

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - August 2015

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From Congregation Leadership

Dear Holy Father Francis,

We, the religious women and men working at the United Nations, want to welcome you to New York, USA. There are over 70 congregations of women and men religious working here as Non-Governmental Organization Representatives (NGOs) – part of the civil society network who seek to promote systemic change at the UN. We collaborate on global issues of common concern such as nuclear disarmament, human trafficking, women, human and earth rights, basic education for all and climate change.

Our congregations have a presence in more than 153 countries. We work with hundreds of other faith based NGOs from all over the world—Greek and Russian Orthodox, Baha'i, Buddhist, Quakers, many Protestant denominations and the Indigenous World to name a few. In our experience of coming together in a common ministry we manifest the faithfilled oneness to which the Gospel calls us.

Thank you for all you are doing to call attention to the social, spiritual, environmental, and economic needs of the world. Again, we welcome you to our world and hope you have a rich, productive visit to New York and the USA.

Sincerely,

The Women and Men Religious at the United Nations

(We as an Ursuline NGO affiliated with the UN participate in this group)

Announcement:

Belgium: After the passing away of Sr. Ann Cuppens, Sr. Hildegarde Verherstraeten has been appointed as responsible for the Province until the next Provincial Chapter in May 2016. The office of the Provincial Superior has been moved to Borgerhout.

The e-mail address is provincialaat.borgerhout@telenet.be

The office of the secretary, Liselotte Claes remains in Scherphenheuvel with the e-mail address - secretariaat.scherphenheuvel@gmail.com.

U.S. Province

Water With Blessings

Since 2009, Water With Blessings has brought more than 2,000 military-grade water filters to impoverished areas around the globe, specifically into the hands of mothers.

In the wake of the devastating earthquake in Nepal, a Catholic sister in Louisville, Kentucky, is doing her part to bring clean water to impacted areas.

Ursuline Sister Lorraine Lauter, founder of Water With Blessings, sprang into action shortly after seeing footage of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck a mountainous region near the capital city of Kathmandu, April 25, 2015. "In times of emergency, people start thinking you got to have the pros in there. Well, the mother is a pro. She's a survival pro. She's going to make sure her children and children around her drink clean water if it's available, so we target mothers," Lauter said.

June 26 - 28, 2015 - Province Weekend

At our Province Weekend, several Sisters and Associates made a contribution to Water With Blessings. Eight water filters will be sent to the people of Nepal in the name of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk. With proper care, the system is useable for at least a decade, and can filter a million gallons of water or 500 gallons daily.

Ave Maria Catholic Academy

AMCA welcomed Sr. Mary Lou (Jerome) Tressy osu back to Our Lady of Grace last weekend to present the first annual "Ursuline Award" to Michael Antonino at this year's graduation ceremony. The award was instituted by AMCA's Catholic Identity Team in celebration of the

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Year of Consecrated Life, and to highlight the contributions of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk's contributions to Our Lady of Grace Parish in staffing the school for 75 years. Sr. Mary Lou spoke of the history of the Ursulines at OLG. The award is given to a student who provides Christian service to the community in the spirit of the Ursulines. Congratulations, Michael, on achieving this award!

Ursuline Heritage

Our Ursuline internationality is a treasure. It means that we personally know people in many different countries. It is always amazing to me that the little Company of St. Ursula, founded by St. Angela in 1535, has expanded to forty-three branches of Ursulines today, present on every continent except Antarctica. Maybe someday we'll be there.

Did you know there are 10 different groups of Ursulines in the US?

Marie Madeleine Hachard was one of the fearless band of French Ursulines who crossed the Atlantic on the *Gironde*, arriving in 1727 in New Orleans. The youngest of the 12 nuns was a 20 year old novice. Marie Madeleine wrote long, detailed letters to her father in Rouen while on board ship and after landing in New Orleans.

This painting depicts the landing of the nuns. Marie Madeleine described the ordeals they faced on board ship, as well as life in Louisiana in the early 18th century. The local patriarchal civil authorities didn't know how to relate to a group of women who were not subject to male authority.

The education of women, black and white, slave and free, was the focal point of their ministry. They quickly began a school for the education of girls, ran an orphanage, ministered in the military hospital, and were catechists.

Fast-forward to the 21st century, where the influence of that small group of French Ursulines continues to spark ongoing "French Connections." Ursuline Academy New Orleans continues the 287-year tradition of educating young women to meet the needs of our time. Today both here and in France, Ursulines carry on their legacy and take courage from their witness.

- BY SR. JEAN IN INTERNATIONALITY, URSULINE HERITAGE

Pastoral Care of Indigenous Peoples in Guyana

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on August 9 each year to promote and protect the [rights of the world's indigenous population](#). This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that [indigenous people](#) make to improve world issues such as [environmental protection](#).

In Guyana four of our Sisters from the Ranchi Province team up with seven Jesuits to form a valuable presence among the [Amerindian communities](#) in Guyana. The Jesuit mission stretches back over a century and today reaches 60 villages.

Scattered across the Pakaraima Mountains and Rupununi savannah, and straddling the border with Brazil, the Wapishana, Macushi and Patamona villages welcome members of the team for the celebration of the sacraments and pastoral formation.

The visits are greatly appreciated as they offer some stability amidst an otherwise rapidly changing and uncertain world. In recent years the small indigenous communities have suffered from increasing fragmentation. Many of their young people leave in search of income, usually to the gold or diamond mines of Guyana, or to the agro-industrial -projects across the border in Brazil.

Ranchi Province

Women Preventing Violent Extremism Summit



At the very outset I would like to express my sincere thanks to US Consulate Kolkata for nominating me to represent India at the U.S State Department funded program on "Women Preventing Violent Extremism," June 6-

21, 2015. I also thank my Provincial Superior Sister Suchita for allowing me to be part of this wonderful program. I thank Sister Julia for her support and encouragement to accept the invitation.



We were 25 women from around the world to talk and share about women, violent extremism and terrorism. The program was organized in three different places - Washington DC,

New York and San Francisco, California. In every state we had meetings and sharing with government officials, civil society organizations, NGOs on radicalization, extremism and terrorism. It was a unique experience to be in these great cities. I learned about the American culture and people to some extent. Among all three

locations, I liked San Francisco, California the most. This program gave me an opportunity to not only talk about the fantastic work that we are doing but also to meet and share with participants across the world on how to create a difference amidst challenging circumstances to counter women Violent Extremism to build a peaceful and just society. At the end of the program we formed a network WaE (Women and Extremism) to share and support the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) work we will be doing in our respective countries. This important program reflects the US. Department of State's continued commitment to engage civil society and local communities in these efforts.

- Sr. Ranjita Kindo

Entrance of the new candidates, 2015

Dear sisters, God has blessed us this year with 26 candidates who were welcomed officially on **30th June 2015** at 03.00 p.m. Sr. Suchita Shalini Xalxo invited them at the entrance of Formation House Khunti to offer themselves to God by giving them each a flower. There was a meaningful prayer service. Postulants gave message of Jesus to the newcomers "COME AND SEE" through a small skit from the gospel. They expressed their joy and gratitude as each one knelt and said the prayer of offering. Formators and postulants are very happy to

welcome them in their community. Sr. Suchita Shalini Xalxo, Sr. Matilda Dungdung, Sr. Dorothea Kullu, some sisters from the community together with Formation House Community witnessed this joyful event. We wish God's blessings and good health to persevere in their vocation. Let us accompany them through our prayers.



Tezpur Province

God's blessings are innumerable! Two such great divine blessings for Tezpur Province are the entrance ceremony of our eleven candidates into postulancy on 12th June, 2015, at Kartick, W.B. Secondly 21 Aspirants into candidacy on 7th July, 2015 at Ursuline Provincialate, Tezpur, Assam. God has shown his immense love to our province and has gifted us formees from different states namely Assam, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bengal. With our hearts so full of praise we thank those who became mediator in helping these formees in recognizing God's plan for them.



We invoke God's choicest blessings on all of them. May Jesus & our founders continue to be their inspiration, guide & perseverance in life.

Jubilarians 2015

70 years in Religious Life:

Belgium Province

1. Sr. Ignace Vermeersch
2. Sr. Myriam Daemen
3. Sr. Ursule De Cat
4. Sr. Mechtilde Schijvens
5. Sr. Leonarda Joris

60 years in Religious Life:

Belgium Province

6. Sr. Ann Lemmens
7. Sr. Annette Vinckx

USA Province:

1. Sr. Mary Lou Tressy

50 Years in Religious Life:

Ranchi Province:-

1. Sr. Carmelita Bage
2. Sr. Nirmala Minj
3. Sr. Rosalia Lakra

Gumla Province:-

1. Sr. Lorenza Dungdung
2. Sr. Shalini Tigga
3. Sr. Vianney Thadathil
4. Sr. Marina Ekka

Tezpur Province:

1. Sr. Alberta Horo

25 Years in Religious Life:

Ranchi Province:

1. Sr. Josephine Bhengra
2. Sr. Angela Dolorosa Lakra
3. Sr. Anna Kujur
4. Sr. Jacinta Kerketta
5. Sr. Amrita Ekka
6. Sr. Dorothea Kullu

Gumla Province:

1. Sr. Stella N. Lakra

Ambikapur Province

1. Sr. Josepha Ekka
2. Sr. Susanna Bara

Tezpur Province:

1. Sr. Nirmala Kerketta