



Ursuline Sisters, Congregation of Tildonk

E-News - March 2013

From the General Leadership:

Sisters Bimla and Gemma Rose from the Congregation Leadership Team have been visiting the Indian Provinces from October 2012. Their visit included Tezpur Province Chapter, CRI Meeting in Hyderabad, Four Leadership Teams Meeting in Tezpur in the month of October, Meeting of the Sisters who attended the Ursuline International Tertianship in Rome and Spirituality Team Meeting.

After the visit Sister Bimla is back in Brussels. We thank both Sisters Bimla and Gemma for their generosity in availing themselves to the Sisters and to the Congregation at large. May God continue to bless them in their daily effort to discern God's will and guide each Sister as Congregation Leaders.

From Ranchi Province:

Gathering Of Ursuline International Tertians In Rome Feb. 23, 24, 2013

It was a matter of great joy and privilege for fifteen sisters who have had six to seven months in the International Tertianship Program in Rome to meet together recently. Our sisters have participated in groups of two or three from our Indian provinces, beginning with Srs. Roshni Baxla, Marina Ekka and Placida Kispotta from the undivided province of India in 1981- 1982 and from 2001 onwards from all the four provinces. It was a very remarkable event for the sisters because it was the first time that they were called for such a gathering.

The meeting brought home to them the sweet memories of the stay in that international community in Rome where they had been touched by the hospitality, simplicity, homely feeling and sisterly concern shown by the Ursuline sisters of the Roman Union who so generously invite Ursulines of other branches for this intensive program. Its focus is on the study of the Constitutions of different branches of Ursulines, and particularly on the Charism and Spirituality of St. Angela Merici.

The participants shared their felt experience of unity and oneness of heart and mind due to the common charism and spirituality of St. Angela Merici. During their studies, they had pilgrimages and visits to the Eternal City Rome, the Basilicas, Churches, Holy places sanctified by the saints like St Angela Merici and blood of martyrs, catacombs and so on. The 30 day retreat was another moment of peak

experience for them all. They were thrilled looking at their old albums once again. They were touched by the clean and silent atmosphere of the Generalate and graceful, respectful, recollected movements of tertian directresses and companions hailing from Rome, Thailand, Indonesia and other parts of the world.

The participants were called for this meeting by Srs. Bimla Minj and Gemma Rose Minj, the General Councilors on behalf of the Spirituality Team to find out how the rich experiences gained by these Sisters can be shared with the others in the Indian Provinces to grow, develop and deepen their spirituality. The preparation for the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Ursulines of Tildonk in 2018 will also be kept in mind. Together with Srs. Bimla and Gemma Rose, the members of the Spirituality Team who have not been to Rome were enriched and delighted by seeing their excitement and faces beaming with joy as they shared their lived experiences.

The enthusiasm and willingness to share their riches and resources is worth appreciating. The fifteen sisters have made a plan that together with the five absentee companions and Spirituality Team members they would prepare written notes on different topics dealt with in Rome within six months and be available to share the riches in the gatherings of sisters in the Indian Provinces at all levels but mainly focusing on On-Going Formation.

May Jesus, St Angela and Fr. John Lambertz bless us in this venture!

ASIAN MOVEMENT OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (AMRAT)

"To set free the oppressed For Fullness of life"

AMRAT had organized two days meetings in Northern Region for the coordinators in Jharkhand at Ursuline Provincialate, Kanke Road, Ranchi. It was the plan of Sr. Eve Justina Romould, the provincial, Ranchi province, to have this meeting and work in collaboration for the noble task of ending human trafficking. Coordinators from 5 states of Northern region were present in the meeting along with the members of the core team.

It was a plan of the AMRAT executive team to extend the networking and to include the source areas of trafficking. Therefore this meeting was organized in the North. Jharkhand is the source of trafficking and there was no representation of any women religious in the AMRAT. Another main purpose was to create awareness and to introduce AMRAT among women religious in the north particularly in Jharkhand and other neighboring states.

Total 28 women religious from different Congregations took part in the meeting from Ranchi and other districts of Jharkhand. Though many of them were involved in the social work but for many it was alarming to know the magnitude of the issues. Mr. Sanjya Mishra, with his rich experience on trafficking shared his knowledge and

enlightened the participants. They felt motivated to take action against human trafficking. He also gave legal knowledge to approach and get help from CWC, Women Cell, and Police etc.

Sr. Gemma shared her experience on trafficking and domestic workers cases. She had handled many serious cases of trafficking and was successful to take these cases to court and help the trafficked victims to get justice in the court. The sharing inspired and challenged many to get involved in the issues.

At the end of the two days' meeting each one made an action plan to start working on human trafficking issues in our own areas. Sr. Julia George OSU was elected as Coordinator from Jharkhand to join the AMRAT. Six of us from the Ursuline Congregation (Sr. Julia George, Sr. Gemma, Sr. Pratiti, Sr. Gulab, Sr. Ruby and Sr. Ranjita) took part in the meeting and got acquainted with the new strategies of Anti-human trafficking and legal issues.

Sr. Ranjita OSU