



# Newsletter

der  
Föderation deutschsprachiger Ursulinen

25. November 2011



## A NEW PRESIDENT AND HELP FOR AGED COMMUNITIES

### Second part of the Federation Chapter, October 28 to November 2 2011

Concluding the Chapter 2010/11 of the Federation of German speaking Ursulines a new president was elected on October 31, 2011. After seven years of Presidency of the Federation Sr. Ingeborg Wirz OSU will be followed by

Sr. Cäcilia Fernholz OSU  
(Community of Wipperfürth / Leinefelde).

The formal Change is scheduled on January 1, 2012. Sr. Cäcilia is the first President who is not a superior as well.

The also newly elected counselors are: Sr. Ingeborg Wirz OSU (Duderstadt), Sr. Judith Reis OSU (Straubing), Sr. Andrea Eberhart OSU (Graz) und Sr. Ursula Klautky OSU (Düsseldorf/Köln).



Besides this the chapter brought on the way an appendix to the "Weisungen (guidance) for the Federation of German speaking Ursulines", which became necessary since the recent arrangements are no longer practicable for many communities because of the members having grown too old. The ordinary chapter in November 2010 was postponed so that a commission formed by the counselors and additional sisters was asked to elaborate a new text. Main subjects are the possibility of rules to delegate the duties of a superior to persons who are not members of the community.

During the now closed second part of the chapter such Supplement to the "Weisungen der Föderation" were intensively discussed and then unanimously approved. Each community is asked to discuss this text internally and, if possible, vote on this subject. The new provisional arrangements have to be acknowledged by the "Congregation for Sacred life" in Rome.

Text: SLu  
Photo & Translation: SBr

## DIE URSULINEN IN BANGKOK UND DIE FLUT

### Wie geht es euch?

**On October 16, 2011 the following news came from Bangkok:**

Dear Sisters,

Thank you very much for your concern about the safety of the sisters in Bangkok. Although one third of the country is already flooded, today it looks like Bangkok will be spared.

On Tuesday, we are holding the Asia Pacific Ursuline Conference for the three Ursuline Unions working in 7 countries in Asia and Australia. There will be 113 participants. We were fearful that the flooding will necessitate our cancelling it. We followed the situation closely and sought counsel from the government agencies monitoring the flood waters. None of the participants withdrew, and that encouraged us to go on the meeting.

The subject the Conference is timely: The Integrity of the Human Person vis-a-vis Human Trafficking". This is one of the big problems in Asia since the victims are usually from our countries. We foresee another problem, contingent on it, namely, how can we raise awareness among our students on this issue and what strategy will they use to do something about it.

Please keep all this in your prayers, as well as the suffering our people are going through now in this time of flooding. 8 million people lost every possession they had along with their home. In some areas, the people have been living in shelters over one month now.

Love to you and your sisters, in Angela, our Mother,

Sister Chintana osu  
Provincial of Thailand

***On November 04, 2011 the situation had grown worse:***

Dear Sister,

We are at Hua Hin, a resort town making our Tridium. We have a big Camping Center for students as well as Retreat & Conference for 30 - 40 people right on the beach. The Tridium was scheduled many months ago. We are not escaping the flood waters in Bangkok! Since the schools are all closed because of the flood, many Sisters came from northern Provinces to make their Tridium. We are about 30 sisters here now, with an ages between 99 years 28!

The flood did get worse but until now our compound is dry. The threat is not over yet. Keep up your prayers. We just heard that the roads into Bangkok might impassible and we will have to stay here for a few more days. There are two sisters watching over the school and 90 yr. old one very sick in the hospital, still in Bangkok.



I will let you know the outcome. The people are suffering for a long time, over one month. The lucky ones are living in their own homes, in knee deep dirty water, no food, no drinking water. no bathroom! The others, who lost their house and all their belongings in 2 meters of water, are living in government provided shelters and depend on donors for food and drinking water.

The generosity of the people is outstanding. Our Juniors went to the one University where they were cooking food,

packing it and sending it out to the shelters. They said the student volunteer's and all the personall of the university, sent out 25,000 meals in one day!

I will keep updated in a few on our Ursuline situation. In the meantime pray for us and the people who are suffering.

Thank for your card of St. Ursula's Feast. I never saw that picture of her before. The Conference, with 113 participants from 8 Asian countries, was a success. They are preparing information about it to put on our website.

Loving greeting,  
Sr. Chintana osu

*Photo: VOA\_ - Thailand Grapples With Worst Flooding in 50 Years - \_01*



## **ST. URSULA IN HACHINOHE**

### **Anniversary of the Ursuline school in Japan**

Through Sister Clemence I had already heard your desire of a short article about the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the foundation of Saint Ursula School in Hachinohe.

We had chosen as a theme for the whole year: «Deepening relations, Widening world». We saw this theme as faithful to our Ursuline heritage where saint Angela always insists on the «each one and all together».

At this point, the school counts 83 Kindergarteners, and 487 Junior and High School students, boys and girls. We count very few Catholics but the curriculum includes religious instruction and a minimum of religious activities as our objective is to offer an environment where the encounter with Jesus Christ is made possible. Our corporate identity is clear as a Mission School.

The celebrations are an occasion to express our GRATITUDE to the God of our histories and to so many people who have contributed and still contribute to the life of this mission ...

Noëlla Gaudreault, o.s.u.



*Photos: T.Satomura*

## **URSULINE MEETING IN CANADA**

### **The remembrance of German Ursuline foundations in Canada is alive**

The idea to found in America first arose in the conference in Duderstadt in autumn 1910. They heard about persecution of monasteries in Portugal and riots in Russia and wanted to provide for the risk. If they would found bases in America, there could be a refuge in the case of distress. For exploring the opportunities and establishing ties they decided to send four Ursulines on an expedition tour to America. It were: M. Xaveria, Superior of Cologne, M. Margaretha from Breslau, M. Theresia and M. Ignatia from Haselünne...

In August 1912 a group of two Ursulines from the community of Cologne, three from Dorsten and eight from Haselünne started to Winnipeg...

[continue in German: [www.ursulinen.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ordensgeschichte/Kanada.pdf](http://www.ursulinen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/ordensgeschichte/Kanada.pdf)]

The following e-mail correspondence shows, that this chapter of our history is still alive:

01.11.2011

Dear sister Brigitte,

My name is Felicitas Drobig and I am an Ursuline sister of Prelate in Saskatchewan, Kanada...

Every year we meet from three different Ursuline communities (Prelate, Bruno and Chatham) and pray, celebrate and explore together. This year our meeting is on 25. November and has a German motif. Nearly every sister has German roots, but I am one of the few who were born in Germany. I was 14 when we came to Canada.

As a part of the program we want to show, where Ursuline are in Germany. I have found your website of the German Federation, so I have a list, where the sisters live. My question is if you have some short anecdotes about the foundation of the federation or perhaps something that connects us with you. A short time ago I translated an article by M. Theresia Breme (from our archives), in which she speaks about the first conferences about a federation. In the same text something is written about the foundation of Bruno.

Perhaps I ask too much or something impossible, but any help will be received thankfully.

With kind regards  
Felicitas Drobig osu

08/11/2011

Dear Sister Felicitas,

... I found an article, which we published in a collecting about the history of the German Ursuline foundations. It isn't much. Author is Sr. Lucia Schäckel osu. As another source is named Sr. Maria Geyer osu. I can scan the relevant pages and send them to you not before weekend. In it Winnipeg is mentioned. And there are citations from the chronicle.

In the meantime best wishes  
Sr. Brigitte Werr osu

08/11/2011

Dear Sister Brigitte,

thank you very much for your e-mail and the article.. It will be helpfull to me to compose a short lecture...

Sr. Felicitas Drobig

12/11/2011

Dear Sister Felicitas,

as I promised I send you some pages from the book by Sr. Maria Geyer / Mannheim...

Sr. Brigitte Werr osu

12/11/2011

Dear Sister Brigitte,

many , many thanks... I have not yet read every part, but it seems to me being very interesting and it will help to prepare a good lecture.

Sr. Felicitas

*Translation: SBr*

## **ST. ANGELA AND ST. URSULA**

### **A Network for an International Center of Studies OnLine**

The experience of the last years evidenced the richness of ideas, of personal intellectual and apostolical contributions, the "Ursuline World" is able to activate.

Remarkable was the ability to go forward in synergy, without preading the power, to reach the common ambition.

On this treasure of Experience the proposal is based to build an International Center of Studies, that collects all contributions and initiatives the various institutes and Communities in all parts of the world produce, and to provide them online.

The activities of the Center we can devide into three sections, which overlap. The "internal" section concerning the world of the Ursulines. Another sevtion, the "external", refers to the society in which

we live. And a third section we will call “Studies”, which connects the Ursuline world with the academic World.

In relation to the first section the Center identify itself mainly as a resonance body for the spiritual, pedagogical, pastoral and social Problems, the Ursulines, order or secular, are confronted in the various continents. It will serve spreading and networking of the different experiences, so that there will be profit for all, as a kind of multinational “treasure chest” of the various Ursuline families, who offer all this, what was produced at its best, in order to make it available for all.

Concerning the second section, the “external”, that is the website, this should be a virtual display window showing the multifarious activities of our world. Everyone who goes into the web, sees what was programmed and prepared by the different communities. Additional one can find there the links and e-mail addresses of the Ursulines all over the world.

The part, which we called “Studies”, defines itself as a concentration point for all projects concerning the merician history and the spirituality, building a bridge between the academic Welt of studies and that of acting spirituality.

A supporting element will be the contemporary history, namely concerning the communities, which were founded or re-founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> an 19<sup>th</sup> century, considered in their peculiarity as well as in their complementarity.

Special attention will be paid to the world of school and education, in consideration of the special vocation to the Ursuline orders to be educators, with a intense regard to the dialogue between the educators and the young people and between these and their families.

To this initiative already agreed all communities and institutes in Italy and the German speaking Federation, and the American Ursulines are on the way to join it.

Gianpietro Belotti  
Director of the Centro Mericiano, Brescia

*Translation: SBr*

## **WHERE URSULINES LIVE**

### **Angela's Heritage is alive on six Continents**



*Graphic: SBr*

# Blessings

God bless us in our effort  
to continue  
what St. Angela  
told us.

He strengthens us to be sure  
that he – as Angela says  
will never absent Himself from this  
Community.

He let us face  
the challenges of our times  
and find our way,  
trusting into His leadership.  
Amen.

Text: SCo  
Translation: SBr

St. Angela, Window in Hersel  
Foto: Stefanie Habeth-Allhorn



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