

**JOURNEYING
WITH CHRIST
IN HOPE AND TRUST**

Ursuline Newsletter

4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 48 No. 4 • April 2024

LEADERSHIP CORNER BY SR. JOY

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

During the weeks of Lent we focused on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem to fulfill the Father's will and offer his life for our redemption. Then we traveled the way of the Passion during Holy Week. Finally, we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. It was a long journey, full of questions, doubting, fears, yet when Jesus gave his life for us and rose to new life we were filled with hope, joy, and gratitude for all the love shown by him. Now we move forward to live in the resurrection light and grace, giving thanks to Jesus for his love for us. May each day find us offering thanks and coming to live anew the promise of the Resurrection. **ALLELUIA!!!**



Prizes!

1st Prize \$2,500
2nd Prize \$1,000
3rd Prize \$500

URSULINE *Cherry Blossom* FESTA RAFFLE

Drawing: April 26, 2024

(Winners need not be present to win.)

Donation:

\$1 each or \$10 for book of 12.

Watch your mail for the Festa flyer or call the Convent Offices at 419-536-9587 for entry information.



Rest In Peace

Roy Buford, husband of Linda Craver Buford,
SUA '70 ~ February 20

Willie Wiggins, father of Tracy Wiggins-Parks,
SUA '85 & Lisa Wiggins, SUA '90 ~ February 27

Bernadine Seimet Gladioux, sister of Phyllis
Seimet, MMC '70 ~ February 24

Diana Erickson, mother of Kristen Erickson
O'Brien, SUA '90 ~ February 26

Sr. Patricia Anne Turner, Ursuline Sister of
Chatham, Ontario ~ February 29

Sr. Mary Ross Burgard, Sister of Notre Dame ~
March 3

Josephine Wodarski, mother of Kristine "Krissy"
Wodarski Wunder, SUA '86 ~ March 3

Sr. Mary Denis West, Ursuline Sister of
Louisville ~ March 4

Associate **Joan LaVoy Cousino**, MMC '63 ~
March 5

Fr. Roland Calvert, OSFS ~ March 5

Roberta "Bobbi" Stambaugh Lopresto, MMC
Associate ~ March 5

Patricia Nagel Hastings, sister of Sr. Mary Ellen
Nagle ~ March 8

Michael Wielgopolski, brother of Mary
Wielgopolski Chalmers, SUA '83 ~ March 8

Donald Mayer, brother of Juanita Mayer Maas,
SUA '62 ~ March 9

Nichole Operacz Flores, SUA '89; principal of
St. Ursula Academy, mother of Isabel Flores,
SUA '15; Abigail Flores, SUA '21 and the sister of
Charissa Operacz Marconi, SUA '91~ March 13

Sr. Rita Wasserman, Sister of Mercy ~ March 13

Associate **Mary Ellen Say**, Former Ursuline
Sister, MMC '57 ~ March 15

Sr. Marianne Longo, Sister of Mercy ~ March 15

James Szteiter, father of Sandi Szteiter Christen,
SUA '95 ~ March 15

Renee De John, aunt of Sr. Nelda Chafitelli ~
March 16

David LaPlante, father of Molly LaPlante
Carlisle, SUA '91 ~ March 16

Sr. Jane Mary Sorosiak, OSF/S; SUA '49; MMC
'53 ~ March 17

C. Albert Horstman, father of Jeanne Horstman
Johnson, SUA '76; Kathy Horstman Hinds, SUA
'77 and Kelly Horstman McCloskey, SUA '78 ~
March 18

Martha Stichter DeCavitch, SUA '77 ~ March 18

Lynne Mangan, sister of Janet Mangan Wiza,
SUA '69; Kim Mangan, SUA '73 and Shawn
Mangan, SUA '82 ~ March 18



A year-long initiative from LCWR entitled, “Transforming Grace: The Work of Transformative Justice” will be held between November 29, 2023 and November, 2024. Part I was on “Transforming Consciousness.” Part II, “Transforming Presence,” began in January.

Reflection for the week of March 24, 2024

~ Opening Prayer ~

*A Prayer to Learn to Love the World Again:
Sarah Bussey*

God of herons and heartbreak,
teach us to love extravagantly
knowing it may (it will) break our hearts
and teach us that it is worth it.

God of pandemics and suffering ones,
teach us to love the world again.

God of loneliness and longing,
of bushfires and wilderness,
of soup kitchens and border towns,
of snowfall and children,
teach us to love the world again.

~ Scripture ~

“Abba, Father, all things are possible to you.
Take this cup away from me, but not what I will
but what you will.” *Mark 14:36*

~ Reflection ~

As Jesus stepped into the Garden of Gethsemane,
the reality ahead of him became clear.

He knew the depths of fear, especially of the
unknown.

During Holy Week, take a few minutes to explore
and name your fear. In your silence and in
conversations in which fears surface, draw upon
the experience of Jesus as well as your confidence
in resurrection.

~ Closing Prayer ~

From Etty Hillesum, An Interrupted Life

Ultimately, we have just one moral duty:
to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more
and more peace, and to reflect it towards others.
And the more peace there is in us, the more peace
there will be in our troubled world.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May 2024 newsletter
is Tuesday, April 23. Please send your
stories to Michelle at [mscazzero@
ursulinecenter.org](mailto:mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org).



DINNER GET TOGETHER FOR SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES

Join the Sisters and Associates
for a dinner gathering at
Jing Chuan restaurant on
Wednesday, April 17 at 5 p.m.
Please RSVP to Val by Friday,
April 12 if you plan to attend
so that we can reserve tables.
Hope to see you there!



Associate Updates

Dinner Get Together for Sisters and Associates

- We plan to gather for another dinner at Jing Chuan on Wednesday, April 17 at 5 p.m. Please RSVP to Val by Friday, April 12, if you plan to attend so that we can reserve tables. Hope to see you there!! This is a very relaxing time to just unwind, talk and enjoy great food.

Easter Flower Pots – Thank you to those who graciously volunteered to write cards and deliver the Easter flowers to the Sisters. Once again, Hafner Florist helped make this happen. Thank you!

New Associate Leadership – Please pray to discern if a leadership role is what you are being called to take on. We haven't heard from any of you as of yet, and as described in the January newsletter we are seeking individual(s) who would be interested in taking over the leadership role(s) for the Ursuline Associates in June after our term expires. Please contact Sr. Sandy or one of us if you feel so called. We cannot stay active without leadership. Please let us know as soon as possible.

TAANG Sewing Day – The next TAANG Sewing Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. If you are unable to help out the entire day, a morning or afternoon time is welcome. Once again, TAANG is accepting cotton, or cotton blend, material and elastic. Please complete the registration form included in this newsletter and select which skills you bring. Remember – you do not need to be a seamstress! There are plenty of jobs to fill doing many other tasks. (from Debbie: I don't sew but I do an OK job cutting patterns!). Again, we will be sewing dresses and shorts that will be shipped to children in need across the globe. For those who have not participated before it is a very rewarding experience. We can do good from afar.

Afternoon Reflection – Our Lenten afternoon reflection entitled, “Prayer of St. Angela with a Lenten Twist” was well attended and gave us a deeper connection to St. Angela and her thoughts as she prayed. Thank you, Sr. Donna, for sharing with us another side of St. Angela.

New Associates – We currently have one new Associate candidate who has begun her mentoring. We would like to welcome more candidates and grow this ministry. Do you know someone who has expressed an interest in the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters? Our new flyers are printed and ready to be distributed to someone you think may be interested in the Associate ministry. Please see Michelle for copies and feel free to share one. Also, please encourage them to check out our website (a copy of the new flyer can be found there also), stay in touch with them and encourage them to join us. As our numbers grow so can our ministry as Associates.

“Your Thoughts” – Newsletter Article –

Please consider sharing your thoughts with us about what drew you to become an Ursuline Associate. It can just be a couple lines long. We will compile your responses into an Associate article for future newsletters. As always WE STILL NEED YOU!! Please consider helping us out with this. Also, if you feel so inclined we welcome longer articles that reflect on your experiences and the influence of St. Angela on your life. You can email your “Thoughts” to the email listed below. THANK YOU!

Debbie and Jess

ursulineassociates@ursulinecenter.org

*“Do not be anxious. If you do your best, God will provide for your spiritual and material needs.”
(from Angela’s Fourth Counsel)*



Associate News by Pat Torda

St. Angela Relevant Today as well as in History

March was Women's History Month. In 1987 Congress passed Public Law 100-9. Since that time, every president has issued annual proclamations designating the month. This year, President Joe Biden urged Americans to "continue working to build a world worthy of the dreams and goals of all women and girls. During Women's History Month, we celebrate the courageous women who have helped our Nation build a fairer, more just society."

Reflecting upon this it seems fitting to remember St. Angela Merici. She was truly a pioneer in this respect. She founded the Company of St. Ursula in 1535 in Brescia, Italy in which women dedicated their lives to service to the church through education of girls. From that organization sprang forth the Order of St. Ursula.

Today the Ursuline Sisters continue their ministry founded on the principals and Rules of St. Angela Merici. They are committed to serving where most

needed, in education, parish life, with elderly and individuals on society's margin. I wanted to become affiliated with St. Angela and the Ursuline Sisters when my daughter attended St. Ursula Academy. I also worked in the high school cafeteria at that time. After college, she returned to a position at the Ursuline Center until its closure. My daughter, my husband and myself were invited to become Ursuline Associates. They are an inspiration as we share in the mission and legacy of St. Angela Merici. I'm grateful for SUA helping my daughter develop into a strong caring woman.

In closing, I am thankful for all St. Angela has accomplished with the help of God. She revolutionized the role of women both in the church and society. My hope and prayer is that we may continue on in the spirit of St. Angela in supporting women today and in the future to be all God intended them to be.

Prayer For Solidarity with Seafarers

Lord God, we depend on you for life itself. We depend on seafarers for many of our daily needs. Watch over them, keep them from danger, befriend them in loneliness and bring them safely home to those they love. Amen.

We pray, O God for all seafarers as they face the dangers of their calling. Grant them your strength and protection and keep them in the hours of special need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From the Alliance to End Human Trafficking
March Newsletter

On the Mission of St. Angela

"Founded for all women, the Company offers an alternate form of life that fills the spiritual and social desires. We highlight gospel values, prayer and service through independence."

Anna, Class of 2024



Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive a Success!

The Catholic religious Sisters in the Toledo Diocese once again collaborated to sponsor the 4th annual **Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive** on March 8, 2024 at Walt Churchill's Market in Maumee. In addition, the Ursuline Sisters collected non-perishable food items and monetary donations at the Ursuline Convent Offices for the month prior for those who could not make it to Walt Churchill's the day of the event.



The response to the Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive was overwhelming! In all, Sisters, Associates and friends of the area women religious communities collected 8,019 pounds of food and \$1,393.00 that will be given to the Toledo Seagate Food Bank to benefit families in need throughout Northwest Ohio. This is nearly double the amount of food collected from last year!

Sponsoring the food drive in Toledo were the Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States, Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, and the Sisters of the Visitation.

Thank you to all who helped make the 2024 Catholic Sisters Week a success!



Archive Snapshots

Sister M. Monica Rahrig



Sister M. Monica Rahrig entered the Ursuline Convent from St. John's Parish, Payne in 1917. Sister Monica finished her education at St. Ursula Academy and after her time in the novitiate she assumed duties in the kitchen of the Motherhouse on Collingwood, and when Mary Manse College opened, she was the Director of Food Service, a position she held for some 46 years. After she retired from the college, Sister Monica took on the care and feeding of the Chaplains who lived on the campus at "Matthew House." Sister Monica's kitchen was a haven for desperate novices who needed a break in the labors of the Motherhouse. She was a welcoming soul who probably saved many a vocation by her sense of humor and sympathy extended to the stressed out novice.

Shortly after Sister Monica retired, she moved into the brand new Ursuline Convent in 1985. When asked how she liked her new living quarters, she always replied very pleasantly that she liked the place for a retreat but wanted to return home. She did return home on April 7, 1992 at age 96.

From the LCWR Presidency

Times of Transformation

Sue Ernster, FSPA — LCWR President-Elect

Spring and Easter are here -- times of transformation and new life budding forth! During spring, nature transforms -- buds spring forth, daylight gets longer, leaves burst forth where barren branches existed. When Mary and the disciples met Jesus, they didn't recognize him because he didn't look physically the same, his body was transformed.

We are in the spring and Easter cycle of religious life as well. Many aspects of our life are or look different. As we gather in LCWR or community, we discuss how the systems or structures that worked previously are no longer sustainable in the future. We are at a critical time in our lives; some may even call it a crisis --which can bring opportunities for transformation.

As I was preparing this column reflecting upon and praying about some of the challenges we each face (how to care for our members, what to do with our buildings, whether or not to accept new members, and more), I was drawn to Pope Francis' book, *Let Us Dream*. In the prologue he states: "The question is whether you're going to come through this crisis, and if so, how. The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same." [1]

As we engage with this current crisis, we choose how we will come through it. What is the essence (nugget) of religious life which will be present no matter how religious life looks or is lived? The essence will be the same. The rest may shift. How we handle finances



and share our abundance may look different. How we collaborate with others may look different. Many matters grab our attention, yet how we choose to respond to this crisis can be an opportunity for transformation. The world is counting on us.

For me, the thought of transformation or trying to imagine how we can be mission leaders as well as administrators is daunting. Knowing the essence will remain gives me the courage to do what is necessary to move, to allow transformation to come, so we are better rather than worse because of this crisis.

Being part of LCWR offers an opportunity to learn and discuss with one another how we can dream of the potential of acting differently. How might we dream of sharing our abundance differently to meet the needs of one another or collaborate in mission?

LCWR has hosted webinars on the status of religious life and leadership concerns. Insights have been gained on how to handle situations related to leadership capacity and the potential for other paths leading to a better future. Even in our vulnerability, now is the time for dialogue, a

willingness to change, and act. How might we seize this opportunity and come through it?

Endnote

1. Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, Simon and Schuster, 2022, p. 1



CALENDAR

(ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

April 2024

- 1 Easter break - Convent Offices closed
- 2 Synod Discussion Questions for UISG, for Sisters only, 1:30 p.m., Convent Offices
- 8 Day of Eclipse - Convent Offices closed
- 17 Dinner at Jing Chuan, 5 p.m., Sisters and Associates are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Val by April 12
- 20 Sisters Study Day, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Serra Hall, Sisters of St. Francis Campus
- 22 Council Meeting
- 23 Community Input/Update, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Sisters Only. At Convent Offices
- 23 Associate Commitment of Sr. Mary Jo Szpila, 5 p.m., Convent Offices
- 24-25 LCWR Region 6 - Cincinnati
- 26 Cherry Blossom Festa drawing, 2:30 p.m.
- 29 - May 1 NAULC Annual Meeting - St. Louis
- 30 Feast of St. Marie of the Incarnation

May 2024

- 22 Maumee Bay Picnic for Sisters and Associates, 4:30 p.m.
- 27 Memorial Day - Convent Offices closed
- 29 Council Meeting

June 2024

- 6 Assembly, 1 - 3 p.m., Sisters Only
- 7 Feast of the Sacred Heart
- 8 TAANG Sewing Day, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Rosary Care Center
- 26 Council Meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

- 4 Mary Camp
Karole Sigg
- 7 Sr. Mary Angela Gaietto
Joanne Schwind
John Myers
- 8 Jan Michalak
- 16 Walter Palicki
Nanci Riddle
- 17 Diane Koebnick
Janet Helfrich
Larry Meyers
- 18 Mary VanderLinde
Marcie McCabe
- 21 Lois Manion
- 25 Sr. Mary Ellen Nagle
Jane Hagelin
Anna Lara
- 27 Carol Ann O'Reilly
Rose Alvarez

May

- 4 Rose Hubay
- 23 Roseann Jackson
- 25 Judy Polcyn
- 27 Jane Charette
- 28 Robin Bonfiglio

Pray with the Ursulines: Communication Tape

It is recorded Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays.

Call 419-536-9375.



FEAST DAY



April

- 26 Sister Donna Frey
- 26 Sister Mary Kay Garvin

May

- 22 Sister Rita Mae Johns



Check out the
Ursuline Sisters of Toledo
Facebook page and website!

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