

REFLECT



Ursuline Sisters
Generalate
Rue Musin 1
1210 Brussels

July 2014

Dear Sisters and Associates,



Preparation for the General Chapter is going on all over the Congregation. We had a reflection on the theme and Logo of the coming General Chapter with the Chapter Members of our Indian Provinces. These are some of the reflections:

The theme of General Chapter 2014, "Live Contemplative Spirituality for Mission Today" along with the Logo is calling us back to the Source, to the center of our being. It is calling us to the center and sending us out. It is an invitation for us to take time for contemplation and inner silence, to experience God, to be transformed, to be totally imbued by the Spirit of Christ, which enables us to live like Jesus, to be the followers of Jesus.

It is the right time to bring the reality of our life just as it is to the foot of the cross and begin an inward journey, fixing our gaze on God and self instead of blaming, criticizing, comparing and judging and focusing our gaze on others.

Angela brought everything into the presence of God at the foot of the Cross, spent time in silence and brought the same experience to the people she met with. John Lambertz spent hours in front of the tabernacle and prayed with his rosary to our Blessed Mother that led him to deep awareness of God. He lived in the constant presence of God all the time.

It is a call to each of us to a deep awareness of God within, an awareness of the interior life, that enables us to experience and radiate the same to everyone, in everything and everywhere. It is inviting us to live in the presence of God, consciously and constantly.

To help us enter into the Chapter theme, here are a few questions:

1. What is my deepest desire?
2. What are the challenges that accompany my desire?

Sr. Gemma Rose Minj

Sr. Margaret visits Congo Vice Province:



On May 22nd, Margaret flew to Congo accompanied by Mr. Jan De Clercq, financial consultant to the Belgian Province.



Margaret visited the communities and ministries in Goma. She met with Sister Deodata and the Vice-Province Leadership Team.

One afternoon, most of the sisters in Goma gathered for a meal and sharing together.



Margaret sensed that the city of Goma was much calmer than during her last visit and



saw fewer UN vehicles along the roads. We all continue to pray for lasting peace in Goma and throughout the Congo.



Global Ursuline Education Conference

We the four participants express our gratitude to Sr. Margaret O'Brien, the Congregation Leader for inviting us to participate in the **1st Global Ursuline Education Conference**. Our heart is full of gratitude to our Provincial, Sr. Jacinta Baxla and Councilors who gave us this



unique opportunity to be part of the International gathering of the Ursulines, which was held from 15th June to 20th June 2014 in New York, U.S.A.

We would like to put our experiences in three sections:

- 1) The theme and the purpose
- 2) Our participation and involvement
- 3) The learning and the looking forward

1. **The theme and the purpose:** The theme of the International Conference was **"Global Education in the Ursuline Spirit."** This conference was arranged by Roman Union Sisters who are one of the branches

of St. Angela Merici. The Tildonk Ursulines were especially invited for this conference. This was based on St. Angela's spirituality. Every day was unique as we listened to the speakers on different themes i.e. Redeeming administration, the value of a liberal art education, Angela Merici - wise guide on the path of life, Seeking to extend the kingdom to the ends of the earth with a great and longing heart.

We are happy to know that Ursulines as well as lay people are very familiar with the spirit of Angela Merici and in their education they try to implement her teachings.

We were very much struck to see that the spirituality of St. Angela Merici is globally relevant and meaningful even today. Even though in several countries the vocations of the sisters in the congregation has gone down but the lay people are fully convinced of this valuable spirituality and want to perpetuate it even today. Therefore we were able to speak a common language, have a common dream, share common hopes and aspiration and above all we felt deep sense of unity. We still remember people saying - "The sisters may not be there anymore, but the spirit of Angela will be kept alive by us (lay people).

2. **Our participation and involvement:** We felt complete acceptance in this International Conference. All 126 participants coming from 26 countries made no difference between where we come from and what is our colour or nationality but were one in mind and heart in the spirit of St. Angela.

Among 126 participants 3 Sisters from Ranchi Province and 1 Sister from Tezpur province were present along with four of us from Gumla Province for the conference.

In the group sharing there was good understanding and respect for one another. Sr. Nirmala Lucas had also accepted to moderate one session along with Bernadette Nott from South Africa. After the session people appreciated her role.

3. **The learning and the looking forward:** Probably this conference was the biggest exposure for each of us. Apart from the main theme there were many other leanings like how to look into the minute details of organizing. The great learning for us was how to make our institutions persons centered, how to manage our institutions while remaining focused on the personal growth of each individual.

The journey itself from Ranchi to New York via Delhi, Bahrain, London, Buffalo, Niagara falls, Michigan, Lansing, Meckinac Island and Chicago were beyond our dreams. There were many Ursulines and friends like Fr. Prabhu, Fr. Dominic Fr. Louise who went out of their way to receive



us in their places introducing us to the life and work of America. We are more convinced of the spirituality and values of St. Angela Merici and the mission that we all do today.

We thank the Lord for keeping us in good health and bringing us safe to our destination. We are grateful to all the sisters for their prayers.

Srs. Nirmala Lucas, Maria S. Kujur,
Hirmina Lakra & Kumudini Tirkey



PROVINCE DAY 2014

Ranchi Province, India, celebrated its Province Days 2014 on 5th and 6th June, 2014 at Ursuline Convent, Ranchi Mother House. Altogether about 200 sisters including our novices participated in the program.

On 5th May, at 9.00 A. M. Sr. Eve Justina Romould OSU, our Provincial, warmly welcomed all of them.



The Opening Prayer, with power point presentation on different songs of the Holy Spirit, helped us to be in companionship with the disciples of Jesus waiting for the Holy Spirit, as indeed this week was devoted to the novena for Pentecost.

Sr. Eve, Provincial gave us the following information regarding the membership in Ranchi Province as on June 2014:

Professed sisters - 374 of which
Finally Professed are 293 and
Juniors 81; Novices 81; Postulants 17,
Candidates 18.

41 communities with various apostolates.

She gave us a concise report and update of the Extended Council 2014 held in January 2014 in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

Theme of the General Chapter: "Live Contemplative Spirituality for Mission today".

She shared with us the message given at the Extended Council by Sr. Margaret O'Brien, Congregation Leader.

We also joyfully remembered the Centenary of the first Arrival of the Ursulines of Tildonk in Canada and their very effective and fruitful mission from 1914 to 2014. August 27, 2014 will be a day of Thanksgiving by the whole Ranchi province as we join with our sisters in Canada in celebrating the Centenary, to thank God for

the wonderful mission accomplished by them in the past 100 years. Sr. Eve further announced that we are heading towards the Bi-Centenary of the Foundation Day of the Ursuline Congregation of Tildonk in Belgium on 30th April, 2018.

In the second session, Sr. Helen spoke on Spirituality and focused on the Contemplative Spirituality of St. Angela and John Lambertz, our Founders. She said, both our Founders were persons deeply rooted in God. This deep union with God gave them great energy and inner freedom

to do their mission of bringing God to all and vice versa.

During the Holy Mass, Rev. Fr. Xavier Soreng, SJ, Ex-Provincial, said that Contemplative Spirituality is understood in terms of a life of prayer action prompted by the Holy Spirit, a disposition which is not limited to devotional practices, rituals or other practices of piety, but it permeates our whole being and unifies all our thinking and acting. In simple words we can understand this as "finding God in all things and all things in God".



Group sharing and reporting to the general session, on the following questions:

1. What is God's invitation for me and for us as Ursuline community to live Contemplative Spirituality for Mission today?
2. How is the province living the Ursuline charism "Contemplatives in Action"?
3. How might Congregational Leadership Team best serve the whole Congregation according to the signs of the times?
4. In the light of the Theme of general Chapter 2014, what could be the

theme of our 7th Provincial Chapter 2015?

On the second day, 6th June, the day began with the Eucharistic celebration at 6.30 A.M. presided by Rev. Fr. Michael, from St. Albert's Major Seminary, Ranchi. He invited the assembly saying that Province Days are a time for celebration, our coming together and being together where Jesus is the centre. In his homily based on the Gospel of the day he said, "Absence of Jesus brings emptiness, but when Jesus is present, there is abundance. Contemplative spirituality means being aware of God's presence". It is reflected in our words and actions.

At 8.30 A.M. opening prayer was led by Sr. Pushpa Kujur, Councillor, on the theme, "I am the vine, you are the branches"(John 15: 1-10).

After that Mrs. Barbara Binha, an experienced RNRM nurse and tutor at CIP, Kanke spoke on how to take care of our physical and mental health. She said that our health has various components e.g. physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual. Total health is affected when any of the components suffers. She set before us various examples.

It was time to say "Thank you" to all who contributed to make this Province gathering a success.

