

# REFLECT



Ursuline Sisters  
Generalate  
Rue Musin 1  
1210 Brussels

December 2014

Dear Sisters and Associates,



With the first week of Advent, we notice that Advent is already Christmas!

Streets are lit up with beautiful twinkling bulbs. Shops are filled with Christmas gifts and cards. There is excitement in the air as people do their Christmas shopping.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle and business of life, what is God's invitation for us during this Advent? What is God inviting us to contemplate?

During the Advent Season, the Church is calling us to revive our awareness that God has come into this world. The Lord Jesus continues to come every day into our lives. If we open our eyes to His coming, we see each day differently.

The central message of Christmas is "Love". "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus came to tell us that we are God's beloved.

*The Incarnation of Jesus demonstrates that God meets us where we are as human. The Stable of Bethlehem already revealed that it was good to be a human being. For us Christians, spiritual power is always hidden inside of powerlessness, just as God was hidden and yet revealed in a defenseless baby.*

*In a weak little child, God is both perfectly hidden and perfectly revealed - and fully lovable. (Richard Rorh).*

We contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus together with Mary and Joseph, with the shepherds and with three kings.

What is being revealed to me during this Christmas Season?

The good news is first of all that God came to live among us, to be Emmanuel, God-with-us, and to share the ordinariness of our daily existence.

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*"At this Christmas, let us encounter God in deep silence and contemplation, in our personal and communal prayer, in reading and reflecting on the Word of God, in our daily way of being with others and through our oneness with the world. Let us become messengers of Christmas joy, peace and hope especially to the vulnerable" (General Chapter, 2014).*



A Blessed Christmas and blessings for the New Year 2015.

-Bimla Minj OSU



## **GRATITUDE TO SISTERS MARGARET, BERNADETTE, BIMLA AND GEMMA ROSE**

Our sincere thanks are extended to you for having successfully completed six years as the General Leadership Team. During this time, you have seen many changes that required important decisions for the Congregation. Your focus was always to develop unity amidst diversity.

In a consistent manner you have exemplified a faith filled approach to challenges and brought us forward through the use of technology, through visits to our places of ministry, and by offering opportunities for studies in personal development, and in fields that help the vulnerable people in society. By fostering leadership skills, and training in spiritual direction for our Sisters, you have carefully prepared them for present and future needs of the Congregation and the Church believing that the mission is God's. You have celebrated in joy during the many milestones marked in our Congregational history.

You deserve a resounding round of applause for leading us forward to face the challenges of our times and for being in the forefront of change. As we, the new



leadership team continues on the wonderful path you have prepared, we remain always grateful for the initiative you have shown leading up to the 2014 Chapter and for developing the theme "Live Contemplative Spirituality for Mission Today."

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Thank you seems inadequate for all you have done. We are truly grateful for your presence, love and support. We count on your continued prayers and wish you God's blessing in your future endeavors.

"Our mission is to make God known and loved  
by responding to the needs of the local church wherever we are."(Art. 13)

-Sister Jane Quinlan,osu



## THANK YOU ... WELCOME...

With deep gratitude we announce that Sr. Leela Muthu has completed her term as General Secretary, a task which she efficiently carried out. Sr. Leela started this ministry in February 2007 and completed her term of six years in 2012. Toward the completion of her task, she was asked by the Congregation Leader to extend her stay in the Generalate until the General Chapter 2014. We are grateful to the Tezpur Province Leadership for their generosity in enabling Sr. Leela to be free for the service of the Congregation. We are grateful to the Tezpur Province Leadership for their generosity to make Sr. Leela free for the service of the Congregation.

Sr. Leela, we are very grateful to you for your generous, committed and devoted service to the Congregation as General Secretary. We deeply appreciate your giftedness. You have touched the lives of all those whom you have met, especially the

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk through Congregational communications - E-News, Reflect and the Congregational website.

Thank you for your generous availability and whole-hearted dedication to the Generalate.

As you begin the next phase of your life's journey, Sr. Leela, we thank our God not only for all you are and have been for us; but we thank God also for whatever future now lies open before you. May you continue to remain open to whatever God wants for you and asks of you.



The return of Sr. Leela to India has necessitated for a replacement in the ministry of our secretariat. The members of the Extended Council have been asked for a suitable person to fulfill the role of the General Secretary. We are very grateful to the Leadership team of Gumla Province for their generosity in allowing Sr. Jyoti Kiro to replace Sr. Leela. Sr. Jyoti helped Sr. Leela prepare for the General Chapter for three weeks preceding the meetings. She also assisted Sr. Leela in Pune during the General Chapter.

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She is now in Belgium learning the work under the direction of Sr. Leela. It has been a big sacrifice for the Gumla Province since there was another plan for Sr. Jyoti.



Sr. Jyoti, we are very grateful to you for your generosity in accepting the call of God in serving the Congregation as General Secretary in the Generalate.

You have accepted this ministry with faith, trusting in God who called you, and having confidence in your gifts and skills and talents which God has gratuitously graced you with. As you assume this responsibility with the new Congregation Leadership Team, we assure you of our prayer and support.

Thank you Sr. Leela! Welcome Sr. Jyoti!

## ASIA PACIFIC URSULINE MEETING SEPTEMBER 15 -24, 2014

At Jesuit Spirituality Centre, Tokyo,  
Japan.

Our Foundress St. Angela and newly canonized Ursuline Saint Marie of the

Incarnation brought 37 Ursulines of the Canadian Union, Roman Union and Ursulines of Tildonk from 9 Asian countries together. It was a thrilling experience to be together for 5 days, reflecting together on the theme "Prophetism and Mysticism in Asian Context". Fr. Sali Augustine Sj, a Japanese missionary from Kerala Province and Fr. Hoan Ribera Sj gave input and some questions for group discussion. We were encouraged to discover and appreciate our prophetic role in building the Church and the world. For two days, Sr. Jeanntte Tjitresna Krista and Sr. Lidwina Mariani from Indonesia enlightened us by highlighting St. Angela as a living woman for all ages as she was a great prophetess and mystic in her time. Sr. Aurore Jean from the Philippines gave a life sketch of our Ursuline St. Marie of the Incarnation and emphasized her heroic role in preserving the Christian faith in the Church in Canada. The power point projection with inspiring quotations and beautiful pictures caught our attention. We all felt challenged to be contemplative Ursulines in our actions for the establishment of His kingdom.



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On September 17<sup>th</sup>, we visited the historic Buddhist Temple housing the Shinto Shrine and St. Ignatius Church in Tokyo. We know that St. Francis Xavier went to Japan in 1645 bringing the Christian faith. Our programme closed with a very meaningful Eucharistic Celebration on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Sr. Somchitr Kongboonsri, the Provincial Prioress from Thailand Roman Union, presented a liturgical dance after Holy Communion to accompany the hymn of Marie of the Incarnation.



Srs. Louise Gosselin, Bimla Minj, Cecilia Wang

Sr. Cecilia Wang General Prioress Roman Union, Sr. Louise Gosselin General Superior Canadian Union and Sr. Bimla Minj General Assistant blessed all the Sisters at the end of Mass. Each represented a branch of Ursulines presence.

The following morning, on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, we went in two groups for a sight - seeing excursion to Hirohsima, and Tsunami stricken areas. We had a good time with our sisters in four communities in Sindai and Hachinohe. We were very impressed by the Ursuline hospitality shown by their comfortable beds and delicious Japanese dishes - all signs of their love. We extend our million thanks to

Sr. Odile and Sr. Noella Gaudreault, who were our guardian angels from the time we arrived in Japan till our departure at the airport on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014.



May this Ursuline bond keep us together under an umbrella of our dear Mother Angela with other Ursulines, too.

Sr. Kumudini Soy osu and Sr. Dorothea Kullu osu



**ADIVASI JEEVAN VIKAS SANSTHA**  
**(TRIBAL WELFARE SOCIETY)**  
**141D, POCKET C, SIDHARTHA**  
**EXTENSION, NEW DELHI,**  
**INDIA-110014.**



**Adivasi Jeevan Vikas Sanstha (Tribal Welfare Society)** is a registered Society, established in the year 1998 by the Jesuits of ISI (Indian Social Institute), 10 Institutional area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. There are 2 coordinators elected for three years to look after the Office work of the society. AJVS works under the patronage, guidance and mandate of JESA (Jesuits in Social Action), as both have the similar aims and interest. For its better functioning, the Ursuline Sisters in 2012 were invited to collaborate with the Jesuits as they have been already working with Chetnalaya and are connected with the issues of Domestic workers in Delhi. At present Sr. Matilda Dungdung is one of the co-coordinators. There are 54 women at present, working in different families of Delhi City.

## **Objectives:-**

- To help out the Adivasi Marginalized women who come in to Delhi in search of Domestic work.
- To create a model of Domestic Workers' Unit, which could be replicated.
- To conduct skill development trainings in order to empower them to function as better citizens.

## **Activities:-**

- To enroll women who come in search of job.
- To give them basic training before placement, on general household works, cooking, caring for Children/sick/old, good manners and behavior, counseling etc.
- Make a just and legal contract with the employers and place the women with them.

- Follow them up regularly at their work place and guide them accordingly.
- As part of capacitating them, once in a week they come to ISI, where they are given some input sessions on different relevant topics, sharing their experiences, sharing of information on various matters and Current happenings of the world news.
- To encourage and create interest, especially in younger members for studies through open school, IGNOS, for Vocational training to create opportunities for livelihood.
- To visit their place of origin (home/village).
- To accompany them to meet and interact with the members of other units on special occasions, such as Tribal Festivals, Women's Day, Annual gatherings/meetings etc. to help them enhance the knowledge of their own culture and to awaken global feeling in them.
- To shelter them when they fall sick, when they go home and come back and when they have a short break.

## **Achievements:-**

- AJVS has been successful in helping the members make their own identity in Delhi City with pride and dignity.
- Their presence and leadership in gathering and meeting places is rightly acknowledged and appreciated.
- They have learned to face challenges coming their way and to raise their voice against injustice and corruption. Sometimes they participate in processions and strikes.

- All the members have their Bank account and ID proofs.
- They have learned to save money, and have been able to improve and strengthen the economic condition of their families.
- They have educated their younger brothers and sisters.
- Some of them have been able to complete their academic studies, have received vocational training and are now in better jobs in Delhi as well as outside of Delhi.
- They have learned to be grateful and generous as they organize celebrations and festive lunches on Christmas and Easter and invite the members of ISI to share their joy.



Adivasi Jeewan Vikas Sanstha, unlike any other Placement agency, is a charitable registered Society under Society Act. It works for the welfare of Adivasi women coming mainly from the States of Jharkhand, Orissa, Assam.

**Sr. Matilda Dungdung**



## YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

**Pope Francis says to us:**



I want to say one word to you and this word is "joy", wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy.

Remain in Jesus! This means remaining attached to him, in him, with him, talking to him.

Because when we put Christ at the center of our life, we ourselves don't become the center! The more that you unite yourself to Christ and he becomes the center of your life, the more he leads you out of yourself, leads you from making yourself the center and opens you to others.

Thanks solely to this encounter with God's love, which blooms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption.

The first thing for a disciple is to be with the Master, to listen to him and to learn from him. Let us cultivate the contemplative dimension, even amid the whirlwind of more urgent and heavy duties. And the more the mission calls you to go

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out to the margins of existence, let your heart be the more closely united to Christ's heart, full of mercy and love.

It is the word of God that continually renews our communities.

Be servants of communion and of the culture of encounter.

Wake up the world! Be witness of a different way of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in this world. It is this witness I expect from you.

Quotes from "Rejoice! Letter to Consecrated men and women from the teachings of Pope Francis".

Rome, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014

