



# Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk

## E-News - November 2013

### From the Congregation Leadership:



The Advent Scriptures challenge us to "Stay awake!" amidst the hustle and bustle of our lives. We are reminded that we are spiritual beings in human form. While our daily lives have the possibility of totally consuming all our energy, the Evangelists remind us to be aware of our spiritual dimension, to pay attention to the inner place where God is. Our daily spiritual practices provide time to pause amidst our busy-ness and remember who we are and whose we are. May you be

blessed with "staying awake" during this Advent!

### From Ranchi Province: Juniors Gathering with Congregation Leader.

A three days gathering for Juniors of Ranchi Province was held from October 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Ursuline Convent, Camil Bulke Path, Ranchi. The inputs given by our Congregation Leader Sister Margaret O'Brien and Sister Gemma Rose Minj, the Congregation Assistant were very enriching and inspiring for all us the juniors. Through role plays, games and different exercises Sister Margaret communicated to us many powerful messages for our life.

I am personally very much touched by the article given to us to read and reflect, "I am the Beloved of God. I am precious in God's sight. God's favor rests upon me." When I read and reflected upon it repeatedly, I was reminded that I belong to God. In-spite of my weaknesses and limitations, God loves me. I am reminded of my true spiritual identity in Christ who guides me, teaches me, supports me and nurtures me. It also reminds that every other Sister is the beloved of God. Everyone is precious and important and God's favor rests upon everyone. All of us were challenged by the question, "what makes us forget or doubt about our true identity?"

The second very important point is to practice "Contemplation in Action". She emphasized that our prayer life is reflected and seen in our actions, in our dealings with others and in our behaviors. If we see Jesus in all things and in every person, then the work goes smoothly, peacefully and there is no tension, no anger, fewer mistakes and all those who come in contact with us experience God's presence in us. This charism of being "Contemplatives in Action" is a gift to every

Sister of the Congregation of the Ursulines of Tildonk. This gift is to be imparted to the world. The world desperately needs it. We are the followers of Jesus. We ought to follow God by being sacrificial, courageous, generous and hard working. We are called to be sent out. Before being sent out we need to undergo a spiritual journey, do an inner work which is hard and challenging. We are expected to behave as adults, to practice listening, to discover God in life because God is present everywhere. So Sister Margaret emphasized more on the importance of listening. Through role play she gave us the message that we need to listen to Jesus rather than to say intellectual set prayers. Jesus speaks in the silence of our heart. Therefore meditation, contemplation and reflection are a must in our prayer life. In prayer we ask; "what is God doing in me now?" "What is God asking of me?" "What is God's invitation in this situation?" ... etc. During our conversation with each other we needed to listen to others in preference to be heard. The role play inspired everyone to develop our listening skill. When we listen to others, the person who speaks feels happy and relaxed. We were reminded not to criticize and speak against others. The criticism tells rather about the critic's personality, attitudes and behavior. So we need to stop criticism.

To live a better community life, there is a great need of understanding among us since there is a vast difference between the ideas and views of young and old due to our formation in the family and Congregation. Through games Sister Margaret gave us the message that our success depends on our active participation, co-operation and team-spirit. We learnt to avoid mind reading of others since it leads us to wrong judgment. Here I am reminded of the judging attitude of Pharisees and Scribes in the Gospel texts. They are always on the look out to find faults in Jesus. He was labeled as a glutton, a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners because of his association with them. I must remember that I am responsible for my own life. So I accept myself, I own my feelings; I don't blame anyone for my faults, failures and mistakes. I am convinced of my own identity.

On behalf of all the participants, I appreciate and thank Sisters Margaret and Gemma Rose for sharing their life, love, time, energy and God's blessings while being with us for three days. They have put new spirit in us. We feel loved, privileged, refreshed and energized. Sr. Nimi Bhengra, osu

**From United States Province:**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUBILARIANS!!**

Sister Catherine Gardiner and Sister Gertrude Goldman

Saturday, October 19, 2013, was a glorious day both inside and out, as approximately 80 Sisters, Associates, family members, friends and former

students of our Jubilarians arrived at St. Ursula Center to celebrate **Sister Catherine's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** and **Sister Gertrude's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**.

The Jubilarians chose the lovely readings and hymns for the Liturgy. We were blessed to have Reverend Paul Palmiotto, pastor of Nativity BVM Parish, Ozone Park, NY, as the Presider and Preacher for the Mass. And once again, we were gifted with the musical talents of our pianist, trumpeter and leader of song.

Sister Catherine Talia, Province Leader (right), congratulates Sister Gertrude Goldman (left) – 50 years and Sister Catherine Gardiner (center) – 60 years at their Jubilee Celebration-- October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.



After we left the Chapel and congratulated our Sister Jubilarians, all gathered in the dining room for a delicious celebratory dinner. The Jubilarians asked Sister Carmel Ruth to offer the Grace Before Meals, and Sister Cecilia Moloughney to lead all present in a very special Toast - the Prayer of St. Patrick.

All of us, Sisters and Associates of the US Province, would like to offer this same Toast to every Sister throughout the Congregation who will be celebrating her Jubilee this year:

*May the strength of God pilot us.  
May the wisdom of God instruct us.  
May the hand of God protect us.  
May the Word of God direct us.  
May Thy salvation, O Lord,  
Be always ours this day and forever more. Amen!*