



Ursuline Newsletter

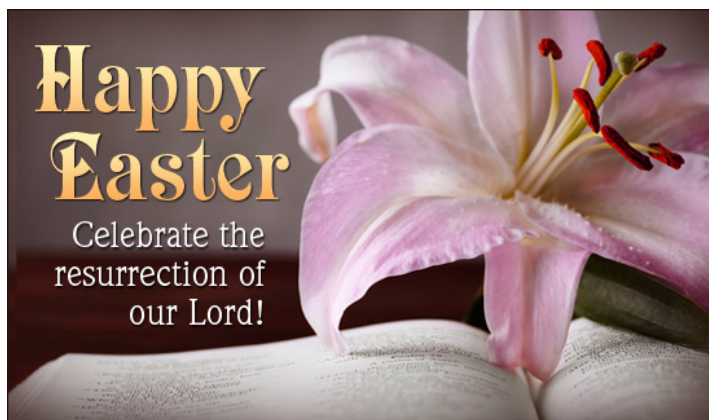


Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 50 No. 4 • April 2026

Leadership Corner by Sr. Joy

Lent has ended and Holy Week is upon us. After weeks of reflecting, we now turn our thoughts to the last week of Christ's life. Services this week give us many opportunities to reflect upon what is happening as Christ's life comes to an end. The services are rich with symbolism and meaning. It's an opportunity for each of us to reflect personally on Christ's life and what it has meant for us and for the world. Where do we find ourselves in these days and events? How is Christ present to us? Does what we see give us pause to reflect on changes we might make in our own life?

May Holy Week and Easter be blessed times for you and yours.



ST. URSULA ACADEMY VOTED BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL IN TOLEDO!



Thanks to the unwavering support of our St. Ursula Academy community, SUA has been voted the **Best Private School in Toledo City Paper's Best of Toledo** for the second year in a row. SUA sees this award as a reflection of its consistently strong, supportive learning environment and the high-quality education that students receive. Congratulations to the faculty, staff and students of St. Ursula Academy on this well-deserved honor!





Rest In Peace

Thomas Ainsworth, brother of Judy Ainsworth Turner, SUA '60; MMC '64 - January 31

Sr. Dorteia Marie Arndt, SND - February 25

Madonna Litzenberg Poturalski, SUA '61; mother of Mary-Jo Poturalski Arehart, SUA '86 - March 16

Juanita Graber Sattler, MMC '57 - March 18

California Associate Rosemary Anspach - March 22

Marilyn Hellrung Wolff, SUA '46; mother of Linda Wolff Dorley, SUA '69 and Laurie Wolff Rader, SUA '70 - March 22

What's New in the Archives?

With a New Year ahead of the Ursulines, along came three new assistants in archival work. The Archives welcome aboard Adriana Daniel (SUA freshman), Luciana Hernandez (SUA sophomore) and Oluwasola Fadahunsi (SUA senior). Filing and sorting school yearbooks belongs to Luciana, and preparing folders for data entry on the computer falls to Adriana. Oluwasola is pulling medical records from files. Having young people interested in history is a delight to observe.

Adriana was an "elf" at the Sisters' December St. Nick's party and said she really enjoyed being with the Sisters, talking to them and the chance to see the Convent Offices.

Luciana signed up to volunteer because she was interested in seeing things in the archives that were related to St. Ursula Academy and the history of the Sisters.

Oluwasola has joined the archives "team" because, as a National Honor Society member, she needs additional service hours and is interested in what the archives are all about.

SAVE THE DATE



Ursuline Jubilee Celebration

Sunday, June 14, 2026

3 p.m.

Christ the King Parish

75 Years

Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen

70 Years

Sister Claudia Holtz

Sister Ann Marie McManus

65 Years

Sister Rita Mae Johns

Sister Maria Goretti Van Ausdale

60 Years

Sister Nelda Chafitelli

Sister Donna Frey

Sister Carol Reamer

50 Years

Sister Carol Kronfield

Sister Sandra Sherman





CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK

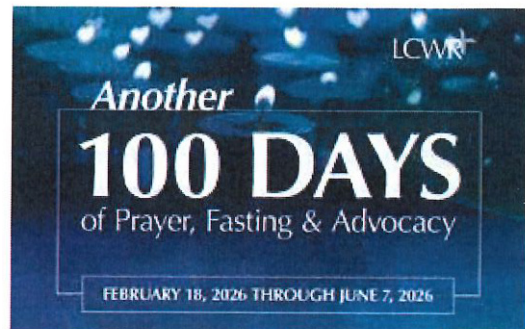
Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive Makes Huge Community Impact

Thank you to all who participated in the Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive on March 13, 2026 at Walt Churchill's Market and at the Ursuline Convent Offices. Sisters and supporters collected 8,845 pounds of non-perishable food items and more than \$5,000 in monetary donations to support the Toledo SeaGate Food Bank. The food bank says that every dollar will provide 4 pounds of food, bringing the total poundage of food collected to 28,845. Toledo SeaGate Food Bank supplies food at no cost to more than 400 pantries and programs throughout Northwest Ohio to supplement their inventories, including many Catholic parish food banks. Participating in this year's Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive were the Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States, Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Sisters of the Visitation. Your contribution to this worthy project has blessed countless families in our community!

April 15: An Invitation to a Day of Prayer, Fasting and Advocacy

This past July and December, we invited Sisters and Associates to participate in the Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR) call to prayer, fasting, and advocacy for issues affecting our country and our world. LCWR has asked that we do this again on a day or days of our choice.

This time we have chosen **Wednesday, April 15**. Choose a time of day and a place to pray in a way that most helps you to connect with the Holy One who dwells within you, and speak to God from your heart about that which you feel moved to pray. Make an effort to fast from whatever may externally or interiorly distract you from your commitment to live the call of the Gospel as an Ursuline Sister or Associate. You might place your signed missioning card nearby as a reminder.



Praying for Our Country, Our World ~ A Silent Prayer Hour ~

Wednesdays,
April 29
May 27
June 24

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Ursuline Center Chapel

ALL ARE WELCOME!



From the LCWR Presidency Look for the Good

Debra Sciano, SSND — LCWR President-Elect

As I write this reflection the winds are howling, leaves and other debris are scattered all over the ground, and it feels like the world is wild and chaotic. Change and chaos may seem ordinary of late, as we discover when we listen to or read the daily newscasts. One never knows what will transpire on a given day – unpredictable weather events, governmental cutbacks to much needed benefits, an economic situation that is spiraling out of control, the use of violence and misuse of power for financial and political gain while depriving people of their constitutional rights, and an attitude of exclusion and disregard for those of different cultures, colors, and religions.

On a Friday during Lent I took a break from my computer to go to a fish fry sponsored by a local elementary school. When I entered the cafeteria to meet some friends, I once again experienced chaos, noise and activity, but this time, it was a welcome change. While awaiting the delicious meal served by students and their parents, I felt comfort and delight as I literally bumped into many old friends and made new acquaintances. Being with a rich assortment of humanity gathered into a tight space was truly an experience of communion.

These days it is hard to know what to do, what to say, how to pray, or how to be when so much is out of our control. How do we find goodness or small rays of light when the darkness around us might seem overwhelming?

I recently discovered six possible ways to find good amid what might be perceived as bad:

Allow the bad to exist first – good isn't found by denying pain. It often shows up after you let yourself say: "This hurts." Naming the bad makes the good more honest.



Look for what's still intact – when things fall apart, something usually remains:

- Your values
- Your ability to choose your response
- Someone who cares
- Your breath, your body, your will

These aren't small points – they are basic foundations for living.

Notice growth you didn't ask for – hard moments often teach things comfort never could:

- Resilience
- Clarity about what matters
- Empathy for others
- Boundaries

You wouldn't choose the pain, but the growth is real. **Shrink the timeframe** – when life feels heavy, don't search for "overall meaning." Look for:

- One decent moment today
- One thing you handled better than before
- One small relief

Good is often tiny and temporary -- and that still counts.

Watch how you show up – even in bad times, you may notice:

- Courage in continuing
- Kindness you give despite exhaustion
- Honesty instead of pretending

Sometimes you are the good that exists. **AND**

Let good be quiet – good doesn't always feel happy. Sometimes it feels like:

- Getting through the day
- Choosing not to give up
- Resting instead of forcing strength

That's not weakness. That's wisdom. Look for the good within you and around you as song writer Jason Mraz tells us in "[Look for the Good.](#)"

LCWR Congregations in These Complex and Challenging Times

Across the United States, congregations of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) continue to respond to the profound challenges of this time with faith, courage, and collaboration. In local communities, dioceses, and regions, sisters are joining with one another and with partners across the globe as part of the wider global sisterhood to stand in opposition to violence, war, the erosion of human dignity, and the suppression of freedom.

This commitment is visible in many forms. Sisters participate in peace vigils outside detention centers, accompany individuals appearing in immigration court, and provide services, resources, and advocacy for those who are most vulnerable. They collaborate with community organizations and nonprofit partners who share a vision of justice and compassion. While the scale of the challenges can seem overwhelming, LCWR congregations continue to act where they are, doing what is possible with steadfast hope and determination.

LCWR also continues to affirm its long-standing commitment to dialogue over war. The conference recognizes that negotiation, diplomacy, and sustained conversation remain the only pathways to lasting peace. In times of armed conflict, it is always the most vulnerable who bear the heaviest burden. LCWR stands in solidarity with those who work for peace, mindful of the responsibility we hold to generations yet to come.

In these times, LCWR reaffirms the values that have shaped its public witness and its guiding principles:

- The belief in the inherent right to life of all human beings and the dignity of every person
- Commitment to the gospel call to love, welcome, and care for all people, especially those who are most vulnerable
- The duty to welcome immigrants and to provide care and assistance to those in this country, while advocating for comprehensive immigration reform
- The responsibility to stand against violence in all its forms
- The commitment to dismantle systemic racism

- The conviction that care for Earth calls for sustained attention and action
- Respect for the journey of every person toward the fullness of their humanity
- The ongoing work to alleviate poverty in all its forms

Grounded in these commitments, LCWR and its member congregations continue to act in ways that uphold the dignity of every human person and the well-being of our planet. All people are called to align their lives with the Gospel and to discern together how best to remain attentive and responsive to the needs of the world.

In the face of complexity and uncertainty, LCWR congregations remain steadfast witnesses to hope, justice, and compassionate care for all.



Marking Holy Week in the Light of the LCWR Assembly Resolution

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) offers a unique opportunity for members to pray the [Stations of the Cross: Walking with Immigrant Stories](#) during the Lenten season. The collection of stories from hundreds of clients that CLINIC accompanies in these challenging times offers a creative way to pray with their stories during Holy Week. The focus is aligned with the LCWR Assembly Resolution.



Archive Snapshots

A Reflection from Associate Bill Moore

“As I was reading the current (March) Ursuline newsletter the other day, I was delighted to read the article about Sister Mary Gerard (Nagle). As you know, she was one of our Ursuline teachers here at Lima St. Gerard for decades. I began 1st grade in 1938 (Sister Mary Lillian), and was fortunate enough to have Sister Gerard as my 5th and 6th grade teacher. My memories of her overflow in my brain! She was a peach! In those days I don’t believe that children were ever really “bad,” but the boys were often devilish at times. Well, Sister Gerard could handle the boys... no doubt! She could be somewhat strict, but in a way that always made you think twice and “learn from” your actions. She taught generations of students over the years. I don’t know that she ever forgot a student’s name and could often remember who your parents were. Amazing woman there!

“I graduated in 1950, and after four years in the military and marriage to my wife Pat, our oldest daughter (Kathleen) began 1st grade in 1964. Knowing that our dear Sister Gerard was still on the faculty I had no doubts that she was in “good hands”! I also remember when the members of our parish sent her on a visit to Ireland, towards the end of her tenure here at Lima St. Gerard.

“Thank you (Ursulines) for the article, which took me back to many wonderful years at Lima St. Gerard school. At age 93 I still am so very thankful of all of the wonderful Ursulines, who gave so many of us such a great start in life.

“Many thanks and God Bless.”



Sister M. Gerard Nagle, center

Mother John Baptist Macelwane

Anna Rose Macelwane was born in Port Clinton, Ohio on July 17, 1892. She attended the public schools of Port Clinton and then went on to Bowling Green State Normal School. She taught in the county



schools and then entered the Ursuline Convent in Toledo in 1921. She received her AB degree from Teachers’ College and then went on to St. Louis University and received both her Masters and PhD in Physics there. She began teaching at Rosary Cathedral, Good Shepherd, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Gerard High School, and Mary Manse College where she was head of the Science Department. She was elected to the General Council in 1949 and then was elected Mother Superior in 1955 and served in that capacity for 12 years (two terms). The Mother Superior was also the President of Mary Manse College. In that role, Mother John Baptist was instrumental in many fund raising projects and was particularly interested in overseeing the building of Lourdes Hall, the dormitory for the College. She was also instrumental in the building of St. Ursula Academy on Indian Road. After her two terms as Superior were over, she returned to Mary Manse College and taught Physics until her death on April 20 in 1974.

Mother John Baptist was a very intelligent person who grasped a situation quickly and dealt with the problem until it was solved. She had a sense of humor and quick wit which held her in good stead with the many business men with whom she dealt on a daily basis. In a study by a hand writing analyst the following description was noted, “When she is in charge, she runs the show; when she isn’t she does not let anybody push her around too much. Anybody who tries to run her life soon finds out that ‘You do not fool with the bandwagon when you do not know the driver.’ She is remarkably quick to size up a situation and see the solution if there is a problem.” She was beloved by her Sisters in the Community and her family. Her sister, Mother Perpetua, preceded her in death. Mother John Baptist was 81 when she died.



Prizes!

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

URSULINE

Cherry Blossom

FESTA RAFFLE

Drawing:

Friday, May 1, 2026

(Winners need not be present to win.)

Donation:

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

**Because of your generosity,
we are able to maintain our ministries and to care for our retired Sisters.
Each Sister thanks you for your support.
God bless you abundantly.**



Please fill in the information below and we will fill out your ticket stubs. Self-addressed labels are appreciated.

Name _____ Amount _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____

Payment Cash Check (payable to Ursuline Convent)

Mail to: Ursuline Convent, 4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH 43606

Questions? Please call 419-536-9587

Thank you!

CALENDAR

April 2026

- 11 Sisters and Associates Study Day, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sylvania Franciscan Serra Hall.
- 15 Day of Prayer, Fasting and Advocacy
- 29 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel
- 30 Feast of Marie of the Incarnation

May 2026

- 27 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel

June 2026

- 12 Feast of the Sacred Heart, Installation of Commissary, 11 a.m. Mass at Ursuline Center, dinner to follow
- 14 Jubilee Celebration, Mass at 3 p.m. with dinner to follow, Christ The King Parish
- 19 Juneteenth, offices closed
- 24 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May 2026 newsletter is Thursday, April 23. Please send your stories to Michelle at mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org.



“and by your holy Name, be it blessed above the sands of the seas, above the drops of the waters, above the multitude of the stars.”

(St. Angela Merici, Rule)

**Pray with the Ursulines:
Communication Tape**

**It is recorded Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays.**

Call 419-536-9375.

Ursuline Convent Offices
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH 43606 ~ (419) 536-9587
email: ursulines@ursulinecenter.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

- 4 Karole Sigg
- 7 Joanne Schwind
- John Myers
- 8 Jan Michalak
- 16 Walter Palicki
- Nanci Riddle
- 17 Janet Helfrich
- Larry Meyers
- 18 Mary VanderLinde
- Marcie McCabe
- 21 Lois Manion
- 25 Anna Lara
- 27 Carol Ann O'Reilly
- Rose Alvarez



May

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



FEAST DAY



April

- 26 Sr. Donna Frey
- 29 Sr. Mary Kay Garvin

May

- 22 Sister Rita Mae Johns



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



**Preserving
Our History**
archivescollaborative.org

Happy Easter!