



NAULC

Convergence

“To Move Toward the Same Purpose Together”

Vol. 19, No. 2
Summer 2022

Central Province aiding Ukrainian refugees with help from many

Since early March, the Ursulines of the Central Province have been sending money to their Roman Union Ursuline Sisters in Poland and Slovakia to help the Ukrainian refugees crossing their borders. The ability to send funds regularly is due in large part to the generosity of Central Province alumni and other donors and friends.

Many people have responded to posts about Ukraine on the Central Province website and Facebook page. One alumna in Springfield, Illinois, sent a letter to her former classmates and other Ursuline Academy alumnae to let them know that money sent to the Central Province Ursulines is a good way to get immediate aid to Ukrainian refugees. Several other Ursuline communities in the United States also have sent the Central Province gifts to transfer to the Ursulines in Poland and Slovakia, which

is deeply appreciated. And last week, Sister Elisa Ryan, provincial, received word that the province would be receiving a sizeable grant for Ukrainian relief.

The Ursulines who have been receiving the refugees are using the funds for food, clothing, medicine and other needs, including beds and another washing machine for the refugees they are housing and a little travel money for those who are moving farther on. The sisters in Poland and Slovakia have little time to write but have sent notes with news of the current situation and expressed their gratitude for all their fellow Ursulines are doing in support of this humanitarian aid.



Pope Francis to Visit Canada

The Companies of St. Ursula of Canada and of Toronto join with the Church and the nation in anticipation of Pope Francis's trip to Quebec, Edmonton, and Iqaluit July 24-29. After visits from First Nations delegations to the Vatican, the Pope is expected to continue the journey of healing and reconciliation with indigenous peoples of the land.

Bernice Daratha (Company of Toronto) regularly participates in the Kairos Blanket Exercise, an experiential retelling of the shared history of indigenous peoples and settlers. Elders at St. Mary's Church (Bernice's parish) held four days of grieving and prayer for the children who died at residential schools and for healing for the communities.



Pope Francis receives Canadian bishops and Inuit people, one of three delegations of indigenous peoples (Inuit, Metis, and First Nations) to visit the Vatican.



A tipi (also spelled tepee) was erected at St. Mary in Saskatoon for the event.

Ursulines Sisters of the Central Province

INTERNATIONAL SERVIAM DAY



The serviam spirit was alive in Arcadia, Missouri, on May 12 when Central Province Ursuline Sisters and co-workers at the province offices—along with a few special helpers—spent a day cleaning the gravestones in the Ursuline cemetery there. Ursulines arrived in Arcadia from St. Louis in 1877, soon opening a boarding school that continued to serve the Arcadia Valley for nearly 100 years. The last of the sisters in the Arcadia Convent left in 1991. The cemetery remains the final resting place for many of those who served there, with the oldest gravestones dating to the 1880s.



Central Province Ursulines Ginger Cirone and Regina Marie Fronmüller were joined by Ursuline Academy alumnae in celebrating International Serviam Day, May 14, by working with the St. Bernard Project (SBP) on rebuilding houses in New Orleans. International Serviam Day is a day when Ursuline community members around the world join together to volunteer in their local communities, continuing to answer the call to serve others. Many Ursulines and alumnae from throughout the country and beyond have worked with SBP on rebuilding projects since Katrina struck in 2005.

An Irish Visitor

There was more than a bit of Irish in the air when Sister Mairead O'Regan, OSU, met up with Sister Elisa Ryan, OSU, in May. Sister Mairead, from the province of Ireland/Wales, recently retired from her long-held position as principal of the Ursuline school in Sligo and was enjoying some sabbatical time in the states. Her trip included a stop at the Central Province offices in St. Louis, where she visited with the leadership team and other staff members and toured Ursuline Academy next door.



Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Attend General Chapter



The General Chapter of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk was held in Rome from May 7th – 21st after a two-year postponement due to the COVID pandemic. In attendance were Sisters from our provinces in the U.S., India, Belgium and the DR Congo. Sr. Catherine Talia and Sr. Meghan McArdle represented the U.S. Province.

The chapter theme, *“Live a New Life Rooted in Christ,”* encouraged each sister and each community to ponder the significant events and choices made in the years since the last General Chapter in 2014, to examine in truth the responses being made in the present moment and to look towards the future with hope, renewed fervor and a renewed commitment to live the charism in the context of today’s world.

In preparation for the Chapter, the sisters of the U.S. Province spent time in personal reflection on the Chapter theme and gathered for Province ZOOM meetings to share our thoughts. We focused on listening to the Spirit and to one another, with an openness to understanding our experience and to where God may be leading us.

We congratulate our newly elected Congregational Leadership Team and thank them for their generous and courageous response to God’s call to serve the Congregation.



l-r: Sr. Matilda Dungdung, Sr. Esperance Hamuli, Sr. Nirmala Kujur, Sr. Bimla Minj

“Hope and Firm Faith” history book available this summer



“Hope and Firm Faith: The Story of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph,” a new history book about the Sisters at Maple Mount, will be available for purchase this summer.

Written by Ursuline Associate Dan Heckel, “Hope and Firm Faith” chronicles the Sisters’ arrival in western Kentucky in 1874, through their separation from the Ursulines of Louisville and onto more than 100 years as an independent community. The highs and lows of the community are explored, often told in the words of the Sisters who lived through them.

Books should be available in July. They can be ordered online at www.ursulinesmsj.org/hope-and-firm-faith-book/. The cost is \$37.10 (which includes sales tax), plus \$10 for shipping. If you would rather pay by check, make your check out to “Ursuline Sisters” and mail to:

Book order
8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, KY 42356

With your check, please include your name, address, phone number and email. And let us know if you want a copy signed by the author (at no extra charge).

Ursulines of Brown County

SISTER AGATHA FITZGERALD

St. Angela Merici Parish in Fayetteville, Ohio sponsored a Mothers' Day luncheon for the women of the Parish on Saturday, May 28, 2022. The women were encouraged to invite relatives and friends to the event, and the response was overwhelming, totaling close to 150 women. The enthusiastic group came to listen to four short presentations on spirituality for women. Sister Agatha Fitzgerald, OSU spoke on the arrival of the Ursulines in St. Martin in 1845 with an emphasis on the importance of the contributions made by the people of the rural Parish. As part of her presentation, Sr. Agatha listed the names of families who assisted the early Sisters, noting that many of the same names are still evident in the local area. The continuing presence and support of those enduring families living in the area has been a continual blessing to the Brown County Ursulines. Following the presentations, the Knights of Columbus served a lovely luncheon for all those present.



Sister Agatha Fitzgerald

PAPAL AUDIENCE

After postponing their General Chapter for almost two years and conducting regular pre-chapter sessions on Zoom, the Chapter Delegates from 4 continents of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk (Belgium) met in Rome from May 7-21, 2022. Our Sr. Agatha Fitzgerald designed their Chapter logo in 2019 and Sr. Ellen Doyle facilitated their discernment & decisions both on Zoom and in Rome. On the last day of their Chapter, Sr. Ellen shared that she noticed that Sr. Agatha's logo had 9 leaves on the branch entwined around their *Ut Unum Sint* congregational symbol and that the General Chapter room had 9 tables: 8 tables for delegates to engage one another in the spirit of synodality and discernment and one table for the Eucharist celebrated there each day! Also 9 major roots! It was all grace as they set a new 6-year direction, elected 4 women to lead them and celebrated with a special audience with Pope Francis!

Logo done by
Sister Agatha Fitzgerald →



The Tildonk Ursulines in Rome for Chapter and facilitator Sister Ellen Doyle (back row, right side) ↓



LIAISON BETWEEN CONVOCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE AND NAULC MEMBERS

Even as LCWR has been working with our congregations to Discern the Emerging Future of Religious Life, so the Convocation planning committee has been discerning the transformation of the Convocation experience. The planned event this fall is a new and exciting opportunity to explore six different Ursuline settings. Sister Patricia Homan says it has been her honor to serve the NAULC communities by acting as the liaison between the NAULC members and the Convocation planning committee. Here is a brief description of the re-visioned Convocation.

The virtual gathering will allow you to share prayer and reflection with Ursulines, companions, colleagues, and friends from a variety of places, as well as being personally and communally enriched and challenged. Week one: September 16th will come to you from Angela's Italy, highlighting our "Contemplative Identity". The host for week two will be Brescia University in Ontario Canada, exploring "The Call to Integral Connection". Week three will originate with the Ursulines of Youngstown in Ohio, featuring "The Blessings of the Margins". From there we head south to Louisville, Kentucky for the fourth week and a look at "The Wider We". Moving to the west and the Navajo nation, week five examines "The Call of

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Ursulines of Brown County, continued

Laudato Si". The final gathering will be on the Feast of St. Ursula, October 21 from Mexico exploring "The Dynamic, Moving South."

Some of the advantages of this new approach to the Convocation include:

- A flexible schedule of offerings that allows you, the virtual pilgrim, to **journey at your own pace if that suits you...** and not necessarily on Fridays!
- Each week, a new **virtual piazza** to explore on a website – chat rooms, exhibits, shopping, tours and more....at your own pace and on your schedule.
- Dynamic, **90-minute live sessions** in our new **Virtual Oratory**, with rich content and small group sharing.
- Shared **contemplative prayer** on Friday evenings after the live sessions, also in the Oratory
- And connecting it all... the opportunity to walk, talk and pray with Angela between the sessions: **an Angela Retreat at your own pace.**

Please, Mark Your Calendar to set aside a few evenings for Ursuline Family time with us:

September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14 and 21. Don't worry if you can't make every date. We just want to see you whenever you can make it!

Click here to get your name on the list of those interested: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-vYXLPbWtDVRfGtJU2Xd6waa1uUzTLOSk-r1aMXW92bXzSA/viewform>



Angela loves a pilgrimage!

You'll be hearing from us soon as we offer registration and vendor/exhibit opportunities, as well as more information and preparation material. Stay in touch for a convocation like none other... and remember:

BOUNDLESS COMPASSION MOTHERHOUSE RETREAT



Some of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph living at the Motherhouse in Owensboro, Ky., took part in a "Boundless Compassion" retreat March 6-11, 2022, in Saint Joseph Villa. The retreat was inspired by the book "Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life" by well-known author Joyce Rupp. Here, the Sisters listen to a chant at the start of the afternoon session.



The director of the spring retreat at the Maple Mount Motherhouse was Sister Mary Dean Pfahler, a Sister of Notre Dame who is a certified Boundless Compassion facilitator. She lives in northwest Ohio and has served previously as an educator in Ohio and Papua New Guinea, a pastoral minister, a retreat center director and a college campus mentor. She is now a spiritual director.

Charity directs everything to the honour of God and the good of souls. St. Angela, Second Counsel

Continue to Live Out our Fourth Vow

The Ursulines of Cleveland continue to take a Fourth Vow of Christian Education and fulfill it in a variety of ways.

On June 14th, **Sister Mary Jean Raymond**, who has ministered at St. Agatha-St. Aloysius School in the city of Cleveland for many years in a variety of roles, became the Parish Life Coordinator. Sister began her ministry as a fourth grade teacher in 1981. Then she taught first grade from 1982-2016 while substituting as principal when needed. During that time, she also worked on a curriculum for inner city schools that have a majority of non-Catholic students, gave talks locally and nationally on teaching religion in multi-faith classrooms and teaching literacy skills in inner city schools. In addition to her academic responsibilities and tasks, Sister Mary Jean served as athletic director of the parish for eight years and coach of the track team for 12 years. She likes to call herself, "A Jill of all Trades."

In 2016, the new pastor, Father Mark Hobson, asked Sister to consider working in the parish. After prayer and discernment, she began her parish/school ministry. Sister Mary Jean believes she has learned and grown from living and working with people on the margins of society and sometimes refers to herself as a "blue collar Ursuline."



Sister Mary Jean Raymond & friend

During this time of transition, we are pleased to see a woman like herself with experience, dedication and passion assume a significant leadership role in the church."

Another Ursuline assuming a leadership role in the church is **Sister Kathleen Flannery**, "... director of parish life and liturgy at Church of the Gesu in University



Sister Mary Jean Raymond

Heights, Ohio, ... [who] was originally drawn to her role at Gesu because of her experience in pastoral settings. Eleven years into the job, though, she's found that Gesu is not your average parish, but a destination for people acquainted with the Jesuits. Sister says, 'You have to learn a community and build on the strengths that are already there.'"

Another outstanding Cleveland Ursuline is **Sister Christine DeVinne**, President of Ursuline College, who has been appointed to serve on the Higher Education Working Group of the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) for a three-year term. This Working Group is composed of five Catholic College Presidents and is chaired by Bishop Joensen of Des Moines, Iowa. This Working Group is connected to the USCCB's Committee on Education.

Although most of our Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland are no longer teaching in classrooms, some of them are tutoring children in the inner city and elsewhere. One of the inner city schools where two of our Sisters presently minister is Metro Catholic School on Cleveland's west side. This year is the 34th year of the school's existence. Today Metro Catholic is a diocesan school that serves approximately 400 students from all income levels on two campuses and welcomes children from many Catholic parishes as well as children of diverse faith traditions. Celebrating diversity, the school claims 30% Hispanic, 25% Caucasian, 20% of African descent, 16% Multiracial, and 9% Asian and Middle Eastern. Today, fewer than 50% are Catholic.

Originally, three small parish schools existed: St. Boniface, St. Michael and St. Stephen serviced by the Sisters of Notre Dame of Cleveland. The first Ursulines to join the faculty of the merged school were **Sisters Juliana Beck and Mary Jane Jones**. Therefore, our Ursuline Sisters have been ministering there in various capacities



Sister Kathleen Flannery



Sister Christine DeVinne

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Continue to Live Out our Fourth Vow, continued

for over 20 years. **Sisters Eugene, Veronica Cipar, Mary Jane Jones, Juliana Beck and Carmen Hocevar** were among those who ministered there in the past.

Sister Juliana taught first grade at Metro Catholic for eight years, beginning in 1998. She said, "I was very much at home with the mission of educating the total child." In 2008, Sister Juliana answered the need to be an elementary Resource Room Teacher. After taking courses to be certified, she became the intervention specialist at the school until 2020. Sister Juliana says of her experience, "It was a privilege to minister at Metro Catholic that blends faith with learning and faith with life according to the abilities and needs of each student." Since leaving Metro Catholic, she has ministered at Catholic Worker in Akron, Ohio and teaches part-time as a Reading Intervention teacher at the Lippman School.

Sister Mary Jane Jones taught fourth grade at Metro Catholic from 2000 until 2004. Sister stated that the Notre Dame Sisters told her the Ursulines brought diversity to the faculty and staff.



Sister Karen Bohan

Sister Karen Bohan, who has served at Metro Catholic for 16 years from 2006, began by teaching fourth grade for one year there, then became principal for 13 years from 2007-2020 in the St. Michael building, which housed grades 2, 3, and 4. Sister states that if she had to take care of a behavior problem, she would tell the student, "Tomorrow is a new day. Start over in a better way." In 2020, she decided to work part-time in the Stephen building, which houses grades 5 through 8. For the past two years, she has been doing the following: tutoring sixth grade students in math, social studies, language arts, and religion, assisting teachers by correcting assignments, distributing new coats and backpacks from donors to students, monitoring students during lunch periods, and performing other needed tasks. Sister Karen reminds her students, "God put you on earth for a reason. Talk to Him every day and find out what it is."

Presently, **Sister Etienne Balek**, who has served at Metro Catholic for five years, continues to be an assistant reading intervention tutor for 10 students every week and teaches phonics, reading skills and math to second, third and fourth grade students at the St. Michael's building. Sister Etienne says of her experience, "I'm in

my old neighborhood where I grew up so I feel at home. I enjoy going to school, and I am grateful for this opportunity to give back and help these wonderful children. I love helping children and seeing how they are progressing. They continuously surprise me with their small kindnesses to each other. They are an inspiration and hope for the future."

As St. Angela reminded us, if there is a need, change with the times.



Sister Etienne and students



CrossCards

Ursulines of Louisville

Cleveland, Louisville and Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines co-signed statement on Ukraine

On March 22, 2022, the Cleveland, Louisville and Mount St. Joseph Ursulines co-signed a statement with three other religious communities in support of Ukraine and the Freedom to Vote Act, to preserve democracy within our own country:

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/five-religious-communities-speak-together-on-ukraine-and-democracy/>



Prayer Service for the People of Ukraine

The Leadership of the Louisville Ursulines held a prayer service on February 28 for peace and the people of Ukraine. Sisters, USAE staff and staff from Sacred Heart Schools attended.

“Gracious God, in the days to come, we ask you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded and accept the departed into your kingdom. We also ask that our holy Mother of God extend her protection and blessing over the Ukraine people and their country. We ask this in Christ’s name.” Amen.



Prayer service attendees



Bernie Mudd-White plays guitar ↑



Sr. Jean Anne Zappa leads prayer service ↗

Catholic Sisters Week March 8-14

We celebrated CSW with a three-part video series celebrating our commitment and that of Sacred Heart Schools (our sponsored schools) to the Laudato Si’ Action Platform and Pope Francis’ encyclical on caring for our common home.

You can view the videos via these links:

<https://youtu.be/4cfb1DBafdg>

<https://youtu.be/GZcGG48XWqY>

<https://youtu.be/OrN1KFO8-9k>

Sister Yuli Oncihuay ministers in Juarez, Mexico

Sister Yuli traveled to Mexico in April-May to minister to refugees with the IHM Sisters. She reflected: The roads of Juárez are very deserted—these days it is very hot and there are strong winds on some days. Here in Juárez there are 24 shelters that are run by our Christian



Kids and parents making art at Hope for All Shelter

Ursulines of Louisville, continued

brothers. Only four shelters are Catholic, which means that there are not many Catholic volunteers. The good news is that there is only one God who collaborates with God’s plan to give bread to the hungry and a place where each migrant who arrives in Juárez can rest.

I visited the “Hope for All” shelter that is in Anapra, Juárez. Puerto de Anapra is a neighborhood within the city of Ciudad, Juárez, in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Anapra is west of the Rio Grande, on the border of the U.S. state of New Mexico. It is one of the poorest communities within the city.

There are 190 people in the shelter, including adults, youth and children from different countries. They organize themselves to cook and thus everyone assumes responsibility in the house. On the outside of the shelter

in ANAPRA, there is a motto that states, “We are neither criminals nor legal, we are international workers.”



← Sisters Yuli, OSU, and Carmen and Antonia, IHM



Yuli, Mrs. Maru and kids eating ice cream

JustFaith participants take a day trip to witness sustainable farm

On March 31, nine participants in the Sacred Land module of the JustFaith series traveled to Old Capitol Farm in Corydon, Indiana, to witness life on a sustainable farm.

Molly and Cam Howard, along with their daughters, were hosts to the group as they shared the blessings and work that they are doing on their 71-acre sustainable farm.

Click here to view the visit:

https://youtu.be/zw_FLCzCrxo

Staffing Changes and Retirements

In February, we welcomed two new staff members—Gina South, controller, and Becky Phillips, director of finance as we reorganized our finance and operations departments’ structures. Our longtime director of finance, Bonnie Allison (20 years), retired in December 2021. In June, we will have three other retirements: Rick Raderer, director of operations (20 years), Ellen McKnight, director of mission advancement (12 years), and Bay Baltes, director of the Associate Community (6 years).



Gina South and Becky Phillips

Louisville and Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines co-signed statement against gun violence

On May 26, 2022, the Louisville and Mount St. Joseph Ursulines co-signed a statement with three other religious communities calling upon our elected representatives to pass gun control laws now:

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/five-religious-communities-speak-together-against-gun-violence/>

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Ursulines of Louisville, continued

Kentucky Derby Fun!

On May 4, Leadership and USAE staff had a very festive potluck lunch on Wednesday to celebrate Derby week. Hats were worn, bets were placed, and the odds were ever in our favor!

Kim Sison at the staff party →



On May 7, the actual day of the Kentucky Derby, several of the Louisville Ursulines got together for some fun at a Derby party! Sister Julia Davis reports: “We had our own Derby party with a fun time together cheering for our favorite horse, but no one had Rich Strike and didn’t “Strike it Rich.” The winning jackpots went to second place “Epicenter” bettors. The food and drinks were delicious. Thank you to Sisters Ruth Ann and Sara D for hosting.” It looks like a good time was had by all in attendance.



Ursuline Communications Team Win Awards

Congratulations to Our Communications Team!
The DeRose-Hinkhouse Memorial Awards are given annually by the Religion Communicators Council for excellence in religious communications and public relations. The following were announced as winning entries for work done in 2021 at the awards presentation on May 11:

- The “Creation” Video Prayer Service produced by Bernie Mudd-White received a Category Winner Award
- The DOME magazine article, “Called to Be Prophetic Women of Hope, Part Three: Asian Advocacy”, by Kathy Williams, received an Award of Merit
- The DOME magazine article, “Accompanying Those At The Border”, by Kathy Williams, received an Award of Merit

AND ~
The Associated Church Press, whose origins date to 1916, gives awards annually in its Best of The Church Press Awards. The following were announced as winning entries for work done in 2021 at the awards presentation on May 12:

- The campaign to support “God Is On Your Side” in support of at-risk LGBT youth and the work of the Tyler Clementi Foundation, by Kathy Williams, received an Award of Excellence in the Awareness/Advocacy Campaign in Social Media category
- The 2020-21 Annual Report, “Change • Challenge • Creativity” by Kathy Williams received an Award of Merit

Links to work here:
<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/ursuline.../>

Youngstown Ursulines Prepare for Sesquicentennial

We’re excited to plan celebrations for our 150th anniversary.

In 1874, Youngstown was a budding industrial community with many immigrants and few teachers. A priest at St. Columba Parish (now the Mother Church and Cathedral Parish of our Diocese) called upon his sibling, an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland, for help. She brought with her a few Sisters, and later was joined by Ursuline Sisters from Toledo, and our ministry in the Mahoning Valley took root.

To mark the many milestones and changes since then, and to highlight our plans for the future, we’ve assembled a group of Sisters, Associates and

community partners to formulate ways to honor the occasion. Stay tuned for more on that!

On a sad note, Sister Mary Ellen Dean passed away May 27 after a brief illness. She was active in ministry for 63 years. Sister Mary Ellen began her career in Catholic school education, 45 years of it at Ursuline High School, where she taught American History and Government. She also served as the Registrar for two years and was Director of the Library for 29 years, overseeing its transition to a technology center.

After her teaching career, Sister Mary Ellen helped with the SilverSneakers Program at the Ursuline Center, a position she held until 2020.



Pray for Peace



More Council of Religious Photos

1. Sister Nancy Murphy, left, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, shares a laugh with Glenmary Sister Darlene Presley. They were both members of the Council of Religious Steering Committee that organized the event.



2. Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Elaine Burke, left, extends a warm welcome to Lamb of God Sister Mary Thomas Simon at the spring gathering in the Ursuline dining room.



2022 Ursuline Convocation: Challenged and Changed for Our Times

The 2022 Ursuline Convocation will be a virtual pilgrimage this year with online and live content on six consecutive Friday evenings at 6:30 pm ET, starting on September 16 and concluding with the feast of Saint Ursula on October 21. Each week features a new, virtual piazza to explore with rich content. Prayer and live sharing are all part of the experience! If Friday evenings are not convenient, you can journey at your own pace. This pilgrimage is open to all.

We're excited about these benefits:

- ▶ Low cost per pilgrim: \$100
- ▶ Inclusive of everyone
- ▶ Low environmental impact

A Pilgrimage Like None Other

Your Convo2022 planning team has been working for nearly two years to develop this unique experience. We can't wait to welcome you to the first pilgrimage station, featuring Angela's Italy. From there, we'll virtually travel across the pond to Brescia College in Ontario, Canada, then head south through Youngstown, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; the Navajo Nation; and somewhere in Mexico for our final celebration!

To get more information and join the mailing list for Convocation updates, please fill out the form here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvYXLPbWtDVRfGtJU2_Xd6waa1uUZTL0Sk-r1aMXW92bXzSA/viewform

Council of Religious enjoys gathering again after three-year hiatus

Nearly 40 women religious from five different congregations in the Diocese of Owensboro met at Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky., on April 23, 2022. The afternoon event included prayer and lunch in the Ursuline Sisters' Motherhouse dining room, as well as bingo with plenty of prizes. The Council of Religious consists of women religious who serve in the diocese. The group had been unable to meet since April 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic, so this was an especially joyful meeting. After bingo, the group played a birthday game to choose a lucky winner of an angel food cake with strawberries. Ursuline Sister Marie Joseph Coomes was the last Sister standing with a May birthday. Ursuline Sister Ruth Gehres took pictures of the fun and games.



The expert bingo callers at the Council of Religious event were Sister Jeannette Fennwald, a School Sister of Notre Dame, left, and Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Cecelia Joseph "C.J." Olinger.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mary Matthias Ward, left, gets reacquainted with Glenmary Sister Ada Badillo at the Council of Religious gathering in April.

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph look to the past and the future for new Leadership Council

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph looked to the past for the person to lead them into the future, selecting Sister Sharon Sullivan as congregational leader, six years after she left the same office.

Sister Sharon was congregational leader from 2010-16. The native Texan becomes only the second Sister in the community's history to be elected to nonconsecutive terms as leader. Mother Teresita Thompson served as superior from 1928-34, and then again from 1937-43. Sister Sharon is celebrating her 40th year as an Ursuline Sister this year, with most of her time in ministry serving at Brescia College/University. She is currently coordinator of special education and a professor at Brescia.

The Ursuline Sisters gathered over Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, 2022, to choose their new leaders. Joining Sister Sharon on the Council are two newcomers to elected office and one veteran.

Sister Martha Keller was elected as assistant congregational leader. She is a native of Whitesville, Ky., and is serving in her 46th year as an Ursuline. Sister Martha has served as a teacher, parish minister and director of Vocation ministry. Since 2012, she has served as a pastoral associate at St. Jerome Parish, in Fancy Farm, Ky. She was instrumental in leading relief efforts for people in Mayfield, Ky., following the deadly Dec. 10, 2021, tornado that devastated the town.

Sister Monica Seaton was elected as first councilor. Sister Monica is a native of Owensboro, Ky., where she attended St. Stephen Cathedral as her home parish. She is the community's youngest Sister, serving in her 20th year. Sister Monica served as a teacher, and since 2016 has been the director of Vocation ministry for the Ursulines.

Sister Ann McGrew was elected as the second councilor. The Grayson County, Ky., native previously served as a councilor from 2004-2010. Now in her 57th year as an Ursuline, Sister Ann brings a wide variety of ministry experience to her role. She has been a teacher, parish minister and secretary to the Council. She was also director of novices and of the temporary professed, and she served in the ministry formation program at Brescia. She is a spiritual director and a



Sister Sharon Sullivan



Sister Martha Keller



Sister Monica Seaton



Sister Ann McGrew

founding member of the Spiritual Direction Training Program at Maple Mount. She was director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center from 2010-16. Today, she serves as Motherhouse treasurer and transportation coordinator.

The Sisters will be installed in their new roles during a ceremony on July 17, 2022. They will serve four-year terms.

The current Council – Sisters Amelia Stenger, Pat Lynch, Pam Mueller and Judith Nell Riney – were not eligible for re-election.



The Ursuline Sisters ask for your prayers to guide their new Leadership Council.

Sisters celebrate graduations of Vietnamese Sisters and Derby Day

The first Saturday in May 2022 was a time for celebrating for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph at Maple Mount, Ky. – both Kentucky Derby day and the Brescia University graduation. The final two Vietnamese sisters living at Maple Mount earned their degrees from Brescia and shared their joy with the Ursuline Sisters.

Since 2013, Maple Mount has been home to sisters from various communities in Vietnam. That year, Sister Sharon Sullivan – then congregational leader for the Ursulines – was asked by Brescia officials if the Sisters could offer a home and transportation for two sisters from the Lovers of the Holy Cross community in Vietnam. Brescia agreed to grant scholarships to the sisters following the request of Father Bao Nguyen, a Jesuit priest who sought American education for religious sisters in Vietnam. Sister Huyen Vu and Sister Anh Tran were the first two Sisters to arrive.

In the ensuing nine years, seven Vietnamese sisters have earned their degrees from Brescia while living at Maple Mount. On May 7, 2022, Sisters Trang Le and Hang Nguyen, both Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Queen of the World, earned their degrees. There are still Vietnamese sisters attending Brescia, but they live in Owensboro.

To celebrate with the Ursuline Sisters, the Vietnamese sisters spent time on YouTube learning balloon and napkin decorating, then performed a dance to “Such a Happy Day” by the Monroes.

A Vietnamese couple from Evansville, Ind., who have helped support the Vietnamese sisters since they’ve lived at Maple Mount, prepared grilled pork, fried rice and wonton soup. The sisters at Brescia made their beloved egg rolls and provided a display of fruit for everyone to enjoy.

Following the graduation party, the Ursuline Sisters enjoyed a Kentucky Derby celebration, which concluded with longshot Rich Strike pulling an amazing upset.

↓The Vietnamese sisters perform “Such a Happy Day” by the Monroes, a dance they learned on YouTube, in the Motherhouse dining room,, Maple Mount, Ky. In the middle is a Glenmary missionary who is a friend of the sisters. The Vietnamese Sisters provided the fruit and decorations.



↑New Brescia University (Owensboro, Ky.) graduates Sister Trang Le, left, and Sister Hang Nguyen, are joined by Sister Amelia Stenger, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, as they arrive at the Motherhouse dining room on May 7 with flowers and their diplomas.



↑As the graduation party ended in the Motherhouse dining room in Maple Mount, it gave way to a Kentucky Derby party. From left, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Rebecca White and Cecelia Joseph Olinger are joined by Sister Jeannette Fennwald, a School Sister of Notre Dame, to display their derby hats.

←One can’t have a Kentucky Derby party without a mint julep. Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Sister Nancy Liddy, right, works on her technique under the watchful eyes of Sister Emma Anne Munsterman, left, and Sister George Mary Hagan. Sister George Mary also knows how to make bourbon balls!

Sister Angela Fitzpatrick renews her commitment to Network issues

Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Angela Fitzpatrick submitted a letter to the Kansas City Star opinion page in April 2022 to raise awareness of the need for prison reform, especially dealing with racial disparity.

“That was a first for me, I’ve never sent my opinion to a newspaper before,” Sister Angela said.

Despite a long history of being involved in social justice issues, Sister Angela found the motivation to try something new after spending three days in Washington, D.C., celebrating 50 years of Network – the justice advocacy group she helped begin.

“I’m glad I went, it was a wonderful experience,” Sister Angela said. She was a young Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan., in the winter of 1971 when she was among 47 women religious who sojourned to Washington to determine how they could make a difference if they united. In April 1972, Network was formed and has been engaged in political activism for social justice ever since.

When Network planned its 50th anniversary celebration on April 21-23 with a Justice Ablaze Gala and Advocates Training in Washington, Sister Angela was invited as one of the founding members. She was one of four founders who attended.



“I was so happy with all the diversity and young people,” Sister Angela said. “There were college-age people, it wasn’t just gray-haired sisters.”

The Ursulines of Paola merged with the Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph in 2008. Sister Angela has continued serving in her native Kansas, now as a caregiver in metropolitan Kansas City. She was joined at the celebration by Ursuline Sister Michele Morek.

“It was a learning experience,” Sister Angela said.

“We had this workshop on how to organize, and met with people from our area, although mine was only Sister Michele. We asked for a list of Network members in our area, so it’s possible we could find some more people.”

This gathering was quite different from her first trip in 1971, Sister Angela said.

“It was encouraging, hopeful. We knew it was possible to have an effect,” she said. “We were seeing things that had been accomplished, like the Affordable Care Act, which Network supported.”



The four founding members of Network who attended the 50th anniversary gala in April in Washington, D.C. are, from left, Sister Carol Coston, O.P., Sister Angela Marie Fitzpatrick, O.S.U., Sister Elizabeth Morancy, RSM, and Sister Mary Hayes, SNDdeN.

The early days of Network were quite different, Sister Angela said.

“We were foundering back then, until Sister Carol Coston (a Dominican Sister) took over in April 1972. She had \$147 to work with, but she started hiring a staff. She was the mother foundress.”

Sister Carol’s attendance at the celebration was a highlight, Sister Angela said. A banner Network produced featured some of the

founding members’ quotes, including ones from Sister Angela and Sister Carol. Sister Angela’s quote read, “We felt if we formed a group to lobby we’d counteract the influence of the rich and powerful ... If we really were united, we could be a dangerous force.”

“The fact they chose those two quotes really made me feel special,” Sister Angela said. “I was happy and surprised.”

Sister Angela read that Network now has 100,000 members from all 50 states, compared to the 47 people who began. Anyone can join Network, not just women religious. Sister Angela said she would be happy to forward Network information concerning how to sign on to support an issue for anyone who wants it.

“I found a deeper appreciation for Network. I felt what’s possible,” Sister Angela said. “We have the power to change things. To be silent is wrong.”

Sister Angela said she is committed to being more involved with Network issues.

“It’s going to take everybody,” she said. “Together we can do something.”

From the Ursulines of the Eastern Province

The Ursuline School Announces New Principal

We are very happy to share that on May 11, 2022, President Dr. Colleen Melnyk announced that Theresa Napoli will assume the role of principal at The Ursuline School, effective July 1, 2022.

Ms. Napoli has over 30 years of teaching and administrative service in Catholic schools. She began her teaching career at Ursuline as a science teacher and also taught at Aquinas High School, Marymount School of New York, and Convent of The Sacred Heart. In 2005, Ms. Napoli became the first female assistant principal at Fordham Preparatory School. She later served as Principal of Saint Barnabas High School and is currently the Dean of Academic Affairs at Fairfield College Preparatory School.



Theresa Napoli

“I chose Ms. Napoli to lead our school because she is an experienced Catholic school educator and administrator ready to fully support Ursuline’s Mission and Core Values,” said Dr. Melnyk. “She maintains a firm belief in the value of an all-girls education and the capacity of all students to learn and achieve excellence. Ms. Napoli is an accomplished, inclusive academic leader, with a demonstrated ability to develop innovative and academically rigorous programs and curriculum.”

Theresa Napoli has earned praise from her former associates as well. The President of Fairfield Prep shared, “Ms. Napoli has proven to be a tremendous leader at our school and in the Jesuit School Network. She has the true gift of blending rigorous academic programs with care of the whole person. She is an authentically Catholic and mission driven leader.”

Ms. Napoli looks forward to connecting with the faculty, staff, students, parents, alumnae and the broader

Ursuline community in her role as principal. “I am wholeheartedly committed to upholding and enhancing the spirit of St. Angela Merici,” said Ms. Napoli. “The Ursuline School is where I grew in my formation as a Catholic educator. My goal as a leader is to strive each day to live out the Serviam charism as a role model for all our students. I am so honored and privileged to be coming home and to be here with all of you in this blessed community, to fulfill St. Angela’s mission animated by all of you!”

Academy of Mount St. Ursula Announces New Principal: Geraldine Lavery

Following an extensive national search, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula Board of Trustees is delighted to announce that Geraldine Lavery has been selected as the Principal. Having worked for twenty six years in inner city Catholic Schools, her experience, drive and commitment make her the perfect fit for Mount St. Ursula.

“I am grateful for the opportunity as principal at the academy of Mount St. Ursula to serve, lead and enrich the spiritual and learning experiences of a school community rooted in the “core values of an ursuline education,” said Lavery.

Mrs. Lavery was born and raised in Northern Ireland, where her primary and secondary instruction took place in an all-girls school sponsored by the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She received her Bachelor of Education, Religious Studies at Queen’s University in Belfast. Following her immigration to New York in 1996, she continued her education at St.

Joseph’s Seminary Institute where she earned her Master of Arts, Religious Studies. In her professional career, she has served as a teacher, Curriculum Coordinator, Dean of Students and, for the past seven years, Principal at Good Shepherd School in New York.

The Board of Trustees thanks the Principal Search Committee for their tireless efforts and congratulates them on their wonderful outcome. Members of the



Geraldine Lavery

- continued on next page

From the Ursulines of the Eastern Province, continued

committee included various stakeholder representatives from the Academy of Mount St. Ursula Community including Board members, Alumnae, parents, and faculty.

“The Search Committee interviewed several extremely qualified candidates. We recognize the importance of this decision for our beloved school, and we are confident in and excited about our selection,” said JoAnn Stonier, Search Committee Chair.

The Academy of Mount St. Ursula is an independent, private Catholic girls’ college preparatory high school, conducted in the Ursuline tradition and founded in 1855. It is located in the Bronx, New York.

Eastern Province Sisters celebrated Memorial Day with a service at the Province Center Chapel followed by a lovely reception.



An Update from the Ursulines of the Roman Union

SISTER MARY TO RETIRE AS DIRECTOR

“It is with mixed emotion I have decided to retire as director of Angela’s Piazza: Women’s Drop-In Center. I know it is time, yet I leave with some sadness as I will miss the women I encounter daily.

Sister Pat and I opened this center February 2, 1998. These 24 years have blessed me in numerous ways. I feel honored to have worked with gifted and talented co-workers who helped to bring Sister Pat’s and my dream to fruition of empowering women in the spirit of Saint Angela. Angela reached out to others in a mutual exchange of support, inclusivity, and awareness of societal divisions. She worked to bring reconciliation and peace to others. Such is the spirit we tried to instill at Angela’s Piazza.

Over these years with assistance from others, I helped women find their voice. The women participating in our programs have inspired me with their courage and strength in the midst of most difficult situations

that are oppressive. Their ingenuity often brought smiles to me. I will miss visiting as well as teaching classes the women participate in. I believe my passion for women’s issues have assisted women in their path of healing and advocating for other women.

I also believe that Sister Pat’s and my concern for Earth has helped raise awareness among the women regarding environmental issues, inspiring them to begin changing their practices in small ways of caring for Earth. One funny incident occurred years ago at a picnic in the backyard. I asked a woman to announce that the plastic and paper items were to be separated. Being nervous she said, “Sister Pat and Sister Mary are environmental terrorists and want you to put the plastic and paper in these different containers.” She and I have had many a laugh since then.”

Angela’s Piazza will be headed up by Amy Aguirre, who has served



Sister Mary Dostal

as Assistant Director for nearly 12 years. Amy looks forward with joy and commitment to continuing the mission and ministries for marginalized women.

Sharing Love with Written Words



Just before Easter we volunteered with the Restorative Justice Ministry of the San Francisco Archdiocese. Along with other volunteers, we sorted, wrote notes, and packed treat bags for those incarcerated in county jails. Volunteers included people of all ages. Treat bags were filled by the young people. Stickers were put on the back of Easter cards so that the person receiving it would know where the bag came from. We, along with a few others, were given the task of writing a personal note in each card. We wrote about 200 cards. It was wonderful to feel the energy in the room as the task moved along. For some of the incarcerated, this would be the only sign of Easter they would receive. Later in the day, cards were prepared for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. We left feeling we had reached out to those who might not have had someone who cared.”

~ Shirley Garibaldi, OSU and Michelle Domecus, OSU, Daly City, CA

Ursulines of Cincinnati

WOMEN’S VOICES FOR THE SYNOD

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. St. Angela was a visionary, seeing the need for both pruning and grafting to maintain the vitality of God’s vineyard. The history, spirituality and ministries of the Ursulines of Cincinnati remain firmly rooted, intertwined and fruitful through the Ursuline Companions. Choosing to answer the Synodal invitation to “Walk Together as a Church with the Holy Spirit” Ursuline Companions hosted two listening sessions for women entitled **Women’s Voices for the Synod**. On March 23, 2022, a virtual session was held via Zoom, with fifteen attendees. On March 26, 2022, an in-person session was held at St. Ursula Academy Keller Student Center (Cincinnati, OH) with thirty four attendees.

As directed through the preparatory documents and guidelines provided from the Vademecum, both listening sessions served as a forum for articulation and examination of the main Synod theme, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” Discussions were prompted from the ten “thematic nuclei” referenced by the Holy Father, Pope Francis:

- 1. Companions on the journey
- 2. Listening
- 3. Speaking out
- 4. Celebration
- 5. Sharing responsibility
- 6. Dialogue
- 7. Ecumenism
- 8. Authority
- 9. Discerning
- 10. Forming ourselves

A summary report was compiled from the notes and transcripts of both listening sessions and submitted to the Vatican in May. The Holy Spirit inspired women participants to attend the Synod sessions and powerfully share their “walking together” experiences as members of the Catholic faith. Specifically, it took courage for those

in attendance to speak up, since the group represented voices which have been traditionally marginalized in the Catholic church; women, African Americans, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Many attendees expressed sincere hope that their honest feedback would be heard to create change.

St. Angela Merici, offered her companions this admonition, “If according to times and needs you should be obliged to make fresh rules and change current things, do it with prudence and good advice.” It is with fervent love for our Church, a Church in desperate need of renewal for all of its members, that the summary report submitted bore prudent and good advice for change. Especially through this Synodal process, Ursuline Companions look upon the future with great hope and a new fervor during this time when the Holy Spirit breathes new life in us, and through the Catholic Church.





From The Prelate Ursulines

After a cool April and May, we gratefully welcomed some warmer weather, some rain, and green trees and blooming tulips! With all that is going on in our world, spring in all its manifestations is needed.

We continue to have some zoom meetings to keep in touch, but we are also slowly going back to in-person gatherings.

On March 10 we gathered via zoom to take in a Lenten Retreat on the Our Father. Father Ronald Rolheiser was the facilitator. Fr. Ron talked how the Our Father is a communal prayer since we address *our* father, not *my* father. He talked about 11 petitions in the prayer, which in the end, will move us from paranoia or a defensive stance as a way of protecting ourselves, to metanoia or a big mind and heart, always open to forgiveness.

On April 12th, we gathered for the first in-person assembly in close to three years. Joanne Yelle Weatherall from Canadian Religious Stewardship returned to facilitate the meeting. Five items were on the agenda: Healthcare, leadership and governance, disposal of property, continuation of mission and ministry and community will. Discussion was intense and though both Healthcare and leadership need addressing urgently, it was decided that Healthcare had to have priority. With that in mind, CRS will look into possibilities for hiring a Healthcare Navigator.

The long weekend in May, brings out the gardener in many people, so in an afternoon zoom meeting Sisters shared their favorite gardening stories. In the evening, we gathered at the generalate to share a tasty BBQ along with delightful conversation!



Ursulines of Toledo Announce New Leadership Team

The Ursuline Sisters of Toledo have announced its new leadership team for the 2022 - 2026 term: Sister Sandra Sherman is General Superior/President. Assisting on the General Council is Sister Donna Frey, Sister Bernarda Breidenbach and Sister Joy Gray.



Sisters Sandy Sherman, Donna Frey, Bernarda Breidenbach, and Joy Gray were elected to the Toledo Ursulines' Leadership Team for the 2022 - 2026 term.

Sister Sandy served as President of the Toledo Ursulines 2018-22 and was re-elected. In addition to the responsibilities of leadership, she has continued to be involved in Rahab's Heart, a ministry she co-founded which is a Christian non-profit whose volunteers walk with women who have been broken due to the trauma of trafficking, exploitation, abuse, addiction, and poverty. Her relationship with the women keeps her grounded in the call of Pope Francis to befriend those on the margins in a culture of encounter.

For the past 12 years Sister Donna has been serving at St. Ursula Academy part-time in the area of Ursuline and Catholic Identity. In this re-elected term of leadership her ministry of the spirit of St. Angela Merici will continue but in different and varying ways. Along with the leadership team she will be focusing on responsibilities with the community in carrying out the priorities of the Community.

Sister Bernarda served on the Leadership Team 2018-2022 and has been re-elected. She continues to be involved in meeting individual and communal needs. Sister Bernarda serves on the St. Ursula Academy and Ursuline Convent Boards. She also volunteers each week at Sunshine Communities here in Toledo.

Sister Joy Gray, served in the past on Community Leadership and recently is a volunteer at St. Luke's Hospital. She also serves on the St. Ursula Academy Board of Trustees and is completing a term on the Ursuline

Center Board. Past ministries include teaching and administration in Toledo Diocesan schools and service at the Ursuline Center in Human Resources.

The Chapter of Affairs in 2022 set five priorities for the leadership and community: Ministry of Prayer and Presence, Relationship with St. Ursula Academy, Governance of the Community beyond 2026, Ursuline Convent Foundation Board Succession and Evolving Role, and the Archives. Looking to the future, the sisters are preparing for the time when leadership and other responsibilities will be different and include more lay personnel.

New hope and new life are in the hearts of the Ursulines as St. Ursula Academy continues to create possibilities for the use of the Ursuline Center building. Carrying on the legacy of the Ursulines in education and ministry in the Toledo area are priorities to keep the spirit and life of St. Angela Merici alive.

Two SUA Alumnae Receive YWCA Milestone Awards

Two dedicated St. Ursula Academy alumnae recently earned the prestigious *YWCA Milestone Award 2022: A Tribute to Women*, presented yearly to women who stand out in business, education, creative, and service fields. Those who earn the awards have been nominated by their colleagues and peers for extraordinary work.

St. Ursula Academy president Mary Conlisk Werner '74 earned the YWCA Milestone Award in the Education category. She was nominated by many and varied colleagues from her business, education, and personal life; in each nomination, she was praised for her commitment to enhancing the lives of young women by enriching their opportunities for leadership skills, rigorous academics, and sisterhood.

Mary's passion for providing young women with leadership tools has been a focus of her presidency at SUA, as well as a key component of her career in business and as a life coach.

In 2012, Mary became the president of her high school alma mater, bringing her professional experience to St. Ursula Academy. During her tenure, she has spearheaded a major campus renovation and brought the Leadership Program to the school. This program is the first in the nation to provide equitable, intentional,

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Ursulines of Toledo, *continued*

and evidence-based leadership development as part of the academic school day to close the confidence and leadership gap for girls.



Mary Werner



Marsha Manahan

Marsha Manahan '73 earned a Milestone Award in the Business category. She serves as vice president of Fifth Third Bank, leading the Trust Group. Her professional affiliations include the Toledo and Ohio State Bar Associations, the State Bar of Michigan, and the Toledo Estate Planning Council. She has been the Board Chair and a Board member for SUA, the SUA Foundation, and the Ursuline Convent Foundation. Marsha holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and French from Vanderbilt University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo College of Law.



Sister Susan Barry (Central Province)
Sister Elizabeth Carpentier (Central Province)
Sister Carla Dolce (Central Province)
Sister Rita Joseph Moscarro (Central Province)
Sister Loretta Vogt (Chatham)
Sister Mary Hogan (Chatham)
Sister Angelina Trinca (Chatham)
Sister Benigna Macadaeg (Chatham)
Sister Agnes Kelleher (Eastern Province)
Sister Maryellen Keefe (Eastern Province)
Sister Fran Lyle (Eastern Province)
Sister Marietta Wethington (Maple Mount)
Sister Teresita Catalano (Tildonk)
Sister Marguerite Torre (Tildonk)
Sister Alice Traynor (Tildonk)
Sister Margaret Ann Babione (Toledo)
Sister Mary Jo Koudelka (Toledo)
Sister Mary Ellen Dean (Youngstown)

*Celebrating
with our Golden Jubilarian*

Sister Phyllis Kemper (Brown County)



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