

REFLECT



Ursuline Sisters
Generalate
Rue Musin 1
1210 Brussels

December 2013

Dear Sisters and Associates,

"I AM GOD'S BELOVED; God's Favor Rests on Me."

Only a few weeks ago the first Christmas decorations appeared in the stores and on the streets of Brussels. Not much later we saw people returning home with bags full of articles and clothings. Hopefully every house will create a festive atmosphere: a tree with packages underneath, music and a well-set table with tasty food!

How many of us still think of the origin and the meaning of Christmas? God sent God's Only Son into the world because God loves you and me, because we are God's Beloved.

This week, with an army of police, a few hundred asylum seekers were driven out from the former Jesuit House. Most of these asylum seekers will spend their days and nights on the streets. Indeed, there are already more than 500 shelters for the homeless in Brussels. Therefore, even today there is no enough places for these asylum seekers in the inn!



Don't we who live a committed life as religious men and women, experience one with those asylum seekers when we feel lonely, left out, not accepted, misunderstood, not loved, and when we are criticized?

This Christmas season brings us back to the ultimate place of Jesus' birth as God's Beloved. Emmanuel! God with us!

The Scripture reading, Luke 3: 21-22 says, "..... the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form as a dove, and a voice came from heaven ," You are my beloved Son, in you I am well pleased". Have we ever heard God saying this to us? "... **You are**

My Beloved, and I love you". Fill in your own name, and say that phrase a few times slowly, with attention and faith. Repeat again later, at other times. It will change your life. God comes to us. He invites us, and may we turn to that invitation time and again.

God loves us all! We are "GOD'S BELOVED".



I wish you all God's blessings during this Advent and deep inner joy as we prepare for the BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

Sr. Bernadette Uytterhoeven



A Social Evening in Scherpenheuvel

On 175th Anniversary of the Ursulines presence in Scherpenheuvel, a book was published with lots of pictures. But there were inaccuracies and also some important things were missing. Therefore, it was corrected, updated and reprinted. The new book was presented in "The Pilgrim". There were many people. Everyone met with acquaintances and there was a hustle and bustle.

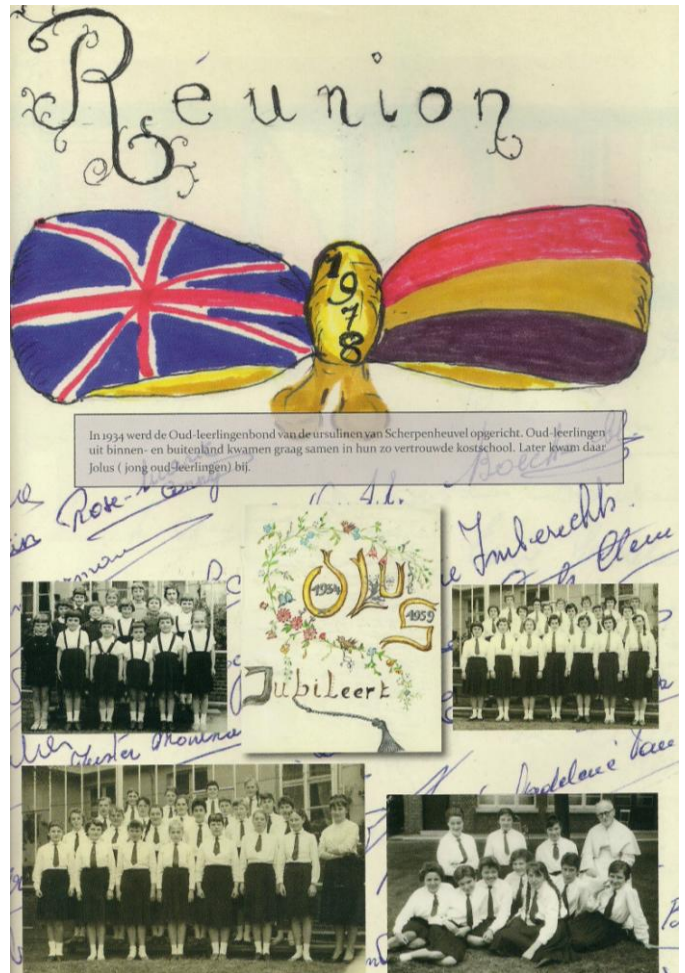
I was invited to give a brief introduction.



Front: Sisters Leonarda, Lilima, Lydwina
Back: Pia and Ann

I spoke about the bond between Father John Lambertz and Scherpenheuvel. The author presented his book and then

followed the interview with Sister Josepha. You can imagine her, she cannot stop speaking. The interviewer tried all the possibilities to interrupt her to ask



questions in between. Again and again she pulled the micro towards her from his hand to add to what she had just said. There was a lot of fun in the room. Monique, who was interviewed last, had the same sickness. She has been a student in Scherpenheuvel, a boarder, founder of the youth in school and later a teacher and now president of the former students association. She has kept up the pleasant memories.

A very old short film was shown: "A Dutch man discovered Flanders". In the film, the Dutch author Godfried Bomans comes to visit the school in Scherpenheuvel. The students practice a performance. Their



clothing is very risky for that time. Today, that would be very fashionable clothing! So you see how standard changes. For the Sisters and parents it was a shock. Finally, we see a very young Sister Lucia as directress saying - she initially could not accept this new way of doing things, but she had to move with the times and had to adapt to the youth. The students even tell Godfried Bomans that the Sisters think wider than their parents!

Monique Swinnen, the representative of the province of Flemish Brabant, jumped



unexpectedly on the stage. The bond between Tildonk and Scherpenheuvel was for her a fantastic discovery. She told with great enthusiasm how beautiful our Convent of Tildonk would become and all that would take place. She invited everyone to visit and experience when the building is renovated and ready for use. We will certainly do.

The evening ended with a reception and the chatting among them was to their heart's content. The relationship of the audience with the school and the Sisters grew deep.

And that was very pleasant. Sister Ann Cuppens, Belgian Province



WINGS OF HOPE EVENT

ST. URSULA CENTER, BLUE POINT, NY
Sunday afternoon, December 1, was a special day at St. Ursula Center, Blue Point. About 150 people gathered on the side lawn of St. Ursula Center for a tree lighting ceremony, songs and hot chocolate, followed by a "Prayer Service of Hope" in our Chapel. This was a local community event organized by Dorothy Johnson to bring increased awareness to drug prevention. Dorothy's son, Maxwell, died of a drug overdose two years ago, and Dorothy has since founded *Maxed Out Drug Prevention* in an effort to help fight the epidemic to which so many young people are exposed.

We are very happy to support Dorothy's efforts to raise drug prevention awareness by making our property at St. Ursula Center available.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR ST. URSULA CENTER, BLUE POINT, NY

It was a glorious day, Saturday, November 9, 2013, as hundreds of people from the local community as well as from all over Long Island walked through the doors of St. Ursula Center to attend the **ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR!**

This year, there were 19 vendors which included the Ursuline Associates table.



The local historian, Gene Horton, sold his books that include the history of Blue Point and the Ursuline Convent. All of the proceeds from the Associates table and Gene Horton's sales were donated to the Ursuline Sisters.

Approximately 50 gorgeous Raffle baskets, made by our dedicated volunteers, were a highlight of the day! Also, there were six beautiful Premium raffles that were all valued over \$250 each. Some of the premiums were: handmade dollhouse, hand carved carousel horse, handmade cedar Adirondack settee, and an antique porcelain doll.

The newest addition to the Craft Fair - photos with Santa was a GREAT plus!! Children, volunteers, Sisters and friends were all present for a picture.



Sisters Mary Lou Tressy and Regina Delaney volunteer at the holiday fair

THANK YOU to our Event Planner, Liz Wilson, and her more than 35 volunteers for making this Craft Fair a most successful event!! As so many attendees said - this was the "Best Fair Ever!!!"



Sister Jean Redigan with Santa and her friends from Middle Village

Thank you to all who donated the most delicious baked goods - always one of the best "sellers" at the Fair!



