

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



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Opening of Jubilee Year

The opening of the 200th Anniversary of the foundation of our Ursuline Congregation was marked by a Eucharistic Celebration on April 30 in St. John the Baptist Church in Tildonk where Father John Lambertz was pastor for over 50 years. Nearly 200 Ursuline Sisters, associates, family members and friends came together for the special liturgy in the same church where the first three Ursulines pronounced their vows. Father Steven Wielandts, Vicar of Religious for the Malines Diocese was the principle celebrant. He was accompanied by six other priests and a deacon. His words encouraged all to guard the Word in our hearts. Our Charism is not for safe keeping. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to renew humanity. By loving we'll stay young forever.

Members of the Kantorij de Brug choir from Lier provided the magnificent music during the Liturgy.

A hearty welcome was extended to all present by Sr. Hildegarde Verherstraeten with the words, "Our celebration today marks the beginning of a year of renewal and study that will culminate on April 30, 2018 with the celebration of the foundation of our Congregation of Ursulines of Tildonk by our spiritual father John Cornelius Martin Lambertz."

In her opening remarks Sister Bimla Minj addressed the congregation with these words, "The Lord has worked wonders by guiding, guarding and protecting our congregation as it spread out from Tildonk to mission lands over the years in India, Canada, the United States, Congo and British Guyana. As she looks to the future, Sister Bimla said, "The flame of love invites us to rejoice and celebrate God's love and faithfulness in keeping with the theme of the Jubilee: Rekindle the Fire of Love." A new rendition of the Curé was unveiled during the Mass. 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. Following the Mass, all were invited to a reception in the original Ursuline Convent and boarding school nearby the Church.



Fr Steven Weilandts, the main celebrant of the opening Mass was joined by Fr. George Panna, Fr. Jef Tops, Fr. Jozef Verbelen, Fr. Jozef De Ridder, l'Abbé Guy Kasazi, Fr. Nikita Skatsh, and Deacon Jean Paul.



Srs. Isabelle, Bimla and Nirmala unveil the icon of Fr. John Lambertz during the Liturgy.



"The quiet village of Thildonck is still a village, though the Great War has brought changes, but the peace of God seems to hover over the grave of the saintly priest. He lies under the shadow of his church." From The Curé of Thildonck by Rev F. Holemans

Extended council Meeting

The Extended Council members took a break from their meeting in May to enjoy the sunshine in the garden of the Generalate.



Mrs. Fanny Lopez who heads our Missieprokuur office, reported on the latest development project.

From the Ranchi Province

The Ranchi Province has a Province Education Team, which arranges programs for the growth of students in the Ursuline Schools. From April 23-26 Sr. Dorothea and Sr. Mary Grace inaugurated a seminar for cabinet ministers and students in the upper classes from 11 Ursuline High Schools. 170 students learned how a leader should

behave with others and motivate others. A theme was carried out throughout: "A leader is the one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way." Each student was given a certificate of leadership at the end of the program.

A Leadership Program for the Catholic students of Ursuline Middle Schools was held from May 2-5 under the direction of Sr. Mary Grace, the Co-ordinator of the Province Education Commission and



Sr. Helen Bara. Role playing, games and group discussions helped students to know themselves, to gain self confidence and tap their hidden qualities.

The Sisters were filled with joy to announce our Jubilee Year in their respective parishes, neighboring communities and Institutions. "The Nine days Novena bound us together once again in the spirit and charism of our dear Father John Lambertz. We were filled with gratitude for the wonderful works of God through the Congregation."

Province Education Team-in the May Circular from Ranchi

Belgian Province

Every year in the month of May an annual meeting is organized for the General and Provincial leadership teams by the Union of the Religious of Flanders (URV) in Blankenberge. This year it took place on May 10-11-12 at Duinse Polders in Blankenberge.

The theme of this year was "Religious in a Growing Multicultural Church and Society in Flanders". The participants were greeted by Mgr. Augustine Kasujja, the Apostolic Nuncio of Belgium. The introduction of the theme was presented by Didier Vanderslycke, "What is happening in Flanders (Belgium) and what developments can we still expect in the future?"

On Thursday May 11th, Father Johan Leman addressed the group on the topic "What is needed in order to function well and humanly for a multicultural church and society? Does the current Belgian (Flemish) integration policy work? "There is already a lot going on but still much needs to be done to ensure that the integration policy works well.

On Thursday afternoon, Father Mark Butaye spoke about "Options for a Multicultural Church". He based his talk on facts and his perspectives on them; it was hopeful. This session was mostly listening, encouraging and provided clarifications to the listeners. It was followed by a panel discussion in which our Sister Lilima Toppo from Scherpenheuval participated and shared her experience of living in Belgium.

On Friday, May 12, Father Eric Manhaeghe spoke to us on "What does this mean to us as religious? What is our place / contribution when we talk about interreligious dialogue?"

Conclusion: Now we must work with it in our congregation and in our lives.

Sister Ghislaine Debusschere

Celebrating in Floordam

Sr. Henriette Verheyen turned 100 on May 23. There was a party in Floordam on May 22 to celebrate this big event in the Belgian Province. The day included a liturgy, delicious meal, dancing and a power point of pictures of her through the years. The decorations carried out her favorite color, red. Cards and well wishes all carried the same theme: Happy 100th Birthday, Henriette.



The local mayor presented a memorial photo of the King and Queen to Sr. Henriette