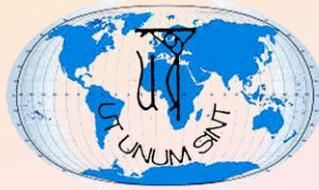


# Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



## E-News - March 2016

### From Congregation Leadership

In the Holy Year of Mercy, the season of Lent holds a significant meaning for us. We contemplate the mystery of God's merciful love.

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
Slow to anger, abounding in love" (Ps. 103:8).

Lent is a time of favor, a time of grace, a time of transformation. It gives us an opportunity to make an inner journey of heart, a journey to our true self where we allow God to see us as we are.



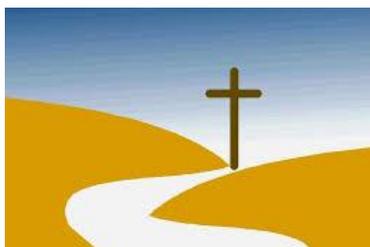
This time is much more than external practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (Mt. 6: 1-6, 16-18).

What is God's invitation for us?

Father Richard Rohr, the author of "Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self" compares true self to a diamond buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives. We need to search for it, uncover it, and separate it from all the debris of ego that surrounds it.

We are invited to take quality time to dig deep into our inner core where we already feel accepted, forgiven and loved by God. There is nothing to hate, reject, deny, or judge as unworthy or unnecessary. (Luke 7:47) God's loving us does not depend on our worthiness or readiness. Everything is grace. Grace is everywhere. This is what the Holy Year of Mercy offers us.

We, who have experienced gratuitously the compassionate love and mercy of God in our lives, share this love and mercy with the people around us. Let us take an example of Peter who at first did not allow Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus made him understand the meaning of service by washing his feet. Pope Francis invites us to be instruments of mercy because it was we who first received mercy from God; to be generous with others, knowing that God showers his goodness upon us with immense generosity.



May our forty days of spiritual journey to transformation help us experience the compassionate love of God in our lives. So that from this place of being loved by God, we may be able to reach out to those who need God's love and compassion.

Sr. Bimla Minj

## From Gumla Province

### Visit of Sr. Jane Quinlan and Sr. Bernadette Mwavita



We the Sisters of the **Gumla Province** are enriched and renewed by the visit of Sr. Jane Quinlan and Sr. Bernadette Mwavita. They were in Gumla from Jan. 28, - Fer. 06, 2016. St. Ursula Hospital was the first community the sisters visited in the Gumla Province and it was appreciated by them.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> 135 sisters gathered together in Ursuline Convent Gumla to listen to Sr. Jane and Sr. Bernadette and on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 65 sisters were present in Ursuline Convent Samtoli to listen to them. The sharing of Sr. Jane on the life of Marie of the Incarnation was so inspiring and unique that it gave us the feeling that St. Marie of the Incarnation is the companion of Sr. Jane. Sr. Bernadette enriched us with her very practical input on our group sharing.

Marie of the Incarnation, who listened and loved the Word of God, walked in His direction. The life of Marie of the Incarnation, her call, her response to God, joys, success, challenges and struggles led us to think and reflect on our own foundational experience more deeply. Call within a call becomes part of our daily life, making life everyday new and helping us see the wonder of God daily.

Sr. Jane and Sr. Bernadette visited some of the communities, schools, staff and students and encouraged them to make their life successful. Children of different schools had the joy of meeting and listening to our sisters. We had a golden occasion to celebrate Sr. Bernadette's birthday on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in U.C. Samtoli. Sisters of U.C Samtoli prayed, danced and enjoyed celebrating together. Also sisters were happy to meet the family members of our sisters with whom they live together in Belgium.

Their visit was a blessing for us all.

## From Ranchi Province

### Lamp - Lighting and Capping Ceremony of Ursuline School of Nursing Dumka

Every budding Nurse student has to be made to understand the importance of nursing care. Symbolically it has been celebrated with responsibility of promising the body nursing profession. Therefore 1<sup>st</sup> Batch of Nursing students of Ursuline School of Nursing, Dumka took the Oath of promise developed for Budding Nursing by Ms. Florance Nightingale on the day of their Lamp Lighting & Capping Ceremony on 27.01.2016 at Nursing School Premises.

The Chief Guest for the Day was Honorable Shri Hemant Soren M.L.A. & Formal Chief Minister of Jharkhand and Rev. Fr. Nirmal Raj S.J. Superior of St. Xavier's College Maharo and Dr. Ramesh Kumar were the Guests of Honour.

The programme started with the lighting of the lamp and Prayer Dance by the staff of St. Ursula Health Centre Dumka followed by a welcome speech by Sr. Amla Bilung osu.



Sr. Angela Lakra osu the Principal of Nursing School highlighted the importance of lamp Lighting & Capping Ceremony and presented the report of Nursing School. Then the 25 Nurses took the Oath of Ms. Florence Nightingale.

The speech by Chief Guest Shri Hemant Soren MLA & Rev. Fr. Nirmal Raj S.J. highlighted the uniqueness of the nursing profession and the attitude the nursing students should develop towards nursing the sick with commitment, compassion and love in caring for humanity as a whole to provide nursing service.

The various cultural programmes were performed by staff and students. A vote of thanks by a student was followed by a delicious lunch served to all.

Sr. Angela Lakra osu (Principal) Ursuline School of Nursing Dumka

### Capping Ceremony at St. Ursula Hospital Lohardaga, Jharkhand

January 27<sup>th</sup> is a great day for all the Ursulines to celebrate the feast of our Foundress Mother Angela Merici. On this beautiful occasion, 54<sup>th</sup> batch, 40 Auxiliary Nurse and Midwifery (ANM) trainees of St. Ursula Hospital Lohardaga had their capping ceremony during the Holy Eucharist celebration.

The main celebrant was Fr. Ranjit Lakra S.J. Superior of St. Stanislouse School Kaimo Patratoli Lohardaga. The Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Vincent Minj concelebrated with him. Fr. Niranjan Minj S.J. led the choir with sweet melodious music and made the Holy Eucharist very devotional and prayerful.



The Holy Eucharist began at 10.30 a.m. with an entrance dance by second year ANM students, followed by Bible procession by first year. After the inspiring and touching homily preached by Fr. Vincent Minj, the names of the candidates for capping were called out. The chief guest of the occasion Sr. Matilda Dungdung o.s.u. the Provincial Councillor of Ranchi Province distributed the blessed cap for each individual. These caps were placed on the head of the candidates by the Tutors Ms. Archana Minj and Selina Nag. With the lighted candles in their left hand and right hand out stretched all the 40 students pronounced Florence Nightingale pledge.

Once the Holy Mass was over, second year students congratulated the first year students after their pledge. In gratitude first year students also sang the wishing song and gave garlands and flower bisques to all the invited guests. Sr. Matilda Dungdung gave a very inspiring speech as encouragement for all the student nurses.

In her message she said that nursing is a special vocation, a call from Jesus to participate in His healing mission. It is an arduous duty, full of risks and challenges, therefore a nurse should foster her inner life through a spirit of prayer. She should have fine moral sensibility, social maturity and other human qualities. Nursing is not only a medical aid, but an active promotion of health, hence she should diligently acquire and improve on her professional skills.

Sister Dayawati Minj osu (Principal) St. Ursula Hospital Lohardaga

**From Tezpur Province**

Entrance to the canonical year: This year our postulants entered the novitiate for their canonical year in January. At 3p.m. our 9 postulants dressed as novices holding a lighted candle in their hands were led into the chapel by the Provincial Superior and the Novice

mistresses. The whole Provincialate community and the Novitiate community were there to rejoice with them and to pray for them. As they came into the chapel they knelt down before the altar waiting to hear their call.

After a short introduction about the canonical year and its implications, the Provincial Superior, Sr. Lucienne called them out one by one by name. They answered their call and expressed their willingness to take up this stage of formation with their whole heart. After that they were given the prayer books, a chain with a cross, and the book of constitution. After the whole programme they were congratulated in the dining room with songs, cake and different delicious sweets.



### 50 years of Jubilee celebration of Dholaibil Parish in Tezpur Province



Sr. Beatrix Toppo

It was a great Jubilation. Our sisters of Dholaibil along with our student sisters worked hard for days to get the altar and hall ready for its celebration. They also prepared the music for the Mass under the guidance of the assistant Parish Priest. The singing was excellent, the altar was so well decorated that everyone appreciated our sisters. For once in the North East, Ursuline sisters were well appreciated for something other than evangelization. Praise the Lord. Our sisters are coming up. May God continue to bless us.

### From the Belgian Province

#### Christian Health Insurance (M.R.B.)

Belgium's healthcare system is rated as having one of the best healthcare systems in Europe. Sister Louisa Soetewey from Borgerhout is an active member of the core group for Christian Health Insurance (M.R.B.) Antwerp 5. She writes: Our aim is to create opportunities for male and female religious to meet socially and share their



ministries. Our particular core group, Antwerp 5, was founded in 1976 and we are celebrating our 40th anniversary.

We have a president, a secretary, a treasurer, a social worker and a union representative. Priests, Sisters and engaged laymen make up the 12 core members. We represent 195 members insured by M.R.B. from 35 congregations. At our bi-monthly meetings, the core group plans future events and evaluates past actions.

Upcoming planned events for 2016 include a boat trip on the Leien in May, a spiritual afternoon with Bishop Monsignor Bonny in June, a commemoration of our deceased in October and a Christmas Party in December. The Theological and Pastoral Centre of our diocese in Groenenborgerlaan Antwerp is the normal meeting place. We also attach great importance to home visits to our sick members.

### **From Congo Vice-Province**

**Celebration of the feast of our patron saint, Angela Merici, foundress of the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters, by the Chemchem Institute and the Chemchem Primary School of Application in Kalima.**



The students during the Eucharistic celebration in St. Peter's Parish in Kalima.

On the 27th of January 2016, the feast of Saint Angela Merici, patron saint of our two schools, was celebrated at the Chemchem Institute and the Chemchem Primary School. The day was blessed by heavy rains in the morning, although during the last week, we had a brilliant sun. We thanked the Lord for this blessing. Everything began with a solemn Mass at Saint Peter's parish in Kalima, where students and guests were the majority of the people present. The holy Eucharist was

presided by the pastor of the parish, and the students of the secondary school had the role of the choir. The Eucharist took place in a climate of festive joy, with everyone participating.

After the Eucharist the guests were invited to go to the Primary School where different cultural representations were to take place: games, dances, poems, sketches and music. We take advantage of this opportunity for thanking the



students in Ternat as well as their leader, for the support they never cease to bring to the Institute and the Chemchem Primary School in Kalima. Thanks to you, the school experiences joy again and is building up progressively. We do not forget our Sisters from everywhere, and especially those in Goma, for their support and encouragement. With all our heart, we express our deep thanks, and may the Lord bless you.

**Sister Marie Dominique Mangimbo,  
Prefect of Studies**