

Ursuline Sisters Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - August 2016

From the Congregation Leadership Team:

Visit to Canada and the United States

It was an occasion of great joy for me to be with our six Sisters in Winnipeg. Sisters Joan, Joice, Mary and Lillian stay in the Despina Residence among different religious congregations of men and women and Sisters Gerarda and Juliette stay in the Taché nursing care.



Sr. Lillian, Sr. Joan, Sr. Mary and Sr. Joice

During my visit with them, I was deeply touched by their spirit of joy, gratitude and surrender as they looked back on the past, live in the present and look forward to the future. I experienced that the message of Pope Francis for the Year of Consecrated Life "to look to the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and embrace the future with hope" was being reflected in the day-to-day life of our Sisters even as they face the challenges of aging. There is respect, love and care for one another. I also experienced the statement from our General Chapter 2014 "We are called to live respectful, loving, caring, joyful, and Christ-centered community at each stage of life" is visible in them.

I noticed that the spirit of *Ut Unum Sint* is present in the residents of Despina Residence as they encounter one another at the daily Eucharistic celebration, meals and other activities. The unique presence and identity of the Ursulines of Tildonk, namely hospitality, generosity, love and care are being appreciated by all in the Despina Residence. This is their unique participation in the mission of the congregation. They feel being connected through prayers, contribution and communication with the rest of the congregation.



Sr. Joan Adams and Sr. Juliette Robidoux



Sr. Joan Adams and Sr. Gerarda De Roo

I also had the privilege of spending a few days with the sisters of Jamaica (Provincialate), Seafort and Blue Point after the Province Chapter. I was edified by their gracious hospitality and the sharing of their stories of the fruitful mission that reflect their sense of joy and gratitude to the congregation and their own call to the Ursuline Congregation.

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Front row: Srs. Mary Grace, Agnes, Cecilia, Carmel, Ursula
Back row: Srs. Alice and Anne

Sr. Cecilia Moloughney (100 years) and Sr. Carmel Ruth (99 years)



I would like to sum up my experience with this article from the *Fullness of Christ* - "Our elderly sisters are called to participate in the mission of the Congregation through their presence and wisdom and through their special ministry of prayer and sacrifice" (Our Mission, 25).

Sr. Bimla Minj

The new Leadership Team of USA Province

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

Province Leader: Sister Joanne Callahan

Province Councilors:

Sister Mary Ellen Theriault—First Councilor

Sister Laurentine Morgan—Second Councilor

Sister Edith Menegus—Third Councilor

The Vice Province of the DR Congo Chapter is scheduled for August 16-19 in Goma. We pray for them for their successful Chapter and ask God to bless them in all their endeavors, and we pray

specially for God's wisdom and guidance.

Sr. Bimla Minj Sr. Bernadette Mwavita

and Sr. Nirmala Kujur from CLT will be present for the Chapter. May their presence be a source of joy and blessings to all of them.



Srs. Edith, Laurentine, Joanne, Mary Theriault

USA Province

An award is given in appreciation of the many years of dedicated service by the Ursulins Sisters to the people of Our Lady of Grace Parish. It was awarded at the 8th grade graduation on June 13, 2016 to Robert Mastrandrea. Sr. Mary Lou Tressy,osu, presented the award and addressed the graduates telling them of the many experiences of the Sisters over their years in the Parish. Although no longer active in the school Sister Volunteers her services in the Parish Ministry of Care and Service.



New Ground:



A unique organization helping hundreds of Long Island's homeless, celebrates 25 years of breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and Veterans on Long Island. What started as a few Ursuline sisters providing a home to refugees from war-torn Central America in the late 80s, now helps hundreds of Long Island's homeless.

Early on, the sisters realized the magnitude of Long Island's homelessness and in order to have successful outcomes they needed to combine the disciplines of education and social work. The program designed became New Ground. Three Ursuline Sisters, Sr. Máiréad Barrett, founder, along with the late Sr. Mary Schramm, Sr. Catherine Talia and two Sisters from other congregations, created a home where those in need could find refuge. Five years later, in 1991, New Ground was founded. Over the years, several Ursuline Sisters have ministered to New Ground clients. Sr. Geraldine Conklin and Sr. Joan of Arc Spelman tutored both children and adults in English and reading. Sr. Valerie Heinonen and the late Sr. Eileen Gallagher served on the Board of Directors.

Through several programs, New Ground strives to provide affordable, low-income housing as well as educational, vocational and mental health support. New Ground assesses each individual and addresses issues preventing them from achieving independence, working to eliminate them one by one. Program participants are assisted with returning to school and/or vocational training to increase their earning potential. Parents receive guidance with financial education and budgeting, parenting skills, nutritional, medical and mental health challenges. In order to break the cycle for the following generation, New Ground makes advocating for children's education a priority. New Ground also works to meet the social needs of children through their "Special Memories Program." This program helps families celebrate holidays, create a positive atmosphere in the home and even gives each child an opportunity to attend summer camp. <http://www.newground.org>

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates of Tildonk strive to make God known and loved. We make a difference in society through the witness of our life profoundly rooted in God; a life of simplicity, harmony, mutuality and hospitality

World's Indigenous Peoples

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 recognizes the achievements and contributions that [indigenous people](#) make to



improve world issues such as [environmental protection](#). It was first pronounced by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994,

The symbol was by a boy from [Bangladesh](#). It features two ears of green leaves facing each other and cradling a globe resembling planet earth. Within the globe is a picture of a handshake (two different hands) in the middle and above the handshake is a landscape background. The handshake and the landscape background are encapsulated by blue at the top and bottom within the globe.

Words of Thanks:

**"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least openness to letting Him encounter them."
- Pope Francis, EvangeliiGaudium**

Our call to this international tertianship was an invitation by God expressed through our authorities for a renewed personal encounter with Jesus in which we experienced the mercy of God.

The classes, discussions and workshops on St. Angela's life have deepened our knowledge about our charism, and spirituality of our congregation. Nine days pilgrimage to Desenzano, Salo, Brescia and Venice enabled us to understand her life and her mission. Both of us deeply felt her presence as we walked in her footsteps. This pilgrimage left a special mark in our lives. We are inspired to love our mission and we learnt to be committed and adaptable in any situation.

We feel privileged to have gained a deeper understanding of our religious life, mission, evangelical councils, community life, and the importance of ongoing formation as we followed the comparative study of the Constitutions of both -Tildonk and Roman Union. The sharing by each individual on community life has convinced us of the practice of universal Ursuline values in each of our own way of living.

The class on "Called to Intimacy" filled us with a positive and healthy attitude towards human life, self, and our emotions. We studied various topics - Living in an International Community, St. John's Gospel, MisericordiaeVultus, Evangelie Gaudium. The days of silence, reflection and integration after each module helped us to personalize the teaching and gave us a new direction. The 30 days retreat was the time of intimacy and personal encounter with Jesus.

Besides these classes our living in an international community was a great period of learning. Listening and encountering one another in our daily life, taught us to respect, appreciate and cope with persons of different cultures and personalities. Our tertian community itself was a sign of God's presence. Although it was challenging, we experienced the support, acceptance, love, respect, appreciation and belongingness from each other. This always strengthened our unity in diversity.

We feel happy to share our experiences with you and we remember you all dear sisters with gratitude for your valuable support through your prayers.

Our special thanks to Sr. Bimla Minj, our General Superior, her assistants for all the arrangements and making this course possible to attend. We remain indebted to Sr. Joan and the sisters in Canada for their great contribution for this course. We owe our gratitude to our provincials and the councillors, past and present who gave us this opportunity to be part of this International Tertianship. We also cherish the 10 days of immersion period spent with our sisters of the Belgium Province. Our short stay in the Generalate community, Scherpenheuvel, Floordam, Melsbrook and the visit to Lier all were unique experiences. Thank you sisters.

We won't forget the kindness and help received from all the sisters of Patel Nagar Community, Delhi. Thank you.

We are glad to express our gratitude to God and to all the sisters of the congregation who accompanied us through their prayers. We remain ever grateful to you.

Sr. Victoria Baa osu
Sr. Mridula Tirkey osu

Thank You



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness is laid up for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but to all who crave His appearing... (2 Timothy 4: 7 - 8).

Dear Sisters, I express my gratitude to you for your prayerful support and the expressions of deep sympathy at the death of my beloved sister Alice Minj (Lakra). I also thank you on behalf of my mother, sister, brother, brother-in-law, niece and all the family members for accompanying them in their painful journey. In a special way, I thank the Ursuline Sisters and the Sisters of the Daughters of the Cross from India

who represented me and the Ursuline family at the funeral. My family is indebted to your compassionate presence.

My sister died at the age of 60. She suffered from heart disease for a couple of years. She spent her time in prayer, offering her suffering to Jesus while supporting my brother-in-law in the daily activities. The words of St. Paul to Timothy are a very appropriate way to express our good-bye to dear Alice. May she enjoy the fullness of life.

When I got the message of her passing away, I was attending the Ursuline Convocation in Louisville Kentucky, USA. I am grateful to 180 Ursuline Sisters present from different Ursuline Congregations including our Tildonk Ursulines and Associate members whose gentle presence, prayer and words of sympathy gave me much courage to accept the reality.

I join in prayer with all those who suffer the loss of their loved ones and grieve for them.

Sister Bimla Minj