

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - July 2017

Belgium Province

Pilgrimage to Kevelaer, Germany June 3

Our Lady's Shrine at Kevelaer honours Mary, "Comforter of the Afflicted." The history had its origins in the Thirty Years War (1618- 1648), which had devastated the region of northern Germany. In 1642, Heinrich Busman, a merchant, obtained an engraving of Mary pictured in front of the city of Luxembourg, and installed it in a shrine. In 1654, the Chapel of Mercy, a hexagonal structure, was erected to house the picture; the image has remained in that shrine.



After World War II, Kevelaer became a place of reconciliation between French and German Catholics. In 1948, Bishop Pierre-Marie Theas of Lourdes, one of the founders of Pax Christi, came as a pilgrim of peace and reconciliation to Kevelaer. The first Pax Christi meeting was held at Kevelaer in 1949. In commemoration of this event, there is a Pax Christi chapel containing a Lamp of Peace.

On June 3, a bus load of parishioners from Scherpenheuval along with nine Ursulines left on a pilgrimage to Kevelaer. The day started out bright and sunny. Pastor Luc Van Hilst was the guide. In Kevelaer we celebrated the 357th anniversary of founding of the shrine which is a holy place of pilgrimage.

In Kevelaer, we were joined with other "friends of our Lady" from Luxembourg. This devotion originated in Scherpenheuval. After the brief ceremony in St. Antonius Kirche, all joined a procession from the main street to the Church Square. The Scherpenheuval group went in front of the Blessed Image of Our Lady of Kevelaer. Each group of pilgrims prayed and sang in their own language. The streets were filled with spectators and praying people. Some had made small altars decorated with candles and flowers for Our Lady.

That was followed by a Solemn Eucharistic celebration outside the Basilica, with thousands in attendance. Two choirs and an instrumental group provided the music. After the Mass a long procession of faithful Christians processed through



the town, singing and praying. At the conclusion the Blessed Image of Our Lady was placed back in the shrine. After a light supper in the Church Square where musicians played festive music, we boarded the bus for Scherpenheuvel, feeling blessed with this devotional Marian celebration. With gratitude, we shared our experiences with each other.

Srs. Nadine Stuyck and Lilima Toppo

From Ambikapur Province

"For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God." Heb 3:4
 On the 27th of May the Ursuline Convent along with the Nursery building was blessed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Toppo, D,D, Bishop of Raigarh Diocese. Besides the Ursuline Sisters, priests and sisters of other Congregations working in Raigarh Diocese and a few faithful of Sarangarh Denary witnessed the day. We thank the Lord for His Blessing and grace for having made our dream come true.

Province Days June 2-6

Both days of the Province gathering included a reflective recitation of the Rosary of Seven Sorrows of Our Lady. The second day started with a Eucharistic Celebration. The sessions on Fr. John Lambertz were well prepared and organized by the Spirituality Team of Ambikapur Province. The sessions were very inspiring.



All the participants were captivated with the spirit of Fr. John Lambertz and they hope to live the spirituality of our Founder during this Bicentenary Jubilee Year.

Sr. Ursula Khalkho

DRC Vice Province

The opening of the Jubilee Year in Goma began with Benediction in the meditation room, called the oratory. We continued in procession to the Mass followed by a meal and dancing. The three communities in Goma celebrated together as well as all the communities in Katanga.

Sr. Colette Mwami



Ranchi Province

Province Days May 27-28

About 260 Sisters gathered at the Ranchi Mother House to celebrate the Province Days cum bicentenary of the foundation of our congregation around the theme "Re-Kindle the Fire of Love." Sr. Suchita gave the inaugural address and conveyed best wishes from the CLT. She shared the outcome of the Extended Council Meeting. The councilors presented their reflection on Prayer life, Mission, Community life and our Life of consecration. During the Holy Eucharist Rev. Fr. Nabore Lakra, S.J. challenged us all to re-ignite the fire of love everywhere.

The main attraction of the afternoon was the release of the Documentary Film on Fr. John Lambertz produced by Sr. Jyoti Kiro, OSU (Gumla Province). Deep gratitude towards the present and past CLT and Sr. Jyoti Kiro was expressed. The contemplative watching of the film led all to love Fr. Lambertz.

May 28th was the opening of the Bicentenary in the Province. It was the feast of the Ascension which was a coincidence, since it was on Ascension Day in 1818 our Trio Sisters began their 8 day retreat before they made their vows. The Solemn Holy Eucharist, officiated by His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo D.D., included thanksgiving to God for the favours received in the Congregation and for the wonders done in and through the Congregation in the universal church.

For the occasion, each community received a candle with the Jubilee logo blessed by His Eminence, and each member was given a rosary of the Seven Sorrows to pray as Fr. Lambertz did. The bicentenary jubilee flag was unfurled by Sr. Suchita and a hymn to Fr. Lambertz was sung, followed by recitation of the Rosary of Seven Sorrows. On this occasion a new C.D. (Audio) Archan - Part 1 was launched. It is a collection of religious songs, composed by our great musician, the late Sr. Veronica Surin, OSU.

The following **Action Plan** was proposed for the Jubilee Year: We shall give quality time for personal prayer and contemplation. We shall love and appreciate one another. We shall improve our communication.

Sr. Matilda Dungdung

Sr. Dorothy Ekka: A life of total surrender



We knew that Sr. Dorothy Ekka was being taken care of lovingly for her delicate health by our sisters of St. Ursula Hospital, Lohardaga, since December 2014, but when the news was broken that the Lord **had called her to himself on Sunday, 11th June at 4.00 AM**, it was an unbelievable shock to all that she was no more.

She died as she lived; a life of total surrender. Till the end she was fully conscious and repeated the prayers which were being offered at her bedside by our sisters of the Hospital, of Ursuline Convent, and of the T.T.C. Communities. Her last words on her lips were; into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit. And she slept peacefully in the Lord. R.I.P.

With her passing away, an era of dynamic leadership of her times in India and abroad has come to an end. She was endowed with gifts of wisdom, foresight and wide vision of both nationality and internationality. During her tenure of leadership as Provincial of undivided Indian Province from 1970 to 1978 and 1991 to 1994, she promoted and called forth leadership among the young budding Indian sisters, by preparing them in different areas of ministries and profession. In her time, Ursuline B.Ed. College was opened in response to the needs of the time. Many new houses were opened in different parts of India. She reached out and touched the hearts of all, and made her "home" in their hearts by her gentleness and compassion. She was a "Mother" to all. Her life of deep trust and confidence in God, integrity, resilience in every adverse situation, her serenity made her a woman religious with tremendous inner strength and vigour.

From August 1978 to August 1984, she collaborated with the team of the first International General Government; with Sr. Benigna Cools as General Superior, herself and Sr. Hedwig Owsiak as General Assistants. The "TRIO", all vibrant dynamic leaders gave an impetus to the spirit of the Internationality in the Congregation. To meet the end, the first International Renewal Programme was held in Belgium in the summer of 1983. During their tenure of office, the Congregation received Pontifical Status as an apostolic Congregation on 18 October, 1982. They also obtained the approval of our Constitutions "**Fullness in the life of Christ**" from

the Holy See on 15th September, 1983. It is this General Government that approved and promulgated the symbol in 1984 which we wear; **UT UNUM SINT.**

A great gift which Sr. Dorothy has offered to the Congregation is the book: **"Hope filled journey of 100 years" on the occasion of the Centenary of the arrival of the 4 pioneers to India in January 2003.** This gift will ever remain a testimony of her deep insights, hard work, knowledge and wisdom as a scholar.

Today she is not here with us in person, but we cherish her memory as an outstanding personality from whom gifts and qualities we glean the pearls for our own enrichment, in order to live a life fully lived for the Lord and for others, touching eternity.

Sr. Placida Kispotta

Tezpur Province

Guyana Mission

A few years ago the Guyana mission, previously staffed by the Ranchi Province, was opened to all the Indian Provinces. In the past Tezpur Province was requested to send personnel but we had refused as we did not have enough sisters. This time when our General Superior, Sr. Bimla Minj was with us in February 2017 she again requested a Sister. This time we accepted the invitation. So for the first time one sister from Tezpur Province is going as a real missionary to Guyana. You may be glad to know who is this heroine of the day for this mission. She is Sr. Helena Soreng from Doolahat Community. Congratulations dear Helen. We admire your courage to accept this challenge and your readiness to risk anything for the Kingdom of God.

Let us pray for her that she will persevere in her mission with a good spirit and greater love. We wish her all the best and assure her of our prayers. She is still working on her passport.

Entrance to Postulancy

On June 4th seven of our candidates at U.C. Kartic joined their postulancy after a period of one year's candidacy programme. Sr. Lucienne, the Provincial, her first Councillor, Sr. Pushpa Soreng and the postulant mistress, Sr. Mridula Xalxo were there along with the assistant candidate mistress and all the sisters of Kartic Community. It was the day of Pentecost. We had a beautiful programme in its honour.

Sr. Lucienne Kakanatt

The US Province

Sisters Mary Ellen Theriault and Joanne Callahan attended the **LCWR** (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) **New Leaders Workshop**. In March, 105 members from 29 different congregations gathered at the retreat and conference center at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, in the state of Illinois for the annual New Leaders Workshop.



Srs. Mary Ellen and Joanne at the LCWR workshop

The workshop focused on both the practical challenges of leadership and staying mission-grounded and hope-filled. It incorporated contemplative structures and processes as well as significant opportunities for participant interaction with resource personnel and with one another. Throughout the days together participants were invited to reflect on the gift that religious life has to offer to the world at this particular time in history.

News from the UN

World's Indigenous Peoples

The **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** is observed on August 9 each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.



Bicentennial News from the Generalate

We have specially designed colorful logo badges to celebrate our Bicentenary. You can buy your own badge and at the same time help our Bicentennial Educational Mission Project for India and the DRC. Each badge costs one (dollar) or one (Euro). Please send request to Sr. Kanchan at tildonkgenlate@gmail.com or quinlanosu@aol.com. We'll do our best to get them to you as soon as possible.

