

## Ursuline Sisters of Louisville transferred \$4.2 million Chapel Preservation Fund to Sacred Heart Schools

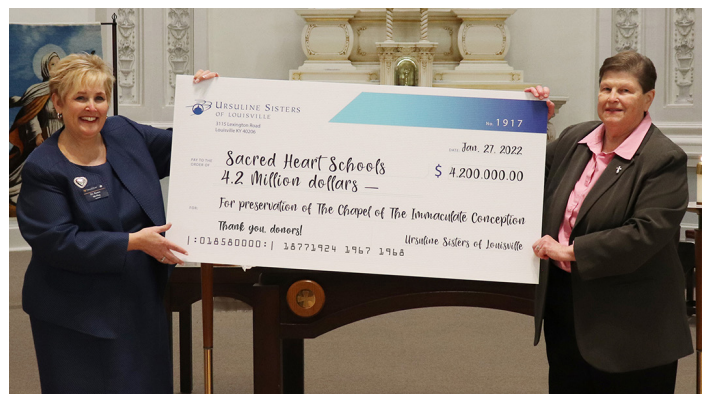
### THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!

Following the Mass to celebrate St. Angela Merici's feast day on January 27, 2022, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville officially transferred the \$4.2 million Chapel Preservation Fund to Sacred Heart Schools, which are sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters. Ursuline President **Sister Jean Anne Zappa** presented Dr. Karen McNay a check for the full amount of the fund, which is donor restricted.

Sister Jean Anne Zappa reflected, “Saint Angela called us to ‘build community wherever we go.’ We see this gift to Sacred Heart Schools as not just preserving a beautiful and sacred space but living out Angela's words and charism. Our hearts are nourished as we celebrate and give glory to God together in this chapel, and it leads us to build community with others when we go out to serve in the world.”

A \$3.5 million preservation campaign was started in 2017 to celebrate the centennial of the Ursuline Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, also known as the Motherhouse Chapel, which was dedicated on December 8, 1917. In addition to being a sacred space for the Ursuline Sisters and Sacred Heart Schools, since 1997, the chapel has served the homebound by providing a location where “Mass of the Air” is taped.

This gift builds on the one that the Ursulines gave to Sacred



*Dr. McNay and Sr. Jean Anne with check*



*Community at Mass*



*Signing paperwork in Chapel*

Heart Schools in June 2019: the lease transfer of all buildings and land on the 48-acre Ursuline Campus. Dr. McNay stated that, “Sacred Heart Schools is blessed to carry on the tradition of the Ursuline Sisters and honor their legacy by caring for this sacred place. We are grateful to our Sisters for this gift that ensures our students, faculty, alumnae, and community can worship and celebrate in the Chapel for years to come.”

The transfer of the fund will allow Sacred Heart Schools to preserve the Motherhouse Chapel on the Ursuline Campus into perpetuity.

## More News from Ursulines of Louisville

### Something Fun for Angela's Feast Day



*Sacred Heart Model School Principal Dr. Bratcher, Mission Effectiveness Director Amy Olson and St. Angela show off their socks.*

Sacred Heart Schools staff, the Board of Trustees, Sacred Heart Academy seniors, and Ursuline Sisters and staff received a gift of Saint Angela Merici socks on January 27 to celebrate the feast day. It looks like everyone had fun with "building community" with their socks!

### Sacred Heart Model School Dedicates The Sister Dominica Hettinger, OSU, Science Lab

On October 28, 2021, Sacred Heart Model School (SHMS) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new state-of-the-art science lab donated by an anonymous donor for junior high students. The lab was dedicated as the Sister Dominica Hettinger, OSU, Science Lab.

Ursuline Sister of Louisville **Dominica Hettinger, OSU**, held a Ph.D. in Biology. As the first dean of Ursuline



*President Sr. Jean Anne Zappa and Dr. Karen McNay with students in lab*

College, she played a major role in strengthening Sacred Heart Junior College and establishing Sacred Heart Model School. In 1920, she was appointed community supervisor of Ursuline Schools, organized and administered Sacred Heart Model School, was the dean and directress of education at Ursuline College, and later headed the Science department there.

Dr. Karen McNay, president of Sacred Heart Schools and Tricia Forde, assistant principal, spoke to the importance of the new space for "hands-on, MYP science curriculum." Two Level Eight students, Savannah Dunaway and Truman Needham, also spoke on what the new lab means to them and the future of science at SHMS.

Ursuline President **Sister Jean Anne Zappa, OSU**, provided the blessing for the new lab on behalf of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, who sponsor Sacred Heart Schools. Sister Jean Anne said, "Today, we ask God's blessing on this center of seeking, discovering, and learning of what is true. We ask for God's blessing on the donor whose generous heart made this possible. We ask God's blessings on the teachers and students of this space to come to the realization of whatever is taught, the final learning is about love of God and neighbor and witnessing to the gospel of love and justice."

### Louisville Ursulines hold prayer service with Associates to celebrate 7-year commitment to Laudato Si' Action Platform



*Sr. Yuli Oncihuay and Lisa Fieldcamp sing at prayer service*

#### *Our Commitment:*

The **Ursuline Sisters of Louisville**, in solidarity with the global *Laudato Si' Action Platform*, and consonant with our **2020 Chapter Resolution** to emphasize the importance of collaboration to maximize our capacity to be in mission and have an impact in the responding to the Cry of Earth and the Cry of Humanity, commit as a

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## More News from Ursulines of Louisville, continued

Congregation to a seven-year journey towards integral ecology.

In fidelity to our charism of *a contemplative love of God and a resulting openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others*, by engaging our mission of *teaching Christian living by assisting others in living more fully and developing a personal relationship with God*, we accept the responsibility to:

- examine our congregational policies and priorities in view of *Laudato Si*,
- discern the call to ecological conversion,
- develop an integral transition towards greater equity and sustainability,
- promote the common good and uphold the dignity of every creature, and
- collaborate with others in our care for creation.

*May the Lover of us all enlighten us, the Holy Spirit inspire us, and Jesus Christ teach us to build community and live together in harmony in this world God so loves.*

*Soli Deo Gloria.*

*Signed on: Monday, October 4, 2021*



Associates and Sisters



Prayer service participants

### A Personal Connection to Mayfield, Kentucky, compels Ursuline Sisters of Louisville to donate to tornado victims there

Ginny Schaeffer, director of the [Angela Merici Center for Spirituality](#), a ministry of the [Ursuline Sisters of Louisville](#), is a native of Mayfield, Kentucky. Ginny has friends and family there who were displaced by the tornadoes on December 10 that hit western Kentucky and surrounding areas. With a donation from the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, she was able to purchase much-needed items for the people of Mayfield. Staff, Sisters and Associates of the Ursuline Sisters also brought in donations of items such as toiletries, blankets, coats, and baby supplies. “The outpouring of love has been overwhelming, and I cannot thank everyone enough for their generosity,” Ginny said.

[Sacred Heart Academy](#) (SHA), one of the schools on the Ursuline Campus sponsored by the Ursulines, led a donation drive as well, and generously offered space for the items from the Ursulines on a truck that they drove to Mayfield. Ursuline President Sister Jean Anne Zappa, OSU, stated that, “This effort is spirit-driven, and we are so thankful for our close partnership with the schools on our campus.”

The truck was blessed by Sister Jean Anne and the collected items were loaded on the truck and taken to Mayfield on Friday, December 16.



SHA students load truck



## Sister Cheryl Clemons and Sister Mary Henning earn Brescia University alumni awards

Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph **Cheryl Clemons** was honored as one of the Distinguished Alumni of Brescia University in Owensboro, Ky., during homecoming activities on Oct. 22, 2021. Ursuline Sister Mary Henning was also honored with the Father Charles Saffer Alumni Award.



*Brescia University President Father Larry Hostetter presents the Brescia Distinguished Alumni Award to Sister Cheryl Clemons on Oct. 22, 2021, in Owensboro, Ky. Besides being a Brescia graduate, Sister Cheryl was a long-time Assistant/Associate Professor of Religious Studies as well as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean at Brescia.*

"I'm deeply honored to receive this award and to be joining the company of so many other Distinguished Alumni," Sister Cheryl said. "Brescia has been such a vital part of my entire adult life – welcoming me as a country girl into my freshmen class in 1969, providing me with an outstanding undergraduate degree in 1974, inviting me back as a theology teacher beginning in 1983, guiding me as a Board of Trustees member in 2004, and challenging and supporting me as the vice president for Academic Affairs in 2010.

"In every one of these experiences of Brescia, I have been blessed by the dedication, giftedness and cooperation of Brescia's faculty; by the openness and perseverance of its students; and by the welcoming and friendly spirit of everyone associated with Brescia – from coaches to housekeepers and maintenance staff to board members," Sister Cheryl said. "The spirit of Angela Merici is alive at Brescia, and my life has been enriched; because of Brescia I'm a better person personally, academically, professionally and spiritually."

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph opened Brescia in 1950 as a four-year, coed college. Since the inception of the Distinguished Alumni recognition, Brescia has awarded more than 50 alumni with the title. The

award was created to honor graduates who exemplify the elements that encompass The Brescia Difference: Respect for the Sacred, Devotion to Learning, Commitment to Growth in Virtue, and Promotion of Servant Leadership.

"Because of the breadth and scope of their life's work, the magnitude of their impact on the regional, national and often international scene, and their examples of service and leadership, alumni who receive this esteemed honor have distinguished themselves among their peers," according to the university.

Sister Cheryl is the tenth Ursuline Sister to receive the Distinguished Alumni honor, joining Ursuline Sisters Sharon Sullivan, Mary Matthias Ward, Larraine Lauter, Vivian Bowles, Ruth Gehres and Michele Morek, along with deceased Sisters Joseph Angela Boone, Rose Marita O'Bryan and Dianna Ortiz.

Sister Cheryl is a native of Wax, Ky., in Grayson County, where she was taught by the Ursuline Sisters. She joined the Ursulines in 1970. She earned a bachelor's degree in French with minors in history and music from Brescia and then taught in several high schools. She earned a master's degree in theological studies from the University of Dayton. In 1995, she completed her doctorate in historical theology-systematics, with minors in church history and feminist theology, from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Between her master's and doctoral studies, Sister Cheryl served as the co-director and then director of the Office of Social Concerns for the Diocese of Owensboro from 1983–1988. In 1984, she was instrumental in developing and launching Brescia's Ministry Formation program. During this time, she also taught part-time in Brescia's theology program. After completion of her doctoral work, she returned full-time to Brescia, where she taught theology and continued the Ministry Formation program.

Sister Cheryl served as an elected councilor with the Ursuline Sisters from 1992-97, then was elected as assistant congregational leader from 2004-10. When her term ended, she accepted the position of vice president for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean for Brescia, serving in that role until 2019. Since leaving the university she has completed a two-year training program with the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality and is now certified as a spiritual director.

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## Brescia University alumni awards, continued

For nearly 30 years Sister Cheryl has led a popular women's retreat at Maple Mount. Since January 2021, she is serving part-time leading programs with the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Ministry.

### Charles Saffer Award

Each year the Brescia Alumni Association presents the Father Charles Saffer Alumni Hall of Fame Award to an alum who through a lifetime of personal achievement has personified the ideals of Brescia University. The 2021 recipient was **Sister Mary Henning**.

Sister Mary served as an associate professor of music at Brescia for 30 years. She began in 1981 and served until 1995, when she became the music minister at Blessed Mother Church in Owensboro. After two years, she returned to Brescia, serving another 16 years. Since departing in 2013, she has served as director of Worship and Liturgy at the Ursuline Motherhouse.

Sister Mary was born in the Breckinridge County town of Axtel, where she was taught by the Ursulines at St. Anthony School. She joined the Ursulines following her graduation in 1964.



*Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mary Henning smiles as she gets ready to accept the Father Charles Saffer Alumni Hall of Fame Award from Father Larry Hostetter, the president of Brescia University, in the fall of 2021. Sister Mary served as an associate professor of music at Brescia for 30 years*

After seven years as an elementary teacher, she attended St. Mary of the Woods College in Terre Haute, Ind., for a bachelor's degree in music, then completed her master's in 1979 from Northwestern University. From then on, music was her ministry, first at the Academy and then at Brescia.

## Synodal Listening Sessions

The Ursuline Sisters living at Maple Mount, Ky., took part in their first Synodal listening session on Feb. 17, 2022, in the Rainbow Room of Saint Joseph Villa.

**Sister Suzanne Sims**, director of local community life for the Sisters at the Motherhouse, said the guide for the listening session comes from Bishop William Medley's office in the Diocese of Owensboro. "Synod is Greek for 'journeying together.' Pope Francis wants to hear from every baptized person," Sister Suzanne said. "This is the first time in history that all people have been formally asked to speak." Pope Francis has set aside two years for this synod in an effort to listen to all, especially lay people. The synod lasts until October 2023.

Parishes and other Catholic groups have been gathering for two listening sessions these first few months of 2022. The second Ursuline session will be March 15. The Sisters were given homework to contact someone on the periphery of the Church to better understand their perspective



*Sister Suzanne Sims, director of local community life for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, addresses the Sisters from the lectern at their first Synodal listening session. Conversation at this table involves, from left, Sister Sara Marie Gomez, Sister Ann McGrew, Sister Lois Lindle and Sister Catherine Barber.*

## News from Brown County

Like all religious communities, The Brown County Ursuline's hold a variety of documents in what we call the archives. These artifacts trace our story back to the beginning when **Julia Chatfield** and her companions emigrated from France and settled in the wilderness of Brown County, Ohio. Our archival materials include both physical artifacts such as art, woodwork, pottery, and recorded information such as handwritten Diaries, ledgers, personal notes, publications, pictures, Chapter records, employee records, property, and building information. No doubt like the archives each of your communities hold, there is an amazing amount of history told in those documents and artifacts.

Because we value these artifacts as our legacy to current and future students, we are in the process of examining our collections and developing a plan to preserve and provide access to our story. No doubt all of you are somewhere on the same path with your preservation of the stories.

Many of the documents prior to 1910 are in French and need to be translated; and many are handwritten, and the script is challenging to read. The physical artifacts are another category of materials many which have been photographed and catalogued for insurance purposes.

Currently, the collection of diaries is being copied for preservation purposes by Joyce Snider. These

diaries, also handwritten, recount our history from before the Foundresses departed from France in 1845. The diaries are being transcribed with a view toward creating a digital record and repository.

Over the years community committees and groups created working files with a variety of entries from

correspondence to legal documents to invitations, to program plans. These files are being reviewed and organized. This phase will be followed with a subject matter grouping of files and cataloguing. Ultimately, these files will also be digitized for easy access from anywhere.

This work is time consuming and requires the dedication of a curious mind, organizational skills, perseverance, and love of the

subject matter. The Ursulines of Brown County have had several capable members who, over the years have contributed to our archival history. From **Sister Gonzaga** in the early 1900 to **Sisters Xavier, Mary Paul, Roseanne, and Debbie** during more recent times, we are grateful to have the stories preserved. Currently our volunteer, Ruth Homan has found many treasures and surprises as she has combed through the files. The ability to gather documents into the stories of the lives and times of the members, institutions, friends, and students paints a rich picture of our Ursuline Legacy. This work is a treasure that will survive this century.



*A painting done by Mother Julia Chatfield, found in our Archives*



### **Liliane Dozois (1937-2021)**

Liliane Dozois, a member of the Company of St. Ursula, died on December 7, 2021. She had served as treasurer and Planning Committee member for three Inter-Ursuline convocations.





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## Ursulines of the Eastern Province

Sisters of the Eastern Province celebrated the Feast of St. Angela, on January 27th, with a special luncheon at a local restaurant in New Rochelle. The restaurant afforded appropriate space and seating with a lovely view of the harbor. The luncheon was a wonderful opportunity to gather together for this special day. The celebration ended with a delicious cake prepared by Lourdes, the Provincialate chef.

# Happy Feast Day St. Angela





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## From the Ursulines of Youngstown

### Youngstown Ursulines Call Attention to Poverty, Welcome New Associates

Our January social media campaign calling attention to poverty was very successful.

Vicki Vicars, our new director of Mission, Equity & Resilience for Ursuline Sisters Mission, created the campaign for National Poverty in America Month. It offered daily memes with bible passages, statistics from credible sources and quotes from religious and human rights leaders.

The posts ran on our major ministries' social media sites, which together have more than 100,000 followers, with a story on our main website. Not only did the campaign generate positive response from friends and followers, it was recognized by a local newspaper through both an article and a special weekend editorial.

This winter we're welcoming four new Associates, all young adult women who've volunteered with us in ministry for several years – three starting in college and one in high school. In the almost 20 years we've had an Associate program, we've had more than 100 people join us in this special ministry. Our newest members have shown great leadership, a great love of Angela's charism, and add a new dimension that ensures the legacy of our Associate program.

Another aspect of legacy planning we're focusing on currently is archiving -- preserving not only historical documents but also our digital record. We started with blueprints and are now moving to photos and other historic items, moving all of our important documents to a digital platform. Many of our Sisters and employees are excited to be part of this initiative.



*Kathleen Cruz, Marta Hergenrother, Sister Mary McCormick, general superior, and Kristen Osiniak. Missing is Melissa Dahman.*

Lastly, please join us in prayer for **Sister Jeanne Cigolle**, who died Dec. 30 at age 93, and **Sister Therese Ann Rich**, who died on Ash Wednesday at age 73.

In her 63 years of active ministry, Sister Jeanne touched many lives as a teacher, nurse, healthcare administrator, running health and wellness programs at the Ursuline Center, and in parish ministry.

Sister Therese Ann also held various roles in her 51 years of active ministry, including teaching and parish ministry. She also was a pioneer in online ministry, establishing our web presence, helping parishes do so, and in teaching online classes for many years.





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## Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk News

### Former St. Ursula Center Reopens as the Bayport - Blue Point Library

After a three-year transformation, St. Ursula Center, our former retirement home in Blue Point, NY, reopened as the Bayport - Blue Point Library on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Located on 8.3 acres on the south shore of Long Island, St. Ursula Center had been our home for 83 years — as a novitiate, a retreat center, and most recently as a home for our retired Sisters. In 2015 our Sisters agreed that the property needed to be sold due to the rising costs to operate and maintain the center, as well as needing to fund the increasing healthcare costs of our elderly Sisters. It was a difficult decision, but the property was put on the market and sold to the Bayport – Blue Point Library in February 2019.

The sale and repurposing of the center brought about mixed emotions for our Sisters. It has been a relief to be free of the financial burden, but we are still saddened that it is no longer our home. At the same time it is very satisfying that it has become a new library for the community because education was the predominant ministry of our Sisters for so many years. As a space where people of all walks of life and ages can gather, learn and grow, this new library will be carrying our ministry forward.

Those who oversaw the three-year transformation strived to be respectful of the Ursuline history — we were especially delighted to see the preservation of our beloved stained-glass windows in the chapel which has been reborn as a reading sanctuary! The grand opening also included an exhibit on the St. Ursula Center and was attended by several of our Sisters.



*Sisters at the grand opening of the Library  
(photo credit: Greg Shemitz)*



*The former St. Ursula Center*



*The new Bayport – Blue Point Library  
(photo courtesy of the Bayport – Blue Point Public Library)*

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*A Journey Through Lent*

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## From the Ursulines of Cincinnati

### An alternative vision for the future

By Peggy McCormick Platz, SUA '84



Any vintner, worthy of the wine-making craft, knows grapes. The vintner takes pride in the melding of varietals, grown on vines of various ages, seasons and soils. Precise combination of the grapes yields flavorful wine which bear trademarks of the vines' first fruits.

St. Angela Merici often used her expertise in cultivating grapes as imagery to infuse her Companions in their holy work. A modern adaptation of

St. Angela's original image took root through the formation of the Ursuline Companions, an extension of the mission and ministries of the Ursulines of Cincinnati. Original members began discernment and development of the group three years ago, culminating in a simple commitment ceremony on Oct. 5, 2021. After recalling St. Angela's directives, members personally shared their journey to membership and pledged to support the spiritual, ministerial and financial needs of the time, so as to further the work of the Ursulines of Cincinnati. Members completed their commitment by signing their names in an enrollment book. **Sisters Margie Efke** and **Sr. Sandy Sherman** of the Toledo Ursulines witnessed the ceremony and congratulated each new member with a glass keepsake, depicting "The Women at the Well," designed by Companion Mary Ann Meyer.

Following the ceremony, members enjoyed dinner together. The past, present and future were linked through the evening of inspirational prayer, dedication and community. Since St. Angela's 16th century inception of the Ursulines, work in the vineyard of the Catholic Church has evolved from relational experiences and influences of its members. But St. Angela was also visionary, seeing the need for both pruning and grafting to maintain vitality of God's vineyard. The history, spirituality and ministries of the Ursulines of Cincinnati remain firmly rooted, intertwined and fruitful, growing into the future with the Ursuline Companions.



*The Companions pose for a photo with an image of St. Angela Merici.*



*Ursuline Companions Jane Knudson, left, and Mary Ann Meyer are pictured during the ceremony.*







## *Celebrating with our Jubilarians*



### *80 Years*

Sister Shirley Ann Simmons (Louisville)  
Sister Marie Julie Fecher (Maple Mount)

### *75 Years*

Sister Antonine Biven (Louisville)  
Sister Ursula Marie George (Cleveland)  
Sister Francis Borgia Allwine (Cleveland)  
Sister Laurianne Michaud (Central Province)

### *70 Years*

Sister Loretta Guenther (Louisville)  
Sister Alice Brickman (Cleveland)  
Sister Joan Petersen (Cleveland)  
Sister M. Brigetta Waldron (Cleveland)  
Sister Agnes Murray (Central Province)  
Sister Eva Boone (Maple Mount)  
Sister Ruth Gehres (Maple Mount)  
Sister Michael Ann Monaghan (Maple Mount)  
Sister Stephanie Helfrich (Toledo)  
Sister Mary Jo Koudelka (Toledo)  
Sister Coletta McAllister (Toledo)

### *65 Years*

Sister Mary Evalyn House (Central Province)  
Sister Mary K Milne (Central Province)  
Sister Marian Pelikan (Central Province)  
Sister Lorene Griffin (Central Province)  
Sister Mary Katherine Garvin (Toledo)  
Sister Mary Alice Henkel (Toledo)

### *60 Years*

Sister Mary Jo Gramig (Louisville)  
Sister Jacqueline Da Silva (Eastern Province)  
Sister Anne Marie Diederich (Cleveland)  
Sister Kathleen Ogrin (Cleveland)  
Sister Julianne McCauley (Cleveland)  
Sister Kathleen Foster (Cleveland)  
Sister Dorothy Bondi (Cleveland)  
Sister Bridget Haase (Central Province)  
Sister Rita Joseph Mascorro (Central Province)  
Sister Rosemary Skelley (Central Province)  
Sister Sara Marie Gomez (Maple Mount)  
Sister Michele Morek (Maple Mount)  
Sister Rose Jean Powers (Maple Mount)  
Sister Sheila Anne Smith (Maple Mount)  
Sister Kathy Stein (Maple Mount)  
Sister Margaret Manion (Toledo)

### *50 Years*

Sister Jeanne Frances Cashman (Eastern Province)  
Sister Ruth Urbanski (Cleveland)  
Sister Margaret Link (Cleveland)

### *40 Years*

Sister Agnes Coveney (Louisville)  
Sister Sharon Sullivan (Maple Mount)



## Sister Martha Keller continues cards and tornado relief for the long haul



Sister Martha Keller

December 2021 was expected to be like any of the other nine Decembers that **Sister Martha Keller** has spent at St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm, Ky. The Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph is the pastoral associate, and was wrapping up her catechetical work until after Christmas. She knew her January would be busy.

On Dec. 10, all that changed. Tornadoes ravaged western Kentucky, and while the storms mostly missed Fancy Farm, they devastated Mayfield, just 12 miles away. Sister Martha, the rest of the St. Jerome staff and countless parishioners leapt into relief action to serve the suddenly homeless people descending on the parish.

"People are being given an opportunity to use their gifts and they don't even realize it," Sister Martha said four days after the tornado. "It's good to see people doing what they can to make a difference."

At first St. Jerome served as a temporary shelter. Volunteers were needed to meet the immediate needs of the displaced, and also to provide a calming, Christian presence to those who were traumatized, Sister Martha said.

"The parish staff and parishioners were standing by asking 'what can we do?' Sister Martha said. "People want to cook, clean and do laundry," but Sister Martha knew they also needed volunteers to interact with the people.

"I sat and talked with one mother," Sister Martha said. "She said, 'I can't concentrate, all I can think of is my best friend, her 3-year-old daughter was killed.' We just sat there and cried."

The St. Jerome RCIA class was scheduled for its regular meeting, but Sister Martha had a suggestion of what to do instead of the planned agenda.

"If you want to see our church in action, be prepared to play with the kids," she told the class. "It was the best RCIA class we've ever had."

Within a few days, it was determined that the parish would serve better as a distribution center to meet the needs of the displaced population – especially toiletries, food and blankets. Sister Martha found herself in charge of the center and organizing the volunteers around the clock.

Four families who were moving to temporary housing asked the parishioners to stay in touch with them. The parish of 500 families provided Christmas for the families, Sister Martha said. "That's the heart of the people here," she said.

The Fancy Farm distribution center closed Jan. 3 when the Federal Emergency Management Agency took over the relief efforts. Sister Martha and the parish staff continued to meet the needs of parishioners affected by the storms. The Catholic Charities office with the Diocese of Owensboro stepped in to handle the long-term needs of the victims, and works with Sister Martha to serve people nearby.

As the one-month anniversary of the tornado approached, Sister Martha noticed the need for increased emotional support for the victims.

During Christmastide (Dec. 25 to Jan. 6), the Knights of Columbus chapter in Louisville began the "Three Kings Project." It sought to emulate the three Magi from the east who brought gifts to the Holy Family. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were in a temporary shelter. They were joyful, but surely concerned for their future. The wise men brought them the gift of hope and encouragement.

The project sought to enlist people to send encouraging notes which could be distributed to those in need in the days following Christmas. St. Jerome Parish received some of these cards. Sister Martha decided the effort should not stop on Jan. 6, because the emotional needs of the storm victims would last much longer.

She took on the role of extending the Three Kings Project until Easter, and agreed to handle receiving and distributing the

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Janice Jones, of Mayfield, Ky., lost her home during the tornado. On Feb. 8, 2022, she was grateful to receive two cards of support from Ursuline Sister Martha Keller through the Three Kings project. Jones is living with her son in Pryorsburg, Ky., six miles from Mayfield, while she awaits a move to Texas later this year to be with her daughter and grandchildren.



## Sister Martha Keller continues cards and tornado relief - continued

cards. As of Feb. 7, she had received more than 250 cards.

"I get cards every day in the mail," Sister Martha said. "Some are from religious communities, some are Ursuline Associates. Some of the people, I don't know who they are. They've come from San Antonio and California."

The Global Sisters Report, which shares news about Catholic Sisters all over the world, shared an article about the project, which caught the eye of several religious communities. Sister Martha said she was not surprised by the outpouring of response.

"In times of crisis, there are people who will respond."

She has mailed cards to anyone she has worked with since the tornado who has shared their address. She hands cards to the people who come into her office for help. Most of them do not open the cards in her presence, because they are still dealing with the trauma.

"They don't linger, they can barely converse," she said.

The Three Kings Project asks people to:

- Write a note, a card or share a children's drawing to inspire hope and joy.
- Make three of these cards, and address them as either "Dear Brother or Sister," "Dear Family," "Dear Friend," or some other salutation.
- On the outside of the envelope, write "Three Kings Project."

These cards should not include gift cards, snacks or small gifts. Just simple thoughts and prayers, letting the people who have lost so much know that they are remembered and are receiving prayers. For anyone who wants to participate, place the three cards in a larger envelope and mail them to:

St. Jerome Catholic Church  
c/o Sister Martha Keller  
P.O. Box 38  
Fancy Farm, KY 42039

Whether you sign the cards or provide a return address is up to each individual. It is not essential, but it could lead to developing an ongoing relationship, Sister Martha said.

Sister Martha is now the lone member of the St. Jerome staff still working with tornado victims. She has also returned to the sacramental preparation work she was hired to do at the parish, working with people involved in RCIA, reconciliation, first communion and

confirmation. The only part of her ministry she hasn't returned to is visiting the homebound, but that has more to do with high Covid numbers than the tornado.

"I want to acknowledge how supported I've been by other religious communities, probably because of the Global Sisters Report article," Sister Martha said. She is also appreciative of the Knights of Columbus from all over.

"The Knights of Columbus from New Jersey are driving 23 hours to bring two trucks of canned goods," Sister Martha said. "We will store some of it for them because all the pantries in the area are stuffed to the gills. But they had already collected this, so they are bringing it. It's just a network of people."



*This bowl contains some of the more than 250 cards Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Martha Keller has received through the Three Kings project to help Kentucky's tornado victims.*



Sister Joan Roach (Brown County)  
Sister Mary Doeker (Brown County)  
Liliane Dozois -  
(Company of St. Ursula of Canada, USA Group)  
Sister Jeanne Cigolle (Youngstown)  
Sister Therese Ann Rich (Youngstown)  
Sister Donna Hyndman (Central Province)  
Sister Mary Grace Hodnett (Tildonk)  
Sister Mary George Haky (Cleveland)  
Sister Marie Canice Kilkenny (Cleveland)  
Sister Myra Skebe (Cleveland)  
Sister Eileen Mary Collins (Cleveland)  
Sister Michael Marie Griffin (Cleveland)

## From the Toledo Ursulines

### Ursuline Foundation Day Celebrated - December 12

December 12, 2021 marked 167 years of the founding of the Toledo Ursuline community.



On December 12, 1854, five Ursuline Sisters from Cleveland arrived in Toledo and thus began the long history of 167 years of the Toledo Ursulines seeking to make a difference. At the time education was the primary ministry of the Sisters and they did not waste any time getting started. Within a few days students of all ages were gathered and

school began. The rest is history: St. Ursula Academy, St. Angela Hall, Mary Manse College and Nazareth Hall became the sponsored ministries of the community. St. Ursula Academy continues to thrive.

The Ursuline Sisters continue to make a difference through their ministry of prayer and presence. Our Sisters now residing at Rosary Care Center in Sylvania, Sunset House and the Woodlands on Indian Road witness to the spirit and charism of St. Angela in small but significant ways. Our Ursuline presence makes a difference.

Sisters volunteer in a variety of ways and share the spirit of St. Angela Merici wherever they go – Oakleaf Village, St. Ursula Academy, St. Anne's Hospital, Maumee Senior Center, Sunshine Children's Home, Rahab's Heart, Spiritual Direction, and Tiffin, Ohio. Much gratitude goes to all our Sisters and Associates who accompany Sisters to appointments and help with shopping.

On December 12, 2021, the Sisters and Associates gathered for liturgy. At the end of the liturgy, the tradition of placing the Community in the hands of the Blessed Virgin was led by **Sister Sandy Sherman**. Dinner followed the liturgical celebration.

Through the support of family, friends, donors, and benefactors, the Ursuline Sisters have made and will continue to make a wonderful contribution to the people of God in this Toledo Diocese and beyond.

### "Stuff the Truck" during Catholic Sisters Week

The Catholic religious Sisters in the Toledo Diocese once again hosted **"Stuff the Truck to End Hunger"** by collecting non-perishable food items to benefit the Toledo Seagate Food Bank during National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-12. As part of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Sisters in Sub-region 6 invited friends and contacts to come together during this week to help end hunger. In total, more than 12,000 pounds of food were collected that will directly benefit those in our community who are in need of our help.



### A Reflection on the Angela Statue at SUA

St. Ursula Academy seniors were asked to reflect on the statue of St. Angela that is housed in the school's lobby. Mary Kate writes,



"To me, the statue isn't really a statue, it is more of a calling. A calling to follow in Angela's footsteps and lead women to God. Ever since I first set foot in the Angela Lobby as a scared little 6th grader, I knew that God had called me to attend SUA and that Angela was going to guide me through the ups and downs of my SUA journey. I am ever so grateful to be standing in front of all of you today as a senior, knowing that Angela has been by my

side all of the way.

"Angela's life has impacted so many and created so many young female leaders and followers of Christ. Though she lived long ago, her message and mission are carried on through the Ursuline Sisters, statues, and other art work, and her writings. I truly believe it is impossible to forget about a woman who brought so many to Christ and continues to do so to this day."



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## Sisters take part in diocese's initial Josephine Bakhita Mass

More than a dozen Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph were in attendance on Feb. 8, 2022, for the Diocese of Owensboro's first Memorial Mass for Saint Josephine Bakhita, a day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking.

Sisters and others gathered in St. Stephen Cathedral on the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of human trafficking victims. Josephine Bakhita was born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869. As a child she was kidnapped and sold multiple times to slave traders. She was given the name "Bakhita" by her traffickers – Arabic for "lucky" – who tortured and branded her. After years of slavery in Africa, she was taken to Italy to serve as a nanny. There, she met the Canossian Sisters and learned about the Catholic faith. She was baptized Josephine Margaret.

When she refused to return to the Sudan, the Italian courts ruled she could remain, since slavery was illegal in Italy. She decided to enter the Canossian community, and made her profession in 1896. She was missioned to northern Italy, where she dedicated her life to assisting her community and teaching others to love God. She died in 1947 and was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

The Diocese of Owensboro offices of Worship and Music often coordinate with other diocesan offices to offer annual opportunities for prayer in relation to their purpose, said Lauren Johnson, co-coordinator of the Office of Worship. For example, there is a Marriage Anniversary Mass for the Family Life Office and a Sophia Awards Mass for the Stewardship Office.

In May 2021, a satellite office of the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative opened in the Diocese of Owensboro. The initiative is part of Catholic Charities of Louisville, and seeks to educate the community about human trafficking and provide direct assistance to victims. Heidi Reyes-Taylor is the case manager in the Owensboro office.

"This is the first year that we have had a case manager for human trafficking stationed in this diocese," Johnson said. "After speaking with Heidi about the work she is doing, we wanted to extend our

prayers as a diocese to the cause of her work. We are thinking this will be an annual Mass."

Reyes-Taylor delivered the first reading at the Mass – in Spanish – and spoke after Bishop William Medley's homily.

"Many cases we see are not children," she said. "We see abusers who are very strategic in exploiting the workers. We have one case here where a person was working 80 hours a week in the hot sun, with no water breaks. For people to speak up is very terrifying," Reyes-Taylor said.

Bishop Medley invited the Ursuline Sisters to the Mass because he knows human trafficking is close to the Sisters' hearts. In 2007, the Ursuline Sisters were instrumental in pushing for a Kentucky law to outlaw human trafficking. While a federal law existed previously, the state law allows local law enforcement to act more quickly when reports of trafficking

arise. A total of 17 Ursuline Sisters participated in the 6 p.m. Mass.

The Mass began with an African hymn performed by the Congolese choir from Holy Spirit Church in Bowling Green – "Wimbo Wa Ufunguo" – which means "Come, let us enter the house of God with praise and rejoicing!" Cantors Heather Greene and Jacob Hein, both music ministers in Owensboro, led the English singing of "As We Gather at Your Table."

Bishop Medley spoke about the sin of racism as he discussed Saint Josephine, noting that her story is still quite recent – she was born just a few years before Bishop Medley's grandparents. As he discussed her kidnapping and torture, he said we are surely shocked that this could happen, but "it was common in our country, in our state and in the Catholic Church."

The bishop said racism is prevalent today in more subtle ways, "like saying that we shouldn't talk about racism in our schools."

While talk of racism can be depressing, Bishop Medley said, there is evidence of progress. Earlier in the day he went to Louisville for the announcement of Kentucky's new archbishop, Bishop Shelton Fabre, a man of African descent now leading the Catholics in Kentucky.



# An Update from the Cleveland Ursulines

## MORE URSULINES MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE TIME

**CONGRATULATIONS TO URSULINE SISTER ERIN ZUBAL** who was inducted as the Director of NETWORK



*Sister Erin Zubal*

in January, 2022. Previously, Sister Erin participated in NETWORK'S "Nuns on the bus" campaign and served as Co-chair of the NETWORK Board of Directors. She joins four other Sisters currently on the staff. Having earned an MA in Social Work Administration from Case Western Reserve University and an MA in Educational Administration from Ursuline College, Sister Erin served for fifteen years as a social worker and educator in Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. Sister Erin says: "As a social worker and educator, I encountered the lived realities of families in my community experiencing the ways public policy fails to meet their needs and advance the common good. My faith deeply inspires my work for racial, economic and social justice."

**Sister Lisa Marie Belz** has used Zoom to fulfill her commitments in a variety of areas and in many different places. She has given Scripture and prayer courses, workshops and retreats to catechists and religious in the Diocese of Sucumbios in Ecuador's Amazon. Sister also gave a series of talks on women in Scripture to a women's group in Managua. Then through the Hispanic Ministry office in Cleveland, Sister Lisa Marie gave a monthly online course on prayer to Spanish speaking catechists. Since Sister is the chair of the Deutero-Pauline section of the Society of Biblical Literature(SBL), an international organization of biblical scholars, she organized virtually her section's participation in the SBL's annual meeting attended by thousands of scholars from around the world. Sister Lisa Marie organized two remote two-hour sessions with scholars participating from Australia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. She worked this year on the annual meeting held in November that was both virtual and in-person with many international participants. Sister agrees to all these invitations because she says, "As

a former missionary to El Salvador, I never stopped being a missionary! I am delighted to 'mission work' without having to leave Pepper Pike."

When not on Zoom, Sister is a full time Scripture professor at St. Mary's Seminary where she teaches seminarians Old and New Testament and guides graduate students in their MA or DMin culminating projects. Recently, Sister Lisa Marie developed a course on the introduction to Hebrew that she teaches at St. Mary's Seminary. Although she has not been able to travel to Israel because of COVID, she brings her students with her to Israel virtually, and they have a Hebrew party every Monday night. In St. Angela's name, may she continue to spread God's Word throughout the world in many languages.



*Sister Lisa Marie Belz*



*Sister Susan Zion*

Another Cleveland Ursuline continuing to meet the challenges of the time is **Sister Susan Zion** and the Ursuline Piazza which she founded. Since 2007, Sister has partnered with St. Augustine Manor sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine in Cleveland to assist HIV patients in their transition back into the community. These patients need assistance in navigating doctor appointments, finding housing and understanding the social system. Ursuline Piazza services have now expanded to include individuals from throughout the Greater Cleveland area serving HIV positive adults from Cuyahoga County who are low-income, chemically dependent, minority, from emerging subpopulations, and suffering from mental issues. The Goals of the Ursuline Piazza are three-fold:



## Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, continued

first to educate towards self advocacy, second to decrease social isolation and third to assist in viral suppression. In order to assist Sister Susan in her ministry, the AIDS Funding Collaborative has recently awarded the Ursuline Piazza with a \$50,000 grant. Also, she continues to receive funding of \$10,000 from the Community West Foundation, and \$3,000 from the Community of St. Peter, as well as from yearly fund raisers.

**Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec** was hired by St. Anselm Parish before COVID to administer the RCIA program. Since she was unable to set up face-to-face meetings, she had to set up Zoom meetings with those interested in the program. Because of the new challenges this past year, Sister has learned a great deal about depending on Jesus for the help she needs. Together with her team members, she learned various new ways to connect with those inquiring into joining the Catholic Church. Sister Mary Ellen says of her experience: "We each became an inch and a half on a flat screen but the words and love we shared as we spoke of our commitments and relationships were very moving and inclusive."



*Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec*

Cleveland Magazine named **Sister Mary Eileen Boyle** one of the Most Interesting People 2022. For over twenty-one years she has helped underserved people through her

Esperanza Threads. This nonprofit is dedicated to developing sustainable work skills for individuals, including recovering addicts, nonviolent felons and refugees from as far away as the Congo, Bhutan and Nepal.

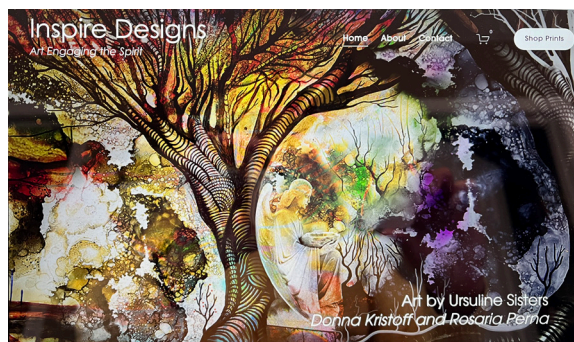


*Sister Mary Eileen Boyle*

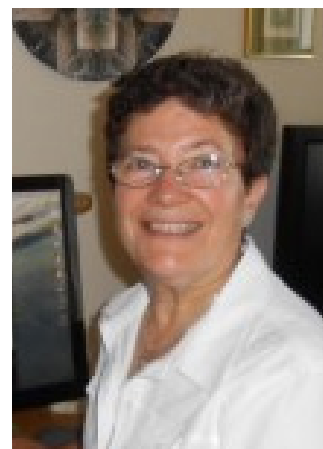
### ABOUT Inspire Designs

*Inspire Designs—Art engaging the spirit* grew from a longstanding commitment among the Ursuline Sisters to enhance the spiritual dimension of life through the arts. The two Sister-artists whose work is featured here are both steeped in that tradition. In their studios, classrooms and places of prayer and worship, their work has inspired countless people over the years.

**Sisters Donna Kristoff** and **Rosaria Perna** were trained in classical fine arts; however, they have now both adapted to the electronic world in which we all find ourselves. Their work sometimes began as traditional drawing, painting, photography and printmaking, but it has now been translated into digital images that can be shared with many others online. The online store *Inspire Designs* ([www.inspiredesigns.org](http://www.inspiredesigns.org)) makes it possible for anyone who recognizes a spiritual quality in their images to purchase the works of art in the form of prints, cards, or posters, in a variety of sizes and formats. It is the artists' hope that what they have created may lift and sustain the spirits of those who contemplate them.



*Sister Donna Kristoff*



*Sister Rosaria Perna*

## Sister Mimi Ballard adjusts the focus of Casa Ursulina during Covid

In March 2020, more than 200 women had signed up for fiber arts classes at the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph ministry in Chillán, Chile. They were abruptly told to stay home – the Covid-19 pandemic had begun.

“It was so frustrating and stressful,” said Ursuline **Sister Mimi Ballard**, who leads the Casa Ursulina ministry. “I assumed it would be over in a few months.”

The pandemic continues in Chile just as it does in the United States. The Chilean government acted to curb the spread of Covid, including curfews and fines for those not wearing masks. The vaccination rate in Chile is 98 percent, Sister Mimi said. Even with increases in cases since the Omicron variant arrived, no one is dying from Covid in Chile, she said.

But restricting public gatherings produced a new set of problems, ones that caused Casa Ursulina to adjust its mission once again, Sister Mimi said. She returned to Kentucky in November to have back surgery, but plans to return to Chile in March.

“By April 2020, a lot of people were coming to us who didn’t have anything to eat,” Sister Mimi said. “We have so many people who live on odd jobs – like selling items on the street. There was no structure in place to help them.”

Casa Ursulina mainly teaches weaving and spinning to local women, while also offering them a sense of community and a deeper spirituality. It has always had a modest food pantry, along with clothing and a supply of adult diapers to help senior citizens. But as the ministry tried to have more food on hand, it quickly strained the budget, Sister Mimi said. She sent a message to the various craft leaders, asking them to share with everyone



*Sister Mimi Ballard, left, is showing class participants how to use the weaving loom.*

in their groups that the ministry needed help.

“I was pleasantly surprised how many people came with food,” she said. “Most were people who did not lose their job, or were getting unemployment. We turned the front room into the food pantry. We managed to keep the pantry fully stocked. We never had to spend money on it again after April.”

By May 2020, Casa Ursulina opened up a soup kitchen a block away. The military helped with sanitizing and provided pots and pans for cooking. Sister Mimi reached out to business people whose livelihoods were not diminishing, who in turn put her in contact with food producers and butchers.

“They did great work in getting donations or raising money,” she said. “I got in touch with people who I hadn’t seen in years.”

Those in need did not eat at the soup kitchen. They brought their dish to take food home.

“That was a lifesaver for a lot of people,” she said.

In February or March 2021, the government made money available for every family member living below a certain poverty level, Sister Mimi said. The number of people coming for food decreased dramatically after that, she said. But at the same time, the isolation caused by Covid took a toll on people, especially older women or women living alone, Sister Mimi said.

“I’ve never spent so much time on the phone in my life,” Sister Mimi said. “We told them to come. We have a big space, we could be distanced. We told them they could use the sewing machines, use the spinning wheels, or just talk. That’s been since March 2021. We maybe had

*- continued on next page*



*Sister Mimi Ballard, left, looks at a weaving pattern book with a participant at Casa Ursulina in Chile.*



## Sister Mimi Ballard - continued

10 to 15 people at a time, but we have three classrooms. That helped them not feel so alone."

Casa Ursulina classes follow the school year, which begins in March. Sister Mimi is adamant that the new year of classes will begin in March 2022, but it will take some adjusting to keep everyone safe.

"We'll have fewer classes and smaller classes," she said. "The class that has the most people is called Volunteer Workshop. It's mostly senior citizens. They take the old clothes and pieces of material that are donated, cut them up and sew them together to make patchwork comforters. They are perfect blankets for someone who is bedfast."

It's a big group, so it will need two rooms for distancing, which means it will need to be scheduled when other classes aren't meeting. Sister Mimi said any inconveniences will be worth it.

"The people need to be here," she said.

Casa Ursulina once focused on younger women who could benefit from learning a craft that allowed them to stay home with their children. Now, those children are grown, so the focus will change again, especially as Covid lessens.

"I don't think we'll go back to the way things were before. I think we'll do more outreach to people who can't come to us," Sister Mimi said. "Our focus is going to be more on senior citizens than it has been. I think we'll do a lot of things in conjunction with public health services. They have a program called

Independent Senior Citizens. They teach cognitive and physical exercises for seniors. It's a lot of fun with a lot of people. They have programs, we have the space."

Casa Ursulina opened in 1997, and this August will mark 25 years – far longer than Sister Mimi ever expected. She first served in South America in 1978.

"**Sister Luisa Bickett** served 18 years in Chile," Sister Mimi said. "I thought, 'There's no way I'll stay that long.' Here I am, 44 years later."

Now in her 55<sup>th</sup> year as an Ursuline Sister, Sister Mimi knows that the time she remains in Chile is growing shorter. She and the community leadership have worked to secure Casa Ursulina's future. The ministry now answers to a foundation, so it will not depend on the Ursulines for its existence. It has a board of directors, with Sister Mimi as the president, but she plans to change that when she returns to Chile.

"I know the day will come when I have to come home," Sister Mimi said, "but it's not yet."



### NAULC Convergence

Vol. 19, No. 1

Deadline for the Summer 2022 issue of NAULC Convergence is June 2, 2022.

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



## Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit

WOMEN'S RETREAT

**Saturday, April 30**

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Mount Auditorium**

During the Easter season, Christians joyfully celebrate the gifts of Life and Hope flowing from the Risen Jesus. But how do 21st-century believers access first-century gifts? The link—the channel—is the Holy Spirit. One of the most important witnesses to the role of the Spirit is Saint Hildegard of Bingen. We will explore her insights. The day will include prayer, reflection, and small-group sharing. The \$45 fee includes lunch. A Sunday Mass will be available at 4:15 p.m. **Register: 270-229-0206 or email [retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org) or online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/living-in-the-power/>**



**PRESENTER: Ursuline Sister Cheryl Clemons, Ph.D.**, has been offering retreats, parish missions, and RCIA programs for over 25 years. With extensive training in theology, Scripture, spirituality, and spiritual direction, she brings to her annual Women's Retreat a deep love for and study of prayer and spirituality.



**Mount Saint Joseph  
Retreat Ministry**

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY (near Owensboro)