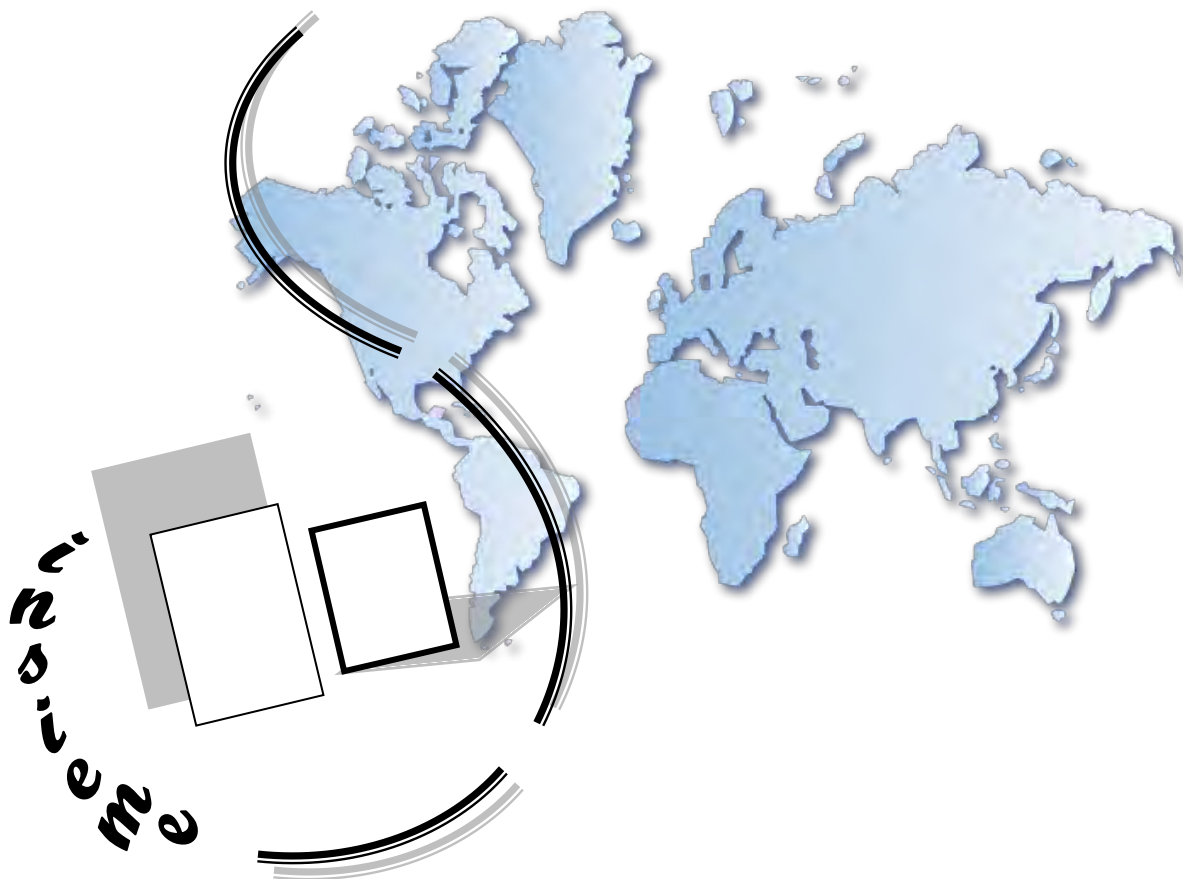


# Inter – Ursuline



**May-August 2011**

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## Japan

### UNITED WITH OUR SISTERS OF THE CANADIAN UNION

*We have all been affected by the terrible destruction and death which the people of Japan suffered. We share here some excerpts from a letter from Sr. Odile Gardner.*

**D**uring the earthquake, I was at the end of my lesson of koto (Japanese harp) with my teacher at Shimoda. Both of us went to lean on the same column, sitting on the ground. Immediately, I gathered my things and wanted to phone my friend; I got the wrong number, so I called again; I told her to leave the house as we had been told and that I would join her immediately. My teacher was kind enough to drive me by car because it is 30 minutes walk from here and in order to avoid going near the water, because Shimoda is a seaport and our house is near the water. Immediately, I called my brother, even though it was night there, and told him to watch the news, that there was a big earthquake in Japan. I also asked him to call the Generalate and tell them that the two of us were safe because perhaps I would not be able to get through to them. I still did not know where the worst was. After joining my friend, we went to a public place, then in a shelter designated for emergencies. We spent 20 hours there. I did not sleep that night: it was cold.

**D**uring those hours spent in the secondary school gym, we listened to the radio and I went several times to call our sisters in Sendai, but there was no way of contacting them; several times I went to the staffroom to watch TV and to warm up. The worst was in Sendai, Wakabayashi ward, where our sisters live; I was very worried; I imagined they were all swept away by the wave of the tsunami. My friend said to me at one point: we are perhaps two Ursuline orphans. Filled with strong emotions, tears were close. As we had emergency telephones, I called my family again in case our ordinary phone would not work. At Sendai it was still impossible. The tsunami alert was still in

force but as our neighbor and us two were the last in the center, we returned home somehow; the decision was a difficult one.

**O**n Saturday, I knew through the Generalate internet in Canada that our sisters were safe, but I only knew directly on Sunday afternoon, from our Provincial. From the same call, I knew that Father Lachapelle, of the Foreign Mission Society of Quebec, who had worked in our school for 23 years, had died. The first days we were riveted to the television screen, but decided to stop from time to time because our morale was sinking.

**W**hen, on Monday night, March 14, I read at prayer: *I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink ...* the tears flowed. I wanted to be able to give food, to give drink, thinking that my sisters were lacking the necessary, and I could do nothing; it was so painful. Being so close and unable to do anything!!!!...

**O**n Tuesday when I went to buy some rice in order to send it to Sendai, when possible, I knew that in Tokyo it was already difficult to find any, so I phoned our community there and I decided to send them 10 kilos. I was able to find transport.

**T**hursday morning, the Prioress from Tokyo phoned me to tell that the precious rice arrived the day before; she brought it to the church because about forty Philippino refugees were there. What a joy! I decided we could work with the community of Tokyo because here you could still buy food even if the supermarket shelves were empty by noon time.

I have very little concentration (this is not new for me but it's worse) so it is hard to pray; when I read I turn the pages but do not retain what I read. So I have made cards with Japanese characters on them meaning hope; I shall sell these cards to give the benefit to the Caritas of Japan. I shall do this by Sunday with the word HOPE.

St. Angela keeps whispering to me: *Live in harmony, united together, all of one heart and one will.* (Last Counsel, 1). Being in communion with my sisters in difficulty and with Mary of the Incarnation in her apostolic prayer, I say: *I adore you for those who do not adore you, I love you for those who do not love you, I adore you for those who willingly (and not willingly) blind do not recognize you.* So many people died without knowing that there is a Savior.

We live in solidarity here using as little electricity as possible and we eat less. The Philippine experience serves well us on this point.

In a few minutes, it will be a week since the devastating earthquake and tsunami; there have been many other earthquakes since in the north; here only one, big enough, at night and the great anxiety about the nuclear threat. Let us pray.

Now the question for me is to be physically and mentally fit, so that I can help, be attentive to needs and respond as much as possible.

Now I keep a minute of silence because this is the time.

Odile Gardner osu, Japan, March 18, 2011.

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## Generalate

### A SPECIAL DAY IN THE GENERALATE ENTERING INTO FAITH WITH THE BIBLE THE 4 THRESHOLDS OF FAITH AS TIME OF GRACE

*On Monday, April 4, 2011, Father Jacques Bernard, Founder of IIFAC\* (Lille, France) spent a day at the Generalate explaining the different stages of the biblical catechesis offered to adults who wish to discover or deepen the foundations of faith.*



The originality of the approach is to be at the crossroads of biblical exegesis, the history of religions and your own world view. The scholarly reading and the reading in faith of biblical texts support each other to bring us to the experience and understanding of faith, to help us to discern the divine pedagogy at work in the history of humanity and of each person.

This course is offered to all, believers and unbelievers. The Bible is the story of a people who gradually crossed the thresholds of the faith. Similarly, the one who engages in this process will be led from threshold to threshold to place his/her own experience within that of the people of the Bible.

**T**hresholds (gateways and the universe into which one enters) are identifiable and historical. From polytheism, the people of the Bible passed to monotheism, and thence to a personal relationship with God. Similarly, in everyone's life, the crossing of these thresholds is the context of the spiritual life and is where change takes place. The advent of Jesus Christ marks a new threshold, the Kingdom is given, open for us to enter.



**E**ntry into the faith of the Church leads us across the fourth threshold. So, the whole biblical story will be reread in the light of the profession of the faith of the Church.

**R**ereading with us the story of the pilgrims of Emmaus, Father Bernard showed us how the two disciples are invited to pass from Judaism to Jesus and then to the Risen Christ present in his Church. They read the Old Testament in a new way, applying to Jesus everything that Jesus said about the Father. What a change!

**W**hat a change for us too! Reading the second chapter of Genesis, in the

afternoon, fascinated us even more ... The interaction between the foundations of life, the world view of each one of us and our historical heritage was shown even more clearly. The history of religions, together with exegesis, brings to the understanding of the text the dimension that meets the requirements of the intellect, while respecting the poetry of the text. Biblical knowledge thus shows the weight of meaning contained in words such as “torpor, Eden, Adam, cultivate ...”.

**A**t the end of the day, we were left with a strong desire to continue exploring our biblical culture.



**I**n the evening we also enjoyed a presentation of the Association **MESS'AJE\*\*** which puts into practice the pedagogy of the Thresholds. Mrs. Bertille Vernier, President of the Association, led us through a sequence from the Beatitudes, illustrating the various stages of a meeting: an introduction with an audio-visual presentation, reactions of the members, an historical and theological explanation, sharing and prayer.

\*IIFAC: *Institut internationale Foi, Art, Connaissance*: International Institute Faith, Art, Knowledge

\*\*MESS'AJE: *Messe, Alliance Jésus, Eglise*: Mass, Covenant, Jesus, Church

## France/Belgium/Spain

### 475<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY at WAVRE

An unforgettable meeting with St. Angela in our midst  
Four Ursuline Congregations in Belgium for an anniversary  
November 25, 1535 to October 30, 2010.

*On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010, a major event took place in the Flemish part of Belgium. On this historical day, several branches of Ursulines gathered to celebrate together the 475th anniversary of the founding of the Company of St. Ursula. There were the four Ursuline Congregations present in Belgium, Wavre Notre-Dame, Hasselt, Tildonk, and the Roman Union. For this event, Ursulines of the Roman Union of France and of the Netherlands, Ursulines of the German-speaking Federation and of Calvarienberg, Associates of Tildonk, of Saint Saulve (France) and of Mons also responded to the invitation. The Community of Caillou Blanc, Mons, have sent a report.*

**I**t was a rich afternoon in the presence of our common founder, St. Angela. A richness as much in the diversity of the Ursuline families represented as in the quality of the events. The Ursulines of Wavre Notre-Dame welcomed us warmly and generously to their house. The meeting took place in their school, *Ecole sainte Ursule*, a real work of art; the entrance was decorated with yellow and white balloons with 475 clearly marked.

**F**rom 13.30, we received a warm, sisterly welcome in a wonderfully well-equipped auditorium, where all the 165 people present fitted comfortably. The joy of meeting was visible. For some, the joy of meeting old friends.



**T**hen Sister Lutgardis Nouwkens, Prioress General of Wavre Notre-Dame, gave a word of welcome to the whole assembly expressing her joy at seeing so many Ursulines together in their house. A much appreciated message from

Mother Cecilia was read out. She was united with us in this joyful event.

**E**ach Congregation presented a facet of the face of St. Angela or an aspect of her message.

**T**he Sisters of Notre Dame Wavre recalled the stages of the life of St. Angela with a power point in the two languages of the assembly – Dutch and French. Slides showed the Saint and the places where she lived. *My last word to you ... is that you live in harmony, united together, all of one heart and one will.*

**B**etween events, some students of St. Ursula's School and their music teacher performed some high quality music, *con brio*.

**T**he Ursulines of Hasselt helped us to take a look at the future, and to welcome St. Angela present among us. She consoles us and opens us up to hope: *If God has planted this Company, he will never abandon it.*

**O**n behalf of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, the Community of Mons offered, in both languages of the day, using Merician iconography: St. Angela, woman of contemplation, woman on the move and woman of communion.



Finally, the Ursulines of Tildonk offered us a beautiful commentary of Romanino's painting of the mystical marriage of St. Catherine of Alexandria. At the heart of the painting is the Christ. He is the centre of the Company, the centre around which all the daughters of St. Angela are united, the central point towards which all eyes are fixed, and the look of each one towards him is unique.

This first part was really a beautiful tribute to our Foundress.

After this we went to the Winter Garden, a magnificent place in Art Nouveau style, unique, harmoniously combining very different forms and materials, especially of glass and iron. The lush vegetation gives a pleasant impression of a tropical forest. Some sisters and their friends preferred the rigorous nobility of the imperial drawing room. We were received like princesses in the idyllic

setting of the *Belle Epoque*. This was the time for refreshments and meeting, sharing and reminiscing. A foretaste of feasts in Heaven!



The meeting ended with a beautiful, solemn celebration in the main chapel of the school. The contemplation immersed our hearts in unanimous thanksgiving and fervent intercession.



*We ask you, open our eyes to her presence, comfort us in times of sadness and discouragement, remind us of her word which promises us a glorious future in your presence.*

A final surprise awaited us. The General and Provincial Superiors or their delegates gave each of us a magnetic bookmark. It symbolized for us the “good news” of the love of Jesus Christ who illuminated the life of St. Angela.

The beauty of the songs in Dutch and French, masterfully accentuated by the beautiful organ in the tribune, gave a real intensity to our prayer, marked by gratitude for those who had the inspiration for this day, and for those who so admirably welcomed us.

*Marchez dans la lumière et soyez dans la joie. Agissez, espérez !  
Walk in the light and be joyful. Act, hope!*

We set ourselves to listen to the Word of God: *That they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me.* (John 17) and the words of St. Angela: *Have hope and firm faith in God, for he will help you in everything.* Prologue, Counsels.

*Lord, we praise you for St. Angela, our Foundress, for her friendship, for her promise of encouragement, for her desire to help us in fulfilling our work.*

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## Caribbean

### A SEED IS PLANTED

*Sr Mary Peter Ngui, from Guyana, sent this account of the opening of a second community of Tildonk Ursulines in the interior.*

On Monday, March 14, 2011, the Tildonk Ursuline Sisters opened a new convent at Karasabai, a village in the north Rupununi district of Guyana. It is the centre of many nearby villages at the foot of the Pakaraima Mountains. I had the privilege and joy of going to represent the Roman Union Ursulines at the celebration of this event.

On Sunday, Bishop Alleyne and I flew to Lethem, the town of the Rupununi Savannah on the border of Brazil. We spent the night there at the Jesuit



residence. In the afternoon, Father Joachim S.J drove us across the newly built bridge over the Takatu River which is the

boundary between our countries. It was a curious sensation as we came off the bridge and followed the arrows on the road which guided us to switch from driving on the left in Guyana to driving on the right in Brazil. We visited the Jesuit house at Bom Fin where the Japanese priest gave us a warm welcome although our visit was unannounced. His hometown had been affected by the recent earthquake/tsunami, but he had not had news of his family – except through media reports of the destruction.

On Monday morning we set out on the three hour drive to Karasabai. What an adventure! For the most part we drove over a dirt track and sometimes we wandered over the grass away from the track. On several occasions, our driver had to get out of the vehicle and walk around the puddles, that were sometimes more like mini lakes, to find a firm path that could take the weight of our pickup. Then, when we reached the foot of the mountains, it was bumpety bump, hitting rocks in a roller coaster tumble until we came to Karasabai.

What a different world! Pure, clean air to breathe, big spaces between small buildings, silence except for birds and wind, lots of smiling, happy children, everyone helping everyone. Two sisters had come to stay in mid-December. All the villagers set about making a house for them – a modest structure of four bedrooms, a kitchen and a large room that can be divided to make a small office and a reception area. They also built a benab (meeting hall) nearby. Wood was cut and



fetched from the forest and other materials provided by the villagers. The House of Angela was ready for the blessing.

First, there was a Mass where everyone participated in hearty singing and spontaneous movements. Then the Bishop blessed crucifixes and statues for the convent, the ribbon was cut and the house sprinkled liberally with holy water. The benab was blessed in a similar fashion and a number of coconut trees were planted near the convent. A feast followed. A cow had been slaughtered in the morning and cooked by the villagers.



People had come from all the villages from miles around. For the meal, children formed one line and grownups another – no pushing. Everyone brought his/her own plate and spoon in a plastic bag and they all had as much as they wanted. They sat around, wherever they could find a space and chatted with friends and family.

Then from 8 to 10 pm, there was a concert which the children had been preparing for weeks before. The school in the background had solar lighting, courtesy of the Government of Guyana, but everywhere else was in darkness. So everything on stage was in silhouette. There was singing and dancing and poems and jokes. Most of us laughed till we hurt. Then everyone went home and there was silence again.

The next day we returned to Lethem and then to Georgetown. This was a most refreshing experience and a joy to be

among Christians who truly love each other.

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## Rome

### BLESSED JOHN PAUL II



*During the last weekend of April, what a crowd of pilgrims in Rome. The Generalate welcomed many guests for the celebrations, from Croatia, from Hungary, from Poland, from Senegal....*

***Extract from the speech given during a visit to the Parish of Saint Angela Merici, Rome, Ascension, 2001***

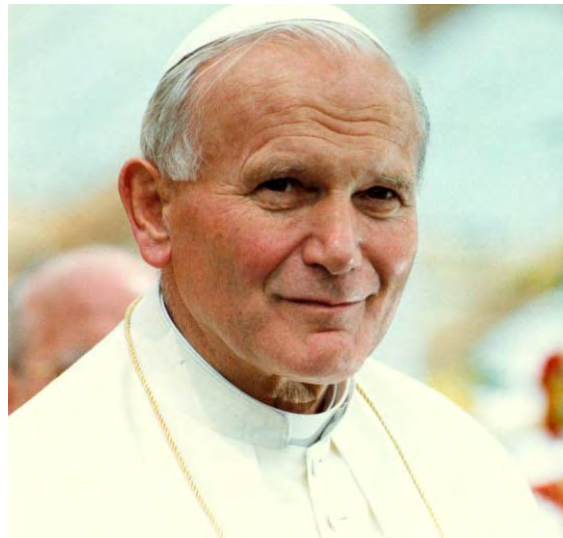
Dear brothers and sisters of St Angela Merici Parish! I am delighted to celebrate today's Solemnity of the Ascension with you today. I greet you all with affection.....

Today's liturgy urges us to look up into Heaven as the Apostles did at the moment of the Ascension, to be then credible witnesses of the Risen One on earth (cf Acts 1,11), collaborating with him in extending the Kingdom of God. We are also invited to meditate on the mandate which Jesus, before ascending into Heaven, entrusts to the disciples: to preach conversion and the forgiveness of sins to all the nations (cf Lk 24,47).

Your parish, with a population of over 5,000, is undergoing a profound social transformation like the entire city of Rome and perceives the urgent need to adapt its pastoral action to the changed requirements of the people. This is a challenge to which you are already seeking to give concrete responses. You are particularly concerned to meet the needs of the many situations of poverty that exist in this neighbourhood and to proclaim the "Gospel of love" with actions. I am thinking, for example of those who come from countries outside the European Community, who are often unemployed and prevented from living a dignified life. I am thinking of many elderly people who feel their loneliness acutely when their physical strength and good health begin to fail.

I would like to extend my fraternal greeting to all who are in a condition of hardship, and I invite you, dear friends, to be beside them all the time. In this regard, I thank you for what you are already

doing. I am especially pleased that you have set up the *Caritas* Centre, which is intended as a sign of your response to the immediate needs of those who are all too often forgotten.



*Extract from message Urbi et Orbi, Easter, 2000*

The Risen Christ signals the paths of hope along which we can advance together towards a world more just and mutually supportive, in which the blind egoism of the few will not prevail over the cries of pain of the many, reducing entire peoples to conditions of degrading misery. May the message of life proclaimed by the angel near the stone rolled back from the tomb overturn the hardness of our hearts;

may it lead to removing unjustified barriers and promote a fruitful exchange between peoples and cultures.

Lord Jesus, our Peace (*Eph 2:14*), Word made flesh two thousand years ago, who by rising from the dead have conquered evil and sin, grant the human family of the third millennium a just and lasting peace.



**JUBILEES****August -- December 2011****August**

2	BARTNICKA Teresa PAWLUK Klemensa	Poznań Tarnów	POLAND POLAND	60 60
10	DOOLING Mary Ann	Missouri Cluster	USA CENTER	25
13	RAVASI Orsola	Galliate	ITALY	60
14	HOPHANN DÁVILA Irma	Puebla	MEXICO	60
15	FREDERICKS Teresa Mary GLINKOWSKA Radosława	Barbados Kraków	CARIBBEAN POLAND	50 60
16	VELTHUIS Bernadette	Grubbenvorst	NETHERLANDS	75
22	BARBOZA Maria da Salette	Salvador N.S. das Mercês	BRAZIL	50
24	KURAS Dominika MICHALSKA Judyta SOŁTYS Józefa ZARZYCKA Franceska	Tarnów Tarnów Siercza Kraków	POLAND POLAND POLAND POLAND	25 25 25 25
25	SARICH Theresa	Alton	USA CENTER	60
28	CURRY Mary Clare PHILLIPS Veronica Mary	Hastings on Hudson Westgate on Sea, Lourdes	USA EAST ENGLAND	70 60

**September**

6	LE GARREC Florence Marie MAUXION Anne Josèphe	Nantes Nantes	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	25 25
7	AUDIC Marie-France BACCO Maria Grazia	Saint Saulve, Merici Capriolo	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN ITALY	75 25
8	JACOBS Marie Clara	Grubbenvorst	NETHERLANDS	25
12	BERQUER Bernadette-Josèphe GIRAUD Jeannine GUYO Marie-Agnès SEMENT Marie Claire	Saint Saulve, Merici Pau, Merici Saint Saulve, Merici les Granges le Roi	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60 60 60 60
16	MOQUET Marie Stanislas THOMAS Marie-Thérèse	Saint Malo Saint Malo	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	70 70
17	ROBERT Marie-Augustin	Uzès	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
24	STONE Mary Ignatius	Westgate on Sea	ENGLAND	50

**October**

7	GIEROBA Gerarda KRAKOWSKA Celsa	Poznań Lublin	POLAND POLAND	50 50
21	CLEMENS Josephine KLAASSEN Angela MELNJAK M.Vincencija ROBERTZ Marie Elise ŠANGO M.Rozalija	Amsterdam Amsterdam Varaždin Driebergen Varaždin	NETHERLANDS NETHERLANDS CROATIA NETHERLANDS CROATIA	60 60 50 60 50
27	SASTRADIMEDJA Sabina WIRASANA Praxedes	Surabaya Jakarta	INDONESIA INDONESIA	60 60
30	CARUSO Reparata GIORDANO Rosa GUIDUCCI Lina ISOLA Fides MARTINO Rita	Benevento Velletri Capriolo Gorizia Roma	ITALY ITALY ITALY ITALY ITALY	60 60 60 60 60

**December**

30	HAMMOND Marie Vianney	Saint Saulve, ND de la Garde	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	50
31	AROTÇARÉNA Marie-Noël	Bayonne	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60

## **PROFESSIONS**

### **HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO PERPETUAL PROFESSION :**

Irena JOCIĆ	Croatia	18-II-2011
Martha DROBIENKO	Poland	13-IV-2011
Małgorzata LIPSKA	Poland	13-IV-2011
Susan COCHRANE	Australia	14-IV-2011
Ching-Yi CHEN	China	03-V-2011

### **HAVE MADE TEMPORARY PROFESSION :**

Suwanna CHAIPORNKAEW	Thailand	28-XI-2010
Pilaiwan KITSAWAT	Thailand	28-XI-2010
Puangpaka PRAPASSAN	Thailand	28-XI-2010
Supansa TAMART	Thailand	28-XI-2010
Thaweelux WANNASRIRAT	Thailand	28-XI-2010
Alice Maria BORGES REIS	Brazil	27-I-2011
Hellem SANTANA de ALMEIDA	Brazil	27-I-2011
Marley SANTOS	Brazil	27-I-2011
Gabriela SANTOS ANDRADE	Brazil	27-I-2011
Luciana Maria da SILVA	Brazil	27-I-2011