

Ursuline Sisters Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - September 2016

From the Congregation Leadership Team

The new Leadership Team of Congo Vice- Province

The Vice Province of the DR Congo Chapter was scheduled for August 16-19 in Goma. We thank you for the prayers for their successful Chapter. Sr. Bimla Minj Sr. Bernadette Mwavita and Sr. Nirmala Kujur from CLT were present for the Chapter.

The New leadership Team

Vice Provincial - Sister Esperance Hamuli

First Councilor - Sister Georgette Moya

Second Councilor - Sister Marie-Louise Zawadi

Third Councilor - Sister Olga Ilunga

Fourth Councilor - Sister Pascaline Mawazo



Left to right: Srs. Pascaline, Espérance, Marie-Louise, Georgette Moya and Olga

We congratulate and thank them for their joyful and courageous response to the call of God for the service of the Vice-Province. We wish them God's blessings and our prayerful support as they take up their new ministry of leadership for four years. May our Founders St. Angela Merici and Father John Lambertz accompany them every day in their leadership.

Peace Day September 21

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has dedicated the day to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The theme for 2016 is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace." More information is available at: [www.un.org/en/events/peace day](http://www.un.org/en/events/peace-day).

Visit to Quebec

On August 3 during a visit to Quebec City, in Canada, Sisters Mary Ellen and Jane enjoyed a pleasant afternoon with Sisters Anuarite and Benigna, our Sisters from the Congo who are beginning their second year of studies in Rimouski. Rimouski is about three hours from Quebec City.

The Sisters were warmly received by the Sisters of the Ursuline Monastery of the Canadian Union where Mary Ellen and Jane were staying.

The time together included a walk to the magnificent Basilica and the beautiful historic city on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. The afternoon ended in the tranquil enclosed convent garden, under the shade of a chestnut tree.

Sr. Jane observed, "We Tildonk Ursulines, felt at home in the international setting where we met Sisters who had spent time in Japan, Haiti, Philippines and Peru."



Sisters Jane and Anuarite, Benigna and Mary Ellen

News from the DR Congo

Trip to China

Sister Sylvie Ilunga participated in an international seminar on the education of women and girls. The event was in Beijing, China from June 4-8.

The trip began on May 26 from Kinshasa where she received her visa for China on June 1. She flew via Addis Ababa to Peking, and arrived at midnight. Sister Sylvie gave an account of her experience in China:

"Arriving at the airport, a man was waiting for me with a paper pinned on him with my name on it. Since I don't know Chinese, I couldn't express myself, so I made a sign showing that I was the person. In China most people speak Chinese, some speak English and no one speaks French.



After a two hour ride, we reached the hotel Munzi. The following day, June 3 we visited the National Museum of China for women and children, and on June 4 many speakers from Unesco addressed us.

During the following days we heard practical experiences of ways to further education of girls and women. The countries represented were Iran, Latin America, France, Madagascar, DR Congo (Collectif Alpha Ujuvi) Algeria, China, Japon.

On June 6, I represented our organization, Alpha Ujuvi, a local NGO whose aim is literacy. The theme of my talk was the method of educating young girls and women. I stressed two approaches: for women, learning useful ways to use reading and math skills will help in their daily lives, and for the young girls, reading skills will help them get a job. Our teaching is achieved through role play, stories, walks, pictures, etc.

The Unesco prize went to Indonesia and Zimbabwe. Each received \$50,000 to support their work. The ceremony included a spectacular display of dance and songs by girls in primary school.



I returned to Kinshasa on June 8th filled with appreciation for this experience : first the experience of traveling alone

to an unknown place, then for all I learned which makes me feel called to work hard for girls and women to have access to quality education. Finally I want to thank the congregation for offering me this opportunity to participate in this seminar."

Sœur Sylvie Ilunga

Literacy classes for Women

The South Kivu Province in the DR Congo still suffers from the effects of war. As a result of these unsettled times, the area is not peaceful.

When the Sisters in Bukavu recognized the needs of the women in the Military Camp called Camp Saio, they responded with enthusiasm. Women who live there are the wives of the soldiers and they often suffer from discrimination in the camp and in the local area. These and other conditions in the camp make it difficult for the women to earn money and have their voice heard in decisions.

At the base of this situation is a lack of ability to read and write, exposing the women to suffer from violence on many levels due to their lack of knowledge of their rights. Before the Sisters began to give lessons, many women were not informed of their

rights and how to gain them. They were simply expected to fulfill required duties. As a result they were prevented from fully participating in the various aspects of social life.



The literacy instructions allow the soldiers' wives to become aware of their situation and to understand and defend their lawful rights on many levels: social, economic, political and cultural. After 5 years of instructing women in the Camp, our Sisters are convinced that their apostolate is worthwhile.

Fifty women started the year in the literacy, sewing and micro credit classes. Twenty students completed the year's studies. Many had to drop out during the year for various reasons: transfer of their husbands, lack of ability to pay for the classes and lack of a meeting space when the Catholic Church was not available. An added factor to the low number of students is the lack of cooperation and support from the man in the camp who is responsible for the meetings.

News from Gumla Province

New Mission in Meerut Diocese

July 17, 2016 was a memorable day for the sisters who will work in the new mission in Jangethi parish. The day started with the recitation of the rosary at 7.30 a.m. followed by Holy Mass. The sisters could see the joy, unity and welcoming heart of the parishioners though they are few in number. Soon after Holy Mass



the parishioners welcomed the sisters by presenting a short program. The people are ready to co-operate at any time when the sisters are in need. In the name of Bishop Francis, the pastor, Fr. John welcomed the sisters.

Entrance Ceremony of the Candidates of Gumla Province

In this Year of Mercy God has blessed Gumla Province with many candidates. On June 25th, 38 candidates had an entrance ceremony in the chapel. Each candidate surrendered herself expressing her joy and gratitude to God for her vocation. Each one received the Manual prayer book to learn the prayers, and St. Angela's book to know about our Founder. Sr. Maria gave them the message to be faithful to their call and to be happy in life. She offered gratitude to their parents, too.



News from Ambikapur Province

Heavy Rain in Northern part of Chhattisgarh

48 hours of heavy rain in Balrampur, Surajpur and Koriya Districts caused by a heavy cyclone in the Bay of Bengal has seriously affected the Northern part of State Chhattisgarh. Balrampur, Surajpur and Koriya District rivers were flooded. Several bridges are broken and the road connecting to District Balrampur, Surajpur and Koreya have been badly damaged. Some of our communities, namely Ursuline Convent Bagra, Jhingo, Kodaura, Pratappur and Jagnathpur are like islands. The District officers are trying to repair the broken bridges and regularize the transport facilities. Till the roads and bridges are repaired we have no connection with these communities. We are very grateful to God that all our Sisters are safe and sound. All the hostel and school children are also safe. But a number of villages have been affected and many have lost their houses and their rice fields are washed away. Kindly pray for the people, our Sisters and especially for the villagers who are affected.

