

REFLECT

Ursuline Sisters
Generalate
Rue Musin 1
1210 Brussels



March 2018

The Mystery of Faith

"The mystery of faith" is a phrase we hear just after the Consecration in the Eucharistic prayer of the Mass. I have been considering the words "the mystery of faith" followed by the proclamation:

**We proclaim your death, O Lord
And profess your Resurrection
Until you come again**

We proclaim your death, O Lord

To proclaim something requires the desire and conviction that it's worth the trouble to make the news known. We have to be convinced of what we're telling others. Do we accept the cross of our own fragility and shortcomings in proclaiming the Good News?

From time to time, it is good to take a look at that person in the mirror and assess how we need to change for the better. Our faith gives us the assurance that we have been set free from the guilt of our sins by the death of Jesus, so isn't it time to consider how we can proclaim the Good News in our own unique way, believing that even the smallest gestures made in love are a means of proclaiming the Gospel?

Like Mary of Magdala, upon finding the heavy work of rolling back the stone had been done for her, and that Jesus was no longer there, hurried from the empty tomb and went to inform the disciples that Christ is risen indeed! What is the Good News the Risen Lord is inviting us to announce at this Easter time? Do we accept the invitation to renew within us the same passion of our founder? Are we joyful witnesses of God's love and compassion? (Prayer for the Bicentenary)

And profess your Resurrection

In French the word meaning *celebrate your Resurrection* is used in place of *profess your Resurrection*. *To celebrate* for me has a different sense than *to profess*. We *profess* or admit openly what we believe by *celebrating* and accepting God's invitation to new life. How do I celebrate and profess the Resurrection of Jesus?

The Resurrection event of 2000 years ago still has meaning for our time. I find meaning in the mystery of the Resurrection when I think of the power of love that in this case conquered death. Springtime in many countries brings new life and a sense of renewal after a long

winter. Whether we live in a city or a village, in a warm climate or a temperate one, we all experience a joy and newness which Easter brings to our world. Even though we may see darkness and violence around us, light overcomes darkness. Love is the way to bring light to the world.

Maybe things in our life are not working out as we had planned, but at Easter we can see the brighter side of life and realize *this too shall pass*. We are called to move to fuller life and enjoy the sunshine.

Until you come again

We are waiting for your coming in glory is how it is expressed in French. While waiting until Jesus comes again in glory, we all have a responsibility to make our planet earth a more peaceful, safer, cleaner place. Our time on earth may be long or short, but at least we know after it's over, the glory of eternal life awaits us.

Every day as I walk along Rue Royale in front of the Generalate, I am struck by the difference between the noisy, cluttered street outside the Botanical Gardens and the beautiful fountain, flower beds and manicured hedges that make up the landscape inside the Botanical Gardens. People flock to the green landscape of the Gardens which provides an oasis from the noise, and hectic pace of the street.

As with our own religious life, we need to find space to breathe fresh air and escape

from time to time to a quiet place for prayer and contemplation. God comes to us through the beauty of creation.

With the help of nature, wherever our favourite spot may be, we are refreshed and prepared to deal with the unique challenges we face every day. Where is your favourite space to contemplate God's creation until he comes again in glory?

Sr. Jane Quinlan, OSU



We on the Leadership Team wish you a Blessed Easter. This year provides us a special opportunity to celebrate together the Good News of Jesus, consciously remembering and celebrating all that our Lord has done for us during these 200 years of our existence in the Church.

Our 200th Jubilee Year is the culmination of our witness "I have seen the Lord." He sends us on a mission to "Rekindle the fire of Love." These words take on new meaning with the Resurrection of Jesus:

a new beginning with a chance to rejoice and thank God for his loving care and protection. Through Easter, God gives us a chance to start over and enjoy a new relationship with him.

As members of the same congregation, we are all committed to travel the road God has prepared for us, share the joys and burdens common to travellers, and marvel at the wonders and surprises that lie ahead for the next 100 years.

Happy Easter!

Sisters Bimla, Bernadette,
Nirmala, Jane

Memorable gift from our Founder, Fr. John Lambertz

After waiting for eight years, the Ursuline Transit House, Kolkata now has the honour of having the Sacramental Presence of our Lord. With the Canonical permission of His Grace, Thomas D'Souza D.D., the Archbishop of Kolkata, the small chapel of the residence was blessed and inaugurated by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. J. Hermil D'Souza on 6th January 2018.

The Blessed Sacrament, placed in a tabernacle was planted in one corner of the Chapel during Holy Mass. The brothers of Charity (M.C.) and the parishioners blessed the occasion. Since then we are fortunate to have the weekly Holy Mass. It is a most holy and memorable gift from our Founder, Fr. John Lambertz on the

golden occasion of Bi -Centenary of our Foundation.



Now the whole house has become the abode of Jesus, our Lord - the eternal source of peace and joy. This historic event has made a remarkable difference in our life and mission. Both of us, Sr. Premdani Xess and Sr. Esther Pratiti Kerketta sincerely thank God, our Church Authorities and the leaders of our Ranchi Province for their blessings, kind prayers and support.

Sr. Esther Pratiti Kerketta, OSU

Spiritual conference in DR Congo

Some Sisters attended a spiritual conference in Bukavu.. The theme was "Benefits in the practice of my religious vows as a means of expression and realization of my religious consecration"

Father KIAKA said we are doubly consecrated people, through our baptism and the vows. Our consecration binds us to a person, an activity, God. One chooses to consecrate oneself because we understand that it is very important for us. By our

consecration we give ourselves totally to God either for a time or for always.

People are able to sacrifice one good for another which they consider more important, this choice is freely taken. Religious consecration is a special consecration is rooted in baptism.

We are consecrated not for our own sanctification, but we must help others to live their baptismal promises. This helps us understand our apostolic consecration. So we must not let ourselves be led by others in the wrong way; it is up to us to guide them on the right path.

The baptized and consecrated are called to love the Lord, the only difference is that the consecrated give themselves totally to the Lord. We give ourselves as a gift.

Our consecration must lead us to holiness and if we make no effort to achieve this holiness what is the use of still being consecrated?

In summary some advantages of our vows: *chastity* Strengthens our capacity to be alone, *poverty* makes us sensitive to the sufferings of others, *obedience* gives more interior freedom

Tribute to Sister Georgette De Schutter
On the part of the Sisters of the Vice
Province of the Congo

« Good and faithful servant enter into the joy of your master ». Mt 23 14-30

It is with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of our dear Sister Georgette De Schutter in Belgium - former missionary in the Congo. At this difficult time, we would like to show you our affection and we are joined to you in our hearts.

We lack words to express how much this affects us. Sister Georgette spent a part of her religious life as a missionary here with us in the DRC. Daughter of Saint Angela and Jean Lambertz, she is among those who have embedded the charism and mission of our congregation among us.

She was always motivated by the spirit of a job well done and discipline while having at the same time a sense of mercy. She has trained most of us in good work habits and to become better at administration and organization. Thanks to her missionary spirit we have learned to love the young people entrusted to us in our mission and to try to enter their culture to help them grow. She had respect for our cultures. She was a practical woman, with a sense of exactitude in all she did. For her *yes* is *yes* and *no* is *no*.

This radicalism has helped make our Chemchem school what it is now. We are very grateful. **Sister Georgette, thank you for everything that you have been to us and may your soul rest in peace.**

Ursuline Sisters of the Vice
Province of the DR Congo