

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - April 2016

From Congregation Leadership

Extended Council Meeting

The Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) is looking forward to the 2016 Extended Council Meeting to be held in Brescia at Casa S. Angela from April 4-10th. Sister Ellen Doyle, OSU, will serve as the facilitator.

The annual Extended Council Meeting provides the members valuable time together to plan for the future. This leads to a deeper understanding of each Province/ Vice Province. The 2014 General Chapter sets the direction for their exchange of ideas and planning.

Angela's vision for non-cloistered religious

During the Extended Council the Sisters will have Mr. Querciolo Mazzonis, the author of Spirituality, Gender, and the Self in Renaissance Italy -Angela Merici and the Company of St. Ursula (1474-1540) as a guest speaker. He has done extensive research on Angela's vision of a religious vocation for non-cloistered "Brides of Christ."

In her day Angela was respected for her mysticism, sacred knowledge, and participation to civic life. Angela's originality and genius were most evident in the foundation of the Company of St. Ursula, because there she put her theology into practice. She translated her spiritual ideas and experience into a defined model of religious life for other women.

Upcoming Events

The principle responsibility of the General Government is to promote the growth of the Congregation through participation in important national and international meetings. Members of the Leadership Team will be participating in three important national and international meetings this spring and summer: UISG (International Union of Superior Generals) in Rome in May, the Ursuline Convocation in Louisville KY in July and LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) Meeting in August.

UN News

International Women's Day March 8

This year the theme was focused on how to build momentum ("Step It Up!") for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals—especially those dealing with gender equality ("Planet 50-50 by 2030"), women's empowerment, and human rights. It was an exciting day at the UN, full of energy and strong women!

International Day of Families

Highlighting the importance of families as basic units of society, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 15 of every year as the International Day of Families. The day reflects the importance that the international community attaches to families as basic units of society as well as its concern regarding their situation around the world.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon said: "On this International Day of Families, I call on governments, civil society, families and individuals to support initiatives that bring people together across generations toward building a healthier world for all."

Resource

Two NGO groups who are active in RUN (Religious at the UN) have produced a wonderful resource: a handbook on "*Making Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty*." See <http://franciscansinternational.org/handbook/> There you will find links to an introductory video with subtitles in English, and French. For 2016 they are considering pilot implementation / trainings in six countries, tentatively: Benin, Kenya, India, Philippines, Argentina, and Bolivia. They will be very glad to hear any feedback or suggestions for increasing the dissemination and use of this resource.

From Ranchi Province

APNA GHAR

The Old Age Home (Apna Ghar) is a joint effort of Ursuline Sisters of Ranchi Province and the Government of Jharkhand to give a shelter and proper care to old, abandoned and helpless women of the society.

The home for the old women is built and maintained by the state government. It is built on the premises of Ursuline Convent Hesag, 12 kms away from the main city of Ranchi. It is a brick building with 26 beds and other required infrastructures to give the best service to the inmates. The social welfare department of the state government bears the expenses for food, clothing, medicine and other temporal needs of these old mothers.



Sr. Wineeta, Sr. Emma, Sr. Jane, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Roshni, two assistants, Sr. Pulcheria pictured with the women who reside in Apna Ghar.

At present there are 25 old mothers residing in Apna Ghar. Among them 6 are in a very miserable condition that they fully depend for their needs on others. Sister Emma Ekka, aged 74 years, is in-charge of Apna Ghar. She is at their service 24 hours a day. She has a team of 3 girls and a guard to assist her for cooking and feeding them, washing clothes, giving bath, cleaning their rooms etc. Sister Pulcheria Dungdung assists Sr. Emma in administrative work and Sr. Augustina is a full time counselor.

There is a dispensary in the compound with a full time trained nurse and a visiting doctor for their medical care. An ambulance with a driver is always available at their service. Mothers who are able, attend Holy Mass daily in the Convent Chapel. They follow a feasible time - table. They are served nourishing food as per their diet. Living together helps them to be respectful and thoughtful to each other. The visits by school children, family members, volunteers, social workers and department officials give them much joy and a sense of belongingness to the society.

The favorable atmosphere, the motherly care and accompaniment given by our sisters and others certainly heal them of their pain and hurts. They live a very joyful and happy life. Nothing bothers them, not even death, for they have found an abode where all will be well.

Sister Matilda

Asha Kiran a Shelter Home for girls

We adapt to the needs of our times and we become messengers of joy, peace and hope especially to the vulnerable.



2014 General Chapter Direction Statement Our Sisters who staff Asha Kiran Shelter Home in Fudi, Jharkhand know about vulnerable girls. They have heard stories of defenseless girls who have endured dangerous situations of human trafficking, child labor and rescued from unsafe domestic working conditions.

Through the initiative of the Ranchi Ursuline Society and the Jharkhand Domestic Workers' Trust girl children are provided counseling, basic needs and formal and vocational education.

During our visit to The Shelter Home, I was moved to tears as I listened to a success story of one girl. When she was reunited with her father after having been exposed to abuse for 9 years, he cried and said, "We never thought we'd see her again."

The Sisters do not count the hours they devote to rehabilitating the girls socially and economically. They just keep on providing a ray of hope to the girls as they provide what they need to live a dignified life in society.

Sr. Jane Quinlan

From US Province

Our Ursuline Associates

Associate membership is a calling of women and men to a non-vowed participation in the mission of the Ursuline Sisters, which is the mission

from left to right: Joan Eliseo, Maureen Fulford, Barbara Stauffer, Linda Siani, Dennis Doherty, Barbara Tubito-Megara, Kathy



of Jesus. It is a covenanted relationship based on the sharing of Ursuline ideals, goals, and charism. The Sisters and Associates are mutually enriched through the sharing of gifts, spiritual support, and strength for mission within the Church.

Through the example and intercession of St. Angela and Fr. John Lambertz, Sisters and Associates are a source of encouragement and inspiration to each other while being faithful to the lifestyle to which each has been called. The Associate members are an integral part of the Province.

The Associate Membership Team is responsible for the preparation of prayer gatherings and the formation of new members. Team members help to foster community by keeping all seventeen Associates informed of Community and Associate news through personal and phone contacts as well as a newsletter.

From URSULINE ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Our Founders

On a beautiful sunny Saturday, January 30th, forty Sisters and Associates enjoyed coffee, friendship and conversation. Sr. Laurentine offered a slide presentation highlighting St. Angela Merici, Rev. John Lambertz, Mother Stanislaus and Mother Madeleine. Through readings we were presented with transition times in their lives. In quiet reflection we were asked to think of what touched us from these transitions. We were asked to reflect on change or transition in our lives that opened new opportunities or possibilities and what transitional gifts we received from these experiences.

I loved Sr. Cecilia's personal experiences, memories and reflections of Mother's Stanislaus and Madeleine! For me, it was so rich and moving.

At lunch, a delicious meal was shared by all. We had the opportunity to enjoy warm companionship and continue the excellent conversations begun in the morning!

The Associates celebrated the Renewal of Associates Covenants. The Sisters were invited to light their candle as they entered the Chapel and place it on the altar. Bernice Madden, Associate, unable to be present, celebrated a permanent covenant and Kathy Berger, Associate, ill with the flu, renewed her covenant. They were with us in spirit! The Associates were invited to light their candles and come to the altar for the renewal invocation.

After reciting the "Prayer During Time of Transition" we heard the beautiful closing song "Butterfly". There was a trellis on the front of the altar covered with delightfully delicate and colorful butterflies. We were invited to approach the altar and received a butterfly of our choice and a beautiful bookmark in commemoration of the day.

Kathleen Smith Ursuline Associate

Religious Life talks

It was a pleasure to represent our Ursuline Sisters and join with three other religious communities to give classroom presentations on Religious life to students at Ave Maria Catholic Academy (formerly Our Lady of Grace). I shared many happy memories of a fine school which the Ursulines staffed for many years in Howard Beach, New York.



Sister Mary Lou Tressy

Important days in May

Saint Marie of the Incarnation - a builder of unity in diversity



On April 30, the Church celebrates the life and witness of Saint Marie of the Incarnation, founder of the Ursulines in New France and of a convent school to educate girls. Daughters of both the French settlers and Aboriginal Peoples were educated together, sharing the same table and the same dwelling.

Her canonization by Pope Francis on April 3, 2014, coincided with the 375th anniversary of her arrival in what is today Quebec City.

St. Catherine of Siena - influential saint in the Church.

St. Catherine was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. Her feast day is April 29th.

She established a monastery for women in 1377 outside of Siena. She is credited with composing over 400 letters, her Dialogue, which is her definitive work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is one of the most popular saints in the Church. St Angela had great devotion to her.

Apostolic Nuncio Visits Goma



The diocese of Goma had the great pleasure of welcoming the Apostolic Nuncio to the DR Congo, LUIS Mariano Montemayor, from the 17th to the 20th of February. He visited Goma Center and Kitchanga in the North Kivu Province.



On the 17th the Nuncio was welcomed by church officials from the North Kivu Province, representatives from the

United Nations, and members of the diplomatic corps, as well as many faithful Catholics. Even though it was a work day, an immense crowd turned out. The Christians from different parishes were on hand to joyfully welcome the Nuncio at the MONUSCO airport (UN Airport).

On the following day he encouraged the men and women religious who were present and laid out the purpose of his visit.

His words clearly outlined the purpose of his visit-

- ✚ To be a sign of encouragement to the people who have lived through a difficult period these past few months and to show in a concrete way, the Holy Father Pope Francis' loving concern and to make it clear that he follows what is happening in this region.
- ✚ To make contact with NONUSCO personnel because the Holy See strongly supports the presence of the UN mission in the country and in the region and the methods of working to meet the new distressing situations and especially working towards reinforcing State structures and to initiate lasting solutions.
- ✚ As the proverb says, like father like son, we can say that the Apostolic Nuncio has followed in the footsteps of Pope Francis, *man for the poor*. The poor were among the first to be visited. He went to the camp for displaced persons due to war in Kichanga, the Munzenze prison, the Dom Bosco orphanage and the

seminary in Buhimba. Along with the Christians of Goma, we are encouraged to hear that the representative of the Holy Father looks favorably on this smooth working relationship between the Catholic Church and MONUSCO for a durable peace.

- ✚ In fact the Catholic Church is called to work together with state officials because they have the responsibility of educating for peace and for choosing a vision of hope for the future.

The Nuncio concluded his visit by celebrating a Mass in the Adoration Sanctuary, followed by a meal with the representatives of USUMA, ASUMA, and FRADIGO at the Bakaja center.

Sr. Olga Ilunga