

Companies of St. Ursula Inculturation – Global Formation Conference

Inculturation was the topic of a Zoom conference for leaders and formation personnel in Companies of St. Ursula, May 1-2. Our North American Companies participated: Thérèse Bolduc for Canada, Bernice Daratha for Toronto, and Mary-Cabrini Durkin and Marie-Chantal Mukuluku for the USA Group.

Bernice rejoiced in the global participation: “As I zoomed into the beginning of the meeting, my heart delighted in hearing the joyous greetings of the sisters, mostly in Italian. Another highlight was meeting Monica (Australia), Lydia (Indonesia), Maja (Slovakia), and Marie (England) in the English-speaking breakout session. Mary-Cabrini facilitated those conversations.

Thérèse relished renewing her friendships with French-speaking members in France, Madagascar, and Congo.

All participants belong to the worldwide Federation of Companies of St. Ursula.

Christ’s Incarnation is the theological basis of inculturation, Fr. Raymond Nkindji Samuangala asserted in his keynote address. As the Federation expands, he challenged participants to keep their charism intact while making changes that respond to God’s presence in different cultures. Don Raymond is a Vice-assistant to the Federation’s Council.

The Council will soon launch a course on inculturation for Federation members.

Dr. Rosalba Rossi, a secular institute member on the staff of the Congregation for Consecrated Life, spoke about our secular Ursuline Constitutions. “To be prophetic is to speak [and act] over the world that word which is heard from God,” she said. “This is what characterizes secularity.”

She called the Constitutions, which are rich in the words of St. Angela, “a personal love letter, a code of holiness, a practical explication of the Gospel and of God’s will for you.” She emphasized their openness to inculturation.

About seventy secular Ursulines participated, about fifty Italians and twenty in other countries. The latter followed the presentations with French and English translations done in advance.

Bernice Daratha & Mary-Cabrini Durkin

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