

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - October 2017

India Visit

Three members of the Congregation Leadership Team will be in India during the months of October, November and December. Sisters Bimla and Bernadette will visit Ambikapur and Ranchi. Sr. Jane and Bernadette will be in Tezpur and Ranchi.

The three sisters will be at the annual 4 Province leadership gathering in Ranchi from 25-28 October to reflect and discuss together how to *Rekindle the Fire of Love* in our time and place following the example of Angela Merici and Fr. Lambertz

Sisters Bernadette and Jane have been invited by the Tezpur Province to hold reflection days for all the sisters in the Province. The topic will be *St. Marie of the Incarnation the first woman missionary to the New World*. The legacy of her prayer life and missionary activity inspires all who come to know and love Marie. A new English language book on Marie of the Incarnation's life, *A Woman so Close* to us will be introduced to the Sisters.

International Finance Meeting

The International Finance Team had its first annual meeting from September 13-15, 2017 at the Generalate, Brussels. Representatives from each Province/Vice Province made up the newly formed Team. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a set of guidelines or criteria for implementing the *Chapter Direction Statement* on planning and sharing of resources.



Sisters attending the First International Finance Meeting in the Generalate.

Mrs. Joanna Kennedy from Scotland facilitated the meeting efficiently. She invited us to share our hopes and our experiences of sharing in our families, our communities, in the Province, in the Congregation and our vision.

Sister Bimla's introductory remarks on Stewardship gave clarity and understanding of one's responsibility regarding financial matters. The owner has the right and stewards have the responsibility. Everything belongs to God. We are only stewards. David Nicholls presented the *Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Human and Financial Resources Projections 2017-2032*. The 63 page report will help with long range strategic planning and congregational decision making.

A few of the principles that were woven throughout the meeting were that we desire to share our resources to follow the call of our founders to love and take care of one another.

We recognize the need to support the international mission of our Congregation, fully aware of our demographic reality. Basic to our spirit of sharing is the belief that we must strengthen our solidarity with one another.

The proposals, to be studied during the Extended Council, reflect the fruit of the brain storming sessions, sharing and working together. We experienced the richness of our internationality, and the value of understanding and supporting one another in this valuable service to the Provinces and Congregation as a whole. *Ut unum sint* was evident throughout the 3 days. We are grateful for the prayerful support for the success of the meeting.

The Jubilee Year in "Home Merici"

To commemorate the Jubilee Year, we have set up a room in Home Merici to rest and relax with our Founder Father John Lambertz.

A picture of Fr. Lamberts praying the rosary and the icon which was unveiled on the opening of the jubilee year are in the center. All the documents written about him are in the bread basket so that they can be taken as food. Visitors may light a candle and burn incense. There is a notebook and pen to write intentions and to entrust them to the pastor.



The devotion to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows is depicted by displaying the Pieta, as well as gingerbread symbolic of what he often offered to the sisters as gift.

A worn out pair of shoes are on the stand to demonstrate his visits, mostly on foot, to the sisters and foundations, no matter how far they were from Tildonk,

May the grace we receive through the mediation of our Founder benefit in building a just and peaceful world, especially where our sisters are present and active.

Zr. Lea

One day outing of Floordam and Merici Community

One afternoon, during the summer holiday, our sisters from Floordam had a tour around the centre of Melsbroek. Everything went smoothly. The event ended in the garden of Home Merici under the sun umbrellas. There was lively conversation with snacks and a drink. After the outing, the sisters were back to Floordam by the lovely volunteers. That night they had a good sleep profiting from the fresh air during the walk.

A trip was planned to the animal park in Planckendael, but the weather was cold and stormy and didn't co-operate with our plans. Thus the staff brought their live pets to Floordam. They invited the sisters of Merici to organize all of the animals. It was a pleasant afternoon with games between two teams, the ladies and the sisters.

We learned a lot. Do you know an animal that breathes through its veins? However we in Floordam and Merici know it now. The sisters lost and the ladies won in the game. The cookies and chips with all shapes; elephants, bears, frogs, etc. were provided to eat with delicious chocolate cookies.

Staff of Floordam

Saint Ursula's Feast Day



On October 21 across the globe Ursuline Sisters, colleagues, companions, students in schools and colleges and friends celebrate the feast day of Saint Ursula, our Patroness, chosen by Angela Merici as the name by which her Company would be known. Angela chose Ursula for her courage, her faithful witness of her faith and her virginity - for which she was martyred in the city of Cologne. Today Saint Ursula is the patron of the city of Cologne.

We send greetings today to our Ursuline Sisters on all five continents, and ask Saint Ursula to continue to watch over us and be our inspiration.

From Ranchi Province: DUAL CELEBRATION ON 15th September 2017



"I have called you by name." Is 45:4

Having heard this call of God, our 9 Sisters committed their whole life to Him through their Perpetual Vows in the Ursuline Congregation of Tildonk. His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo D.D. presided over the Holy Eucharist along with

34 priests as co-celebrants at 9.00 a.m. in the Ursuline Provincialate Kanke Road, Ranchi. A big number of family members and invited guests witnessed this significant event in the lives of our sisters. His Eminence in his homily focused on the authentic living of the Evangelical Counsels depending on the grace of God. He reminded our sisters of the basics of religious life in this challenging time enumerating them as need of personal and community prayer, love, forgiveness and forbearance in community life and commitment to the Mission.

The whole assembly present there offered their prayers and best wishes to our sisters to move forward to work in the Lord's vineyard joyfully.

The day was also marked with the blessing of the Statue of Rev. Fr. John Lambertz erected at Ursuline Convent Dr. Camil Bulcke Path Ranchi (Mother House) campus in the evening as a memorial of the Bicentennial year of our Congregation. The ceremony was held in a devotional prayer service with the recitation of the Rosary of Our Lady's Seven Sorrows.



It is the result of the joint effort of the Province Council, community members and all those who wish us well under the guidance and supervision of Sr. Mary Grace Toppo osu. Thanks and congratulations to all! May the devotion of Our

Lady of Sorrows and intercession of our Founder Rev. Fr. John Lambertz be a source of many blessings to us all.

From Gumla Province

Final Vows:

September 15, 2017 was a special day for our 8 Junior Sisters who became full members of the Congregation. We Congratulate and pray for the newly professed Sisters. May God bless them with perseverance in their religious vocation.

Tezpur Province

The Regional CRI (Conference of Religious) Assembly and Pastoral conference of North East India was held at Guwahati. Sr. Lucienne, the provincial accompanied by Sr. Greta, the Novice Mistress and Sr. Usha the Local CRI president attended this assembly. 15 Bishops, their Vicar Generals, all the provincial superiors of the region, novice mistresses, presidents of the local CRI's and many catholic lay leaders attended the assembly.

The topic for the CRI assembly was Formation and Recruitment. The pastoral conference centered on what steps to take in order to bring about justice in the society. This photo shows Sr. Usha Kiran Bage giving the report of the local CRI and about its function. This is the only CRI gathering where we discussed formation and recruitment to religious life and priesthood.



Our school at Kauripahar had organized a rally for clean India along with the army. Before they set out for the rally they came together for a group prayer. They prayed for the country, for the present government and for peace all over the world.

From Guyana

It was a great day for us and communities of South Pakaraimas as all witnessed the blessing of our new Church building on Aug 6. It was constructed by local

people using their ideas, talents and physical labour. We are grateful to Sister Divya and Sister Serophina who saw the need of the people and took the initiative to plan for a new church. The Holy Mass and blessing of the church was presided by Bp. Francis Allen of Georgetown. About 500 people gathered for the Mass.

The next day communities of South Pakaraimas said goodbye to our missionary sisters Divya and Serophina with heavy heart. The expression of the people was that, "we are feeling as if someone is dead in our family." With this statement we can feel how much the people loved our sisters and they had experienced love and care of our sisters.

We are grateful to both the sisters for their hard labour, effort, sacrifices and clearing the way for the future. May God bless you and give you the satisfaction in your heart.

Sisters Sosan, Helen, Cresencia, Nishi.

UNITED NATIONS DAY

United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24, commemorating the anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Charter on October 24, 1945. After the horrors of World War II, the United Nations was created to provide a forum for nations to work out their problems in a peaceful way and to help nations work together to create a better world for all.

For more than 60 years since then, the United Nations has shone as humanity's greatest hope for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. It has helped to promote human rights, freedom and democracy, erase poverty and hunger, improve health and education, and urge the governments of the world to work together in peace.

- 1 Learn more about the history and achievements of the United Nations.
- 2 Hold an event in support of the United Nations.
- 3 Teach children about the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN

