

Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk



E-News - April 2017

From Generalate

Extended Council Meeting

The Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) is looking forward to the 2017 Extended Council Meeting to be held in Brussels at the Generalate from May 3 - 10. The theme is **Live Contemplative Spirituality as Leaders in our Challenging Times.**

The annual Extended Council Meeting provides the members valuable time together to plan for the future. This leads to a deeper understanding of each Province/ Vice Province.

Belgium Province

Two new buildings in Ternat

The minister of education, Hilde Crevits came to the opening of two additional buildings to "St. Angela" and "De Brug". Directors, managers, two priests, the Ursuline sisters and the Brothers of the Christian schools, and many guests attended the inauguration. The ceremony opened with a presentation by girls from St. Angela High School.



Sr. Ignace, Sr. Josée, Sr. Gabriël

We visited the rooms built for the needs of today's students. The spirit of Saint Angela is still present. Each student is encouraged to be productive and bear fruit.

The same ceremony was repeated for the opening of a new kindergarten in the 'Brug' school. During the visit we came across the statues of Saint Angela and Curé Jean Lambertz in adjacent rooms. Both were educators.

The Chairman of the Committee praised the Ursuline Sisters for having started a Catholic school in Ternat. The current school is a result of this initiative. He thanked everyone who contributed to the well-being of this work.

The Minister of Education was very impressed and respectfully acknowledged the school director and his Committee, as well as teachers who give themselves to young people. She invited everyone to look to the future, and to continue to take new initiatives.

Each classroom was given a crucifix blessed by the visiting priests. After the beautiful ceremony, all shared in light refreshments and shared their common belief that the future is secure and that the Christian faith continues to be important.

Sister Agnes Schollaert o.s.u.

DR Congo Province

Great Lakes Debating Contest

Seven girls from 5th and 6th in Lycée Chemchem earned first place in a difficult debating competition. They had been prepared well in advance by 2 teachers for the series of debates leading up to the finals in Bukavu. The girls from Chemchem had to compete for the winning position against the Jesuit school, Alfajiri. Debating clubs from Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo also participated. The girls earned the most points, giving them the title of champions of the Great Lakes Region Debating Contest.

This competition helps students to conduct personal research and communicate with ease. It develops team spirit and leadership giving the students useful tools for their future role in society as citizens of the world. The jury takes into account clarity of ideas, vocabulary, ability to convince others, team spirit and overall appearance.

In conclusion we say congratulations to the sisters for their desire to form youth capable of transforming the world of today and especially for the concern they have to help the woman take their place in society.

Sisters mediate conflicts

The Sisters who are in education in the Congo often have to help families facing difficulties. In one case a 6 year old boy was kidnapped and the parents didn't have the \$5,000 demanded by the criminals. A Sister intervened for the family and prayed with them and instead of paying \$5,000 demanded by the criminals, they paid \$1,000 to free the child after a week.

Another case involved a primary school girl and her stepmother who put her out of the home. With help from her friend where she went to stay and a Sister, the father of the child fixed relations in the family and the girl was accepted back into the family.

A third case involved a family in crisis where the stepmother was severely mistreating the girl. With the help of one Sister, the parent asked pardon of the girl. The Sister continues to counsel the family.

These cases show how our sisters are often called on to mediate situations and help resolve conflicts in the family

Sister Francoise Kika Sadiki has published a book, based on a survey of 164 youth. She discovered that the culture presents contradictory messages about the education of youth. What the schools and churches forbid youth to do, a particular tribe might find acceptable and even beneficial for youth. Added to this the media is sometimes a source of danger to Christian values, and corrupts their morals.

Sr. Colette Mwamini

Ursuline SDG Contest

Students were invited to design a poster on one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Bisimwa from Matunda 2 in Goma submitted this art work to illustrate Goal #2 End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. It shows 5 people cultivating vegetables and fruit. Their efforts have produced a rich harvest. Congratulations for this award winning drawing.



UN: International Day of Families

The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. The theme for this year is “**Families, education and well-being.**” The Day is to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth. Parents, grandparents and siblings all play a role in the welfare of children.

Blessing of St. Ursula Niwas Jangethi, Meerut a new mission station of Gumla Province

On July 17th, 2016 Gumla Province started a new mission in Jangethi, in Meerut Diocese. On February 14, 2017 the new residence of sisters constructed by the Diocese was blessed.

Sr. Maria Swarnlata Kujur, Provincial of Gumla Province with her 3 Councilors Sr. Kumudini Tirkey, Sr. Anita Jyoti Lakra and Sr. Mukta Topno were present along with Sr. Flora, Secretary of Province, Sr. Jacinta, Sr. Kirti Kiran Xess, two Sisters from Mayur Vihar: Sr. Virginia Lakra and Sr. Philomena Tirkey, one Sister from Patel Nagar Sr. Jagrani.

The occasion was graced by Bishop Francis Calyst, Bishop of Meerut Diocese and Bishop Charles Soreng Bishop Emeritus of Hazaribag Diocese, and many others.

The ceremony started with the entrance procession. Bishops and priests were welcomed at the entrance gate of the new convent by the ladies from the parish and a melodious choir. The ribbon was cut jointly by both Bishops and the provincial. Bishop Francis unlocked the door and handed over the key to the provincial and blessed the convent.

Holy Mass was concelebrated in the convent chapel, Bishop Charles Soreng was the main celebrant. Bishop Francis said in his sermon that the presence of religious sisters is very special, because there are no substitutes for consecrated sisters; religious sisters are not ordinary women. They are consecrated, anointed and set apart for a special task. Therefore religious have to stay in contact with God; that's the reason that each religious house has the presence of Blessed Sacrament. We have to carry blessings when we go out and say thanks when we come back. This way we are connected with God always.



Sisters Juliana, Anita, Fr. John Chiman, Bishop Francis Kalist, Sanjita & Nilmani

Sr. Flora Bhengra osu

Tezpur Province

North East Small Christian Community Festival 2017

The Northeast Small Christian Community (SCC) celebrated 15 years of existence in Northeast India. The purpose of this festival held from February 23-26, was to celebrate the SCC work in Northeast India. 15 delegates from each of the 15 Dioceses participated. These included bishops, priests, religious sisters, brothers, and lay leaders

The theme of the festival was "Evangelizing Families through SCCs." The theme was very relevant for our Northeast context as family plays a vital role in the life of the Church and the society. The main topics discussed were a) The joy of love experienced in families is the joy of the Church. b) Gospel sharing as a way to make Christ the centre of families and to form agents of evangelization. c) The power of SCCs evangelizes families.

This convention helped us to understand how SCCs can bring more meaning, joy, purpose to our own personal life, family life, and parish life and at the same time to realize the SSC goals to build faith, and help in the process of nation building, in the promotion of peace and prosperity in Assam and North-East.



It is our joy and privilege to be a part of this SSC programme. Sisters Cornelia, Agnes, Helen, Mansweta, Usha , Mridula, Bridget and Mary were present for this great event.

Srs. Mridula Tirkey and Bridgit Soreng

New missionaries from India

Sr. Anima Sosan Kujur from Gumla Province and Sr. Helena Soreng from Tezpur Province have said yes to God's invitation to be missionaries in Guyana. Their presence will allow the mission to continue.



Happy Easter