

Ursuline Sisters Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - January 2017

News from the Generalate:

As the year 2016 draws to a close, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the blessings of the year manifested in various ways.

We wish to express our gratitude to all for your prayerful support and gracious accompaniment in our ministry of leadership in the Congregation. We also express our gratitude to Sister Jyoti Kiro for her generous and committed service to the Congregation as General Secretary. Sister Jyoti Kiro completes her two year service to the Generalate and returns back to her Province Gumla in January 2017.



The closure of the year opens up to new possibilities. We welcome Sister Kanchan Tirkey from Ranchi Province who replaces Sister Jyoti in the Secretariat. Sister Kanchan arrived in Belgium on December 11 and is learning the work and getting accustomed to the new place. We thank Sr. Kanchan for her generous and courageous response to the call of God in serving the Congregation as General Secretary in the Generalate. We wish her every success in the new ministry.

Mr. Peter Grant, our web site manager, flew over from Fethard, Ireland to help the leadership team update our Congregational web site, www.osutildonk.com. Peter has maintained our web site since its beginning over five years ago. It is a work in progress.



Ambikapur Province Final Profession

Sr. Indumati, Sr. Aexia, Sr. Sandhya and Sr. Ursula, Ambikapur Province committed themselves through final vows to the Lord on 21 November 2016 on the Solemnity of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Sr. Indumati Kujur, Sr. Alexia Soreng, Sr. Sandhya Toppo & Sr. Ursula Lakra

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rt. Rev. Patras Minj S. J. Bishop of Ambikapur along with 17 priests. The presence of the family members doubled the joy of our Sisters and strengthened them to go forward courageously to serve the Lord wholeheartedly.

Rt. Rev. Bishop in his homely quoted the prophet **Hosea 2:16-17, 21-22**. "Through your commitment, Jesus is establishing a new relationship with you and invites you to remain with Him like a branch in the vine and bear much fruit." **Jn. 15:1-8**

Sr. Ursula Khalkho osu, Provincial Superior, received their Final Vows and accepted them as full members of the Congregation and Province. The ceremony was very devotional with beautiful singing of the students of Ursuline School and the staff. After the Holy Eucharist everyone was served a delicious meal. We congratulate our four Sisters for their generous response to God and assure them of our continual prayers.

Sr. Ursula Khalkho

Congo Vice-Province

Training in International Human Rights



Sr. Sylvie Ilunga, Coordinator of Alpha Ujuvi Bukavu, receives a certificate from Equitas

Le Collectif Alpha Ujuvi was given a scholarship to participate in a regional session of formation on human rights and prevention of torture. The Seminar was organized by Equitas under the sponsorship and direction of the Canadian government and took place in Kribi, Cameroon from October 30 to Nov 12. Participants came from 7 countries: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Sénégal, Rwanda, RDC, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon.

The main reason why I was chosen to participate in the Equitas training in Cameroon was because our Alpha Ujuvi Organization in Bukavu accompanies women victims of sexual violence and victims of forced and early marriage. These women are deprived of their freedom. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment when deprived of their liberty. Throughout Africa, women continue to be victims of discrimination and harmful practices.

During the session, we consulted: *The United Nations Convention against Torture and the Implementation of the Convention against Torture at national level*. Emphasis was placed on the fundamental principles of human rights: Equality: all equal but all different, Non discrimination, and inclusion.

This session helped me a lot; on a personal level as an Ursuline and as an agent of Alpha Ujuvi I understand better that I am invited to respect the rights of others. When I respect the dignity and diversity of people, I am motivated to ensure their self-fulfillment. When you think negatively you find problems everywhere but when you think positively you find solutions to everything.

This session helped me to become familiar with national and international human rights standards. I intend to give training of this theme to the agents of Alpha Ujuvi so they in turn may practice it with the beneficiaries.

Sr. Sylvie Ilunga

From Gumla Province

Days of Thanksgiving

Sr. Carmela Kujur brought the ray of Diamond.

Sr. Bindu Kujur brought the ray of Gold.

Sr. Sabina Tigga brought the ray of Silver.

We, the sisters of Gumla Province, joined Srs. Carmela, Bindu and Sabina on December 11th to thank the Lord for the numerous blessings God has showed on them.

The Holy Mass was offered by Fr. Cyprian Kullu, Vicar General. An entrance and offertory dance added to the solemnity of the Mass. During the homily Fr. Cyprian said that these three sisters offer precious wealth for your Province and these are Silver, Gold and Diamond. It is necessary to thank God for the precious gift of these three sisters.

All the sisters came prepared with an enjoyable colorful program, which they presented after Holy Mass. At 1 p.m. a jubilee meal was served and all were satisfied with delicious food and all went back to their communities thanking the Lord for these three sisters.

Sister Flora Bhengra



News from the UN

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has declared 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The goal of the year is to foster better understanding among peoples everywhere. The decision to choose this theme for 2017 comes at an important moment as the international community embraces the new Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved by the UN General Assembly last September.

USA Province

Liz Wilson, event manager at St. Ursula Center, wrote: "The Craft Fair went well. I've attached the picture of a woman purchasing the crocheted angel ornament made in Ternat. I gave some of the beautiful hand-made cards to volunteers and the sisters. They thought they were beautiful. Thank you to the sisters in Ternat."



St. Angela: A Saint for Today



In the US state of California, there is a school called St. Angela Merici Parish School. This prayer was written by a student-

"O Lord God, You restored St. Angela's sight when she was blind. Help us to see your love among us and to never be blind to our Faith".

St. Angela devoted her life to caring for the disabled. Grant us the compassion to always help those in need, and the dedication to live a faith-filled life as she did.

As St. Angela taught young girls who had no education, may we always value our teachers. Bring us closer to You, O Lord God, and lead us on our journey to your heavenly kingdom.

St. Angela Merici, pray for us.

Amen

Emily Arnell

Happy Feast Day to all