



### Indian Leadership Team Meeting with CLT

The four Indian Leadership teams, Sr. Bimla Minj and Sr. Nirmala Kujur from Congregational Leadership Team (CLT), met together in the Ursuline Provincialate in Gotlong, Tezpur from October 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. In the beginning of the meeting Sr. Lucienne, the Provincial of Tezpur Province, welcomed all the participants to Assam and showed the rich culture of North East India with a Power Point presentation. Sr. Bimla welcomed one and all for the meeting. Sr. Nirmala led the opening prayer, "We are God's work of Art." Sr. Bimla began the session with a few ice breakers which set the mood and spirit of the meeting.

In her opening address to the group, Sr. Bimla reminded us that we have come with our stories of what we have done, thought and accomplished. The agenda items included the Bicentenary Celebration and Asian Pacific Ursuline Meeting in 2018, both of which were discussed in detail. Sr. Nirmala told how the planning for the Bicentenary Celebration is proceeding on the Congregational level. The members of the four teams discussed how to celebrate the Bicentenary among the four Indian Provinces and how to proceed in hosting the Asian Pacific Ursulines Meeting. Different committees were formed for both the events and the responsibilities were divided among the Provinces.

Sr. Bimla shared with us a message from the UISG (International Union of General Superiors) 2016 assembly delivered by Sr. Marian Ambrosio ISP. She said the speaker invited us to renew our awareness that as religious, we are not special for *what* we do, nor for *why* we do it. Religious life is all about the power of "how." It is about *how* we do it. It is the manner of how we follow Jesus that gives meaning to our being women religious of apostolic life. She concluded her message with the reflection from Fr. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest, "Trust you are being guided."

Another agenda item was to read and reflect together on the topics of *Spirituality, Mission and Finance* from our **General Chapter Direction Statement 2014**. The simple and efficient animation and guidance of the Congregational Leadership created an atmosphere of freedom and trust where everyone could share their opinions, hopes and concerns of the Provinces. Strategies and plans were made to make our mission more effective and fruitful. The two and a half days meeting ended with an evaluation, in which all expressed their deep sentiments of gratitude and appreciation for the gift of

each other. Afterwards the group left for the Ursuline Convent in Dhekiajuli for a social gathering and meal.

Sr. Leela Muthu

## UNITED NATIONS updates

The UN commemorates something most days of the year, from soil to civil aviation, from toilets to tsunamis, from road traffic victims to diabetes! For a complete list you can check this link: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>

**25 November-** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/54/134)

**10 December-** Human Rights Day A/RES/423 (V)

## From Congo Vice- Province

### Entrance of Candidates



Nineteen candidates joined the Ursuline family on September 25th. Following a day of prayer led by Sr. Esperance Hamuli, Vice Provincial of the DR Congo, these young women officially entered our Congregation during Vespers in the chapel in the community of St. Ursula in Himbi.

The new home for the candidates was previously used to board young women who attended school in Goma. It has been transformed into the candidates' residence this year because it is large enough for nineteen candidates. For the same reason, the candidacy program will now be in Goma and not in Bukavu.



Sister Wineeta shared in the joy of the occasion by her presence which placed an accent of the international dimension of our congregation.

## From the Gumla Province

### Final Profession 2016

September 15, the feast of our Lady, brought a blessing to our Province. We, the 9 tertian sisters, were excitedly waiting for the day to commit ourselves fully to God. On the Eve of our Final commitment a beautiful and inspiring prayer service was conducted by Sr. Augustina of Samtoli Community. The



1<sup>st</sup> line; Srs. Anila Kandulna, Manjula Tirkey, Anima Tirkey, Bibiyana Kullu  
2<sup>nd</sup> line; Majella Kujur, Prabha Topno, Seema Minj, Sheela Ekka and Deep

theme was "NAVRATAN." We experienced that we are the Diamond jewel for the crown of our Dear Mother Mary, the patroness of our Congregation.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September the Holy Eucharist Celebration began with melodious singing and dancing in St. Anne's Cathedral Samtoli at 8.30 a.m. A prayerful atmosphere surrounded and enveloped us as we dedicated our lives to God.

We deeply experienced that blessings were being poured upon us. We offered ourselves joyfully and freely to live a life for Jesus alone. The solemn Holy Eucharist celebration was presided over by Rt. Rev. Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, Bishop of Simdega Diocese with 32 priests. A massive crowd of family members, friends, well-wishers and our school children witnessed this great event. We could see the tears of happiness and gratefulness in every ones' eyes including ours. We felt loved and accepted by their presence and their presence blessed the day.

After the Holy Eucharist there was a short entertainment programme and a festive meal.

It was indeed a day of joy and gratitude. Our hearts were filled with thankfulness towards God, our Authority, our family members and all the sisters of our Congregation who helped us raise our hearts towards Jesus and who asked for the special blessing from the Lord to live this beautiful life faithfully for the Lord.

Tertians of Gumla Province 2016

## From Ranchi Province

### Asia Pacific Ursuline Education Conference 2016

*This year the Asian Pacific Ursuline Meeting was in Taiwan from October 21 - 25, 2016.*

Taiwan is an island nation in East Asia, in the South China Sea. The island has been governed by the Republic of China since 1945.

The participants in this year's **Asia Pacific Ursuline Education Conference** were two sisters from the Ranchi province, from Gumla province two sisters and from Ambikapur one sister.



Sr. Eve Justina Romould, osu, Ph. D. Principal of Ursuline English Medium School, in Muri (Dist. Ranchi Jharkhand), was one of the three main speakers. Her topic was "Enhancing Quality of Human Life through Environment Education in our Ursuline Schools."

This sharing focused on multiple ecosystem services suitable for school/college level children, making Pope Francis *'Laudato Si'*, a part of our life.

## From USA Province

### LCWR

The LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) of which we are a member, has an active Global Concerns Committee. In the August assembly, members were encouraged

- To examine the root causes of injustice.
- To promote non violence
- To protect Earth and its biosphere

All of us have been asked to pledge prayer, education, and advocacy while committing our collective voice, resources, and power in collaboration with others to establish justice which reflects God's abundant love and desire that will have life.

We welcome news from your Province on how you and your local Church are responding to what the Global Concerns committee has asked. We will print your contribution in future Enews.

### Jubilee in the US



Sr. Mary Ellen renews her vows as her sister Judy holds the candle.

Saturday, October 15, was a beautiful fall day. Sisters, Associates, family and friends of Sr. Mary Ellen gathered in Blue Point to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. The liturgy was carefully prepared by Mary Ellen. The music, the reminders of so many sisters and family members who have gone before us were so touching. Guests came from Japan, New Brunswick, Canada, Ireland, Vermont and of course, Connecticut. The party continued in the dining room and was enjoyed by all.

## Remembrance Day November 2

"As women religious we participate fully in the life of the church."

*Fullness in the Life of Christ 89*

All our loved ones who have gone before us are remembered by Catholics during the month of November, especially on November 2. Similar ways to show respect for our deceased family and friends are expressed in the following country customs. The contributions from Sisters in each Province illustrate how we are connected on this Feast of All Souls.

### **Belgium**

On All Soul's Day families remember their deceased friends and family members. A few days before Nov 2, people go to the cemetery to tend the graves of their loved ones. They brush off and wash the headstones. They also clean up the surrounding area and often plant flowers such as chrysanthemums. The cemetery becomes a lovely garden full of flowers with all kinds of color.

There is a Mass in the parish church on All Soul's day in remembrance of all those who died during the year. The families are there to take part in the Mass. They put a small candle near the cross hanging at the back of the church in honor of each deceased person. Our sisters in Melsbroek community share in the parish remembrance of their deceased community members.

The parishioners have been praying for their deceased brothers and sisters throughout the year. At the end of the Mass the families are invited to come forward to the priest to accept the cross to take home. To conclude the day, the Melsbroek and Floordam communities have a prayer service including Evening Vespers. In the chapel or living room the pictures of the deceased sisters are displayed with individual lighted candles.

### **Congo**

In the Congo, Christians commemorate the memory of their faithful departed by celebrating the Eucharist in their parish. November 2 is the traditional day to remember those who have died. Each parish celebrates in its own creative way.

In some parishes the people are invited to write the names of their dear departed ones to be prayed for and to place the names in a basket in front of the altar. The intention of the Mass is for the deceased names mentioned, so the basket of names is placed on the altar at the time of the consecration. The basket stays in the Church all during the month of November.

In other parishes, people gather in the cemetery to plant flowers at the tombs of their dear ones as a sign of their love who have entered eternal life. The gesture of planting flowers at the tombs is a sign of the affection and good thoughts towards the dear

ones who are buried there. It is a way of remembering which stems from the African belief that holds that "the dead are not dead."

During the ritual ceremony, family members are gathered together around the tomb and a member of the deceased family, recalling the person's good deeds, offers prayers and as a sign of gratitude, plants flowers at the tomb.

### **India**

In tribal culture we believe that the dead live with us. In fact in different tribes there are rituals to bring the Spirit of the dead to the house.

In Christian tradition on November 2<sup>nd</sup> we remember the dead with the universal Church. The graveyard is cleaned and decorated for the day. Many families come home to visit the graves of the loved ones.

Christians have a special Holy Mass offered on the day or around the date for their dear departed ones. In most parishes a special Holy Mass is offered for the dear departed ones in the cemetery itself. The graves are decorated, candles are burnt and family members gather around the family graves.

In the villages, too, all come to the grave yards for prayer together and for the blessing of the graves. It is a beautiful expression of the communion of saints and shows the gratitude for all the blessings received from our departed relatives. We are bonded again with them and with one another.

### **USA**

At Our Lady of Victory and St. John Vianny parishes we have luminaries around the church. Luminaries are brown paper bags with some person/s intention written on them. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> candles are placed in them and they are put around the church. Before a special mass the candles are lit. At the Mass the names of all the people who have died during the year are read.