



Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk

E-News - February 2013

From the General Leadership:

The Extended Council at Pune, India, was a success. Every member except Sister Espérance Hamuli, Vice Provincial of Vice-Province of Congo was present. Sister Ann Cuppens, Provincial of Belgian Province was represented by Sister Celestina Lakra, member of the Belgian Leadership.

We are grateful to you for accompanying us through your prayers. We ask you to continue to pray for all the Leadership Teams.

Wish you all God's blessings as you continue to respond to God's call in your daily endeavor.

Lent is not merely a pilgrimage of prayer, fasting and almsgiving but an invitation to an interior disposition of breaking the narrow domestic walls of human relations into a free atmosphere of God's love, a God who is Abba, Father to all humanity. "Yahweh says, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to Yahweh, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing (Joel 2.12-13). Jesus says, when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer gift (Mt 5.23-24). Our Easter renewal must be therefore not only a mere committed acceptance of a loving Father, but also a new relation of love with our sisters and all our neighbours.

From Ambikapur Province:

*'T20 PM' Training in 20 Christian Prayer and Meditation Methods
(27 -30 January 2013, NBCLC, Bangalore - 560084)*

Sisters Saroj Lakra, Bertha Lakra, Namita Minj, Karuna Kanti Tigga, Pushpa Madhura Tete and Manju Prabha Tirkey attended the course T20 PM at NBCLC Bangalore from 27th January 2013 to 30th January 2013. It was a unique experience for all of us as it was the course based on prayer and meditation the atmosphere was so peaceful and we felt that we were in retreat. The participants were 76 from different congregations including the laity. Participants were from Six different states and from the other country

Sri Lanka. It was a unique experience to be with the mixed group, with different culture and tribe.

The course was very helpful for each one of us.

- ☒ It was the time to appreciate our own heritage.
- ☒ It was the time to rediscover the beauty of our faith.
- ☒ It was the time to learn the art of Christian Prayer and Meditation.

After our successful seminar filled with rich experience we came back home on 1st of February. We are very grateful to our provincial and her team for giving us the golden opportunity to experience God deeply and be strengthened. We have learned the art of prayer.



From Saroj and Manju Prabha

From United States Province:

A Solar System and Its Benefits

We are happy to announce that solar panels will soon be installed on the roof of St. Ursula Center.

This process enables the Ursuline Sisters, U.S. Province, to generate renewable energy for a cleaner environment. The following is some information explaining how solar energy works and an explanation of the benefits of utilizing the sun's energy.

A **solar electric** or **photovoltaic (PV) system** converts energy from the sun into electricity using PV panels. PV systems reduce the amount of energy purchased from our electric company, (LIPA), and enable us to sell excess electricity back to LIPA under the New York State Net Metering Law.

PV systems are made up of **three components**: the PV modules or solar panels, the inverter, and the electric meter.

- ☒ Solar modules produce direct current (DC) electricity when exposed to sunlight.
- ☒ The inverter converts the direct current (DC) that is produced by the system to alternating current (AC) electricity that is used in the building.
- ☒ The meter records the net amount of electricity that we purchase from LIPA.

Environmental Benefits

No fossil fuels are burned to generate power. A 10 kW PV system has the potential of eliminating 64 lbs of SO_2 , 19 lbs of NO_x , and 14,500 lbs of CO_2 annually. The CO_2 emission savings are equal to the amount produced by burning 747 gallons of gasoline in a vehicle.

Durability

PV modules are designed to endure extreme temperatures and high winds and are resistant to moisture and salt in the atmosphere.

Economic Benefits

- ✓ LIPA offers significant rebates for photovoltaic systems to help reduce the overall cost of installation.
- ✓ Homeowners can produce a portion, or most of their electricity needs, depending on the electric use (in kWh) and the size of the PV system.
- ✓ Installing a PV system "stabilizes" a portion of energy costs, regardless of the fluctuating cost of fuel for generating electricity.
- ✓ If the PV system produces more electricity than the building requires, we can "bank" the excess electricity. This is called "net metering". When surplus electricity is produced, the meter will run "backwards" and LIPA will issue a credit on the electric bill. Energy from the bank can also be withdrawn in subsequent months to reduce the net metered customer's billed consumption during the contract year.
- ✓ Installing a PV system will increase the value of the property.

What if the sun doesn't shine?

The PV system will continue to produce electricity during cloudy weather although the total amount will be reduced. Power will automatically be produced through LIPA at night or during inclement weather as needed - unless the power lines are knocked out during a severe storm.

What is the Cost and what are the Financial Benefits to the Consumer?

As participants in LIPA's Solar Pioneer Program, the Ursuline Sisters have been granted a rebate of \$87,465.00 for the photovoltaic system. We have also been the grateful recipients of a large gift from a generous and anonymous donor. This gift of \$90,000.00 covers the remainder of the project.

In addition to the Economic and Environmental benefits given above, it is estimated that this Solar system will save at least \$10,000.00 a year from the annual electric bill at St. Ursula Center.

We are happy and pleased to participate in LIPA's Renewable Energy Portfolio as a means of increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions on Long Island.