

# **Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk**



## **E-News - February 2015**

### **From Congregation Leadership:**

The General Chapter theme - *Live Contemplative Spirituality for Mission Today* provides direction to us as the new Congregation Leadership Team. We recognize our role in assisting all our members in bringing that vision to reality

As we undertake our ministry of service to the Congregation, we feel the presence and support of each other through modern technologies. We have kept in contact through SKYPE, phone calls and email.

Together we have been able to listen carefully to each other during this time of personal transition as each of us is preparing for the move to Belgium. Common difficulties and delays in obtaining a permanent visa have been shared.

Nirmala and Bimla will attend the three chapters in India. The Chapters begin on January 26th and end on February 9th. They will be held in Ranchi, Gumla and Ambikapur.

The meeting of the four Indian Province Leadership Teams with the Congregation Leadership Team will take place in the Provincialate, Gumla on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015.

The Extended Council will be held in Brussels at the Generalate from April 14 to 18<sup>th</sup>. Detailed preparations for the meetings have been set in place with the aid of Sr Ellen Doyle, our facilitator.



### **From Gumla Province**

**Foundation Day Celebration in  
Angela Niwas Sitagarha  
(Hazaribagh)**

Hazaribagh Diocese has a beautiful custom of inviting all the religious, priests and some of the leaders of the Church together at least once a year for a celebration.



This year Sisters of Angela Niwas chose Foundation Day, January 13 instead of January 27, the feast of St Angela. It may be due to this reason that the day attracted more guests than other years.

There were nearly fifty guests, representing nearly all the Institutes in Sitagarha and Hazaribagh. Twenty five tertians and twenty one newly vested postulants together with seven staff members celebrated the anniversary of the arrival of four Belgium Pioneers: Srs. Anthony, Gonzaga, Ursula and Sabine on January 13, 1903 in Ranchi, Jharkhand, known as Chatanagpur then.

The welcoming group of tertians and postulants greeted the guests at the main door by washing their hands and putting kumkum on their foreheads.

By 7.00 P.M. our refectory was filled with the invited priests and religious men and women from Sitagarha Parish. Before dinner Sr. Rose Usha Kujur, the leader of the house, welcomed the guests warmly.

The postulants presented a devotional prayer dance. Then the tertians and postulants together prayed a melodious welcome song. This was followed by a beautiful inspiring tableau staged by the tertians under the guidance of the tertian directress Sr. Edith Soreng.

The tableau was presented in two parts. The first one, before supper, led the audience to Tildonk (Belgium) to witness what happened on the eve of the departure of the four dynamic and zealous daughters of Belgium who bade farewell to their beloved ones. The second scene was the last Benediction ceremony. Three appropriate hymns were sung: "Star of the Sea and Ocean, Maria", "Sacred Vows that Bind to Jesus", and "Benedictus." The audience was moved to tears and everyone was touched at the final good bye.

The costumes of the pioneers had a great impact on the onlookers. The veils and habits were worth admiring. They were made from blue window curtains.

It was quite amazing and humorous when some of the tertians and postulants, dressed in their pioneers' habits, were mistaken as four Sisters of a new congregation who were guests of the day.

Hot soup was served in between the scenes. The guests and the inmates of Angela Niwas enjoyed delicious food prepared under the direction of Sr. Rosely.

The second scene was shown after dinner. All members present went out to the portico of the house. This part enacted the four pioneers' arrival at Ranchi by a push-push cart pulled and pushed by men.

The two Loretto Nuns and Daughters of St. Anne welcomed them. It was interesting to watch and hear the conversation of men and the new comers.

Their language and gestures symbolized that they brought light and dispelled the darkness of illiteracy and ignorance, especially to the poor people of Chotanagpur.

The lighting of a bonfire and dancing around it, was a reminder of the time of their arrival at 9.00 p.m. The guests were very happy and grateful to get some information about the Ursuline Congregation in India. Everyone dispersed joyfully having received a calendar to commemorate the day.

### From Ranchi Province

#### ***ENTRANCE OF 24 POSTULANTS, RANCHI PROVINCE, 2015***



Our 24 Postulants had their solemn entrance on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2015 at the Ursuline Formation House, Khunti. Sr. Eve Justina Romould, Provincial and Sr. Suchita Councillor, accepted them and blessed them. The Community Leader Sr. Shakuntala and all other sisters of the Formation House and sisters of Ursuline Convent, Khunti also blessed them by their

very presence and prayers. The entrance ceremony started with a candle procession and meaningful hymn. The Postulants were happy to offer themselves to the Lord. They individually offered prayers and surrendered themselves. Messages were given by Sr. Eve and Sr. Suchita with the examples of Vine and the Branches. With that they were filled with joy and were encouraged to love Christ more dearly and follow Him more closely. It was indeed very encouraging to see this young group, who are ready to serve the Lord. After the entrance ceremony they were brought to the refectory for congratulations. They were given flowers for their hair and welcome songs were sung by all the sisters present there. And then we all had delicious snacks with tea. May the Lord send the workers as the harvest is full. Kindly pray for their good formation and perseverance in their vocation.