

NAULC

Convergence

“To Move Toward the Same Purpose Together”

Vol. 22, No. 3
Fall 2025

Ursulines of Brown County at 180 Years Young!



On July 21st the Ursulines of Brown County celebrated 180 years of existence in the state of Ohio. Although we no longer own the property that was given to Julia Chatfield by Archbishop John

Baptist Purcell in Brown County, we continue to reside in the greater Cincinnati area.

Our celebration consisted of Mass at Mt. Notre Dame Health Center, with Fr. Jeff Kemper as our celebrant. Invited to the gathering were the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, the Cincinnati Ursulines and Mary Cabrini Durken, leader of the Company of St. Ursula in the United States. Mass was followed by conversation over coffee and donuts for all. A great way to continue our journey to 200 in 2045.

The Ursuline Archives are offering events for the enrichment of all.

On August 1st, the Ursuline Archives sponsored “A Woman’s Movement: Cincinnati’s 19th Century Art Carved Furniture.” The Cincinnati Art Museum played a major role in the presentation by Amy Dehan, Curator of Decorative Arts and Design. The program focused on UC Professor Benn Pittman’s work and influence in the greater Cincinnati area. Pittman was a noted wood carver who agreed to instruct the early Sisters and students about the use of native cherry and oak wood from the convent grounds. The art and skill

of wood carving provided the creation of intricately carved items that are now more than 100 years old. The presentation was interesting, and the audience was larger than expected, enthusiastic and fascinated by the wood carving on display in the Archive space. The beauty and detail of the carvings is a testament to the determination of the early members and students and their appreciation for beauty.

On November 1st, the Ursuline Archives will present “Pulling Out All the Stops” highlighting the Roosevelt Organ donated to the Ursulines in 1886. This event will feature a presentation by Thea Tjepkema, a noted Historian from the Friends of Music Hall organization. Angel Waits, a former student of Sr. Cecilia Huber will provide the audience with a concert on the famed



Pictures of the Roosevelt organ

organ. Angel will not only perform some classical organ pieces but will include some of Sr. Cecilia’s original compositions. The program will take place in the Sacred Heart Chapel on the former property of the Brown County Ursulines. We look forward to this amazing opportunity to share the love of organ music with the greater Brown County population.



Examples of wood carved items by early Ursulines and students

Youngstown Ursulines building toward future with assisted living and more

We're nearing completion of what's been a long project, and one that will change our Motherhouse – and lives – in a profound way.

Ursuline Sisters Assisted Living opens later this year. We recently had over 100 friends join us for a blessing of the project. After more than a year of construction, the east wing of our Motherhouse has been reconfigured to create 45 assisted-living suites from our previous living quarters and business offices.



Our dining room now has a special room for private parties, and our library has been transformed to create a social room for residents.

With a median age nearing 82, determining a safe way for our Sisters to age in place was a priority. The assisted living provides that. Many of our 25 Sisters will begin residence after inspections and licensing are completed.

Several residents of our independent-living apartments, created in our west wing 13 years ago, will transition to the assisted-living side. We have enough applicants already that we'll fill the studio and one-bedroom apartments, 11 of which will be devoted to memory care, and have a waiting list.



Sister Mary McCormick, general superior (right), and Taylor Cene-Acharya, assisted living administrator (left) lead the blessing of the assisted living.

Meanwhile, we're thrilled to be working again with nonprofit business and strategy consultant Janus Small of Cleveland. She's assisting our Ursuline Sisters Mission board in developing a strategic plan. Janus has given us considerable guidance over the last several years in legacy planning and development.

We created USM in 2017 when we realized the need to assemble a lay team to work with the Leadership of the Community to oversee our ministries – such as Beatitude House and Ursuline Sisters HIV/AIDS Ministry – as many of us continue to retire from active ministry.



Relaxing in the social room are Sister Helen Nordick, Father Joe Blasko and Activity Director Kelly Bancroft.

In mid-October, we welcomed guests at a new fundraiser, OktoberVines. It's a take on two similar fundraisers we'd held pre-COVID for each our Beatitude House and HIV/AIDS ministries. The evening featured beer and wine tastings, dinner, raffles and live music.



OktoberVine fundraiser

As you all know, building, or rebuilding, an event from the ground-up is a lot of work, but we're pleased with community support in our inaugural year and look forward to next fall.

Ursulines of Prelate

From 22 degrees Celsius one day to 1 degree and snow the next, has brought home the reality that winter is on our doorstep. The summer has zipped by, and it was another one with many forest fires, evacuations and smoke-filled days that curtailed a good number of outdoor activities. The Sisters' answer to that were a couple of game days inside a relatively smoke-free atmosphere.



Sr. Teresita Kambeitz recently received an award from the Catholic Media Association. Her article (March 2024 issue; Catholic Missions in Canada), "Who, Me? A Missionary Disciple" won first place in the essay category in Mission Magazines (Overseas and home).

On July 2nd, (a day late) the Sisters celebrated Canada Day at the Generalate at the invitation of Sr. Anne Lewans, congregational leader. They were joined by Carol Abad, Angela Chetty and Tracy Marple. Carol and Angela have worked many years at St. Angela Merici Residence, including when it was still under the direction of the Sisters. Carol was honoured for completing an administrative diploma with a medical major and Angela celebrated her retirement after 18 years of service.

In August, the Sisters gathered for a meeting, in which the leadership team brought everyone up to date on current happenings, endowments, legacies, etc.

On August 15th, the sisters met at St. Angela Merici Residence to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption with the residents there. It is the day that many of the

Sisters made their vows. This year, Sr. Anne Lewans, Sr. Ludvina Scheck and Sr. Theresita Feist celebrated their 65th anniversary. Sr. Bernadette Feist and Sr. Mary Zerr celebrated their 60th.



Jubilarians, from left: Sr. Mary Zerr, Sr. Bernadette Feist, Sr. Anne Lewans, Sr. Theresita Feist, Sr. Ludvina Scheck



The day started with Mass, in which the Sisters, led by Sr. Anne Lewans, renewed their vows. Mass was followed by a delicious meal, accompanied by classical music.

On October 13th, Canadian Thanksgiving, Sr. Anne Lewans invited the Sisters and a couple of guests to a delicious meal at the generalate. The meal, topped off with pumpkin pie, was appreciated and there was lots of laughter and conversation.

National sorority members pay their respects to their Ursuline founder

Special visitors arrived at Maple Mount, Ky., on June 28, 2025, to honor an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph they never met, but who had a profound impact on their lives.

Leanne Robertson said she remembered the day as a schoolgirl when her mother snatched a letter from the mail and disappeared into her room to read it.

"Wow, that must be one special letter, I thought," she said. "She later told me it was 'from Sister.' I was fascinated."

The letter was from Ursuline Sister Mary Celeste McCue. She joined the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph at age 31 in 1927, taught dramatics in the Academy and also taught in the commercial department. After five years, she was assistant bookkeeper for the community treasurer until she was appointed postmaster in 1949, where she served for 11 years. She died in 1966.

It was what Sister Mary Celeste did prior to becoming an Ursuline that continues to resonate with people like Leanne Robertson. In 1925, as Nan McCue, she founded a national sorority called **Kappa Delta Phi**, with its purpose to pursue "sisterly love, loyalty to God and country, intellectual and cultural development, and civic influence on the community." The name was the reverse of the Phi Delta Kappa fraternity.

After two years as its leader, Nan McCue left the sorority and joined the Ursulines. But the sorority members have never forgotten her, especially this year, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the sorority.

There are 19 chapters of Kappa Delta Phi across the country, with the most in Indiana. For the centennial year, the members decided to have their annual gathering in Sister Mary Celeste's hometown of Louisville on June 26-28. At its conclusion, Robertson –

who completed her term as the 54th president – and two other members, who all three live in Arizona, rented a car to drive to Maple Mount so they could visit the grave of Sister Mary Celeste for the first time.

"I knew how much my mother esteemed her," Robertson said. "Without her beginning this sorority, we wouldn't know each other. These women are my best friends."

"We're very dedicated to Sister Mary Celeste," said Aline Barbeau, from Tucson.

Robertson restores old photos as a hobby and worked on a picture of Sister Mary Celeste so that every member at the convention would have their own small copy. She placed the photo in a small bag with a bee charm, and a quote that said, "A bee that makes honey is great, but a bee that makes other bees that make honey is extraordinary." She brought leftover bags to deliver

to Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader, to pass out to the Sisters.



Three Kappa Delta Phi members pose behind Sister Mary Celeste McCue's grave in the cemetery on the grounds of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus on June 29. Left to right are Maureen Schertzer, Leanne Robertson, and Aline Barbeau. They wanted to visit the founder of their sorority.



Leanne Robertson, left, outgoing national president of the Kappa Delta Phi sorority, presents Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, a bag of 'thank you' cards that sorority members wrote during their national convention June 26-28 in Louisville. The sorority was celebrating its 100th anniversary.

National sorority members pay their respects - continued

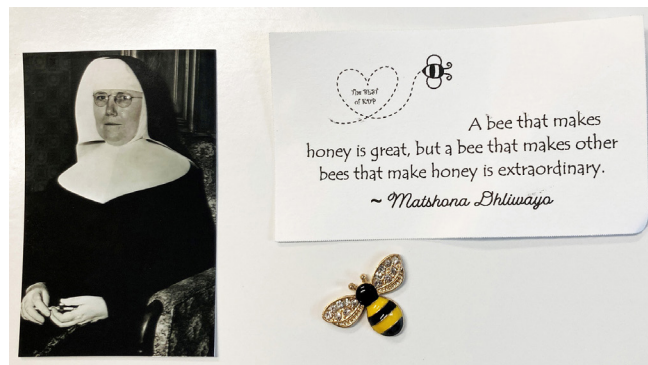
"It's very intimate to work on a photo of a person," Robertson said. "I spent many hours 'painting' it pixel-by-pixel to bring it back to its original condition. The photo was enlarged while I was working on it, I could see her hands holding her rosary. I felt such peace in that moment. She always prayed for us."

During the convention, each of the members wrote "thank you" cards to the Sisters, and Robertson delivered them to Sister Sharon.

Robertson, Barbeau and Maureen Schertzer made the trip to Maple Mount. Each of the women joined the sorority this century. There are 259 members across the country.

"I enjoy the charitable work, the friendship, and the sisterhood," Barbeau said. "I love the rituals and prayers."

Schertzer said a friend inspired her to join. "All the women have such love in their heart for everybody. We get together as groups to do charity work." The sorority raised \$172,000 this year for charity, which supports women and children. They also donate to assist occupational therapists.



In small gift bags, Kappa Delta Phi National President Leanne Robertson provided the members of her sorority with this refurbished photo of Sister Mary Celeste McCue, a bee charm and this quote at their June 26-28 national convention. Robertson brought leftover bags for the Ursuline Sisters at Maple Mount.

The women visited Sister Mary Celeste's grave, then the Chapel, where Sister Sharon told them about its history. They met Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger, who told them as a student at Mount Joseph Academy in the 1950s, it was her job to clean the post office during the years Sister Mary Celeste was postmaster.

"We can say we met someone who knew her," Robertson said.

From the Ursulines of Tildonk

Every year, the Bishop Barres and the Diocese of Rockville Centre celebrate the milestone jubilees of religious sisters and brothers within the diocese with a Mass at The Cathedral of St. Agnes. This year, our Sr. Bridget Olwell was among the honorees as she celebrates her 65th jubilee this year.

(Sr. Bridget is 6th from the right.)



Around the Mount

News from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

Sister Cheryl Clemons takes on new ministry

Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Cheryl Clemons began a new ministry on April 1 as executive director of The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in Charleston. She oversees the spiritual direction program, while Sally Orcutt, who lives in Georgia, is the director of operations, dealing with financials, facilities and technology.



The two new Associates for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph posed with their contact companions after their June 21 pinning ceremony. Left to right: Sister Suzanne Sims, contact for Gayle Sims Bogard of West Virginia, and Amy Fogle Stiff of Owensboro, Ky., with her contact, Sister Cheryl Clemons. Sister Cheryl has started a new ministry in West Virginia.

Sister Cheryl discovered WVIS when she sought a spiritual sabbatical in 2019, and found a mentor in Sister Carole Riley, a Sister of Divine Providence who founded WVIS in 1999. Sister Cheryl graduated from spiritual direction training at WVIS in fall 2020, where she met a kindred spirit in Orcutt, a married woman who is a writer and a lay Dominican tertiary. They were both so influenced by Sister Carole that when she died in November 2024, they applied to be co-directors of WVIS.

“The reason both Sally and I took the joint position was that we both deeply believe God led us both there,” Sister Cheryl said. “We’ve benefitted so much from Sister Carole and all the faculty and staff at WVIS. It has become a real spiritual home for us. As a result, when the opportunity came where we might do our part to

carry on Sister Carole’s legacy and continue the life-changing work of the institute, we both wanted to do what we could do to make that happen. Neither of us wanted the entire job, but together – especially given our friendship and varied gifts, made the collaboration seem inspired. The board agreed and we ‘set out into the deep’ together.”

Sister Cheryl will do much of the job remotely, with likely just a week to 10 days in person each month. She is trained to lead the Spiritual Exercises and the 19th Annotation retreat. Sister Cheryl is also a supervisor for other spiritual directors. She continues to offer spiritual direction, retreat ministry and adult faith formation in the Owensboro, Ky., area.

Brescia University inaugurates new president



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Amelia Stenger congratulates Madison Silvert following the ceremony to install him as the sixth president of Brescia University, Owensboro, Ky., the college founded by the Ursuline Sisters 100 years ago. The first four presidents were Ursuline Sisters, followed by Father Larry Hostetter. Sister Amelia earned a bachelor’s degree from Brescia.

Brescia University inaugurated Madison Silvert as its sixth president on Aug. 15, 2025, at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, Ky. Among the people Silvert thanked were the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, who had the vision to begin Brescia in 1950, 25 years after they opened its forerunner, the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women.

In his inaugural address, Silvert talked about the continued importance of a college education. He also thanked the people who had been role models for him since childhood.

“There is stationery in your pews,” Silvert said. “Please take this home and write a note of thanks to someone who taught you something.”

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Around the Mount

News from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph - continued

Silvert is the first lay person and second non-Ursuline to become Brescia's president. Father Larry Hostetter, who concluded his 18-year term as Brescia president in March, offered the benediction to close the service. Brescia is celebrating its Centennial in 2025.

Sister Judith Nell Riney wins Virtual Library honor

Sister Judith Nell Riney, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph who retired in May as director of library services at Brescia University in Owensboro, is the 2025 winner of the Kentucky Virtual Library Sheree Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the Kentucky Virtual Library through their service to the organization.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Judith Nell Riney, right, is joined by her longtime friend Sister Julia Head after being given an Outstanding Alumna award from Brescia University, Owensboro, Ky., on April 26. Sister Judith Nell, who retired in May after 45 years of library services, was also honored with the 2025 Kentucky Virtual Library Sheree Award.

"Sister Judith has been a respected and beloved colleague in KYVL and across the Commonwealth throughout her 45-year library career," said Ilona Burdette, KYVL executive director. "She was involved when the state was exploring the creation of KYVL more than 25 years ago, and she has continued to contribute to KYVL's mission of making high-quality, affordable library resources available throughout Kentucky ever since."

"I am so grateful that I live in a state that had the wisdom to provide a KYVL for every citizen, no matter their age, race, wealth, or religion," Sister Judith Nell said when receiving the award. "KYVL demonstrates that Kentucky genuinely cares about providing equal educational opportunities for all its members, and I am truly proud to have been a part of this KYVL organization since its beginnings."

Days of Prayer, Fasting and Advocacy

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and many of their Associates and friends responded to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious' call to pray, fast, and advocate for issues affecting our nation and our world. The Sisters chose three days in June, July, and August, and encouraged everyone to pray in the way that resonated most deeply with the Spirit within, and to fast from whatever kept them from being Spirit-led and mission-focused. These were the days chosen:

- **June 26, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**, for immigrants/migrants, survivors of torture, displaced and deported persons, those experiencing loss of due process protections;
- **July 26, Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne**, for vulnerable populations such as those who are elderly, have disabilities, are homeless or live in substandard housing; and
- **August 12, International Youth Day**, for all programs supporting children and youth.

The Sisters are continuing to encourage more days of prayer, fasting and advocacy through the end of the year. Those days are Oct. 21 (Feast of Saint Ursula), Nov. 25 (Feast of Saint Catherine of Alexandria), and Dec. 18 (U.N. International Migrant Day.)

Mount Saint Joseph and Louisville Ursuline Associates gather together

The annual Associates and Sisters Day on June 21 at Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, Ky., included eight Associates affiliated with the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. One of them, Jane Cruthirds, inspired everyone with her keynote presentation on "Angela: A Pilgrim



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Associate Joyce York-Higginbotham, left, of St. Louis, got to know Lisa Steiner, an Associate for the Louisville Ursulines, when several Louisville Ursuline Associates came to the June 21 meeting of the Mount Saint Joseph Associates. Lisa was one of the speakers for the day.

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Around the Mount

News from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph - continued

of Hope.” She talked about her journey as an Ursuline Associate, as a teacher at a Catholic School, and her actual journey to Italy to see some of Angela Merici’s sacred sites.

Three other Associates from Louisville – Lisa Steiner, Theresa Butler, and Patricia Hagan – led a panel discussion about how their Associate group became more independent of the Ursuline Sisters – at the Sisters’ request. The two communities of Associates are looking for future ways they can share prayer and experiences together.



Patricia Hagan, an Associate for the Ursulines of Louisville, smiles as she speaks with Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Joan Riedley who was seated across from her. Sister Joan served as a teacher and parish minister in Louisville for over 35 years. Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Karla Kaelin is seated at left, and Patricia’s fellow Associate from Louisville, Regina Leitner, is seated at right. The Louisville Ursuline Associates presented the main program at the Mount Saint Joseph Associates Day on June 21 in Maple Mount, Ky.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Susan Mary Mudd, left, visits with Rory Polio, an Associate with the Louisville Ursulines, on June 21 in Maple Mount, Ky. Rory wanted to get photos of the day since she and six other Louisville Ursuline Associates were guests at the Mount Saint Joseph Associates Day.

Kindness Campaign reimagined

In these unprecedented times, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph want to urge showing kindness to all of God’s children. As part of this effort, the community has reimagined its Kindness Campaign that began six years ago as a monthly card ministry. Now the Sisters are urging everyone to share stories of those who displayed an act of kindness, in hopes this will inspire others. The Sisters believe that love and kindness will prevail, and it begins with each of us. Acts of kindness can be shared at this address: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/kindness-campaign/>



NAULC Convergence

Vol. 22, No. 3

The deadline for the Spring 2026 issue of NAULC Convergence is February 13, 2026.

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

Ursulines of Toledo

Toledo Archives and WRAC

For the past few years, there has been much activity, many boxes, files, documents, letters, and photos circulating in the Archives at the Convent Offices. The Ursuline Sisters have committed themselves to housing and preserving their archives with the Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) repository, a state-of-the-art, 31,000-square-foot Heritage Center scheduled to open in Cleveland, Ohio sometime in 2026-2027. We are proud to join more than 40 religious congregations across the United States who have committed to housing and preserving our archives through the WRAC Heritage Center.



Brandi Sharlow, Archives Processor for the Toledo Ursulines

In mid-July, the archives of Toledo welcomed the help of Sister Susan Durkin, OSU, Sarah Lubelski, Lead Archivist for WRAC, Laural Wilson, Archivist for the Ursulines of Louisville, Kentucky, and volunteers Sister Susan Zion, Sarah Brown, SUA 2020 and Bella Swansinger, Junior of Perrysburg High School. They spent four days with Brandi Sharlow, our Archives Processor, organizing files and documents, sorting, discarding, marking items to keep or to pass on, making “to-do” lists and more. Through our relationship with WRAC, we find deep comfort in knowing that our legacy will be lovingly safeguarded and shared for years to come.

Feast of St. Ursula, Missioning and Renewal of Commitment

The Feast of St. Ursula, Missioning and Renewal of Commitment took place October 18 in the St. Ursula Academy Chapel with a lovely luncheon following. The Sisters, in response to the Triune God, Creator, Son and Spirit, renewed our vows, relying on God’s fidelity and the promised prayerful presence of St. Angela as

we strive to persevere in the mission entrusted to us. The Associates, who wish to deepen their covenant relationship with Jesus through their association with the Sisters, recommitted themselves to living as witnesses to the Gospel in the spirit of St. Angela. The Sisters and Associates, called by God to live in this holy time, renewed their commitment to invest themselves in the mission of prayer and presence to others.

Silent Prayer Hour

In response to LCWR’s call to participate in 100 Days of Fasting, Advocacy and Prayer for the serious sociopolitical challenges facing the United States, the Ursuline Sisters hosted a Silent Prayer Hour on October 29 in the Ursuline Center Chapel. Toledo Ursuline Sisters and Associates, Sisters from other communities as well as the general public were invited to come to the Chapel for an hour of personal prayer – no speakers, music or discussion – to pray for our world, our country, and anything that weighs heavy on our hearts. This may become a monthly event.



News from the Cleveland Ursulines

Creative Living at Merici Crossings

On Friday, June 27th Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty spoke to the Sisters at Merici Crossing about the new neighbors of Creative Living at Merici Crossing. Medina Creative Housing, through its affiliate Creative Living for Life, has developed 23 “forever homes” for individuals with disabilities in partnership with the Ursuline Sisters. This innovative and inclusive community, soon to be joined by a new Community Center, provides more than just a place to live—it’s a place to belong. Thursday, July 24th a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for future residents and their families, representatives from Ohio politicians, Mayor Richard Bain, the mayor of Pepper Pike, Medina Creative Housing Board of Trustees, Creative Living for Life Board of Trustees and approximately 30 Ursuline Sisters. Beginning in August through October, residents from 20-61 years of age will be moving into their homes, some with caretakers and some living alone.

Continuing the 175th Celebrations

The annual Cleveland Ursuline Assembly began on Friday, July 11th with a prayer ritual remembering our foundresses from France and all our Sisters who have gone before us. We viewed a video and prayed for our Sisters buried at Calvary Cemetery and then in procession travelled to All Souls Cemetery where our Sisters have been most recently buried and prayed for them at the burial sites for traditional burial and cremation and natural burial. A dogwood tree had been planted at the sites and blessed. We prayed together in gratitude to a Loving God as we celebrated the eternal circle of life, the Gift of Creation. After returning to Merici Crossings, we gathered in chapel to sing “Veni Angela” that was recorded for later celebrations. After lunch, guest speakers who had ministered with us at our sponsored institutions spoke to us about their experience and our challenge for the future. Our guests were Peggy Connell, former guidance counselor and principal at Beaumont School; her husband, Jim Connel, former professor at Ursuline College; Dorothy Valerian, graduate of Beaumont School and Ursuline College; Lisa Valerian Yahey, Beaumont alumna; Dorothy Russo Moulthrop, Beaumont alumna and current president of the Beaumont Board of Trustees, and her husband, Dan Moulthrop, Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland City Club who facilitated the program. The challenge they gave to us Ursulines is to keep our light shining by

following in the footsteps of St. Angela. The day ended with a light supper.



On Saturday, July 12th a dinner opened the festivities followed by a St. Angela Pilgrimage presentation by those who had travelled to Italy in May. Sisters Mary Ellen Brinovec and Lisa Marie Belz organized the pilgrimage for our Sisters and associates. Sisters Elaine



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News from the Cleveland Ursulines - *continued*



Berkopec, Lois Buck, and Mary Eileen Boyle along with a friend, Marilyn Belevic were among the pilgrims.

After small group sharing and an 175th Anniversary Year overview, Bishop Amos celebrated Liturgy with us. The day ended with a light supper and a treat from an ice cream truck that arrived to cool us on a very hot and humid day filled with memories.

OSU Congregation Retreat

From Friday, July 18th until July 24th forty-nine Ursuline Sisters participated in a retreat focusing on Prophetic Practices for Contemplative Living directed by Dr. Nicki Verploegen, lay missionary, spiritual and retreat director, and co-founder of TATENDA International, caring for caregivers of the World. Silence, sharing stories, stillness, solitude, surrender and solidarity were major parts of the retreat.

Ground Breaking for WRAC

On Tuesday, July 22, groundbreaking was held for the Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) for forty-five congregations in the United States and Canada. Sister Susan Durkin, OSU, Executive Director of WRAC, began with an overview of the impact women religious have had since their arrival in the US in the 1700's. This was followed with comments from Brian Smith, WRAC Owner's Representative, Health Tech Development, LLP about the importance of religious Sisters to education and health as providers and caregivers. A Litany of Congregational Foundresses was then read, and medals were placed in the dirt. Afterwards, Most Reverend Michael Woost, Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, gave a blessing and sprinkled

holy water on the ground and medals. The formal groundbreaking was accomplished by three groups: the Bishop and WRAC Team, Congregational Leaders and members of the Design and Construction Team. After closing remarks by Sister Susan, all were invited for refreshments at the Alere restaurant in the Jerry Sue Thornton Center. The official opening of WRAC Heritage Center is scheduled for 2027.

From August 8, 1850 to August 8, 2025

To commemorate the arrival of Mother Mary of the Annunciation Beaumont, Mother St. Charles, Mother des Seraphines, Sister St. Benoit and Arabella Seymour (later Mother St. Austin) from France at the request of Cleveland's first bishop, Amadeus Rappe, the Cleveland Ursulines held a prayer service in the Merici Crossings Chapel.



Official Opening of 175th Celebrations

On Sunday, August 10, a joyful afternoon of remembrances of faith, service and community was celebrated by 430 Sisters, families, friends, former

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From the Cleveland Ursulines - continued

students and faculties from schools formerly and some presently staffed by the Cleveland Ursulines. Admission was free for the party held at the Ursuline College campus parking lot. Snacks and beverages were provided by women-owned food vendors and entertainment provided by the Murphy Irish Dancers and a local magician. Sister Laura Bregar, President of the Cleveland Ursulines and co-chairs of the 175th committee introduced the day.



Company of St. Ursula – Connecting Globally

On September 14, 2025, forty-two members, which included those in formation and the formators, introduced themselves and then prayed the rosary together in six different languages – English, Polish, French, Slovak, Swahili, and Malagasy. The joy of meeting together even with online hiccups was palpable! Thank you to our Federation Council members for organizing this online gathering across many time zones!



News from the Cincinnati Ursulines

A New Role for Sr. Eileen

Cincinnati Ursuline Eileen Connelly, who has worked with the Franciscan friars since 2021, recently transferred from the Department of Communications & Engagement to the Department of Mission Integration. In her new role as mission integration liaison, Eileen will assist the department in ensuring the Franciscan charism, values and heritage are embedded across the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe's sponsored ministries. She will also serve as the primary point of contact between board chairs, executive directors and provincial leadership. "I'm looking forward to this opportunity to assist the friars and their ministries as they continue their long, rich history of ministry to the poor and marginalized, entering people's everyday lives as heralds of God's reign and agents of Gospel peace," Eileen said.



Larry Ford, OFM, secretary of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, presented Eileen Connelly, OSU, with flowers on behalf of the friars in honor of her silver jubilee in 2024.

A Win-Win Situation

"There's nothing more energizing for me than spending time with young children!" So says Sr. Margie Efke. Margie has been serving as a tutor in Making Sense of Language Arts (MSLA), a tutoring program for kindergarteners. Founded over 30 years ago by a member of Margie's parish, in partnership with the Women's City Club, the program has always been implemented in one of the underserved Cincinnati Public Schools.

The curriculum lays the foundations for reading by

introducing the child to the sounds and shapes of the letters of the alphabet. Rather than using the typical "alphabetical order," sounds are introduced in the order that infants most readily make when learning to speak.

Key strengths of the program are its ease of use and its one-on-one attention to the child. Tutors develop a comfortable relationship with the individual child, offering consistency to those whose home/family environments may not provide that. The curriculum is flexible, able to be adjusted to the child's needs.

"It's easy for the child to be successful. Tutors provide positive reinforcement, which supports the child's sense of accomplishment and self-worth," states Sue Ivory, one of the volunteer directors of MSLA.

Tutors are primarily senior citizen members of Margie's and Sue's parish, of the Women's City Club, and of the local Jesuit volunteer group. Fitting easily into that demographic, Margie began as a substitute a few years ago. This is her third year as a regular once-a-week tutor.

"As a tutor, I find great satisfaction in the accomplishments of my student. As a former school counselor, tutoring gives me a 'kid-fix' that offers a balance to service to my Ursuline Sisters and my day-to-day interaction with other adults. While I do have young family members that I see somewhat regularly, my tutoring allows me to make a difference in the life of a child who may need a little extra support from a caring adult. It's a 'win-win situation.'"



The classroom bulletin board illustrates the order in which MSLA introduces the letters to the students.

An Update from the Louisville Ursulines

Celebrating 60 Years of Santa Angela Merici School in Callao, Peru

The week of October 4, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of our school, Santa Angela Merici, in Carmen de la Legua, Peru. Sisters Rita Ann Wigginton (leadership representative), Kathy Neely and Mary Jo Gramig traveled to Peru for the week's



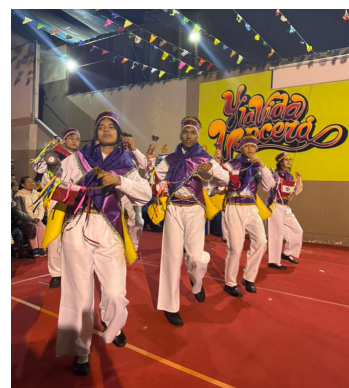
Archbishop Luis Alberto Pacheco celebrating Mass.



PreK–12th grade students performed during the Saturday event.

events along with Communications Director and Associate Kathy Rice, and Associate Rory Polio. Sisters Sue Scharfenberger and Yuli Oncihuay, who serve as promoters at the school, were very involved in planning the week's activities.

On Sunday, we gathered with the Associates of Callao for sharing, food, and of course, dancing! On Monday, Archbishop Luis Alberto Pacheco celebrated Mass with students, families and staff. We were honored by meeting with the archbishop, local priests and school administrators after the Mass for conversation and refreshments. On Friday evening, we enjoyed a very creative, original play about St. Angela's life. Saturday was the big event: "Create, love and act, and life will prevail" was the theme. It was a showcase of the different grades interpreting the theme of "Community, Respect, Service and Leadership" through words, music and dance, reflecting their Peruvian heritage. A highlight of the evening was a video greeting from the two founders of the school, Srs. Lee Kirchner and Mary Martha Staarman. ¡Viva Colegio Parroquial Santa Angela Merici!



Sacred Heart Schools and Ursuline Sisters Celebrate New STEM Center Blessing

On September 24, Archbishop Shelton Fabre blessed the new Ursuline Innovation STEM Center during a special liturgy and ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Sacred Heart Schools and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. The 6,000-square-foot facility, housed in the historic Ursuline Sisters Laundry Building behind the Motherhouse, represents a collaborative vision launched from discussions between the Ursuline Sisters' leadership team and Sacred Heart's President Dr. Karen McNay about their shared commitment to Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Archbishop Fabre spoke to those gathered, saying the Center "will soon be a busy hub of activity where students, faculty, and staff may come to study, to learn, to share fellowship, and to give witness

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An Update from the Louisville Ursulines - *continued*

to our faith in Jesus Christ and our wise use of all that he has entrusted to our care.”

The Center features the Ursuline Environmental Education Program and the Ann Cowley Wells Design Lab, offering K-12 students hands-on learning experiences in environmental science, engineering, sustainability, and technology through a Catholic lens. Sister Jean Anne Zappa, President of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, said, “We are excited that our commitment to Laudato Si’ is becoming a reality with the creation of the Ursuline Environmental Education Program and Ursuline Innovation STEM Center. It is our hope that this learning facility will prove to be fruitful ground for Sacred Heart students, as they experience first-hand the love of creation as Pope Francis envisioned. Our vision is that they in turn share this love of creation with their families and others in ever-expanding circles of connection.” The Center opens this fall.



L-R: Ursuline President Jean Anne Zappa, Archbishop Fabre, SHS President Karen McNay and SHS Board Chair Mary Ashlock.

Angeline Award

What a beautiful celebration for the Angeline Award on Sunday, October 19, 2025! In this final year of the



L-R: Karen Cassidy and Missy Bartlett with awards.

Angeline Award and during the 500th anniversary of St. Angela's pilgrimage, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville were honored to present both nominees with special recognition at the Mass in our Motherhouse Chapel.

Karen Cassidy received the Angeline Award for her transformative work at Hildegard House, providing compassionate end-of-life care for Kentucky's most vulnerable.

Missy Bartlett received our special “St. Angela Merici: Pilgrim of Hope” Award for her many years shaping young hearts and minds through Ursuline education at Sacred Heart Academy.

These remarkable women embody St. Angela's spirit of service, education, and love.

Angela Merici Virtual Pilgrimage Videos Now have Spanish Subtitles!

Spanish language update to our “Walk with Angela” virtual

pilgrimage! Once you click on the active links on the map, it will take you to the videos narrated by our Ursuline Sisters. You may now choose between the video in English, or a version with Spanish subtitles. ¡Excelente!

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/walkwithangela/>



“In the Company of Change” documentary

Filmmaker Morgan Atkinson revisits the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville forty years after his first documentary about the community: A Change in Order. Atkinson uses the life of Sister Martha Buser as a lens through which to view changes of the past 60-plus years in the religious and cultural landscape of America. Rare, evocative film footage captures a bygone era in the life of the Catholic Church. When Martha entered the community in 1949, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Kentucky

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An Update from the Louisville Ursulines - *continued*

numbered almost 600 sisters. When Sr. Martha passed away in 2023, fewer than 40 sisters remained. Their median age is 85.

However, the new film “is not a requiem for the Ursulines,” Atkinson says, “rather a clear-eyed look at many faith-filled lives and one in particular.” It’s something of a tribute to Sr. Martha, whom Atkinson interviewed numerous times from 1985 through 2023. Over the years, they developed a close friendship, and Sister Martha became Atkinson’s spiritual director. Father James Martin, S.J., who knew Sister Martha well, says of the film: “Martha Buser was one of the most creative, most life-giving and most prayerful people I’ve ever met. Like so many Ursulines, she taught not only how to pray, but how to live as a Christian and a Catholic. This beautiful documentary is a tribute not only to her but to an entire community of holy women.”

You may view the one-hour documentary Here:
https://youtu.be/cRws0Q8hop8?si=JOMGfK3FBMh_Y9WJ



Sr. Martha Buser on her First Communion day, and as an Ursuline Sister.

No Kings March

Several of our Ursulines participated in the October 18 “No Kings” March in downtown Louisville, and neighboring St. Matthews. The march drew thousands in Louisville. We wanted to show support for the marginalized and all those suffering under the current administration.



L-R: Archivist Laurel Wilson, Sisters Agnes Coveney, Jean Anne Zappa, Janet M. Peterworth and Kathy Neely at the “No Kings” march.

Sr. Martha Buser Spirit Award

Dianne Aprile, an acclaimed Louisville writer, was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Sister Martha Buser Spirit Award for 2025. The newly created award honors individuals who embody the values of the late Ursuline Sister Martha Buser, including commitment to spiritual life, respect for all people, and resilience in vocation. Aprile, who was taught by Sister Buser (then Sister Olga) at Sacred Heart Academy in the 1960s, credited her former teacher with providing the foundation for both her 30-year journalism career and her current work teaching writing at Spalding University’s MFA program.

Aprile has distinguished herself as a journalist, poet, and author of five books. She was part of a Courier-Journal team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 1989 and currently teaches nonfiction writing while completing a Kentucky-based memoir. The award, presented by the Company of St. Angela—a spirituality group co-founded by Sister Buser—was given on October 17 alongside a lecture by celebrated author Kathleen Norris.



Dianne Aprile accepting the Sister Martha Buser Spirit Award.

An Update from the Louisville Ursulines - *continued*

Ursulines in Ministry Video Series

Our video series continues as we explore the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville through video storytelling. You may now view videos on our website featuring Srs. Kathy Neely and Mary Martha Staarman in their ministry as Spanish language interpreters at Family Community Clinic in Louisville. It is a free clinic for the medically uninsured, and a video featuring Sr. Mary Jo Gramig, in her ministry as an assistant in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/sisters-in-ministry/>

Community Days and Celebrating Our Jubilarians

On Monday, June 23, we gathered for Community Days with the theme "On The Journey With Wisdom and Love/En El Viaje Con Sabiduría Y Amor." Highlights on Wednesday, June 25 included a surprise video announcement that Sr. Janet M. Peterworth received Christian Help's Founder's Pathfinders Award, a review of our Planning in Faith document, and an engaging brain health session led by retired gerontologist Jane Thibault that included members of our Ursuline Health Team.

On Friday, June 27, we celebrated four jubilarians with Mass and a reception: Sisters Janet Marie Peterworth (70 years), Ruth Ann Haunz (60 years), Paula Kleine-Kracht (60 years), and Rita Ann Wigginton (60 years). We also held a missioning ceremony for our Sisters and coworkers, and the Associates held their missioning ceremony on June 29.



2025 Jubilarians, L-R: Paula Kleine-Kracht, Ruth Ann Haunz, Rita Ann Wigginton, Janet M. Peterworth.

HOPE 2025

Yuli Oncihuay reflects on her amazing experience at the recent **HOPE 2025** gathering, hosted by **The Leadership Collaborative** in Rome this month.

HOPE 2025 united approximately 200 women religious under 65 years of age representing six continents and five distinct language traditions. Throughout five days, these sisters formed meaningful connections, shared in collective mourning and joy, and discerned their call at this pivotal moment in the Church.

You may read her reflection here:

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/my-journey-to-rome-hope-2025-conference-reflection/>



Sr. Yuli Oncihuay, second from right, with fellow conference attendees.



Sister Patricia Dipple (Sister Joseph Francis)
(Cleveland)
Sister Mary Denis Lessard (Central Province)
Sister Maria Goretti Bernier (Central Province)
Sister Ann Marie Owen (Central Province)
Sister Joan McCarthy (Eastern Province)
Sister Paula Kleine-Kracht (Louisville)
Sister Mary Angela Gaietto (Toledo)



Central Province Ursulines offer enrichment activities at Mother of Perpetual Help

Slowing down is one thing for the Ursulines Sisters living at Mother of Perpetual Help assisted-living residence in St. Louis, but stopping is quite another. Ursulines living there remain active and engaged. And true to form, these lifelong learners and teachers share their interests and experiences with those around them. Here are the ways some sisters have found to add enrichment to their new environment.

Sister Mary Jacqueline Pratt

Although she had hosted a few earlier gatherings, Sister Mary Jacqueline began facilitating Scripture sharing at Mother of Perpetual Help in earnest on March 17, 2020—the day after the assisted-living residence went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown ended many months later, but Sister Mary Jacqueline never ended what she, along with the activity director at the time, had begun.



“During the lockdown, priests could not come in so there was no daily Mass,” she says. “We started the Scripture sharing/prayer to help fill the void. The activity director helped me get things set up, and the chapel was almost full each day. Franciscan Sisters, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Ursulines and many other residents all came. It was a grace-filled time of sharing. When I began the scripture services, the chapel was almost full. We had music, the daily Scripture reading and sharing. Afterward, we fielded questions about the scripture or other things about the church. We called it “catechetical chitchat.”

Nine months into the pandemic, Sister Mary Jacqueline cut back on the sessions but continued them three times a week until Mass started again. Scripture sharing

is now held once a week on Friday afternoons. “We were moved to a smaller room, so we have a smaller group, but two of the lay people who started with us still come.”

Recently she has enlisted others to take turns leading the Scripture readings. “It was getting to be too much for me. I’m old and I’m tired,” she says laughingly. “I asked the group if somebody else would help but initially got no takers. Then more of our sisters moved here and they agreed to help.”

These Fridays you will find Sisters Glenda Bourgeois, Madonna O’Hara, Sue Ann Cole or Pauline Lorch rotating with Sister Mary Jacqueline in leading the sessions. Lay co-workers Linda Borchardt and Sharon Hartman, who visit the sisters at Mother of Perpetual Help regularly, often attend and eventually will lead a session. “It has been a good experience to have the others help,” Sister Mary Jacqueline says. “There is such enrichment in how people approach prayer time.

“Every time I do it, I feel I’m being probed by the scripture. The whole purpose is to share how it speaks to us. It’s a way to get to know others and find out how much we have in common.

“It’s been a growing experience,” she adds. “Ursulines have always been blessed with encouragement to continue to study and grow.”

Sister Glenda Bourgeois



When Sister Glenda Bourgeois moved from Dallas, Texas, to Mother of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri, she brought her passions for learning and service with her. Not one to be idle, she thought about what she wanted to focus on at this point in her life and decided it was engagement as a citizen.

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Central Province Ursulines offer enrichment activities at Mother of Perpetual Help - *continued*

“Why do I want to be engaged?” she asks rhetorically. “The answer is to understand deeply the issues of today.” After deciding on this path for herself, the former history teacher thought about engaging her fellow residents in her pursuit.

“When I arrived here in March, I told the event planner I would like to invite any interested resident to become an engaged citizen. Eighteen residents responded to the invitation. I investigated resources and found two great ones in Kathleen Farrell with the League of Women Voters and Marie Kenyon with the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Beginning in April, a speaker from the league comes once a month to talk to the group. “They are non-political and explore the issues in depth. They have worked with us on the steps of how to be engaged, names to contact, and plans to follow up on calls,” Sister Glenda says.

Likewise, a representative from the archdiocese began sending someone once a month to speak on issues such as racism, immigration, the environment, money and politics, the injustice of greed and the death penalty. “The focus is on how people of faith can impact injustice,” Sister Glenda says.

Over the months, the program has evolved, with as many as 40 people now attending the sessions, Sister Glenda says. “I feel strong unity within the group. The interest is palpable. We open the floor to questions, and there is lots of back and forth.”

Having shown her skill at developing a robust enrichment activity, Sister Glenda recently was asked by the activities director to plan a prayer for peace. And that’s just fine with this 87-year-old. “I feel like my motor is still running,” she says.

Sister Pauline Lorch and Sister Sue Anne Cole

When Sisters Pauline Lorch and Sue Anne Cole found they shared an interest in the history of Native Americans, they collaborated to offer a series of talks on their studies as an enrichment activity for their fellow

residents at Mother of Perpetual Help.

“My motive for beginning the study of Native Americans was to try to understand the history of Missouri,” says Sister Pauline. The multi-award-winning book, “Indigenous Missourians: Ancient Societies to the Present,” by Greg Olson was her entryway into the world of Missouri’s Indigenous people dating back centuries.



Meanwhile, Sister Sue Anne, who says she has great respect of long standing for Indigenous peoples, had been reading the New York Times bestseller “An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.

What the sisters learned was not the white-washed version of the history of Native Americans and their relationship with colonists commonly taught in schools. They say there was much information they did not know, and that they thought others might not know either, so they offered to share what they had learned as an enrichment program at their residence.

“The truth of how Indigenous people were treated in Missouri and throughout the United States is painful,” says Sister Sue Anne. “An example is the rampant destruction of the mounds in Missouri that were Native Americans’ burial grounds and places of worship in St. Louis, which was known as Mound City in pre-colonial times up to the 19th century. Urban development led to their systematic destruction. Native peoples would come to places the mounds had been and weep.”

As they explored the history of Native Americans in Missouri and beyond, the sisters discovered many harrowing stories of their mistreatment by the white settlers, including by William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame, who in his role as head of Indian affairs for the

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Central Province Ursulines offer enrichment activities at Mother of Perpetual Help - *continued*

Louisiana territory treated the Indigenous people like animals.

"We didn't know how many residents would be interested in learning about all of this, but they were very responsive," Sister Sue Anne says. "Thirty-four people came to our first session in March, and they said they would come to hear more." Due to the positive response, the sisters held two more talks. They say they

have no immediate plans to do more but have not ruled it out for the future.

Of the experience, Sister Pauline says her first joy was in discovering the information herself, the second in the reception she and Sister Sue Anne received in sharing it. As to its relevance, she adds: "Think about what's happening today. Do you see any of this now?"

Central Province missions new leadership team

The Ursuline Sisters of the Central Province missioned a new leadership team with a prayer service on June 19 at the Ursulines' provincial offices in Kirkwood. Serving for the next five years are Sister Peggy Moore, OSU, provincial; Sister Susan Kienzler, OSU, councilor; and Sister Lois Castillon, OSU, councilor.

Sister Peggy Moore is a graduate of Ursuline Academy in Springfield, Illinois. She has served as a high school science, math and theology teacher as well as in high school campus ministry, most recently at Ursuline Academy in St. Louis. She also has served the Central Province in leadership as a local prioress and the provincial prioress. She returns to the role of provincial prioress after serving the past five years as a provincial councilor.

Sister Susan Kienzler is a graduate of Ursuline Academy, Springfield, Illinois. Previous ministry experiences included teaching high school chemistry, math and religion. Later she served as a guidance counselor and a principal. After 10 years as vocation director, she served in Rome as the director of an international renewal program for the Ursuline Sisters. She also has served in leadership roles at the local and provincial levels.



Serving on the Ursulines' 2025-30 leadership team are, from left, Sister Susan Kienzler, councilor; Sister Peggy Moore, provincial; and Sister Lois Castillon, councilor.

Sister Lois Castillon is a graduate of Ursuline Academy of St. Louis and has ministered in Illinois, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas and California as a teacher and in leadership positions at parish schools, Ursuline secondary schools and in the Central and Western provinces. She also served as director of Ursuline Education Services for Ursuline schools in North America. She returns to St. Louis after serving at Ursuline Academy in Dallas, Texas, for the past 22 years.

Celebrating with our Jubilarians

65 Years

Sister Anne Lewans (Prelate)
Sister Ludvina Scheck (Prelate)
Sister Theresita Feist (Prelate)
Sister Bridget Olwell (Tildonk)

60 Years

Sister Bernadette Feist (Prelate)
Sister Mary Zerr (Prelate)



Matthew 9:37-38 NIV

*Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field.”*



Ursulines of the Eastern Province

Honoring the Jubilee Year of Hope: A Season of Celebration, Pilgrimage, and Advocacy

The Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province marked the Jubilee 2025 Year with a series of meaningful events centered on faith, hope, and care for creation.



*Srs. Alice Marie Giordano, OSU and
Theresa Eppridge, OSU*

A



*Participants engaging in a prayer rally along the
river's edge before boarding the Clearwater Sloop*

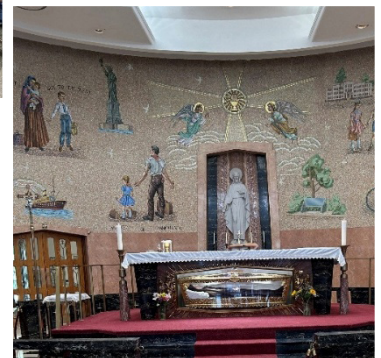
Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation

On Friday, September 5, 2025, Ursuline Sisters Alice Marie Giordano, OSU, Bernadette MacKay, OSU, and Theresa Eppridge, OSU joined 45 Catholic Sisters and other people of faith on a *Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation* along the Hudson River. The sail, organized by Religious Organizations Along the River (ROAR) and the Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement, aimed to raise awareness about pollution threatening the Hudson and to promote ecological justice.

The day began with a prayer rally along the river's edge, followed by a three-hour sail aboard the historic *Clearwater Sloop*. During the journey, participants learned about the river's water quality and marine life and engaged in meaningful dialogue with environmental leaders.

Catholic Sisters from ten congregations joined the pilgrimage, including the Sisters of Charity of New York, Dominican Sisters of Hope, Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, Sisters of the Divine Compassion, and the Maryknoll Sisters. They were joined by an Episcopal monk from Holy Cross Monastery, members of the Laudato Si' Movement, and representatives from environmental organizations such as Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, and the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Seminary.

On Thursday, September 25, the group reconvened to reflect on the experience and share insights from their time on the river—a testament to the power of faith communities working together for the care of our common home.

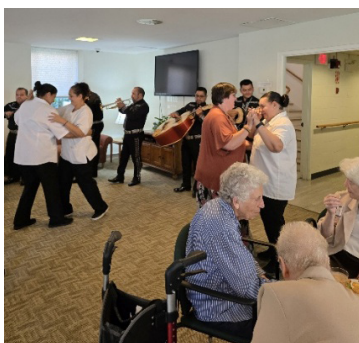


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Ursulines of the Eastern Province - *continued*

Pilgrimage to the Mother Cabrini Shrine

On Tuesday, September 16, the Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province made a pilgrimage to the Mother Cabrini Shrine in honor of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Guided by the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*, the Jubilee invites us to renew our trust in God and rekindle hope amid the world's ongoing challenges—war, the lingering effects of the pandemic, and the climate crisis. During their visit, the Sisters toured the chapel, museum, and exhibits celebrating St. Frances Cabrini's enduring legacy of compassion, love, and service. The experience served as a spiritual renewal and a call to continue walking in faith and hope.



sounds of a mariachi band that inspired dancing and laughter.

The day was a beautiful reflection of the Jubilee Year's spirit—one of gratitude, joy, and renewed hope in God's promise of love made visible through the lives of consecrated women and men.



A Jubilee Celebration at Andrus

The Ursuline Sisters brought the spirit of the Jubilee celebration to our beloved Sisters residing at Andrus on the Hudson nursing home. The gathering began with prayer and song which set a tone of gratitude and joy. This was followed by a delicious meal. The afternoon was filled with laughter and conversation, reminding attendees of the deep bonds that unite the Ursuline community. As the Jubilee Year continues, moments like these serve as a beautiful reminder of the strength found in unity and the joy of living a life dedicated to service, love, and prayer.



Celebration of Consecrated Life

The season of celebration culminated on Sunday, October 5, 2025, when women religious from various congregations joined the Ursuline Sisters at the Province Center for the Celebration of Consecrated Life in anticipation of the Jubilee of Consecrated Life (October 8–9). This special observance within the Holy Year honors those who have devoted their lives to religious service. The joyful gathering began with prayer, tambourines, and uplifting music in the chapel, followed by a lively reception in the Angela Garden Room. Guests enjoyed light refreshments, fellowship, and the spirited

Mount Saint Ursula Celebrates Its 170th Year Anniversary

This past October, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula (AMSU) proudly celebrated its 170th anniversary of empowering young women through faith, scholarship, and leadership. Founded in 1855, AMSU holds the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating all-girls Catholic high school in New York State. To mark this historic milestone, the celebration held a **Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 2:00**

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Ursulines of the Eastern Province - *continued*

p.m. at **St. Patrick's Cathedral** in Manhattan. The festivities continued on Monday, when **Cardinal Timothy Dolan** visited the school to bless its newly dedicated prayer space an inspiring symbol of AMSU's enduring Ursuline spirit.



The Company's Holy Year Pilgrims

Marie Chantal Mukuluku of the Company of St. Ursula of Canada and the USA was among 36 members of Companies from around the world who made the Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life. The memory of St. Angela's Holy Year 1525 pilgrimage, 500 years ago, enriched their experience.

Marie Chantal is pictured (left) with Valeria, the President of the Federation of Companies of St. Ursula, Vohangy of Madagascar, and Chiara of Italy.

The secular Ursuline group celebrated the Eucharist in a Vatican chapel.

They shared the joy of their global unity with each other and with the 16,000 consecrated women and men gathered for the event in October. They wound their way through the streets of Rome from basilica to basilica, praying as pilgrims have done for centuries. Other liturgies and inspirational presentations filled the days. Pope Leo presided and preached to the pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.



Marie Chantal, Valeria, Vohangy, and Chiara



St. Peter's Square



Company pilgrims celebrate Eucharist in the Vatican chapel.



The Ursuline Education Network opened the 2025-2026 school year with a conference on artificial intelligence for administrators and teachers. Entitled ***Times and Circumstances, A-I in the Ursuline Classroom***, educators from seven UEN member schools gathered on September 26 at Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati to hear from knowledgeable, A-I practitioners in the field of education and law. Keynote Michael Beck opened the conference by unveiling successful strategies from *Code for Kids*, a Cincinnati non-profit teaching children responsible use of technology. His examples provided incorporation of A-I within the classroom environment. From there, the focus pivoted to A-I policy and implementation through an Ursuline-customized work session created by Michael. Participants were required to critically examine existing use and ongoing policy creation for their schools. Topics included writing mission-aligned AI policy, A-I use with academic integrity, stakeholder communication strategies for building trust with faculty, staff, students, parents and boards of trustees, and serviam in the digital age: AI for personalized learning & diverse needs. The afternoon speakers included Zachary Heck, of Taft Law Firm from Dayton, OH and Dr. Andrew Cullison who is the founding executive director of The Cincinnati Ethics Center at the University of Cincinnati. Zach spent about an hour reviewing top legal concerns of A-I in private schools and fielded questions of pressing concern from participants. As an ethics center director, Dr. Andrew Cullison specializes in K-12 ethics education for teachers. He shared best-practice examples from his work at UC, and as a parent. Additionally, Dr. Cullison gave an overview of the recently opened Center for Explainable, Ethical, and Trustworthy A-I (CEET), a first-of-its-kind hub

for humanities-based research and public engagement on the societal dimensions of artificial intelligence at the University of Cincinnati. UEN member schools will have the opportunity to partner with UC/CEET in utilizing A-I education programs for students in the coming months.

It's a full circle moment now that curriculum writing is underway with teachers who participated in the June Italy pilgrimage, ***Life and Legacy of St. Angela Merici***. With the pilgrimage behind us, lessons are being developed for K-12 students and will encompass three units:

Prologue, world history before and during the founding of St. Angela's Company of Women, *Contemplation in Action*, implementation of Merician spirituality within classroom settings and *According to the Times*, modern approaches to utilizing Angela's influence through daily practice of Ursuline core values. Participating teachers will be writing and sharing content through February 2026, after which, lessons will be made broadly available to UEN schools. We remain grateful to the schools and the Ursuline sister communities who provided support for educators on pilgrimage, empowering us to put our "whole soul into the enterprise" of curriculum development!

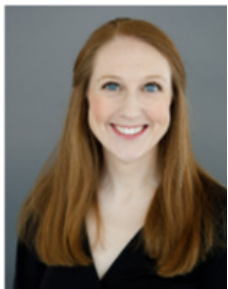
Network schools will celebrate the Feast of St. Ursula in October with guest presenter Dr. Margaret Gower, Vice-President for Mission and Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. Co-hosted by the Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati, and Ursuline Companions of Cincinnati,



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URSULINE
EDUCATION
NETWORK



Dr. Gower will share her insight, wit and wisdom from years of literary study on ***Historic Women of the Church***. She will offer a virtual session open to all UEN schools

on Monday October 20, followed by an in-person presentation to students at St. Ursula Academy, in Cincinnati. Adults have been invited to hear her presentation during an evening dinner and dialogue. On Tuesday October 21, Dr. Gower will speak at Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati, in celebration of St. Ursula's feast day.



"Visit your sisters often and get to know the community well, especially when you have reason to celebrate."

St. Angela's 5th counsel

QUILT BINGO WINNERS



Quilt Bingo winner Susan Damin of Owensboro, Ky., stands with Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Cecelia Joseph "C.J." Olinger on Sept. 14 in Maple Hall, Maple Mount, Ky. Susan was one of 35 happy quilt winners, and she chose the "Christmas Star" quilt. More than 200 people attended the Ursuline Sisters' annual fundraising event.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Jacinta Powers greets Associate Mary Teder, who made a few of the many quilts offered at the winners at Quilt Bingo on Sept. 14 at Maple Mount. Mary ended up winning a quilt herself, so she was among the 35 lucky winners. Sister Jacinta was busy selling half pot tickets.

