Edith, ensures the hospital staff of continued success in meeting their mission to the people of the communities they serve.

We congratulate Sister Edith for this honor and we wish her good success as she continues to serve Catholic Health Services and St. Charles Hospital.

ON THE WINGS OF HOPE
"Maxed Out Drug Prevention" Event
ST. URSULA CENTER, BLUE POINT, NY

Sunday afternoon, December 14, was a special day at St. Ursula Center, Blue Point. At 4:00 pm, members of the Maxed Out Drug Prevention Program, welcomed approximately 100 people to a free community event that is designed to provide spiritual support and increased awareness. As all participants arrived, they gathered in the Convent Chapel for a "Prayer Service of Hope."

The Wings of Hope event is organized by Dorothy Johnson to bring increased awareness to drug prevention. Dorothy's son, Maxwell, died of a drug overdose three years ago, and Dorothy has since founded *Maxed Out Drug Prevention* in an effort to help fight the epidemic to which so many young people are exposed.

Following the Prayer Service, everyone present enjoyed light refreshments and then went outside for the Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates are very happy to support Dorothy's efforts to raise drug prevention awareness by making our property at St. Ursula Center available for this annual event.