

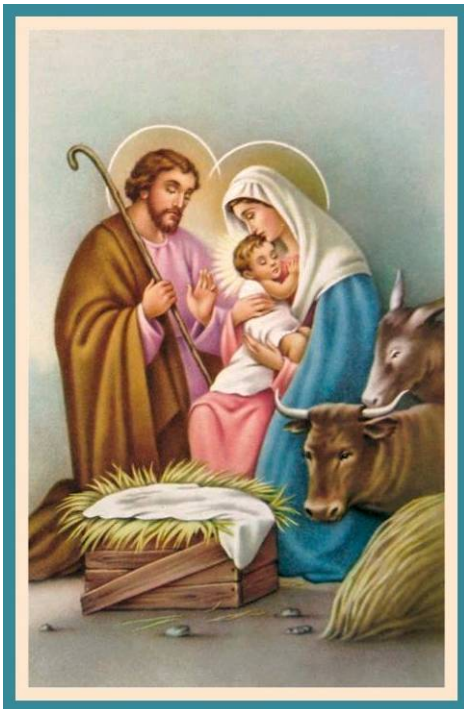
Congregation News

Noticias. Nachrichten. 소식지

Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing

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*Happy Christmas
& a blessed New Year 2012*

Christmas Wishes

Christmas wishes are ideal ways to pray for love and peace for all. Wishes can be given to anyone, whether you know a person or not. It is the way to share your feelings and happiness with all those whom you come

across in this sacred season. Christmas wishes come in many different forms but have one single essence - To spread peace, joy, happiness and experience of togetherness which is the message that Jesus Christ brought on earth for all humanity. So the aim behind the celebration of Christmas is harmony and a common feeling of togetherness in a God-given common bond of humanity.

Celebrating Christmas according to the original Christmas traditions, brings people together to spend time with their near and dear ones, with family or religious community. Ceremonies like decorating the **Christmas tree** and other Christmas symbols, **Christmas eve**, singing of **Christmas carols**, attending the **Christmas Mass** and finally the Christmas dinner are ideal for strengthening the family or religious community bonds.

Christmas is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ who we know as the Son of God and Savior of the world. Even though it was initially celebrated by only Christians, now Christmas season is for everyone. Christians and non-Christians join in spirit to celebrate Christmas all over the world with much zeal and enthusiasm. May God be glorified among all the peoples!

Tutzing: Prioress Election Chapter 11 – 12 November 2011



Sr. Hildegard Jansing, OSB

The time of Chapter, whether it is on Priory or Congregation level, is a *kairos* time, an event of grace and salvation as all who are concerned open up more than usually to the action of the Holy Spirit and experience communion with each other in the Lord. Friday 9 to Sunday 11 November 2011, Tutzing Priory celebrated an Election Chapter presided by M. Angela Strobel. In a prayerful and peaceful atmosphere, Sr. Hildegard Jansing, OSB was re-elected Prioress. It was the first time in Tutzing that the election of the Prioress was done by all finally professed Sisters. Previously it was done by delegates. In the same Chapter the Sisters elected the Priory Councillors. We thank Sr. Hildegard for all she has been and done in her five years as Prioress and for accepting to continue serving in leadership for a second term of three years. May the Lord continue guiding and sustaining you Sr. Hildegard and the whole Priory of Tutzing.

ROME: A community within a community: A personal reflection on the PrepcO experience

By Sr. Scholastica Kaliki, OSB

The five of us Preparatory Commission members: Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca, Sr. Ruth Schönenberger, Sr. Luna Park, Sr. Maria Madalena Ferreira de Mendonça and I, arrived in the Casa Santo Spirito. We were

warmly welcomed by the Generalate and the Casa Community. Soon after, we became a community where we had our own time table and even our own language.



From right to left: Sr. Ruth (Tutzing), Sr. Lumen Gloria (Argentina), Sr. Luna Park (Daegu), Sr. Scholastica Kaliki (Windhoek), Sr. Maria Madalena Ferreira de Mendonça (Olinda)

After the Generalate gave us our tasks we got immersed into it, an experience that gave me a sense of belonging to the Congregation. It was very motivating for us as we read the Lineamenta about New Evangelization hand in hand with our Constitutions. For additional inputs we called in our very own Sr. Aquinata who gave us an interesting talk about *Conversatio Morum*. Through this and the unceasing prayers from each one of you sisters we managed to come up with a “Working Paper”, in which we aimed at being “KISS”= Keep it Short and Simple. These key words served as our reminder each time we seemed to be wordy. We do hope that it is inspiring to all for purposes of discussion and preparation for our 12th General Chapter. Aside from prayer and work, we had some free days where we could visit some historical places of the Eternal City, Rome. At St. Peter’s Basilica and St. Peter’s Square we prayed the Angelus lead by Pope Benedict XVI, received his blessing and then moved on to many other places. For me as a first timer in Rome it was a Woow! experience that has yet to be translated into meaning. In our ‘pilgrimages’ I was mostly touched when we

entered churches, how activities went on despite the noise caused by the pilgrims and tourists. People would enter in and out of the church while adoration or Holy Mass was going on, and no one seemed to mind or even seemed to notice it. This reminded me of the reality of a book I read entitled: “Silence in the Heart of a City”.



We had a ‘rare’ opportunity of going to Siena through an invitation from a Filipino community in Rome. We attended Holy Mass in the Chapel of the Basilica of San Domenico where the incorruptible head and thumb of St. Catherine are entombed, after which we had a tour around the city of Siena including the house in which St. Catherine lived. Personally I felt the reality of History – the subject I love very much. These experiences enhanced my love for the Church and Congregation, although I am aware that I need not to come to Rome to feel this way. I hope and pray that this is not euphoria lasting only while in Rome.

As we passed to and from the Chapel at the Casa, little did we know that each one of us was eyeing the Congregation Tree that hang in the passage. Almost in unison we decided to update it. This gave us an opportunity of visiting all the Pories and Communities of our congregation and learned a lot about the changes which took place in the last 10 years. Although quantity is not a matter of concern, it was painful to let go of the leaves of the stations that no longer exist, but at the same time we needed space for the newly established stations. In the end we had a lot of fun patching the leaves and branches. Surely

fruits are abundant though seen only with the eye of faith.



I am indebted to the superb hospitality we were accorded by the Generalate and Casa Community. We were looked after so that we lacked nothing: from our bed rooms, that we had warm blankets since it was getting really cold, to our work room (Studio), from having enough food, to getting the right train or bus; even during the Divine Office my neighbour saw to it that I was always at the right page. The list of kind deeds goes on... I was also inspired by how prayerful and hard working our elderly sisters are. The Casa Community ranges from old, middle to young. To me this is identical to a tree that has strong and matured leaves, fresh and green leaves and branches budding forth flowers and fruits. On behalf of my fellow PREPCO members, I once again thank you for the hospitality received and to all of you Sisters and formandees of all our Pories and Regions, for the accompaniment of prayer and support. May God reward you abundantly.

DAEGU, KOREA: A Program for Lay People to an Experience of Religious Life from 16 to 18 Sept. 2011

From 16 to 18 September 2011, the Sasudong Missionary Benedictine Sisters planned a program to let people experience some of the actual religious life with the Sisters. Twenty-eight people signed up for this. It began at 5:20 p.m. on the 16th in the Chapel of the Benedict Spirituality Center by the welcoming talk of Mother Lumen Choi.

Going through various steps of the program, the participants could understand what the Benedictine Religious Life, the “Ora et Labora” Spirituality, is about and they were happy to know it personally.



Nature in Benedict



ARGENTINA: Cyclone Damage at Los Toldos

By Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca, OSB

Los Toldos was badly hit by a cyclone. I am sure you would want an update regarding the damage that the cyclone wrought in our community in Los Toldos. My eyes could not believe the damage it brought to our farm. Almost all the pine trees on the beautiful

pathway were felled down. The tree near our kitchen which was cut midway a month before the cyclone stood still. Had it not been cut before it could have toppled down our kitchen. The century old trees near the guest house and located at the back of the statue of our Lady were all uprooted and fell on the opposite side. The sisters believe that this was a miracle which our Lady did because she saw to it that the trees would not touch our roof. Our sisters are unscathed. The statue of our Lady is intact.

Yesterday I spent sometime driving the tractor to transport the fallen branches. Today I am freed from driving the tractor because a Benedictine monk will bring three men to help us rehabilitate the farm. During the cyclone, the fence of the barn where herds of cows stay was destroyed. What have the cows to do with us? The Benedictine monks rent a huge part of our farm for their cows to graze. In the late afternoon the cows return to the barn of the monks. When the fence broke down, the cows escaped. In the neighborhood there were also other herds of cows. They also escaped and got all mixed up together. It is a good thing the monks could identify theirs because of the tag number the cows were wearing on their ears.

There is much to be done. What is so wonderful is that our sisters help one another and that our brother monks are here to lend a hand despite the fact that there was more damage in their monastery than ours.

NAIROBI, KENYA: Graduations in our School & Effects of Heavy Rains
By Sr. Christiane Spannheimer, OSB

In November, our giant trees which were in danger of falling because of the heavy rains were felled with loud cracks, cut to boards and sold. All remaining trees are still waiting to be trimmed of old and dried-up branches. This was a big affair involving much noise. It affected even our chickens which became restless. Sr. Tecla told me that they started to hurt each other with their beaks, ate and ate, some took no longer food and even died,

others did not lay eggs for several days. Finally, a veterinary prescribed for them anti-stress medicine, and the sisters were greatly astonished at his therapeutical success.

All over Kenya, there are graduation ceremonies in Schools at the end of November, and distribution of certificates. These were special days of thanksgiving for our Sisters, teachers and students as they rightfully look back at the crowning of their engagements and efforts. This year our St Scholastica's Academy in Ruaraka had also the first graduation from the 8th Elementary Class. These students are ready to transfer to the Secondary Schools. Visitors were greatly astonished at their accomplishments. Teachers and parents appreciate it that the students do not only receive intellectual knowledge for passing their exams with a quality education, but that the personal responsibility of each student is promoted and great value is placed on a comprehensive, all-round formation. Thus, the school is already known among other schools for getting first prizes at musical competitions and creative activities, sports, for example "Taekwon-doo" (a Japanese type of defensive sports). For the Kindergarten in Kimumu, Eldoret, it was their first graduation ceremony.

At the Kindergarten in Chesongoch, there were prizes given also for free public speaking and an impressive group of Scouts.



Chesongoch Kindergarten Graduation

In addition to the Kindergarten Graduation, there was also the distribution of certificates to the participants of the first course at Chesongoch Computer College. On that day,

the Kindergarten as well as the Computer College received the recognition and acceptance like Government Schools. Looking back at the past year, we sisters can only be very grateful.

She has returned to the Lord

Sr. Maria Leonor Lorenzo, OSB
*31 October 2011 in Buenos Aires,
 Argentina*

May they rest in peace!

Final Profession

Windhoek: 10 December 2011
Sr. Mary Clemens Hamukoto, OSB
Sr. Theophilia Ipumbu, OSB
Sr. Maria Sikindo, OSB



Congratulations dear Sisters!

First Profession

Olinda: 11 December 2011
Sr. Vanderlany Santos Silva, OSB
Sr. Isabella Barbosa dos Anjos OSB



Congratulations dear Sisters!

Generalate Schedule

Dec. 3-11, 2011 Annual Retreat with
Casa community

Dec. 9-16, 2011 India Visit
M. Angela & Sr. Maoro

January 4-29, 2012 in Manila
9-10, 2012 Election Chapter
11-13, 2012 Business Chapter
Sr. Adelaida & Sr. Maoro

January 5-12, 2012 Bulgaria Visit
M. Angela & Sr. Salet

February 5-19, 2012 Visitation in
Haus St Benedikt
M. Angela & Sr Adelaida



As the New year dawns ...

may it open up for you more opportunities
and lead you in the path of continued blessings

With A relaxed mind,

A peacefull, soul,

A joyfull spirit,

A healthy body,

A heart full of love...

2012 - Happy New Year to you!