

The challenge & responsibility of educating the girl child



October 2013

May you hear today
the song of God's grace unfolding,
the music of the world becoming,
the beating of Christ's own heart
in, with, and under all creation.

Let us pray

We pray with the Church and the World

The Intentions of the Holy Father will be replaced for some months by some of his words in homilies, interviews and writings.

55. *Faith ... by revealing the love of God the Creator, enables us to respect nature all the more, and to discern in it a grammar written by the hand of God and a dwelling place entrusted to our protection and care. Faith also helps us to devise models of development which are based not simply on utility and profit, but consider creation as a gift for which we are all indebted; it teaches us to create just forms of government, in the realization that authority comes from God and is meant for the service of the common good.* Lumen Fidei 2013

October 2nd is the UN International Day for Non-Violence – a day when we might ask ourselves how we can assist to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi said in 1927: *There are many causes that I am prepared to die for but no causes that I am prepared to kill for.*

October 11th is the International Day of the Girl Child. Pray for the many CJ and IBVM sisters and colleagues who work throughout the world to promote the dignity of the girl child: promoting girls' rights, highlighting gender inequalities and addressing discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the globe.

We pray with the Institute

The prayer for the General Congregation 2014 asks the Spirit of God to move among us like wind or water or fire: what is the Spirit of God calling us to pay attention to?

We pray for members in Eastern Africa making their First Profession on October 26th: Selina Cheron Byomdo, Justa Kokwijuka Fidel, Lydia Kemunto Marita and Mtongwe Violet Miaikali. Our blessings will be with them as they make this commitment.

We pray for our older members and those whose frailty or illness is a call to *being* – as they seek to make manifest the face of Christ in all its compassion and love. (C.2.14)

Last month was the 10th Anniversary of our presence as an NGO at the United Nations in New York. We thank Evanne Hunter, Doryne Kirby, Marilla D' Souza, Anne Kelly and now Cecilia O'Dwyer for their dedication to this ministry. Someone has remarked that the UN *is a reflection, a mirror of the world as it is but its job is to slowly move toward what the world should be.*

One Small Voice

I will not die an unloved life.
I will not live in fear of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me, to make me less afraid,
more accessible;
to loosen my heart until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise.
I choose to risk my significance,
to live so that which came to me as seed goes to the next as blossom,
and that which came to me as blossom, goes on as fruit.