

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



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A Memorable Day



On Sunday afternoon, April 30, the sun shone brightly as the Church bells rang out the start of our Jubilee year in St. John the Baptist Church in Tildonk where Father John Lambertz was pastor for over 50 years. Fr. Wielandts, the main celebrant, was joined by 6 priests who concelebrated with him. He is the Vicar of Religious for the Diocese of Malines.

The music, symbols and relics from our founder were important elements of the celebration of the opening of the year. A new rendition of the *Curé* was unveiled. It is an icon written by a local woman, Gerda Smets. Before starting her work, she visited the places related to Father John Lambertz, read about his life and missionary work, reflected and contemplated his life and spirituality.

A hearty welcome was extended to all present by Sr. Hildegarde, followed by Sr. Bimla who officially opened the year. It was a day to remember in our history as we "Rekindle the Fire of Love." The reception afterwards was held in the original Tildonk convent.

From the Congo

During Easter vacation several sisters in the Vice Province followed different conferences and meetings. The Union of International Superior Generals (UISG) chose Goma to hold a week long workshop on the prevention and pastoral outreach in service to the victims of violence and situations of conflict. 38 Sisters, Brothers and priests from the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Italy followed the session.

Our young sisters participated in a two day session in Bukavu to better understand human sexuality including ways and means to deal with human emotions and maintain a mature and well balanced life.

Sisters with final vows followed a 2 day session on the management of temporal goods in religious life. All Sisters have the obligation to be informed on a few practical points, such as: the importance of having legal documents to show what belongs to the province and to avoid working for one's own personal account.

Sr. Colette Mwami

From Ranchi Province

Social Media

Thirteen Ursulines of Ranchi Province participated in a seminar on the responsible use of Social Media, organized by the CRI for the Religious of Ranchi on March 24-25, 2017 at Don Bosco Youth & Educational Services. Church teaching regarding digital media & social communication, Impact of social media (intellectual, moral, spiritual, social, physical), Education to responsible and positive use of social media (for personal formation, updating and evangelization), Using digital media in a prophetic way (for bringing transformation in the Church and the world), Developing policies, regulations and strategies for the use of social media. The Church should give guidelines to the youth for positive use of social media.



Sr. Julia George osu

Health Ministry

A three-day workshop in March on the theme, "Partnering in the Healing Ministry of the Church" was held at Don Bosco Youth Centre under the guidance of the Ranchi Province Medical Team, Ranchi. The coordinator of the workshop, Sr. Dr. Eileen Kujur, welcomed all the participants. As a representative of Sr. Suchita, Provincial of Ranchi, Sr. Matilda delivered the inaugural message to the 61 Medical Personnel from Ranchi, Gumla, Ambikapur and Tezpur Provinces.

Sr. Dr. Jacinta Baxla emphasized that we, as health personnel, are essentially called to be agents of God's love. While invoking the General Chapter's mandate, she stated that when we become the face of love to the world, healing takes place with care and medicine.

Historically, our role rose to prominence since the public health service was significantly inadequate. Can we now become a link between the Public and Private health facilities? What concrete measures can we consider for making the health ministry more relevant, efficient and fruitful? A few suggestions surfaced: Updating ourselves through refresher courses, better collaboration with Government and village leaders, alternative medicine, taking care of those with prolonged/terminal illness.

Ways that the health ministry can be redesigned to suit the changing times: promote practical herbal medicine, provide training facilities and update infrastructure. It is hoped that despite various inadequacies and genuine difficulties, the sisters are ready to forge ahead with determination and dedication in the service of the Church.

Sr. Dr. Eileen Kujur, osu

Tezpur Province:



Sr. Lucienne lights candle in inaugural ceremony

There was a seminar for one day organized by Catholic health Association of North East held at Guwahati in Assam. It was on solar connection in our health centres supported by Miserior. Srs. Lucienne, Pushpa Soreng and Niranjana Bilung attended this seminar. "We had to speak about our health centres and we

received solar connection for two of our centres -Borbam and Kartick" said Sr. Niranjna.

News about the UN

"Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work" was the theme of the NGO CSW (Commission on the Status of Women 61) held at the UN in New York. Women from around the world gathered during the two week session to strategize to ensure the human rights of all women, to learn best practices from each other and to work to implement the SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals). Sister Jane, as the Ursuline representative for our Ursuline NGO, attended 8 side events for NGOs. A wide range of topics included: women's rights to equal access to technology, to land ownership, to finance/microfinance, the opportunity for higher education and preparation to hold positions of leadership during organizational, labor and peace negotiations.



The empty chair represents women who could not be at the CSW due to poverty, denied visas or war.

Winners of the Ursuline SDG Art contest

School children in the Congo, US and India entered the Ursuline SDG art contest on the theme of the importance of the SDGs and how they affect where we live.



Age 11 goal #4 Quality Education Our Lady of Victory West Haven CT



Age 13 goal #7 Clean energy Our Lady of Fatima East Elmhurst NY

UN Days

Two UN days are coming up: May 15 International Day of Families and June 12 World Day Against Child Labour. Both address the needs of people we serve on a daily basis and they recognize the dignity of the human person as fundamental. Our Direction Statement reminds us that we "We adapt to the needs of the our times." If there is any special event held in your area, please consider sending it for the next E-News.