



Ursuline Links

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EDITORIAL

LENT - A Time to take a 'U' Turn

'Repentance', 'Conversion', 'Reconciliation', 'Come Back' are familiar words that one hears especially during the time of Lent. Words that send shudders down our spine, for who wants to be jolted from a deep slumber. And yet Lent is a time to wake up, to become aware, to take a 'u' turn back to the Lord. Pope Francis says: *"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy"*.

Lent is the Church's springtime. Out of the darkness of sin's winter emerge a people, the Church reborn through baptism into their Lord's death and resurrection.

'Repentance' means coming back, not just coming half way but a total 360 degrees, a 'u' turn to the Lord. We move away from "home" like the Prodigal Son, and need to get back instead of starving among pigs. St. Augustine in his 'Confessions' says: "You were within, and I was outside. You broke open my deafness and touched me and I longed for your peace" Isn't that our story too? We seek bits of pleasure or human acclaim, or power, thinking that these trifles, these artificial pearls will fill our hearts. They will not. For Augustine says: " Restless are our hearts till they rest in you, O God".

Repentance or conversion in Greek means 'Metanoia'. It means really turning oneself inside out. It means moving from a life centred on self to a life centred on God's love. Moving from the "flesh" to the "spirit" does not refer to body versus soul, but to selfishness and love. Like the prodigal we come back to our senses, to return to our true home where our hearts find peace. And this is what repentance is. A sign that our repentance is genuine is that we become joyful persons. God comes into our lives to fill us with joy. Pope Francis says: "Joy is the air Christians breath". Joy cannot be purchased or forced, it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit". Repentance happens when we listen to God's loving and insistent call: "Come back home!. Don't eat dirt! I will give you good food and it's all free!" Lent is called a joyful season, coming back to our senses and experiencing happiness. Returning home after running



away and starving alone is a beautiful, life-giving gift to ourselves.

Lent is a time to make a 'u' turn not only towards God but towards my neighbour. Reconciliation is the watchword at Lent. We all feel the need to reconcile with each other for we constantly hurt each other by our thoughts, words and actions. The antidote to hatred and resentment is forgiveness, which is not so much a feeling as a decision to act positively because we want to forgive. Thus forgiveness brings healing, peace and joy. Forgiveness is the essence of Christianity.

In conclusion let us reflect on some soul- searching questions:

- i) Am I willing to admit where I have gone wrong and take steps to come back to God this Lent?
- ii) Is there anyone in my community, my place of work, my family whom I need to forgive?

Let me do it TODAY

Sr. Susanne

Maria Goretti - The Saint I love and admire most

Goretti was born on October 16, 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Province of Ancona, She was the third out of six children. By the time she was six, her family had become so poor that they were forced to give up their farm, move, and work for other farmers. Soon, Maria's father Luigi became very sick with malaria, and died when Maria was just nine. While her brothers, mother, and sister worked in the fields, Maria would cook, sew, watch her infant sister, and keep the house clean. It was a hard life, but the family was very close. They shared a deep love and faith in God.



Goretti and her family moved to Le Ferriere, near modern Latina and Nettuno in Lazio, where they lived in a building, "La Cascina Antica," which they shared with another family which included Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro.

Maria's death

On July 5, 1902, eleven-year-old Maria was sitting on the outside stairs of her home, sewing and watching her infant sister Teresa, while Alessandro was threshing beans in the barnyard. Knowing she would be alone, he returned to the house and threatened her with death if she did not do as he said; he was intending to rape her. She would not submit, however, protesting that what he wanted to do was a mortal sin and warning Alessandro that he would go to hell. She desperately fought to stop Alessandro, a 19-year-old farmhand, from abusing her. She kept screaming, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" Alessandro first choked Maria, but when she insisted she would rather die than submit to him, he stabbed her eleven times. The injured Maria tried to reach for the door, but Alessandro stopped her by stabbing her three more times before running away. Teresa awoke with the noise and started crying, and when Alessandro's father and Maria's mother came to check on the little girl, they found the bleeding Maria and took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno. She underwent surgery without anaesthesia. The following day, twenty hours after the attack, having expressed forgiveness for her murderer and stating that she wanted to have him in Heaven with her, Maria died of her injuries, while looking at a picture of the Virgin Mary, and clutching a cross to her chest.

Serenelli's imprisonment and repentance

Alessandro Serenelli was captured shortly after Maria's death. Originally, he was going to be sentenced to life, but since he was a minor at that time the sentence was commuted to 30 years in prison. It has also been suggested that it was due to her mother's plea for mercy that he was not sentenced to death.

He remained unrepentant and uncommunicative from the world for three years, until a local bishop, Monsignor Giovanni Blandini, visited him in jail. Serenelli wrote a

thank you note to the Bishop asking for his prayers and telling him about a dream, "in which Maria Goretti gave him lilies, which burned immediately in his hands."

After his release, Alessandro Serenelli visited Maria's still-living mother, Assunta, and begged her forgiveness. She forgave him, saying that if Maria had forgiven him on her death bed then she could not do less, and they attended Mass together the next day, receiving Holy Communion side by side. Alessandro reportedly prayed every

day to Maria Goretti and referred to her as "my little saint." He attended her canonization in 1950.

Serenelli later became a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, living in a monastery and working as its receptionist and gardener until dying peacefully in 1970.

Beatification and Canonization

On the evening of the beatification ceremonies in the St. Peter's Basilica, April 27, 1947, Pope Pius the XII walked over to Assunta. He put his hand on her head and said, "Blessed mother, happy mother, mother of a Blessed!" They both had tears in their eyes. Three years later, on June 24, 1950, Pius XII canonized Maria Goretti as a saint. Assunta was again present at the ceremony, along with her four remaining sons and daughters. Alessandro Serenelli was also present at the Canonization. At the ceremony Pope Pius the XII spoke in Italian: "We order and declare, that the blessed Maria Goretti can be venerated as a Saint and We introduce her into the Canon of Saints". Her body is kept in the crypt of the Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie e Santa Maria Goretti in Nettuno, South of Rome.

Feastday

Maria Goretti's feast is celebrated on July 6 when it was inserted in the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints for the first time when it was revised in 1969. **Maria is the patron saint of chastity, rape victims, girls, youth, teenage girls, poverty, purity and forgiveness.**

When I read about St. Maria Goretti I was so edified by her holiness at a young age of twelve years and the courage and strength she had to resist the temptations that came on her way and it was possible only because she experienced the closeness of God at all times ...

This was my desire too to be holy and pure of heart and that will be possible only if I come closer to God. Today I can say that I am truly inspired by the life of Maria Goretti. And I believe that my life has started in him and will find purpose only in him. And living with purpose is the only way to live .

Sr. Anusha.



The UN General Assembly on 19th Dec. 2016 adopted a resolution proclaiming the year 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. This was decided in order to raise awareness of them, not only to benefit the people who speak these languages, but

also for others to appreciate the important contribution they make to our world's rich cultural diversity. These languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation. Languages play a crucial role in the daily lives of people, not only as a tool of communication, education, social integration and development, but also as a place for each person's unique identity, cultural history, tradition and memory. But despite their immense value, languages around the world, continue to disappear at an alarming rate as they get 'swallowed' by dominant or "metropolitan" ones that receive an unfair promotion at the expense of the indigenous languages which are an invaluable heritage that must be protected alongside the rights of native peoples. A language can become "extinct" just like animal and plant species. This occurs when the last person who can speak it dies.

What does Indigenous mean and why does it matter?

Indigenous peoples are the native inhabitants of a particular area, country or region; they perpetuate ancient traditions and lifestyles while **adapting to modernity**, all the while maintaining social, cultural, economic and political characteristics distinct from those of the dominant societies they live in. These are 570 million people divided among 90 countries. Some indigenous peoples are successfully revitalizing and developing their languages through their own initiatives. Native Hawaiians have promoted Hawaiian language medium education public schools where the curriculum is taught entirely in



Hawaiian to revitalize their language, which was on the brink of extinction in the 1970s and was re-established as an official language of the State of Hawaii (an island in the Pacific Ocean) in 1978.

Making a survey Cedrick Prakash says that there are 780 languages in India, out of which about 600 are potentially endangered. The census of 1991 and 2001 show not more than 122 languages. There seems to be about 250 languages that have disappeared in the last 60 years. When a language dies, its speakers decide to migrate, first to another language and then they physically start to migrate to another region. The second thing that happens is that their traditional livelihood patterns go down, and the special skills that they may have disappear. Thirdly, a unique way of looking at the world disappears. Every language is a unique world-view.

In conclusion, the government and people from every walk of life must get their act together, support and encourage diversity and pluralism, and do all they can to preserve and promote indigenous languages. In our own places of work especially with Tribals, let us appreciate their language, try to converse with them in this language thus enabling us to feel one with them. Only then will we do justice to the International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019!

Sr. Susanne

Retreats:

1. 22nd to 30th April - Fr. Bhausahab S.J.
2. 1st to 9th May evening - Fr. Gratian S.J.
3. 12th to 20th May evening - Fr. Edward S.J.
4. 5th May to 4th June Ryshivana - Fr. Terence S.J.

Dates to Remember in 2019

First & Final Vows: 1st May 2019

General Chapter : 8th, 9th, 10th May 2019.

Happy Birthday Dear Sisters

<p>APRIL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sr. Prerana 3. Sr. Celine 5. Sr. Jolly 8. Sr. Meena 16. Sr. Joicy 17. Sr. Miriam 17. Sr. Chaitralee 19. Sr. Dipti 20. Sr. Stella 24. Sr. Mary Ann 26. Sr. Angela 	<p>MAY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sr. Philomena 2. Sr. Silvy 2. Sr. Joseline 4. Sr. Vimla 7. Sr. Tanuja 7. Sr. Sudhani 8. Sr. Aruna 12. Sr. Alphonsa 12. Sr. Pratibha 25. Sr. Bincy 	<p>JUNE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sr. Alka 3. Sr. Judith 5. Sr. Malini 5. Sr. Gracy 6. Sr. Augusta 12. Sr. Anne 13. Sr. Rosemary 13. Sr. Sudha 16. Sr. Anusha 17. Sr. Varsha 18. Sr. Ranita 20. Sr. Jyoti 23. Sr. Amrita 28. Sr. Juliana
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ST. URSULA SCHOOL - Akurdi : K.G. to XII



Established : 1965
 Motto : Lighted to Light
 No. of Children : 3173
 Sisters Teaching : Srs. Valery, Prema, Smita, Jacinta, Diya, Nelli Rose & Miriam,

K.B. SCHOOL - Chinchwad : K.G. to XII



Established : 1977
 Motto : Knowledge, Truth, Realization
 No. of Children : 1512
 Sisters Teaching : Srs. Mary, Vanita & Flora

RC Primary School - Pakertoli : Stds. I to VIII



Established : 1934
 No. of Children : 536
 Sisters Teaching : Sr. Elsy

Our Sisters in Schools

STELLA MARIS SCHOOL - Vadgaon Sheri : K.G. to X



Established : 1985
 Motto : Shine to Lead and Guide
 No. of Children : 2200
 Sisters Teaching : Srs. Pratibha, Ida, Lavina & Ranita

ST. URSULA SCHOOL - Varawade : K.G. to X



Established : 1998
 Motto : Be a Light
 No. of Children : 1464
 Sisters Teaching : Srs. Leena, Bincy, Shobana, Veena & Advina



ST. URSULA - Dabhan : K.G. to X



Established : 2006
 Motto : Lighted to Light
 No. of Children : 1384
 Sisters Teaching : Srs. Rejani, Malini, Geeta, Joicy, Savita & Christine

ST. BARTHOLOMEW - Garja : K.G. to I



Established : 2018
 No. of Children : 53
 Sisters Teaching : Srs. Mercy, Jyoti & Jyotsna

ST. THERESA SCHOOL - Hidkal Dam : K.G. to X

Established : 2000
 Motto : Lighted to Light
 No. of Children : 1384
 Sisters Teaching : Srs. Fatima, Judith, Leela, Arkan, Maryann & Ejjina

JYOTHI NIVAS - Kargal : Pre-Primary



Established : 2004
 No. of Children : 95
 Sisters Teaching : Sr. Synthia

ST. JOSEPH'S - Chandavar : Pre-Primary



Established : 2016
 No. of Children : 50
 Sisters Teaching : Sr. Varsha

RC Mission School - Dabhan : I To X



Established : 1922
 No. of Children : 864
 Sisters Teaching : Sr. Archana

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL - Vyara : VI to XII



Established : 2001
Motto : Come to Learn, Leave to Serve
No. of Children : 363
Sisters Teaching : Srs. Anuja & Anusha

ASSISI ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL - Kannur : K.G. to X



Established : 2001
Motto : Knowledge Dispels Darkness
No. of Children : 463
Sisters Teaching : Srs. Jolly & Stella

Established : 2008
Motto : Simplicity, Love, Personal Endeavour for Universal Brotherhood
No. of Children : 780
Sisters Teaching : Srs. Johncy, Dipika

DON BOSCO SCHOOL - Boisar : K.G. to X



Established : 2003
Motto : Lighted to Light
No. of Children : 2064
Sisters Teaching : Srs. Jancy & Louiza

SACRED HEART SCHOOL - Paratwada : K.G. to X



Established : 2008
Motto : Forming Children to Transform Society
No. of Children : 1065
Sisters Teaching : Srs. Sunita, Elizabeth & Sarita

MT. CARMEL SCHOOL - Akola : K.G. to X



A Glimpse of Ignatius' life: Vigil at Montserrat

Inigo continued his way to Montserrat, thinking as he usually did of the achievements he was going to have for the love of God. He determined to keep a night's vigil over his arms; he would neither sit nor lie down, but would stand and kneel before the altar of our Lady of Montserrat, where he had decided to set aside the garments he was



wearing and clothe himself with the livery of Christ. He would hang his sword and dagger at Our Lady's altar in the church. He spent the entire night there, sometimes on his knees, sometimes standing erect, with his pilgrim's staff in his hand.

Proud of his lowliness, Inigo in his new garments approached for the first time the dark Madonna. His good




sword hung on the grill as his gift of dedication. At 2 a.m. began the pilgrims' Mass. Inigo with consuming love received the sacramental Body of his Lord, whom he would now serve forever. In the gray morning light the pilgrim strode down into the valley. He had become the Knight of God 'according to the ancient and solemn rite of a nobleman'. Over his heart gleamed the morning star; in Manresa would come the sun's full daylight.

Manresa was Ignatius' "desert experience." Manresa was, in a certain sense, the birthplace of the Society. There too Ignatius completed essentially the "Spiritual Exercises", that little book that God would use as a powerful instrument to change the world! "At Manresa, God treated me as a schoolmaster treats a child, and I should dishonour the very majesty of God were I to doubt that God had indeed treated me thus." (Whenever he was later questioned about his decisions he always referred to Manresa.)

Sr. Chitra



 "To Enkindle the Fire of Devotion in Others, Our Own must be Living and Profound."
 Foundress: Venerable Anne de Xainctonge.

To, _____

With immense joy and gratitude we, the Ursuline Sisters, cordially invite you to join us in the celebration of the First Profession of

Sr. Rashmita, Sr. Francina, Sr. Suman, Sr. Junita, Sr. Sekhasini, Sr. Nilima, Sr. Monica & Sr. Sabina

The Final Profession of

Sr. Sudhani, Sr. Anusha & Sr. Ranita

The Eucharistic Celebration will be officiated by

Rt. Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona

at Shanti Ashram on Wednesday, 1st May 2019 at 8.00 am.

Kindly grace the occasion with your esteemed presence.

OBITUARY

May God grant eternal peace and rest to:

Sr. Jolly's eldest sister - Rosely who expired on 30th Dec. 2018

Sr. Pushpa's eldest sister - Elamma who expired on 8th March 2019

Sr. Alina's mother - Mary who expired on 20th March 2019

News From India

Report of nurses' meeting held at Bibewadi, Pune on 15th and 16th Jan 2019

“ Lord let me be a healing presence in this wounded world”

We, the nurses of the Society of St. Ursula had our nurses' get together on 15th and 16th Jan. 2019 at Bibewadi Pune. Sr. Karuna was kind enough to arrange this meeting with Sr. Usha, a Medical Mission sister as our resource person. The sessions were very enriching and we gained lots of knowledge from these two days programme. Sr. Usha made the sessions very interesting through power point presentation and demonstration. On the first day we had the introduction and sharing of our expectations. She explained to us that holistic health is body, mind and spirit integration and our body has its own power to heal itself. In achieving healing wholeness, we need to consider all aspects of our lives including:

- **Respecting our body**
- **Healing our relationships**
- **Caring for our environment**
- **Showing love for all humankind,**
- **animal and plants**
- **Living our life with purpose.**

Holistic health is a way of life It has 5 major dimensions: Nutrition, Physical awareness, stress awareness and management, environmental sensitivity and self-responsibility.

She also demonstrated to us the foot reflexology and we



practiced it on one another. Sr. Usha taught us the eye exercise, ear and breathing exercise. In the evening we had some time of sharing among ourselves, about the mission and the difficulties we face in our apostolate. We felt the need to update ourselves in this fast growing world. For this we felt that we need to do some correspondent studies and practice natural therapy, herbal, and palliative care etc. since we work in the villages and it will be helpful for the people.

The second day began with yoga. Sr. Usha beautifully demonstrated and explained the benefits of yoga to us. We visited their acupuncture clinic to learn how it is functioning. Sr. Usha also taught us some of the herbal and home remedies.

Sr. Silvy Peter

General Chapter of Affairs - May 2019



The General Chapter of Affairs of the Society of St. Ursula of Anne de Xaintonge is to be held on the 8th - 10th of May 2019 in Brig, Switzerland. The theme chosen is, **“My Mission: Sharing Faith and Life”**.

As the preparations have begun, we pray for the powerful invocation of the Holy Spirit. It is a

time for personal renewal, Congregational renewal and renewal of God's mission amidst us. Our Foundress Venerable Anne de Xaintonge, a woman of the 16th Century sought the Lord's will, endured everything to live God's ways and has handed down to us the mission of Christ.

Let us walk the path of Anne, in living her values in the here and now. As we enter into the spirit of the General Chapter, let us reflect deeply on the creative and committed ways of keeping the spirit and mission of our Society alive and keep our lamps burning amidst the challenges today.

Our prayerful blessings to the Generalate team - Sr. Pushpa, Sr. Augusta, Sr. Chitra and Sr. Cecilia.

Sr. Rita

Blessing of Shanti Ashram Extension Building



‘Unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do its builders labour’ (Ps. 127)

On the Feast of our Patron and Protector St. Joseph- 19th March 2019, we had the blessing of the extension of Shanti Ashram Building. Fr. Malcolm and Fr. Sandeep did us the honour of blessing the extension. We had a short prayer service in the presence of Mr. Oak the architect, Mr. Selvaraj and his team of workers and the sisters of Shanti Ashram. This year Shanti Ashram completes 50 years of its inception in 1969. We praise and thank the Lord and all those who worked at the building site and all our benefactors who were instrumental in the building of the extension