

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - May 2016

John Lambertz Model of Mercy

On May 12 we think of our founder John Lambertz. He gave us an example of mercy in his life when he forgave the members of a sect called Stevenists, whose members believed they were "more Catholic than the Pope himself." Among this conservative legalistic group were parish priests and bishops whose influence among the local people was wide spread. The effect on the parish in Tildonk was disheartening to Fr. Lambertz.

Towards the close of the year 1845 John Lambertz went to his church one day and found his seven erring Stevenists kneeling before the altar in deep recollection. He welcomed them back to the parish. Tradition has it that.. *"For the time being, he seemed to have forgotten his parish of faithful sheep, in his joy at finding the few he had lost."*



Rev. John Lambertz

In the words of Sister Geraldine Conklin (US Province) from *A Snapshot in a Life*:

- ✚ There is no hint of reprisal for the many years the Stevenists caused havoc, pain and disruption, not only for Fr. Lambertz but for the parishioners of the Parish of Tildonk.
- ✚ There is no hint of regret for the time and energy expended mitigating the influence of this strong religious sect.
- ✚ There is no hint of relinquishing his efforts to reconcile the Stevenist families to the Church.

From Congregation Leadership

News of Extended Council

The Provincials and Congregational Leadership Team met at Casa S. Angela in Brescia from April 4-10. All were inspired to walk in Angela's footsteps and agreed it was an ideal place to meet. Under the professional guidance of Sr. Ellen Doyle, OSU, this year's meeting achieved its goal of covering all the agenda items. In keeping with the theme:

The Pilgrim's Contemplative Heart for Mission, a full day was allotted for a pilgrimage to Desenzano including Angela's birthplace in Le Grezze, and the place of her vision in Brudazzo. The members of the Extended Council appreciate the prayerful support of all the Provinces during their meeting days.



Srs. Maria, Ellen, Bimla, Jane, Suchita, Nirmala, Hildegarde, Catherine, Lucienne, Deodata, Ursula, and Bernadette

Attacks in Belgium

The Sisters living in Belgium are grateful for the messages of concern received after the terrorist attacks on the airport and metro on March 22. The tributes in the Place de la Bourse for the victims was heartwarming.



Srs. Nirmala, Jyoti and Jane add lighted candles to the tribute site.

From Congo Vice-Province

St. Angela Community in Bukavu inaugurates new chapel



"I rejoiced because they said to me, we will go up to the house of the lord." With this phrase from Ps. 122 we inaugurated our new chapel for the postulant Community of St Angela on Feb 20. The construction project began on Sept 7, 2015.

For quite some time we had felt the need for a larger chapel since the number of

sisters who live in the Maison Lambertz is growing. The old chapel held a maximum of 20 people, while the new one holds 60. The chapel is built in a simple yet prayerful style. It will accommodate our neighbors who sometimes find it hard to get to the parish church for daily Mass and the office.

Now they can join us and praise the Lord with us. This is a way for us to live our mission of making God known and loved. We believe that by having the Eucharist in our new chapel many people will come and will be touched by the Lord. We appreciate all the people who contributed their efforts: spiritual, financial, physical and moral to help us accomplish this work which will welcome the young women who will spend their postulancy in Bukavu.

Sœur Bernadette KAZIGE
Postulant Mistress

From Ambikapur Province

Solar Energy in Ambikapur Province

While in India Sr. Jane was impressed by the use of solar energy in our convents in remote areas and asked for an explanation of the advantages of using the sun's energy. Sr. Philomina has contributed the following information:

Because of solar light we have light 365 days a year. We use solar energy all through the year for computers, internet, lights, fans, coolers, etc. in the Provincialate and Kodaura. Bahora uses solar energy for pumping water, for TV and refrigerator and for other uses throughout the whole building. We have a local contributor who installs solar lights, water heaters, etc. for our state. We had some subsidy from last year, so compared to the whole amount it was cheaper. That is one reason we installed it in all our institutions.

We have been using solar energy since 1998 in all our convents, hostels and health centers. Many of our convents did not have electricity before that time. We also have solar energy for hot water. It is a real blessing for the houses in the villages. With the help of benefactors many students also got solar lights at home.

Some of the electricity costs have come down. The hostel children can study at night even when there is no electricity. The patients can also be treated at night without any difficulty. These are some of the advantages we are enjoying with solar energy.

Sr. Philomina George

From Ranchi Province

Pilgrimage in the year of Mercy

We the first year Novices of Ranchi Province along with our Mistresses went for a pilgrimage to Ulhattu on February 11, 2016.

This place is one of the famous pilgrimage centers where faithful from different destinations flock to pray for various intentions and to deepen their faith. This place is very historical because the Statue of Our Lady of Wisdom is kept in the Church and to which Fr. Constant Lievens prayed to save his holy vocation. Soon



after Ash Wednesday, going for a pilgrimage had a special meaning for our Lenten Season. We started our journey with the rosary, after reaching there we made the Way of the Cross followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a very meaningful Holy Mass. After receiving all these we experienced inner peace, joy and satisfaction. When we looked back on the day we felt that this was the day of deepening our faith and strengthening our own vocation. As a whole it was the day of blessings and graces for each one of us.

Resolution of the Health Personnel Adolescent health care in the tribal way of life

Sixty seven Sisters of the Health Commission belonging to the four Indian Provinces assembled at St. Ursula Hospital Lohardaga, from March 4-6 to deliberate upon the health related matters in view of making an effective intervention in the lives of the people.



"To be a medical personnel is a call within a call," said Sr. Suchita Shalini Xalxo, OSU, the Provincial of Ranchi. "Healing ministry is an integral element of proclaiming the Good News of Salvation today." While drawing from the comprehensive mission of Jesus, she distinguished "curing" from "healing." While the former signifies an "end of disease" the latter symbolizes an "experience" of transformation, peace and a wholesome improvement in one's relationship with God and neighbor.

While drawing from the current Jubilee Year of Mercy, Sr. Maria Kujur, the Provincial of Gumla, said that the theme is not an isolated element in the Church's mission, but it is the primary way through which we receive the Lord and share Him with others. She cited from the Gospel certain instances of miraculous healing in order to underline that Jesus revived the distraught heart of individuals. She said that those of us engaged in the healing ministry are called to be gentle, prayerful and compassionate. By citing Proverbs 17:22, she emphasized that our medical personnel should emulate Lord Jesus Christ by conveying the Divine Mercy to the heart of individuals they encounter.

As for our essential guideline, Sr. Dr. Jacinta Baxla, OSU, proposed the General Chapter's directive which upholds "Live contemplative spirituality for mission today." She underlined the need for obtaining the gift of mercy and compassion in Mother Mary's intercession to Jesus, as at the wedding feast at Cana. Our health ministry, she said, should consist in "Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5) She proposed that we continue to invoke Blessed Mother Teresa's soul stirring question, "Who is Jesus to me?" Our Founders consistently sought the Lord's affirmation of whatever they said and did, and thereby drew others to them and through themselves to Him.

What is the most important thrust or focus that you would like the entire Congregation to have for the Health Ministry? In light of the above, we, the Health personnel of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk take a pledge to make our health intervention more efficacious by fully committing ourselves and making all possible efforts to provide quality health service to those who come to our health facilities as well as to those in the remote, inaccessible and unreachable areas. We also take a pledge to be more educated about the government schemes and networks so that we can provide quality health service to all those who come in contact with us.

Sr. Dr. Eileen Kujur, OSU, the organizer, enunciated Our Lord Jesus as the foundation and centre of the healing ministry. She drew from what she termed as the inclusive Divine inspiration and motivation found in St. Angela. Referring to the Ursuline Charism of collectivity, she emphasized four 'Cs': commitment, capability, community and coordination. She said that such an objective can only be attained through union of minds and hearts that necessarily leads to generous giving of self. While enunciating the four-point objective of the consultative meeting, she sought to stress inter-Province collaboration.

Sr. Dr. Eileen Kujur, OSU.
Ranchi Province (Chief Organizer).

Ursuline Convent Khunti-Prison Ministry in Khunti

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me." When I was in prison you came to visit me. (Mt.35:36)

Sr. James Soreng started visiting prisoners and organizing Masses at Easter and Christmas in 2003. Slowly confidence was built up and maintained with the Junior Jailer in charge and other authorities, so visits and Holy Mass were permitted on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays. For the Mass about fifty to sixty participants are present. This ministry is carried on with great zeal and enthusiasm mainly by three Sisters: Alice Tigga, Vijaya Soreng, Khunti Bishop's secretary Rev Father Gabriel Aind. At Easter and Christmas other Sisters from Khunti join the group and offer their contribution. They come from the Ursuline Formation House, St Anne convent, Jesuit Brothers and Pre-Novices and our Postulants. All this is very encouraging, supportive and appreciated.

Women are not allowed to go to Gent's side and men are not allowed to enter the Women's side, therefore Fathers are not allowed to offer Mass for the women. At present there are about five hundred clients, of which two hundred are Christians. Women clients number about forty and there are thirteen children including three new born babies. There was a priest prisoner from December 2015 to February 2016. It was a golden opportunity for the Christians to have Mass regularly.

After Mass we offer some action songs as well as mental and physical exercises as a diversion. The children are taught rhymes and love to repeat them when we visit the next time. We enjoy their smiling faces. We give time to listen to their needs and problems, but we are unable to devote much time as we can only remain until 10 am.

During an evaluation with the new Junior Jailer, he noted about a 75% change with the prisoners in their behavior and way of dealing with each other. There is some difference in the whole atmosphere of the prison and the people. Praise the Lord, Alleluia !!!!

Sr. Vijaya Soreng