

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk



E-News - June 2023

Generalate

The Extended Council promotes congregational growth and planning (Constitutions Art. 169, (b)).

The members of the Extended Council met in person in Brussels from May 18 - 22, 2023. For the last three years, they met online. What a joy to be together again after the event of the General Chapter 2022! Sister Mridula Khalkho from Tezpur Province could not travel to Brussels because she could not get a visa on time. However, she was connected via Zoom for the important sessions.

The main agenda item of the meeting was to implement the General Chapter Direction 2022. While doing that, the members wove together the updates and the future planning that pertain to the growth of the mission of the Congregation and the world in the spirit of the 2022



General Chapter theme, "Live a New Life Rooted in Christ". In the coming years, the General Chapter Direction will be implemented at the Province and Congregational levels. During the opening ritual, each Provincial planted a seed in the soil from her Province that represented the whole Province's membership. By the end of the Extended Council meeting, the seed had germinated and brought new life.

The Extended Council members included in their agenda a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Scherpenheuvel (a favorite pilgrimage of our founder, Father John Lambertz), the Ursuline Convent of Scherpenheuvel, founded in June 1836, and the Norbertine monastery in Averbode.

All the members returned to their Provinces strengthened and supported in their ministry of leadership while keeping the spirit of Ut Unum Sint alive.

Sr. Bimla Minj, OSU

A Friendly Visit of Mr. Robert Fekete, the Mayor of Olazfa, Hungary

Mr. Robert Fekete, the Honorable Mayor of Olazfa, Hungary, paid a friendly visit to our Generalate community on May 4, 2023 along with his colleague, Elizabeth. Olazfa is the birthplace of the late Sister Therese Odor, OSU, a great missionary in India. He brought two special rose plants from the people of Olazfa in sweet memory of Sister Therese. These rose plants have a very interesting and meaningful story to tell. One is St. Elizabeth's rose. St. Elizabeth was the favorite saint of Sister Therese. St. Elizabeth, a princess who gave all she had to the needy, was from her homeland. Another rose plant is named after Joseph Mindszenty, the Hungarian cardinal, who was persecuted by the communists. He was Sister Therese Odor's spiritual and financial support in her Indian mission.

We were very happy to welcome Mr. Fekete into our midst. We had a friendly chat over a cup of tea and gave a short tour of our house. Then we all went out to the garden to plant the rose plants. Before that, he gave a brief explanation of the story and purpose of planting these rose plants in our garden. It was very moving and meaningful. Yes! These plants will keep us connected with the happy memory of Sister Therese Odor and with the people of Olazfa. Thereafter we had lunch. It was indeed a grace-filled time together.



Mr. Robert Fekete is a charismatic man. He is very energetic and enthusiastic about bringing life to his village. He wants the fire of holiness and missionary zeal of our late Sister Therese Odor to keep burning in the hearts of his villagers.



It is this charismatic vision that led him to find the origins of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk in Brussels. He then organized a big celebration in the village in the year 2021 in memory of 100th anniversary of Sister Therese and invited the CLT members and Sister Hildegarde, then Provincial of the Belgium Province, to participate in the memorial event in Olazfa.

Thanks to Robert Fekete, the honorable Mayor of Olazfa, for keeping the missionary spirit of Sister Therese Odor alive. The global Church is in need of such zealous laity as Robert Fekete.

Sr. Matilda Dungdung, OSU

Ambikapur Province

April 21, 2023 was a very special day for the Ambikapur Province. The Province was privileged to celebrate the silver Jubilee of Sisters Fabiola Toppo and Rajni Tigga. The two jubilarians thanked and praised God for the blessings received during the 25 years of their religious life. God has accompanied them very closely, loved them unconditionally and poured His graces on them in abundance. "The Lord has done great things for me holy is His name." Lk. 1:49 applies to both Sisters. We thank God for the gift we have received in the persons of these Sisters.

Three Bishops celebrated the Holy Eucharist which was attended by family members, Sisters, and priests from their families.



After the Holy Eucharistic celebration a colorful entertainment program was presented by the students of the Ambikapur Hindi and English Medium Schools and family members. All enjoyed a jubilee meal following the program.

Sr. Ursula Xalxo, OSU

Congo Province

Education in Lubumbashi

Five schools in Lubumbashi organized a conference competition with this theme: *"Soft Skills Remedies to the Limits of Artificial Intelligence."*

The Question: Show that artificial intelligence cannot equal human intelligence.

A student from our school demonstrated that artificial intelligence is applied to machines, robots, computers, telephones, drones, etc. These tools that are put at the service of man are programmed by man according to this or that field of life. As their activity is programmed by man, they cannot change anything other than what is programmed. Moreover artificial intelligence is static, and the machine can not make a decision, whereas human intelligence is always dynamic according to the time, circumstances, fields, etc. Human intelligence adapts human action in time and space. Human intelligence has the ability to make a decision, to amend a suggestion. Human intelligence will always remain dynamic and artificial intelligence is always static. Hence the machine can never replace man.



Sr. Marie Dominique, OSU

Gumla Province

The Joy of the Risen Lord

On Easter Sunday, priests, nuns and laity shared their joy in the Risen Lord with the children in the Shelter Home in Simdega and with people in Simdega jail. The Sisters from U. C. Samtoli with Fr. Kishor from Vikas Kendra Simdega visited these children, sharing with them Easter joy, peace and love of the Risen Lord.



It was a grace filled Easter day including Holy Mass, and an opportunity to go to confession for the christian brethren in prison. The faithful in the prison were well prepared for Holy Mass with printed Easter hymns. The inspiring sermon prepared the prisoners to joyfully accept the Risen Lord in their hearts. It was a good opportunity to witness the Risen Christ. After Mass there were short introductions and refreshments.



The Simdega Shelter Home is a home for children who have been rescued from trafficking or who have been victims of some crimes. Children whose parents are in jail and there is no one to take care of them, risk being killed in a Naxalite (terrorist organization) attack or any other kind of attack. These children are identified and kept here with the hope of providing them with a better environment and facilities. For boys and girls, there are two distinct residences. They are given an opportunity for mature emotional growth and support, etc. Since the government runs this home, it pays for all of the children's expenses, including their education, clothes, and food. Some generous and kind people also visit and donate to help these children.

Sr. Anupa Xalxo, OSU

Respect and love towards our domestic workers

St. Joseph, as patron of the universal church and patron of workers, has many special and unique qualities. God chose him to be the care taker and foster father of our Saviour. The most striking quality of St. Joseph was that he was obedient and docile to God's will and plan.



St. Joseph executed his responsibilities with such humility and simplicity that when Jesus returned to his hometown and began to preach, the people could not believe in him. People had not noticed anything extraordinary about this family, but now they noticed something extraordinary in the teachings and works of Jesus.

On May 1, 2023 convents in the Gumla Province celebrated the workers' feast day in recognition of how the workers help and enable the Sisters to carry out their daily ministry. As is the custom, the workers were shown love and care by the Sisters who offered them respect, honor and special gifts in appreciation. It was the grace filled day for each and everyone in the community.

To add to the memorable and fantastic celebration, the Sisters sang a welcome song to express their happiness. The celebration ended with a festive meal.

Sr. Sheela Shabnam Ekka, OSU

USA Province

Holy Thursday Celebrated in our Seaford Convent

The Chapel at our Convent at St. William the Abbot (Seaford, NY) was used for the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday last month. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces from the parish come through our doors and enjoy this sacred space, which has been so special to us for over seven decades.



Viewing the World with a Gospel Vision

Each year, the Sisters and Associates of the US Province come together to celebrate Founders' Day and look at St. Angela and Fr. Lambertz as models to follow. This year's gathering, organized by the Provincial Leadership Team, was held at the Convent at St. William the Abbot (Seaford, NY) on May 6th.

Fifteen sisters attended and three joined by Zoom. Our associate members, who share their time, talent, and treasure with the Sisters of the Province, were an integral part of the day. The annual gathering highlighted the gifts our founders offer us. We gained hope for the future through prayer, reflective talks, and small group sharing.

During the small group conversations, each Sister was invited to share her present mission and say how she finds joy in it, while the noon meal gave plenty of time for connecting with each other around the table.

In the talks they gave, Sr. Laurentine Morgan



and Sr. Catherine Talia brought our attention to how we are living "in hope and joy," as proposed in the Direction Statement of the November 2022 Province Chapter. The Sisters reminded us how our deep faith unites us and gives us courage and strength to carry out our mission, as stated in Fullness in the Life of Christ: to make God known and loved. This year marks the 40th anniversary of our General Constitutions and General Directives, Fullness in the Life of Christ.

Sr. Catherine also stressed joyfulness in what we do. St. Angela focused her heart on those around her who were suffering, on her friends, and on farm workers. Sr. Laurentine reminded us of Fr. Lambertz' words to his parishioners: "Show we are followers of Jesus" by bringing the Word of God into the circumstances of our life.

Sr. Joanne Callahan, OSU

UN News

World Environment Day 5 June Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually since 1973, World Environment Day is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world. In 2023, it is hosted by Côte D'Ivoire. Time is running out, and nature is in emergency mode. To keep global warming below 1.5°C this century, we must halve annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

UNANIMA International.

The name begins with "UN" to represent the United Nations, and the "Anima" is from the Latin word for feminine "spirit" or "life principle". It also represents a group acting with one heart and one mind.

As of March 2023, UNANIMA International has 22 Member Communities with over 22,000 Members in 85 Countries throughout the world. The US Province is a member and Sr. Jane represents UNANIMA at the NGO Mining Working Group.

RUN

Religious at the UN (RUN) is an informal gathering of representatives of religious congregations at the United Nations who relate to each other for support and sharing of information and resources. Sr. Jane is a member representing the Ursulines of Tildonk.

Sr. Jane Quinlan, OSU

Loving Memory

Sr. Gloria Kujur (Ranchi) - 16-05-2023
Sr. Cypriana Kujur (Ranchi) - 05-06-2023