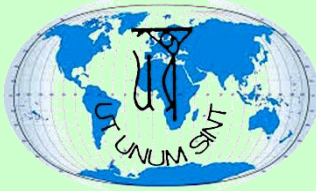


Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - March 2015

Pope Francis' 2015 "[Message for Lent](#)"

The Vatican released Pope Francis' 2015 "[Message for Lent](#)", and its focus is on fighting indifference in all its manifestations in the Church – in the institutional Church, in parishes and dioceses, and in ourselves. Pope Francis emphasized the need for all Catholics to reach out to those in the peripheries, and to not become self-referential or self-centered. We become more like Christ, he said, by hearing the Word of God, receiving the sacraments, letting ourselves be touched by the love of the Father and by uniting with others in prayer. We can overcome indifference, he added, by using Lent as an opportunity to form our hearts.

The pope's message said, in part:

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a "time of grace" (2 Cor 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. ...

Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. ...

Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ. In this body there is no room for the indifference which so often seems to possess our hearts. For whoever is of Christ, belongs to one body, and in him we cannot be indifferent to one another. "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy" (1 Cor 12:26)....

Every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who



are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people....

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 31). A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others. ...

From Congregation Leadership:

The Congregational Leader Sr. Bimla Minj and Assistant Sr. Nirmala Kujur were present for all the three **Province Chapters** of Ambikapur, Gumla and Ranchi.

The New Leadership Teams:-

Ambikapur Province:	Sr. Ursula Xalxo -	Province Leader
	Sr. Philomena George -	Councilor
	Sr. Florencia Samad -	Councilor
	Sr. Mary Rose Tigga -	Councilor



Sr. Ursula Xalxo, Sr. Philomena George, Sr. Florencia Samad, Sr. Mary Rose Tigga

Gumla Province:	Sr. Maria Swarnlata Kujur	Province Leader
	Sr. Anna Minj	Councilor
	Sr. Kumudini Tirkey	Councilor
	Sr. Mukta Margaret Topno	Councilor
	Sr. Anita Jyoti Lakra	Councilor



Sr. Anna Minj, Sr. Kumudini, Sr. Maria, Sr. Anita, Sr. Mukta

Ranchi Province

Sr. Suchita Shalini Xalxo
Sr. Matilda Dungdung
Sr. Dorothea Kullu
Sr. Eileen Kujur
Sr. Helen Bara
Sr. Mary Grace Toppo

Province Leader
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor



Sr. Helen Bara, Sr. Dorothea, Sr. Suchita, Sr. Matilda, Sr. Mary Grace, Sr. Eileen

We congratulate the newly elected Leadership Teams of the Indian Provinces for their courage and offer them our prayerful support. We thank and appreciate them for their generous response to this unique call to leadership. May St. Angela Merici and Father John Lambertz lead and guide them as they carry out their task every day.

Thank You:-

Dear Sisters and all the well wishers, I express my deep gratitude to you for your prayers for my dear father Theophil Minj who passed away on February 9, 2015.

The health of my father was deteriorated in October 2014. There was no proper diagnosis of his sickness. His blood count was very low. He lost his weight and became very weak. In the month of October - November 2014, he suffered from cold and cough. Last November I got the message that he was very serious. I was encouraged by Sr. Margaret O'Brien and the sisters from the Generalate

community to visit him. I am very grateful for this opportunity to be with my father and to serve him. In January 2015, before the Provincial Chapters in India, I visited him again. He was fully conscious till the end of his life. He could speak and follow the conversation. He used to ask what life would be like in the other end. Would he meet my grandfather, uncle and aunt who have gone to heaven? After all three Provincial Chapters were over he was called by his beloved. It is very comforting for me that I was in India.

In the name of my family members, I express my gratitude to you for your prayers during his sickness and for the repose of his soul. Thank you for accompanying us in our moments of loss and grief by your presence and encouraging words through e-mails and phone-calls. I thank you for all those who could attained the funeral Mass and accompanied us on the final journey of my father. May he experience the fullness of life. Please continue to pray for us and especially for my mother who feels the absence of my father.

- Sr. Bimla Minj

US Province

CELEBRATING HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND 90 + + + +!

On Sunday, January 18, 2015, 25 Sisters and friends celebrated Sister Carmel Ruth's 98th birthday! The day included a special prayer for Carmel, a delicious



dinner, and much fun and laughter. A highlight of the celebration was when the Sisters present who are in their nineties, were invited to come forward to take a picture with Sister Carmel.

Sr. Monica Kevin, Sr. Carmel Ruth, Sr. Cecilia Moloughney, Sr. Ursula Leibold.



CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDERS

On Saturday, January 31, 2015, approximately 25 Sisters and Associates gathered at St. Ursula Center in Blue Point to celebrate our Founders, Saint Angela Merici and Father John Lambertz.

In the morning, Sister Helen Chasse introduced the theme of the day, "The Foundational Experiences of Jesus, Angela, and John." After listening to the readings which focused on the foundational experiences, we proceeded to the Chapel to reflect on one of our own foundational experiences, a time when we experienced the presence of God's in-breaking in our life.

The afternoon was very profound and beautiful. Sister Laurentine Morgan had prepared a PowerPoint presentation composed of images of Angela, John, the Sisters, and Associates. The images were accompanied by music ... "listen with the ear of your heart, the voice of your God is calling" ... "united as one ... one heart ... one soul." The Sisters and Associates present then shared their responses to the visual. All were deeply moved by the pictures and the words on the screen at the end ... **"We reflect the face of God to the world."**

As a souvenir of the day, each one received a laminated bookmark with an image of Angela accompanied by her words: "Love and harmony are a sure sign that one is on the right road and pleasing to God." (10th Legacy), and an image of John Lambertz with his words: "I wish you would all, with union among you ... give beautiful example to one another with great courage: may 'love' which is the bond uniting you never be broken ..." (Letter to the Sisters of Herk-de-Stad, January 9, 1865). This gift was prepared by Sister Laurentine and Sister Joanne Callahan.

Sister Laurentine also gave each one a remembrance leaflet. The content included: Angela Merici, John Lambertz, Angela and Vision, and excerpts from the General Chapter Direction Statement, 2014. One final gift, prepared by Susanne Wolfe, our Province Administrative Assistant, was distributed ... a beautiful booklet of reflections about John Lambertz, which had been written throughout the year by members of the Charism Circle.

What a beautiful day! Inspiring, informative, and abundantly gifted with presence and presents!