

NAULC

Convergence

“To Move Toward the Same Purpose Together”

Vol. 20, No. 3
Fall 2023

150th Celebrations Begin for Youngstown Ursulines

September 18 started our 150th year of ministry in the Mahoning Valley. The day before, we began a yearlong celebration of that milestone. Youngstown Diocese Bishop David J. Bonnar celebrated Mass at St. Luke Parish, Boardman, where Leadership Team



member Sister Mary Alyce Koval is the Parish Leader. We worshiped with our families, Associates and close friends – including some Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, from whom the Youngstown Ursulines were founded, then dined afterwards at a nearby banquet center.

Over the next 12 months, we'll continue to celebrate in a variety of ways.

An exhibit about our history officially opened at the Tyler History Center, 325 W. Federal St., Youngstown, on September 22 and runs through April 21, 2024.

Coordinated by Sister Patricia McNicholas and a committee that worked over the last several months, it features such artifacts as our 1878 incorporation papers, a large gold chalice with rubies gifted to Mother Lawrence McCaffrey, our first elected Superior (who was from Toledo), delicate lace and other artwork by our Sisters, photos from the 19th century to present and much more.

More gatherings with family and friends are on tap, and they're helping us do more outreach to the poor. We're planning additional service to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Dorothy Day House, both in city-center Youngstown, as well as special celebrations for people served by our ministries.

We're also being honored by local organizations. Ursuline High School, which we founded in 1905, recognized General Superior Sister Mary McCormick as Alumna of the Year October 24.

Also later this month, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will recognize us for our contributions over the years.

We also have a book coming out March 11, 2024. *The Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown: Serving the Mahoning Valley Since 1874* was authored

by Thomas Welsh, a local history author and Ursuline Associate who counts two of our late Sisters as close family members.

The foreword is penned by another friend, actor and writer Ed O'Neill. The Ursuline High graduate shares his story in the book about our Sisters' influence in his life. It also recounts the important role the Cleveland and Toledo communities had in starting ours.

Published by History Press, it'll be available through popular online sellers and at local stores for \$24.99.



PRAY FOR *Peace*

Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph to celebrate 150 years in 2024

When five Ursuline Sisters of Louisville traveled west on a flatboat in 1874 along the Ohio River to open a new mission in Daviess County, they couldn't have known what a lasting impact they would have.

The Sisters opened Mount Saint Joseph Academy that year, and at the turn of the 20th century, began teaching at elementary schools as well. In 1912, the community at Maple Mount became independent, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

In 2024, the community will celebrate 150 years since its arrival 15 miles west of Owensboro. A committee has been at work since March 2023 planning the celebration year, which will begin on January 27 – the feast of Saint Angela. An original one-act play about the Sisters' arrival will be performed that day.

Other events being planned include a concert in April, a reunion of participants from the popular summer music camp in June, a special Mass on August 11 – the closest Sunday to the original Sisters' arrival – and a former sisters reunion in October.

Acts of service will be done throughout the year, displays at local museums and art galleries are in the works, and the community's website and social media will chronicle the history and evolution of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph each month.

Stay tuned for more details in 2024.



Cincinnati Ursulines' Summer Highlights

Cincinnati Ursuline Companions have a new logo and banner. Designed by artist-Companion Mary Ann Meyer, the banner highlighting their mission stands in the Ursulines' community room - the "home" of the Companions' regular meetings.➔

As part of her social justice ministry, Sr. Margie Efke (far right) recently visited the local office of U.S. Representative Greg Landsman to seek his support for key parts of the 2023 revisions of the Farm Bill. The delegation delivered letters written by members of their parish or worship congregations. Barbara Bell, Landsman's local office manager, is at the far left. Other delegates are Mary-Cabrini Durkin, Fr. Al Hirt, OFM, and Bob Ehsam.➔

Even though hard at work preparing Cincinnati's archival materials for transfer to the Women Religious Archives Collaborative, our team of five volunteers take time to socialize among themselves and with Sisters Mary

Jerome (absent) and Margie during their lunch break.➔

➔The archivists celebrate the birthday of one of their team members on this occasion.



The US Province Counts Down to their 100th Anniversary



September 8th marked the 99th Anniversary of the US Province. On that day in 1924, a group of Ursuline Sisters arrived from Belgium to take over the teaching and administrative duties at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Ozone Park in Queens, New York.

We have a lot planned over the next 12 months as we count down to our 100th Anniversary so we encourage you to follow us on our social media pages and visit our website often. A special page has been created for the occasion – www.tildonkursuline.org/100.

We are also thrilled to announce that our 100th Anniversary will be celebrated September 8, 2024 with a very special mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan and a cocktail reception at St. William the Abbot in Seaford. More details will be released in due time.

Jubilarian Celebration

Sr. Jane Quinlan (l) and Sr. Joanne Callahan (r) attended the Diocese of Rockville Centre's Religious Jubilee Mass at the Cathedral of St. Agnes in honor of Sr. Jane's 65th Jubilee.

Sr. Jane will celebrate with the Sisters and Associates of the US Province next month along with fellow Jubilarians Sr. Catherine Gardiner (70 Years), Sr. Margaret Golub (65 Years), Sr. Judith O'Connor (65 Years), Sr. Laurentine Morgan (60 Years), and Sr. Edith Menegus (25 Years).



2023 Golf Outing



The US Provinces gathered in June for the Sr. Marguerite Torre Memorial Golf Outing & Dinner. This year, it was renamed in honor of Sr. Marguerite Torre, who founded the event and worked on community fundraising until her death days before last year's outing. Over 100 supporters joined us for the picture-perfect day, where we also had the opportunity to show our gratitude to our friend, Rich Daly.

UEN News

It is with great pleasure that I officially welcome Peggy Platz as the new Director of Ursuline Education Network at the President-Principal's conference to be held November 5-7 at Beaumont School in Cleveland. Peggy has been serving as the Associate Director of UEN for the past year where she has been responsible for the terrific website changes for UEN as well as the planning for our up-coming conferences and retreats. It has been a blessing to have served as the Director for the past 5 years, but we identified Peggy and her tremendous talents when she served as a trustee on the board of UEN. She is a tireless volunteer, has worked so patiently with me as we transition our leadership, and brings the charism of St. Angela that is so integral to this role. I will miss the opportunities to interact with so many of you from the schools and communities, but my heart will always be closely aligned with everything that our Ursuline schools represent. I encourage you to get to know Peggy as the months progress. I feel confident that you will find her to be knowledgeable, willing to get involved, and always a patient listener to ideas which will lead to the strengthening of UEN's mission for the schools.

At the end of this newsletter, please check out the "Save the Date" information for the fall and spring offerings of UEN. Join us when your schedule allows, enjoy and use the information found on the UEN website, and please, always continue to pray for the success of our schools and for the Ursuline Education Network.

I am grateful for all that each of you has done for me!

Rosann Whiting, Director

Ursulines of Brown County

A Jubilee Celebration



Sister Ellen Doyle and her family

Many friends, family, community and colleagues joined together on September 2nd, 2023, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Sister

Ellen Doyle's final vows. This special celebration was hosted at her parish of 25 years, St. Columban in Loveland, Ohio. In attendance were fellow Sisters from four different orders, family from six states,

Catholic Leadership Institute colleagues from 2 states and Canada, and St. Columban parish members. The Jubilee was celebrated with a mass, vow renewal, final blessing, and a joyful reception.

A Book Published by Sister Ellen Doyle

We are pleased to announce the release of a book published by Sister Ellen Doyle, OSU. *Dear Uncle Stanley: Love and Letters Across Generations and Seasons*. Sister Ellen was eighteen and her dear Uncle Stanley, a diocesan priest, was sixty-eight at the beginning of their correspondence. Grateful for their own intergenerational relationship, Ellen and her great-uncle both believed from the beginning that their friendship was meant to be shared with others. To purchase the book, go to the website of Orange Frazer Press, Wilmington, Ohio: www.orangefrazer.com, click on Store and scroll through the books listed alphabetically to *Dear Uncle Stanley*. Enjoy the read.



Sister Ellen and her published book

School of the Brown County Ursulines Alumni Reunion

On September 16th the Alum Association from the School of the Brown County Ursulines gathered in the Mongan Building on the campus of the Chatfield Edge for their annual reunion.

Highlights of the day included meeting and greeting friends and classmates, celebrating the anniversary classes with special recognition of the 50 year anniversary class (class of '73). Lunch and the annual meeting were followed by a raffle, archive tours, Mass and a porch party into the evening.



Reunion Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel



Sister Mary Ann Jansen with her anniversary class



Sister Agatha recognizing anniversary classes

Ursulines of Brown County, *continued*

The Archives Relocated

The Archive space was tragically flooded in November of 2022. All the displayed items and the artifacts housed in that area had to be moved, cleaned and relocated. The tedious and lengthy process of cleaning was accomplished. The equally lengthy process of setting up a new home for displayed items and treasures that required proper storage was undertaken. With the closing of Chatfield College in January of 2023, the classroom building was available for the cleaning and temporary storage operation. The Library and Learning Center has become the new home for relocation and display. On August 3rd we opened the doors for the first tour of the new facility to the Faculty, Staff and Administrators new to Ursuline Academy, followed by the UA Board of Trustees. In September we welcomed two Ursuline Sophomore retreat groups. The archives were opened for the annual Car, Quilt and Craft show sponsored by The Chatfield Edge on October 21st. The new location is larger than our previous site and provides enhanced opportunities for display of our artifacts. We are excited about our work in this new location and the possibilities of sharing the story of the Brown County Ursulines with a larger audience.



Bas relief by Sister Agatha Fitzgerald



Entrance to new displays



Wood carved necrology and prie dieu

Consecrations in the Company of St. Ursula

Four members of the Company of Canada's USA Group made steps forward in their commitments as secular Ursulines on September 23.

Elena Taylor-Garcia consecrated herself to God for life, Heather Wacome and Rachael Griggs renewed their temporary consecrations for three years, and Elizabeth Simeon made her first consecration. We use St. Angela's language (7th Counsel), making "a firm commitment" as the expression of the "sacred bond."

The event took place in Omaha, Elena's hometown, in the chapel of Duchesne Academy, her alma mater.

We also held our annual meeting for prayer, sisterly time together and discussions, including plans for the coming year.

Besides this event, we meet by Zoom once a month and gather annually for a retreat, this year in May.

The Group with photos of our deceased sisters, Kathleen Hallinan and Liliane Dozois.



The newly consecrated (from left) Elizabeth, Heather, Elena, and Rachael receive a solemn blessing from Fr. Jeff Sullivan, SJ.



News from the Louisville Ursulines

Louisville Ursulines Celebrate Community Days

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville celebrated Community Days the week of July 24–28. We gathered every day for prayer, reflection, business, and friendship, and on Friday, July 28, had a Mass to celebrate our Jubilarians: Sister Lee Kirchner, 75 years; Sister Helen O'Brien, 70 years; Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell, 60 years; and Sister Martha Jacob, 60 years. We also held a missioning ceremony for Sisters, coworkers and Associates. The theme for Community Days this year was "Clothed in Grace," taken from Proverbs 31:25-26, 29-31: "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come."



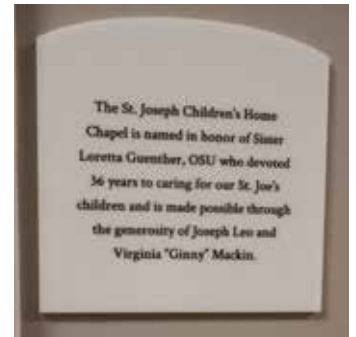
L to R: Sisters Helen O'Brien, Lee Kirchner, Martha Jacob and Rita Joseph Jarrell



Leadership team with Sisters who live at Nazareth Home-Clifton Standing: Sisters Jean Anne Zappa, president, Anne Mary Lochner, vice president (deceased), Agnes Coveney, counselor, Rita Ann Wigginton, counselor and Yuli Oncihuay, counselor. Seated: Sisters Mary Denis West, Loretta Guenther and Shirley Ann Simmons

St. Joseph Children's Home Honors the Ursulines of Louisville and Sister Loretta Guenther

Sister Loretta Guenther received not one, but two surprises, on Friday, June 2, 2023, when she toured the newly renovated west wing of the Landmark Building of St. Joseph Children's Home, where she ministered for 36 years as a live-in house parent and was the last Ursuline Sister of Louisville to serve there. The first surprise was seeing a plaque in a hallway off the reception area dedicated to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville with a quote by Sister Loretta on it. Surprise two came when she visited the chapel—it has been named in honor of Sister Loretta for her years of service at St. Joe's! Sisters Barbara Bir and Rita Dressman also were on the tour, along with Barbara Mercer and Kathy Williams, USAE employees and Associates. Grace Akers, Suzy Hillebrand and Caitlyn Green of St. Joseph's gave a tour of the renovated building which included classrooms, the large quilt-making room and daycare facilities. We thank St. Joseph Children's Home for honoring the Ursuline Sisters and Sister Loretta in such a beautiful way. <https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/st-joseph-childrens-home-honors-the-ursulines-of-louisville-and-sister-loretta-guenther/>



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From left, Sisters Barbara Bir, Loretta Guenther and Rita Dressman look at a hallway plaque honoring the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville at St. Joseph Children's Home. The Ursuline Sisters served children at the home from 1897 to 2010.

News from the Louisville Ursulines, *continued*

Environmental Justice Outing

On Saturday, June 17, several Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and Associates of Ursuline Sisters of Louisville took part in an environmental justice bus tour with Tim Darst of the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center. It featured an interactive drive through the West End of Louisville, which is—not coincidentally—home to both Louisville’s largest pollution challenges and its poorest and most marginalized citizens. After going past the green spaces of Chickasaw Park and Shawnee Park, the group saw Rubbertown, a large industrial area and the major cause of toxic pollutants in the West End; a superfund waste site; Lake Dreamland along Campground Road; and parts of the southwest area of Louisville. Guided by veteran conservationist Tim Darst, the tour was an eye-opening look at environmental justice issues right here in Louisville.



Tim Darst speaks to the group on the grounds of a superfund waste site in Louisville

June 13 Visit From WRAC

Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) Executive Director Sister Susan Durkin, OSU, and Lead Archivist Ellen Pierce visited the Motherhouse on June 13. They are traveling to each of the 14 WRAC member congregations to see each archival collection’s size and needs. The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville are participating members in WRAC. They also met with the Leadership Team to discuss the project’s site location, design progress, and strategy for fundraising.



Ellen Pierce and Sister Susan Durkin make WRAC presentation to Louisville leadership.

Taizé Prayer

We offer in-person prayer in the spirit of Taizé on the second Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. in our Motherhouse. Our attendance continues to grow, and liturgist Lisa Feldkamp creates beautifully-themed services every month. We gather to sing simple songs that ground us in the presence of our loving God and experience times of silence that enable us to hear the voice of God. We listen to sacred scripture that nurtures us and offer prayers honoring God’s creation. Communications Associate Bernie Mudd White produces creative videos of the service every month, which you can view on our Facebook page and website. <https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/worship/>



Prayer in the spirit of Taizé

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph co-signed a social media post for June 2, Gun Violence Awareness Day

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, along with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, the Dominica Sisters of Peace, the Loretto Community, and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Kentucky and numerous other congregations of women religious invited others to pray a novena for nine days, starting on June 2, in solidarity with those around the country praying for peace and an end to gun violence.



Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)

On August 8 - 11, Srs. Maureen Welch and Pat Schifini, joined more than 700 women religious leaders in Dallas, TX, at the 2023 LCWR Assembly entitled "Drawn by Sacred Mystery: A Journey into Hope." Attendees explored the realities facing US religious life today through a cosmic lens, noting how their story fits with what is evolving and emerging in the larger universe. They also explored how they can grow in awareness of the sacred mystery that surrounds them and trust its movement within their lives and the lives of their institutes.



through our Serviam Ministry Fund by supporting the construction of a new playground area. Sr. Marilyn Muldoon expressed her gratitude for our commitment and assistance. We are proud to support such a vital organization that profoundly impacts the lives of those it serves.



Keeping Our Community Safe from Scams and Cyber Threats

Eastern Province Ursulines conducted a workshop on cyber security for the Sisters on Tuesday, September 26, aimed at ensuring the safety of our community while using the internet. The workshop was led by our Network and Technology Manager, Yan Jiang, who shared strategies and practical information on how to recognize potential threats, scams and other online and phone call tactics and what necessary actions to take. The workshop is one of various measures undertaken by the Provinciate to safeguard our data systems and network from cyber threats and malicious attacks.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Saint Catherine Center

Sr. Pat Schifini attended a blessing and ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 15, at the Saint Catherine Center in Fairfield, CT, for their new building. The Center provides educational, spiritual, and social services to young people with disabilities through its Adult Services Program and Saint Catherine Academy. The Center is expanding its facilities as part of its Building for the Future



Campaign to serve more individuals with special needs. The Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province have contributed to this effort



Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph taking part in Acts 2:42 for National Eucharistic Revival

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) are joining Catholics across the Diocese of Owensboro in beginning year two of the National Eucharistic Revival. The Sisters are participating in monthly small groups called Acts 2:42, a reference to, "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." While the nine months of gatherings are geared toward parishes, the Ursuline Sisters who live or serve at Maple Mount are also breaking into five small groups to take part in Acts 2:42.



Sister Emma Anne Munsterman, left, and Sister Lois Lindle, center, listen as Ashley Wilkerson reads through the opening session overview of Acts 2:42. Wilkerson is the coordinator of pastoral care for the Ursuline Sisters in Saint Joseph Villa, Maple Mount.



Both of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Acts 2:42 groups combined to watch a video by Bishop William Medley, who talked about the many ways Jesus shared his teachings over a meal. "There was no altar at the Last Supper, it happened around a table," Bishop Medley said.

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.

Louisville Ursuline Sister Janet M. Peterworth Receives Optimal Aging Award

Ursuline Sister of Louisville Janet M. Peterworth received a Gold Standard of Optimal Aging Award from the University of Louisville Trager Institute at a luncheon on September 22 at the Olmstead, along with 32 other honorees. The Gold Standard of Optimal Aging Award Ceremony celebrates older adults, aged 85 years and over, who lead engaged and flourishing lives and inspire those around them with their zest for life. And those of you who know her, know Sr. Janet certainly has a zest for life!



Sister Janet Peterworth receives Optimal Aging award from the University of Louisville Trager Institute



NAULC Convergence

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Deadline for the Spring 2024 issue of NAULC Convergence is February 29, 2024.

Please send stories and photos to Michelle Scazzero at [mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:m scazzero@ursulinecenter.org).

Around the Mount: Sisters honored for their service to God

Two Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) were honored this summer for their service, and a third is being memorialized posthumously for her dedication to education.

On Aug. 27, 2023, Sister Pam Mueller received the Maple Leaf Award, bestowed annually to a graduate of Mount Saint Joseph Academy who personifies the values of their Mount Saint Joseph education in contributions to their local faith communities, civic communities, and/or Mount Saint Joseph.

Sister Pam is a 1968 graduate of the Academy, who in 2022 completed six years of serving on the Ursuline Leadership Council. She continues to serve as director of Campus Ministry at Brescia University in Owensboro, where she began in 2005. She has also served as a teacher, speech pathologist for the Diocese of Owensboro, professor of speech language pathology at Brescia, director of the Speech and Hearing Center at St. Louis University, and director of Vocations for the Ursuline Sisters.



Sister Pam Mueller A'68, center, accepts her Maple Leaf Award from Stephanie Warren, left, Mount Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae Association president, and Carole Caummisar Sanders, her classmate and nominator. The Maple Leaf awards are presented each year at the annual Academy reunion on the campus of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky.

Her classmate and nominator, Carole Caummisar Sanders, said Sister Pam's energy, passion, and selfless service cannot be surpassed.

"Through all the years I have known Sister Pam she has demonstrated kindness, cheerfulness, and honesty," Sanders said. "Her considerate nature is a quality that

makes her a natural leader. After graduating from Mount Saint Joseph, she dedicated her life to God." Sister Pam has been an Ursuline for 53 years.

Another Ursuline with Brescia University connections – Sister Vivian Bowles – will be forever remembered at the Catholic college after the school's Academic Mall was renamed in her honor on June 30, 2023.



Sister Vivian Bowles talks to an attendee at the June 30th Brescia University (Owensboro, Ky.) ceremony which honored her by renaming the Academic Mall. Sister Vivian was president of Brescia from 1995-2007.

Sister Vivian served as president of Brescia from 1995-2007, following 22 years as a psychology professor and director of the Counseling Center. From the time the Ursulines began buying property on Owensboro's Seventh Street in 1950 to open Brescia, until Sister Vivian arrived as president, the street had split the campus in half. Sister Vivian led the effort to ask the city of Owensboro to close Seventh Street and allow the Academic Mall to bring the campus together.

"It was said at the time that students made up their minds in the first three minutes about a campus," Sister Vivian told the crowd of well-wishers in June. "I knew that if they came and didn't find a campus, they would leave."

Today, an archway proclaiming Brescia University leads visitors through a brick lined mall that has a plaque honoring Sister Vivian, a 1969 graduate, for her commitment to Brescia.

"The Academic Mall was Sister Vivian's brainchild," Brescia President Father Larry Hostetter said. "She helped re-energize Brescia University. We stand on her shoulders and the shoulders of all of the Sisters who served as president of this university," Father Larry said. "She envisioned Brescia beyond a small regional university, that it could have a larger impact."

A third Sister's commitment to education occurred at one of the Ursuline community's smallest schools, but

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Around the Mount, *continued*

her impact was no less great to the people in Leitchfield, Ky.

St. Paul Catholic School in the small farming community has struggled with enrollment for years, but the people at St. Paul Church have refused to let it close.



Sister Anne Michelle Mudd

One of its fiercest supporters was Sister Anne Michelle Mudd.

On Aug. 2, 2023, the first day of school at St. Paul, the students, teachers and other supporters gathered to break ground for a new building, which will be named the "Sister Anne Michelle Mudd Annex." Sister Anne Michelle spent 31 of her 60 years as an Ursuline Sister serving at St. Paul as a teacher or principal, and was still

serving as a religion teacher when she died suddenly on Aug. 11, 2020.

"She went to school here. She loved this place," said Martha Hall, one of Sister Anne Michelle's sisters who attended the ceremony. "She loved little kids, she loved to teach them."

"The school almost closed one year," her sister Sondra Gavieres said. "She saved everything to raise money – Campbell's soup labels, stamps – she didn't even take any pay," Gavieres said.

The school has 75 students to begin the year, quite an increase from recent years.

"I hope it's because of the message we have here," Principal Todd Johnston said.

Father Steve Hohman, the pastor of St. Paul Church, said the parish raised \$250,000 toward the \$450,000 cost of the building. But the Diocese of Owensboro building committee told Hohman that he had to show where he would raise the rest of the money before the plan would be approved. After just eight more days of calling on



All 75 students at St. Paul Catholic School in Leitchfield, Ky., along with their teachers, principal Todd Johnston (back left) and pastor Father Steve Hohman (back right) pose for a photo before the groundbreaking of the new "Sister Anne Michelle Mudd Annex" on Aug. 2. St. Paul Church is in the background.

other churches and alumni of the school, the school had all the pledges it needed.

Gavieres, who held a picture of Sister Anne Michelle during the groundbreaking, said she believes her late sister is helping the cause.

"I think she has something to do with this," Gavieres said. "You can't raise that much money this quick."



Sister Monica Seaton, (left), a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Leadership Council, talks with Sister Anne Michelle Mudd's sisters, Sondra Gavieres, center, and Martha Hall, at the groundbreaking ceremony. Sondra is holding a portrait of the late Sister Anne Michelle.



Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph learn how to address privilege and bias to better understand all of God's people

Jaklyn-Mahree Hill grew up attending high school retreats at Mount Saint Joseph, and Sister Fran Wilhelm played a major role in her childhood. So she was excited – and nervous – to return to Maple Mount, Ky., during the 2023 summer Community Days to offer training on understanding bias.

Hill is the executive director of the Owensboro Human Relations Commission, an agency that assists the public with filing discrimination complaints. She also leads trainings to educate “anyone who will have us” to prevent discrimination from occurring.

Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader, met Hill at the February 2023 Regional Diversity Conference in Owensboro, where she attended her “Unpacking Privilege and Bias” presentation.

“I found it to be an engaging, insightful, and positive exploration of how bias is simply an integral part of who we are, and how privilege can have so many different meanings and appearances,” Sister Sharon said. “I chatted with her after her shortened presentation to ask about the more developed versions; when she found out I was with the Ursuline Sisters, she was excited because Sister Fran had been such an important part of her childhood. She seemed eager to work with us.”

Among the areas of focus for the Ursuline Sisters during this four-year leadership term is combatting racism and pursuing social justice. Hill and Becky Brandle, community coordinator for OHRC, agreed to present “Unpacking Privilege and Bias” and “Understanding Cultural Competency” to all the Ursuline Sisters during Community Days on July 13.

Hill's mother worked for Centro Latino, the outreach ministry to Hispanics that Sister Fran led for 25 years.

“Sister Fran was a pivotal part of my childhood. I admired the way that she cared for people with humor and kindness,” Hill said. “I was so excited to bring this information to the community. They have the best energy and are the kindest people. They are the complete opposite of the stereotype about nuns.”

Hill admitted that she was nervous about leading the sessions for the Sisters.

“When we bring information to a group of older people, there is often pushback,” she said. “I get nervous that they won't have an open mind. But they came with such open minds and they shared such wonderful stories.”

In her presentation, Hill talked about two types of biases – conscious and unconscious.

“Conscious is what we see, someone harassing someone in person or online,” she said. “Unconscious biases are very internalized, they come from your own traumas, life experiences, and whether you grew up with people just like you. Biases can be in conflict with your values and beliefs. It doesn't mean you're a bad person.”

Humans are very “us-centered,” Hill said, so she tries to help people realize that everyone has some values and beliefs that are important to them, even if they are different from yours. The goal for the presentations was to help the Sisters connect with populations that are different from them, Hill said.

“The Sisters are out in the community doing good things,” Hill said. “They want to understand. They want to love and care for people. This gives them an additional tool.”

Several of the Sisters said Hill's talks challenged them to think differently.

“Jaklyn challenged me to consider more deeply my responses to people who are different from myself – how I look at others from a viewpoint of privilege, which automatically excludes those who do not (and cannot, and need not) share this viewpoint,” Sister Ruth Gehres said. “At the moment I'm reading *White Fragility*, by Robin DiAngelo – a tough book to read, and well worth the effort. This book, and Jaklyn's presentation, makes me want to look at every person as a child of God who is worthy – totally worthy – of my respect and caring.”

“It developed and underscored what a lot of us have been studying and learning about the injustice of white

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Jaklyn-Mahree Hill, executive director of the Owensboro Human Relations Commission, gives one of her two presentations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph on July 13 in the Mother Aloysius Room as Sister Francis Louise Johnson looks on.

Focus on Privilege - *continued*

privilege and systemic racism over the past two years,” Sister Michele Morek said. “She gave good examples from her own life experience as a Latina, and from her work in diversity training.”

“She asked us to play Privilege Bingo,” Sister Rebecca White said. “We marked all of the scenarios that were true for us and she asked if anyone got a bingo. I did not turn around to look, but I doubt many raised their hands. Most of us have been quite privileged. We cannot get rid of our privilege, but we can always take it into account when listening to those who are likely less privileged.”

Sister Carol Shively has served as superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Shreveport, La., since 1999. Her experience tells her that Hill’s presentation was very accurate.

“Since moving to the South, I work every day with people of color,” Sister Carol said. “I’m very sensitive to my words and my reactions toward them.”

Sister Sharon said her main takeaway was embracing the presence of implicit bias and accepting that she has her own biases that have grown from or been planted by her own experiences, DNA, childhood and family.

“My biases color my unconscious responses,” she said. “How I integrate my own biases is my choice ... and my responsibility. My bias may or may not match my values; that is not under my control. My actions may or may not match my values; that is under my control.”

Some critics of these types of trainings dismiss them as an effort to make people feel bad about past actions, but Hill said that isn’t the case.

“Every time we give one of these trainings, someone comes up afterward and says, ‘I wasn’t expecting to learn anything, but I did.’ We work hard to make all people feel comfortable,” Hill said. “It’s not to be made to feel bad about yourself, because no one learns if they feel bad about themselves.”

Hill said she was able to learn from the Sisters because they have experiences from a generation that she knows little about.

“They were able to discuss an interaction they’ve had with someone, and asked, ‘How could I have better understood this person?’ They want to learn how to love people even better,” Hill said. “These are people who want to change from how they grew up and learn more. They want to expand their capacity to love and care for people,” Hill said. “They are so amazing.”

Mary Carrico School honors Sister Mary Celine for 60 years as an Ursuline

When the faculty and staff at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville, Ky., learned in August that their religion teacher – Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mary Celine Weidenbenner – was celebrating 60 years of religious life, they wanted to celebrate. “She’s just a special lady,” said Laura Cecil, in her second year as principal of the small school in east Daviess County near Owensboro, Ky. “She wears a sweatshirt that says ‘Joy: Jesus, Others, Yourself.’ She just radiates joy.” On Sept. 27, Sister Mary Celine was surprised to learn that she was the guest of honor at the school Mass across the road at St. William Church. The pastor, Father Shijo Vadakumkara said after his homily, “Sister Mary Celine has been a great messenger for our parish and school for so many years.”

Nine other Ursuline Sisters joined her for Mass and a reception afterward in the school gym. Two of the teachers at Mary Carrico had Sister Mary Celine as their teacher, and spoke of the joy they have now serving with her. Daviess County Commissioner Larry Conder read a proclamation declaring Sept. 27, 2023, as “Sister Mary Celine Day” in Daviess County. “Sister Mary Celine has made a difference in people’s lives,” Conder said. “She’s taught us how to love and to be good Christians.”

Sister Mary Celine’s 16 years at Mary Carrico surpass her previous longest mission, St. Mary Middle School in Paducah, Ky., where she spent 15 years.



Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner holds her gift from the parish and school as Sister Pat Rhoten, left, admires the crystal cross. The plaque reads, “Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, thank you for serving the Catholic school and parish community of Knottsville, Kentucky. Congratulations on your 60th jubilee of religious life.”

Graduate of 1941 became the star of Alumnae Weekend

Each year, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph welcome back graduates of Mount Saint Joseph Academy during Alumnae Weekend. As various people chatted with Delores “Winnie” Parker Lewis at the Aug. 27, 2023, reunion, one person commented, “That was before my time.”

“Nobody is before my time,” Winnie replied with a broad smile.

Winnie was the unexpected star attraction during the banquet, thanks to a couple of numbers associated with her – she is a 1941 graduate of the Academy, who recently turned 100 years old.

She still drives, she’d like everyone to know.

The 100 or so alumnae on hand gave her an ovation to begin the festivities, and Mary Danhauer, A’71, secretary of the Alumnae Association, placed a corsage on her wrist. When the roll call was read after lunch, the crowd once again gave her a hearty round of applause, and she stood to blow them kisses.

Winnie grew up in Henderson, Ky., and still lives there today. She was taught by the Sisters of Charity in elementary school, but she desperately wanted to attend Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

“My mom said we couldn’t afford it. I said, ‘I’ll work to pay my tuition,’” Winnie said. “I thought I’d like to wear the uniforms.”

Her jobs at the Academy included working in the library under Sister Joseph Marie Williams, and cleaning a classroom for Sister Charles Emaline Clements.

“It seemed like I left a part of me here,” Winnie said. “I’ve been back for my 50th reunion (32 years ago), and a few times I drove friends here to look around.” She admitted she was a bit lost when she arrived on campus.

“I was looking for the other auditorium,” she said. The auditorium during her school days was in the Academy building that was deconstructed earlier this year.

When asked for a favorite memory during her Academy days, she recalled the students performing the operetta “The Mikado.”

“We got to wear the costumes,” she said. “Sister Cecilia (Payne) wanted me to try out, she said I had a wonderful voice. But I hate to get up in front of people. I did get a part. I sang two lines.”

Following her graduation in 1941, with World War II beginning, she worked in Evansville, Ind., making bullets for the war effort. Chrysler President K.T. Keller turned the Plymouth assembly plant in Evansville into a factory to make .45-caliber cartridges.



Delores “Winnie” Parker Lewis, A’41, right, smiles after receiving a wrist corsage at the Mount Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae Weekend, Maple Mount, Ky. Standing next to her is Ursuline Sister Suzanne Sims A’66, and at left is Sally Murphy Buford, A’64. Lewis turned 100 a week earlier and was recognized twice with a round of applause during the event.

She married and had two daughters and a son. “In my 40s I was a travel agent. I traveled all over the world, with lots of cruises,” she said. “I retired from that after 20 years.”

Her daughter Sandra Lewis Ross attended the Academy for three years, but transferred to Holy Name High School in Henderson to graduate with her friends. Winnie’s granddaughter, Shaun Ross, also attended three years of the Academy, before transferring to Holy Name. Both of them are now deceased, as are her husband and son.

Her remaining daughter, Barbara Elpers, accompanied her to the reunion. She went to the Academy for one year. “I was a daddy’s girl,” she said, and preferred to be home working with the animals on their farm.

“My granddaughters still come to my house when they need something,” Winnie said. “We are a very close family.”

As the reunion wrapped up for another year, Winnie had a message for her fellow alumnae.

“See you next year,” she said.

Community Days at Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph celebrated Community Days from July 12-14, a tradition that dates back to 1917 in which as many Sisters as possible come to Maple Mount, Ky., to spend time together. On July 15, the Sisters celebrated the jubilees of 13 Sisters who have significant anniversaries of religious life this year. The photos were taken by Sister Ruth Gehres.



Following the Mass on July 15 in honor of the Sisters celebrating jubilees, Sister Paul Marie Greenwell prepares to enjoy a special meal. She is celebrating 70 years as a Sister this year.



Sister Kathleen Kaelin, left, who serves in Louisville, signs a document during Community Days with Congregational Leader Sister Sharon Sullivan as her witness.



Normally the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph take turns operating the switchboard on the weekends, but to accommodate them for Community Days and jubilee on July 15, employee Mario Palmer manned the phones. Mario normally works Monday through Friday.

BINGO!

"Bingo!" was in the air on Sept. 10 as 170 or so people joined with Ursuline Sisters and volunteers for Quilt Bingo at Maple Hall on the campus of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky. Participants played 31 rounds of bingo for a chance to win a quilt. More than 100 quilts were on display of various sizes, and duplicate winners all got to pick out a quilt. Participants enjoyed lunch catered by Ole South Barbecue, Owensboro, Ky. Many purchased Mount Raffle tickets before the drawing occurred at the end of the event at 4 p.m., with three cash prizes and another beautiful quilt given away. Many others purchased half pot tickets, and the lucky winner split the proceeds with the Ursuline Sisters. Most importantly, everyone had a fun day, and helped support the retired Ursuline Sisters and the ministries of the community. To see all of the pictures, go to: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-bingo-brings-lots-of-smiles-and-winners-to-maple-mount/>



The "I Spy" children's quilt was the selection of Quilt Bingo winner Donna Goetz of Owensboro, Ky. Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger at right looks at the quilt. Sister "C.J." made a list of the names of all of the quilt winners.

Mary Fleming of Morgantown, Ky., holds her new "Lovely Lavender" quilt that she won, with help from Sister Helena Fischer, right, at the Sept. 10 event in Maple Mount, Ky. The Quilt Bingo winners loved selecting a quilt.



Update from the Cleveland Ursulines

Summer Assembly

An Assembly of the Ursulines of Cleveland was held from Friday, July 7th to Sunday, July 9th, 2023. The focus for the first two days was thoughtful input from the Sisters attending about the future based on experiences and time just “to be” with each other in supportive community. On Sunday, the President of Ursuline College, Sister Christine DeVinne, OSU and Mrs. Wendy Hoke, the President of Beaumont School spoke about



Sister Christine DeVinne



Wendy Hoke



the two ministries still sponsored by the Ursulines of Cleveland. The only other sponsored institution is Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School that has been sponsored with the Marianist Congregation since 1990 when two high schools were merged by the Diocese of Cleveland. The Ursuline Sponsorship Committee composed of Sisters Rita Mary, Maureen Doyle, Virginia DeVinne, Sheila Marie Tobbe and Lisa Marie Belz has been engaged with the administration of Ursuline College and Beaumont to plan for the future. Ongoing study is taking place to identify options that will maintain the Catholicity and the Ursuline mission of both institutions.

Ursuline College MBA Program Fully Online



Beginning this fall, the MBA Program at Ursuline College has been conducted fully online. In 12 months, students can earn an MBA and grow their careers and/or business through the online program, which is being taught in an asynchronous manner – meaning students can learn on their own schedule. Mary Kovach, the new head of the MBA Program, holds a doctorate and states: “a person with an undergraduate degree in business, health care or even fashion can have more earning power with an MBA. The program is designed to take students from theory to practice while attending classes at their convenience.” She has also studied Ursuline College’s existing graduate nursing leadership curriculum and plans to begin joint MBA and DNP programs in the near future.

More Sisters from Vietnam

Ursuline College welcomed four more Sisters from Vietnam to begin classes this fall. In addition to Sister Thu Doan, who continues to live with Sisters Susan Mary and Etienne at St. Mark’s Convent on the Ursuline College campus while she studies math at Ursuline College, Sisters Nga Tran, Hoa Le, and Len Bui, also members of



Sister Trang Tran, OP

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Update from the Cleveland Ursulines, *continued*

the Sisters of the Holy Rosary community who are living on the near west side of Cleveland and Sister Trang Tran, OP are studying to be nurses. Sister Trang, a Dominican Sister of Go Vap Viet Name, is living at St. Mark's Convent after spending two years studying English in St. Louis, MO and Mankato, MN with the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Black Catholic Congress

From July 20-23, Sister Mary Jean Raymond, Parish Life Coordinator at St. Aloysius Parish in the city of Cleveland, attended the 13th National Black Catholic Congress. Cardinal Wilton Gregory was the first Black U.S. cardinal to address the Congress. Sister Mary Jean stated: "The most powerful moment for me as a woman religious was on the opening day when the representative of Cardinal Gregory, a Black religious woman, . . .welcomed the bishops in attendance . . . the priests . . .the seminarians . . . then "began to launch into her address and a gentleman in the audience stood up and loudly called out, 'What about the sisters?' She hesitated for a moment and then said, 'Oh, yes, the sisters.' The audience then called for all the religious sisters in attendance to stand. The religious women in the audience stood and received a rousing round of applause and cheers—more than any other group."



Sister Mary Jean Raymond and another Sister at the Black Catholic Congress

The attendees were estimated to be 3,000 who attended the Congress in National Harbor, Maryland. Images of six Black Catholics were displayed, including Franciscan Sister Thea Bowman who had given an address to the U.S. Bishops in 1989 and are under scrutiny in the process of canonization in Rome. Cardinal Gregory stated that these Black Catholics "serve as sources of great pride and inspiration for Black Catholics." The theme of the 2023 Congress "Write the Vision: A Prophetic Call to Thrive" came from the second chapter of the Old Testament's Book of Habakkuk. The Cardinal also told the attendees: "As we set about the important work of writing our vision and responding to the prophetic call to thrive in love and service, the Eucharist is our unifying reminder that we belong to one another and are truly entirely interdependent." A concluding message sent

from Pope Francis "encourages the commitment of America's Black Catholics, drawing inspiration from their faith to continue placing the rich diversity of their gifts and talents at the service of the Christian vision of truth, justice, and peace."

Groundbreaking

Creative Living for Life @ Ursuline Sisters

After eleven years of planning for Creative Living for Life at Ursuline Sisters, the groundbreaking for the housing for adults with special needs was held on the Ursuline Sisters campus at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 13th. Over one hundred people, including many parents of future residents, the CEO of Medina Creative Housing, Dianne DePasquale Hagerty, the Mayor of Pepper Pike, Richard Bain, the President of the Cleveland Ursulines, Sister Ritamary Welsh, the President of Ursuline College, Sister Christine DeVinne, many Ursuline Sisters and some future residents who participated in the ground breaking with hats and shovels attended the evening celebration. Occupancy of this housing development which consists of a community of twenty-four separate units with one or two bedrooms for those who can function on their own with some assistance is scheduled to take place in 2024. Some of the adult residents might have a regular caregiver or someone on an "as needed" basis. All of the condos are spoken for with half of the families being from the Pepper Pike area. Since the Medina Creative Living Corporation has leased several acres of land from us Cleveland Ursulines, the Corporation is in charge of the buildings

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Update from the Cleveland Ursulines, *continued*



Sister Ritamary Welsh expresses gratitude to her leadership team and that of Sister Susan Durkin for their vision.

and the running of them. Our Cleveland Ursulines are sponsoring two condos for two families who cannot afford this opportunity for their special needs children. The Medina Creative Living which has been in existence for thirty-one years in Ohio has stated that this group of people are the most underserved in our population.

Honoring Two Historic Ursuline Women

On Wednesday, September 20th, Urban Community School installed two statues honoring St. Angela Merici and Sister Dorothy Kazel. These statues were designed and created by Tom White, an artist and sculptor living in Prescott Valley, Arizona. The President of UCS, Tom Gill, stated in a letter that these women “symbolize fortitude, love and dedicated service to others, especially children.” Urban Community School was founded in 1968 by the Ursulines in the innercity of Cleveland. Ursuline Sisters who currently minister there include: Sisters Rose Elizabeth, Karen Bohan, Mary Kay Conkey, Etienne (Helen) Balek and Carol Pelegrin.



End of Summer Picnic

Approximately 100 Sisters from local congregations of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the Incarnate Word Sisters and Ursulines Sisters enjoyed a picnic lunch at Merici Crossings while they shared with each other on

Saturday, September 23rd from noon until 3:00 PM. Nine Sisters from Regina Health Care Center and four from Light of Hearts were included in the day. A collection of paper articles and other necessities for the 91st Day program for migrant peoples was part of the day, and over \$300 was collected in monetary donations. Information about the Blue Ribbon designation for the second time for Incarnate Word Academy, the current use of Charity Hospital for the needs of the people in the inner city area of Cleveland and the ground breaking for the Creative Living for Life @ Ursuline Sisters was shared for all who attended.

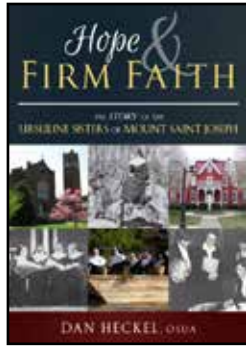
Stained Glass Window Tribute

Sister Lucia Vasko’s stained glass window that she designed and composed to pay tribute to Sts. Angela and Ursula and that originally was been placed in the Chapel in our St. Angela Center will be installed in the new atrium of Villa Angela/St. Joseph High School. This window was removed from the St. Angela Center when Merici Crossings was built and the Motherhouse demolished. Some of Sister Lucia’s stained glass windows were removed from the Motherhouse and now hang in panels in the new building. However, the Sts. Angela and Ursula window was too large to be displayed there. Since Sister Lucia is not only an alumna of Villa Angela Academy but also a former art teacher at the school, it is appropriate that her work be displayed in a building named for our foundress.



Hope and Firm Faith
tells the unique story of
the Ursuline Sisters of
Mount Saint Joseph

This book published in 2022 brings to life the amazing women who have served God's people since arriving at Maple Mount, Kentucky, in 1874. Readers will learn how the Sisters opened countless schools, including Brescia University. They will discover the adventures and events that unfolded through the eyes of the Ursuline Sisters who lived them, using their own words from letters they sent.



Order online at ursulinesmsj.org/hope-and-firm-faith-book. Or to order by mail, send us your name, address, phone and email. Indicate if you would like your book signed by the author. The cost is \$37.10 plus \$10 if you need shipping. Make check payable to "Ursuline Sisters" and mail to: **Book Order, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356**



- Sr. Patricia McLean (Chatham)
- Sister Helen Marie Davidson (Cleveland)
- Sister Margaret O'Brien (Cleveland)
- Sister Jeanne Hamilton (Eastern Province)
- Sister Stephanie Nolan (Eastern Province)
- Sister Jeanne Hamilton (Eastern Province)
- Sister Bernadette Hannaway (Eastern Province)
- Sister Judith Rice (Louisville)
- Sister Anne Mary Lochner (Louisville)
- Sister Rose Ann Muller (Louisville)
- Sister Marie Montgomery (Maple Mount)
- Sister Naomi Aull (Maple Mount)
- Sister Pat Grosse (Toledo)
- Sister Lillian Repak (Western Province)



*Celebrating
with our Jubilarians*

85 Years

Sister Lucille Bleile (Prelate)

70 Years

Sister Germaine Rosenberger (Prelate)
Sister Margaret Sautner (Prelate)
Sister Catherine Gardiner (Tildonk)

65 Years

Sister Theresa Mahoney (Chatham)
Sister Patricia McLean (Chatham)
Sister Eleanor Gleeson (Chatham)
Sister Barbara Zimmer (Chatham)
Sister Jane Quinlan (Tildonk)
Sister Margaret Golub (Tildonk)
Sister Judith O'Connor (Tildonk)

60 Years

Sister Kathleen O'Mara (Chatham)
Sister Laurentine Morgan (Tildonk)

25 Years

Sister Edith Menegus (Tildonk)



News from the Central Province

Sister Regina Marie Fronmüller in September was awarded the first ever Jim Feeney award for volunteer service by St. Bernard Project (SBP), a nonprofit, disaster relief organization founded in 2006 in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Sister Regina Marie has been volunteering with SBP, now a national disaster recovery and resilience organization dedicated to shrinking the time between disaster and recovery, for many years and has introduced many others to the organization through Nuns Build and various other builds with Ursuline alumnae. Jim Feeney, the SBP volunteer for whom the award was named, recently completed a four-month, 10,130-mile journey across 23 states to raise money for SBP.



Five Ursuline leaders from our U.S. Roman Union provinces attended the August Leadership Conference for Women (LCWR) conference in Dallas. Below, from left are Sisters Pat Schifini, Margaret Johnson, Peggy Moore, Maureen Welch, and Elisa Ryan. They were grateful for the opportunity to gather in person for enrichment and collaboration with sisters from around the country again!



Sister Susan Kienzler, tertian director, embarked on a new journey with a group of 14 Ursuline tertians from around the world when the International Tertianship 2023/24 began in September at the Generalate in Rome. This is the third time Sister Susan (below, fourth from left at back) will direct Roman Union tertians in as many years.



Sister Elisa Ryan, provincial, joined members of the Dallas Ursuline community and long-time friends of Ursuline Academy of Dallas for a celebration marking the close of the academy's "Act, Move, Believe" capital campaign and the opening of its Sesquicentennial celebration. At 150 years, Ursuline proudly stands as the oldest continually operating school in Dallas, and its rich history will be explored and celebrated throughout the year. Enjoying the Sesquicentennial launch festivities are, from left, Sister Karen Schwane; Sister Louis Marie Carter; Sister Helenice de Souza, provincial of Brazil and Peru; Elizabeth Bourgeois, retired principal of Ursuline Academy of Dallas; Karen Mortillaro, director of the Central Province's office of mission and identity; Sister Elisa Ryan, provincial of the Central Province; Sister Glenda Bourgeois; Sister Mary Troy; and Sister Lois Castillon, director of mission and heritage at UA-Dallas.



Communications Director Wins Prestigious CWR Award

Kathy Williams, communications director for the Louisville Ursulines, won the Outstanding Achievement in Print Media Award October 12 at the Communicators for Women Religious conference in St. Louis for the Sacred Heart Schools Heritage Room timeline. Kathy thanked the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, archivist Laurel Wilson, and Sacred Heart Schools for their commitment to the project in telling the story of the founding of Sacred Heart Schools in 1877 by the Ursulines up to the present day.



Two Ursuline Communicators earn Strategic Communications Certificate



Two members of the Communicators for Women Religious representing Ursuline communities completed the new CWR Strategic Communications Certificate program on Sept. 7, 2023. Kathy Williams, director of communications for the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, and Jennifer Kaminski, communications specialist/graphic designer for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, participated, along with 26 other CWR members. It was the first time the Communicators for Women Religious had offered the certificate. Participants represented women's religious communities from across the U.S., Canada, Italy, and Ireland. The program consisted of nine classes, divided into three modules, that began on May

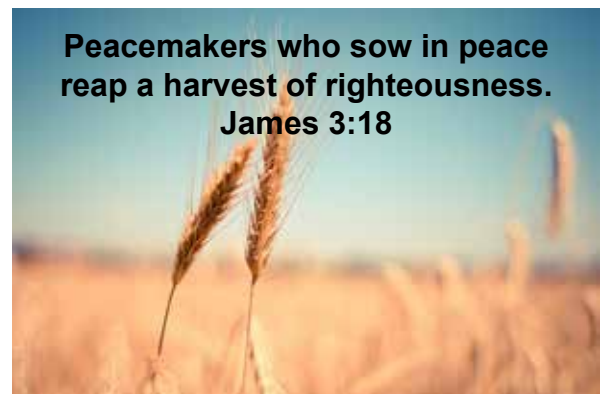
17, 2023. There was a recorded session to watch prior to each 30-minute live session. The final class was a review of the drafts of each community's strategic plan.

The program was described this way: "Strategic communications for religious organizations require understanding long-term and short-term goals of the organization, the audience they are trying to reach, the best methods to reach them, and the nuances necessary to match the organization's tone and voice. This Strategic Communications Certificate will guide participants through learning those specifics, planning a communications strategy to match them, and conducting ongoing evaluation and analysis of the success of their plan." Several different instructors presented the classes, including some CWR members. CWR plans to offer the program again from May-September 2024. Interested individuals can reach out to Brian Lavelle at CWR at blavelle@c4wr.org to be notified when registration becomes available. To learn more about CWR, visit www.c4wr.org.

More News from the Central Province



The July 23 Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in New Orleans was offered in thanksgiving for retiring Sister Carolyn Marie Brockland's years of service as shrine director. Father Lee Poche offered Sister Carolyn a special blessing.



Jubilee in Chatham

It was a beautiful afternoon on Sunday, August 13 when we welcomed our Sisters, family and friends to the Kiva in Chatham to celebrate the Jubilee of four Sisters celebrating 65 years and one celebrating her 60th. It was our desire to share our story, and to prepare that story that invited us to take a long, loving look at all that is real in our journey - all we have lived through, all we have learned and to recognize with new eyes the wonder of God abiding with us.

The poem "The Fountain" by Denise Levertov was our starting point. Each of us shared our thoughts which gave shape to Our Story... which began with words about the chaos in our world and the struggles personal and communal at this time. The poem begins "Don't say. Don't say there is no water" and we began to look at all the good that is happening in our world and the many supports we have always had, particularly the inspiration of Angela Merici. We recalled, too, the many occasions when we visited the fountain and were refreshed. As one jubilarian said: "I have experienced the cool refreshing water in times of trouble and joy from strangers and from people I know, in books I've read, in songs that I sing."

With renewed hope that the fountain of healing and refreshment "is still there and always there," we now move into the next part of our journey. We travel lightly with less baggage, more time for prayer and reflection – seeing ourselves as we really are, one tiny and precious part of a much bigger world – our hearts open to all, continually being shaped by what is real in our lives –

especially our personal and communal vulnerability believing that in that vulnerability that Divine Mystery unfolds.



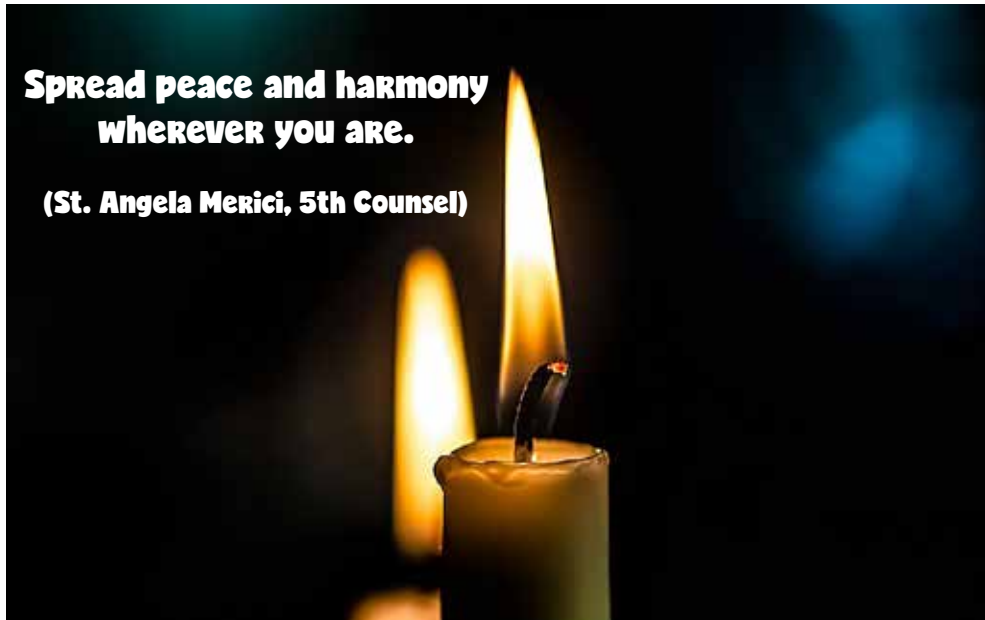
Pictured are the Jubilarians, Sisters Theresa Mahoney, Patricia McLean, Eleanor Gleeson, Barbara Zimmer and Kathleen O'Mara, who paused by the Ritual Centerpiece and then shared and received from all present the following blessing.

It was indeed a graced and transformative experience for us, a joyful one for all who gathered to celebrate. We are full of gratitude.

***May the water with its quiet song and strange power
still all doubts of no more water
for water is there
springing up through the rocks of life
waiting for us to drink our fill and be refreshed.
Amen***

**Spread peace and harmony
wherever you are.**

(St. Angela Merici, 5th Counsel)



Western Province News

New Leadership

In April, gratitude was expressed to Sisters Shirley Ann Garibaldi and Michelle Domecus for their years of service in province leadership. Sisters Dianne Baumunk and Joanne Abrams continue on as provincial and treasurer with the addition of Margaret Johnson as councilor.



Archives

In June, the Western Province Archives were moved from the Ursuline Centre to the Cascade County Historical Museum in Great Falls, Montana where they will be on permanent loan. Periodically archive materials and artifacts will be exhibited at the Museum. Both the Ursuline Sisters and representatives from all the Montana Tribes will be invited to meet and develop these displays which will be another opportunity to build relationships, truth-telling and healing. The credit line for any display or publication will read "Loan courtesy of Western Province Ursuline Sisters honoring North American Indigenous Nations."

Tributes to Sister Lillian Repak

Sister Lil, the youngest of our small province, died August 28th after a brief but intense battle with cancer and we have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and gratitude for her loving presence. Because she served as a chaplain to the San Francisco Police Department for many years, they honored her with a police escort to the Cathedral for her funeral Mass as well as an honor guard presenting the flags at the Mass.



Toledo Sisters and Associates Reflect During National Eucharistic

During the year of Eucharistic Revival, Toledo Ursuline Sisters and Associates are invited to reflect on what the Eucharist means to them. Reflections are being shared in the community's monthly newsletter and on its website. To the right is Sr. Claudia Holtz's Eucharistic reflection.



Everlasting grace
Unity with Jesus
Confirmation of Jesus' enduring love
Hearfelt appreciation of this grace
Anticipation of eternal salvation
Resource for wisdom and peace
Infusion of grace
Sacred comfort in His presence
Trust in God's Word made flesh in Jesus

by Sister Claudia Holtz

Ursulines of Prelate

Off to the Races, Once Again

It's been a different kind of summer. Even as we get back into the swing of things, and as I write this, smoke is in the air. On the news, recently, it was said that the usual amount of smoke from wildfires that makes it to Saskatoon is about 15 hours over a summer. This year we have already experienced over 200 hours of smoke. Add to that the lack of rain and the many failed crops, it is a summer we don't want to repeat.

But there have also been positives. On June 4th, the Ursuline Associates welcomed two new members into their group. A short prayer service, followed by some wine and snacks, was a fitting reception for Mary Comeault and Neil Ward.



Andrew Praksas (Interim Associate Director) Mary Comeault, Neil Ward, Bev Canaday (Formation Director)

On July 1st, Canada Day, Sisters enjoyed a barbeque at the generalate hosted by Sr. Anne Lewans.

August 5th, Sr. Lucille Bleile celebrated her 102nd birthday with family and friends.

August 15th, the Sisters, with very few exceptions, gathered at St. Angela Merici Residence to join the residents for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. The day started with a mass, during which the Sisters renewed their vows. Special anniversaries were celebrated by Sr. Lucille Bleile (85), and Sr. Jane Jochim, Sr. Germaine Rosenberger and Sr. Margaret Sautner (70). Unfortunately, Sr. Jane was not able to be present. The staff at the residence did a splendid job of setting the tables and they cooked up a veritable feast.

August 16th, saw those Sisters who were able, gathering for an assembly. It opened with prayer and was followed by Sr. Anne Lewans (Congregational Leader) giving a

comprehensive Power Point presentation about the past year. It was amazing to see all the things that happened in these months—we are still alive.

A discussion centered around leadership with the current

leadership team coming to the end of their mandate next year. Each of the Sisters of the team shared poignantly and sincerely about their hopes and dreams. For now, we look forward to another meeting with Joanne Yelle Weatherall from Canadian Religious Stewardship. This will be in October and we will continue to discuss and plan the steps we need to take in the near future.

In the meantime, there are always tasks that need to be done in order to facilitate any upcoming changes. One group of Sisters has been dealing with the art which was created by Sisters over many years and much of which had been stored at the generalate. Some of the art went to a sale held by the Knights of Columbus. \$3,000 was raised to help Ukrainian refugees. An auction at the local retreat house raised funds for their needs. Some of the art has also been gifted to schools where the Sisters were some of the first teachers, or where there was a lengthy presence by the Ursulines of Prelate.



Jubilarians Sr. Germaine Rosenberger (70), Sr. Lucille Bleile (85), and Sr. Margaret Sautner (70)



Giftng of art to Holy Spirit

Ursulines of Toledo

The Ursuline Associates hosted its annual Summer Luncheon for Sisters and Associates on June 14 at the Ursuline Center. Sandwiches, veggies, fruit, and chips were served, and an all-you-can-eat ice cream sundae bar topped off the delicious meal. The Center was decorated with a flower theme and floral centerpieces were raffled off to several lucky winners. The Summer Luncheon was a perfect opportunity for Sisters and Associates to gather in fellowship and re-connect as a community.



Associates Teri Thourot and Debbie Bercher (left) scoop up ice cream while Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen (above) enjoys her delicious dessert.

On August 8, three Ursuline Sisters celebrated milestone Jubilees with a Eucharistic Liturgy followed by a special meal with Sisters, Associates, friends, and family at the Ursuline Center. Sisters Angela Gaietto, Nancy Mathias and Kenwyn Steger rejoiced at God's faithfulness as they celebrated 65 years of religious life.



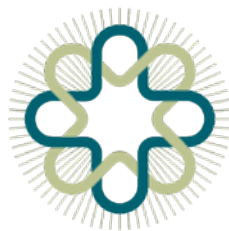
Sister Nancy Mathias, Sister Angela Gaietto, Sister Kenwyn, and Sister Sandy Sherman (standing, right.)

TAANG (Toledo Area Associate Networking Group (TAANG) sponsored a Sewing Day on September 9 during which Associates from the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre Dame, Sylvania Franciscans, Tiffin Franciscans, and Toledo Ursulines gathered to sew dresses and shorts to be sent to Third World countries. Over 2,000 dresses and shorts have been sent to Haiti, Grenada, Trinidad, El Salvador, Guatemala, Philippines, Ukraine, Mexico, and Vietnam from Sewing Days.



Toledo Associates Debbie Bercher, Marcia Kolbeck, Michelle Scazzero, and Val Myers participated in the TAANG Sewing Day.





URSULINE
EDUCATION NETWORK

2023-2024 PROGRAMS

Professional Development Conference

Strong in Adversities

Mental Health Across the Ursuline Institution

Featured Keynotes:

Dr. Lisa Damour - NY Times Best Selling Author and Child Development Expert

Dr. Katherine Jackson - Counseling and Art Therapy, Ursuline College

November 5-7, 2023

Beaumont High School - Cleveland, OH

[Registration opens August 1, 2023](#)

Student Retreat

Faithfully and Joyfully

Embracing St. Angela's Counsels

January 11-14, 2024

Ursuline Academy - New Orleans, LA

Facilitated by Jane Cruthirds

Director of Mission Formation at Sacred Heart School, Louisville, KY

Funded in part by a generous grant from the Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati

Registrations opens September 1, 2023

[Student registration](#)

[Adult chaperone registration](#)

Admissions and Enrollment Conference for Ursuline Schools

Hold Them Within Your Heart

April 22-24, 2024

Cincinnati, OH

Details and registration information available September 2023

Member schools are encouraged to reserve the dates and promote within your school communities.
Information and Registration for all programs is available on the UEN website: www.ursuline-education.com