

NAULC

Convergence

“To Move Toward the Same Purpose Together”

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Spring 2026

Cleveland Ursulines: Continuing the 175th Anniversary Celebration

A Recognition Luncheon was held for the families and friends of the Cleveland Ursulines on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at the InterContinental in Cleveland. Over 300 extended family joined the Ursuline Sisters in thanksgiving and to honor the enduring mission.

Sister Laura Bregar, President of the Cleveland Ursulines, welcomed all and gave opening remarks. The Celebration Host was Mr. James Connell, a longtime friend of the Ursulines as well as former professor at Ursuline College and husband of Peggy Connell, former teacher, guidance counselor

and first non-Ursuline principal at Beaumont School, and parents of three Beaumont alumnae. Reverend Thomas M. Dragga gave the opening blessing. The 175th Anniversary Video produced by Goldfarb Weber Creative Media with Halle Weber Cecora, writer and producer and Mary Moran, project manager, was shown. Then an



Sister Laura Bregar, President



Sister Cynthia Glavac, Archivist



Sisters Lisa Marie Belz, Jennifer Corlett, and Mary Ellen Brinovec

Introduction to the Anniversary Book: *Bonds of Charity* was given by the author, Richard Osborne, and editor and archivist, Sister Cynthia Glavac, OSU.

After the luncheon, guests were invited to view an exhibit of Ursuline historical artifacts and given the opportunity to record their personal Ursuline story. Conclusion and words of gratitude were given by Sister Maureen Grady, OSU.

Official Book Launch

On Sunday, November 9th from 1:00-2:30 PM an official book launch was held at Loganberry Books in Cleveland Heights for families and friends of the Cleveland Ursulines to buy *Bonds of Charity*, the 175th Anniversary book. Author, Richard Osborne, editor and Archivist, Sister Cynthia Glavac, OSU, Project Manager, Michele Fusco Scoccola and Book Designer, Linda Schellentragger were present to give explanations of the book and answer questions. Refreshments were served, and all the books brought to the event were sold.



"Bonds of Charity"



Richard Osborne, Author, and Sister Cynthia Glavac



Tri-Community Celebration At Regina

On Sunday, November 16, 2025, Sisters from the Incarnate Word Congregation, Charity Sisters of

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Cleveland Ursulines: Continuing the 175th Anniversary Celebration, *continued*



Sisters Susan Bremer, Therese Martin and Linda Martin

St. Augustine and the Cleveland Ursulines met to share thanksgiving remembrances with each other and renew acquaintances with those we met on various stops on our life journey. We prayed together and shared refreshments before we left later in the afternoon.



Sister Laura Bregar (top left) enjoys conversation with sisters.



Ursuline Sisters Barbara Jean (center) and Carol Pelegrin (right) enjoy conversation with IW and SOC sisters

Forty-Fifth Celebration Of Martyrdom

St. Dominic Parish in Shaker Heights, Ohio hosted a celebration of Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU and the three Church Women martyred with her in El Salvador in 1980 by honoring the President of COAR, Mary Stevenson, an alumna of Beaumont School, who knew Sister Dorothy before she went to El Salvador



Mary Stevenson and Sister Laura Bregar



Sisters (l-r) Sheila Marie Tobbe, Maureen Grady, Martha Owen, Diane Stano, Cheryl Mentkowski, Mary McNuty, and Sister Maureen McCarthy got front row seats!

where she was a guidance counselor and teacher. Since St. Dominic parishioners have travelled to El Salvador six times a year for over twenty years to minister to and with the people there, many attended the Mass and celebration on Sunday, November

23, 2025. Also, over forty Ursuline Sisters, former Ursuline Missionaries, Mary's relatives and classmates were present to see her receive the Ursuline Sisters Alleluia Award given every five years since Sister Dorothy's death. Before her death, Sister Dorothy had stated at a weekend retreat: "I want to be remembered as an Alleluia from head to foot." Pastor Reverend Thomas G. Fanta celebrated the Liturgy and gave a tribute to Sister Dorothy. Sister Laura Bregar, President of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland presented Mary with the award. The parish then provided a luncheon for all those who attended and gave the Ursuline Sisters Christmas plants.

Cleveland Diocese First Friday Club Presentation

Sister Laura Bregar gave a presentation on the "175 Years of Ursuline Sisters in Northeast Ohio" at the Cleveland Diocese First Friday Club Luncheon. This was held on December 4th at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe, OH. Representatives from Ursuline College, Beaumont School and Villa Angela St. Joseph High School joined Ursulines of Cleveland and Sisters from other Congregations as well as others from the Diocese of Cleveland. Sister Laura talked about the four Ursulines and one lay women who left France in 1850 to minister in the newly founded



Sister Laura Bregar

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Cleveland Ursulines: Continuing the 175th Anniversary Celebration, *continued*

diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. After founding their first school in Cleveland, the Sisters went on to leave a legacy of service in all levels of education, in parish and health care ministries, in social justice—including missionary work—and in social services, responding throughout the years to the needs of the diocese. More than 1,000 Sisters have contributed to this legacy. Sister Laura concluded her talk with, “What’s next? I do not know. But I believe our future is bright and I end in a note of hope at the end of this Jubilee Year of Hope.”

Archives Building

On Friday, January 9th, representatives of the participating congregations and leadership of the Women Religious Archives Collaboration (WRAC) gathered at the construction site for a topping-out ceremony of the final beam on the building located in Cleveland’s Central neighborhood. The excitement and enthusiasm for the project was palpable from all who attended as they added their names to the names of the participating congregations to the beams. Whether as a Sister, vendor, construction worker or donor, it was clear all had become community to one another. Everyone was invited to attend a reception following the beam raising. Sisters from many of the congregations who live locally attended the ceremony and reception. One Sister in attendance remarked that this effort brings all of us so much hope.



Sisters Mary Kay Conkey, Gretchen Rodenfels, Susan Durkin, Joanne Gross



Celebration Of The Feast Of St. Angela

On Saturday, January 10th, the Ursulines of Cleveland met to celebrate. Sister Maureen Grady began by reviewing the year and introducing Sister Jennifer Corlett to talk about our congregational retreats and the retreat in June that will be directed by Sister Lisa Marie Belz. Following these presentations, Brianna Mejak, Director of Campus Ministry at Beaumont School, introduced the B-Just Group formed to help care for the earth, one of our Chapter directions. Cherie Howell, a science teacher, and Isabel Alvarez, a senior at Beaumont, shared what Beaumont School is doing to protect our planet. After the presentation and table discussions, a warm Throw Blanket surprise for each Sister was brought by members of the 175th Committee and Lay Advisory Board. Then the Sisters held a St. Angela Prayer Service followed by dinner together. Bishop Martin Amos celebrated Liturgy at the end of the day.

Also, the Campus Minister at Ursuline College, Sister Nicole Varnerin, SND, with the help of the Ursuline College alumnae Office staff, celebrated St. Angela with a gathering of students, faculty, alumnae and Sisters on Tuesday, January 20th in the Wasner Ary Gallery followed by Mass in the College Chapel celebrated by Reverend John Blazac, CSC.



Sisters Diana Stano, Susan Mary Rathun and Nancy Beckenaur join Ursuline College Faculty and Staff in discussion.



Mass was celebrated in the Ursuline College Chapel

News from the Toledo Ursulines

Feast of St. Ursula and Missioning

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates gathered at St. Ursula Academy on October 18 to celebrate the Feast of St. Ursula and to renew our commitments as Sisters and Associates to the mission of St. Angela Merici. “Journeying with Christ in Hope and Trust” is the theme of this administration period 2022-2026 and is part of the Missioning going forward as collaborators in the Ministry of Prayer and Presence, recognizing that the Sisters and Associates share our gifts and talents wherever we find ourselves living community life. A delicious meal and fellowship followed in the SUA dining hall.

Foundation Day Prayer Service



Sister Sandy Sherman leads a Dedication to the Blessed Mother Mary at the Foundation Day Prayer Service.

On Saturday, December 13, the Ursuline Sisters and Associates gathered for a time of prayer and celebration of the founding of our Community 171 years ago. Sister Sandy Sherman led the Sisters and Associates in a prayer of dedication to Mary, our Blessed Mother, offering up the keys to our hearts and asking her to direct, guide and protect all the Sisters of our Community, all of our Associates, and our partners in mission. Following the simple prayer service, Sisters and Associates partook in a delightful meal together.

Christmas Luncheon for Sisters and Associates

This year’s Christmas Luncheon, held in the Convent Offices, was attended by nearly 40 Sisters and Associates. A delicious meal and tasty desserts were served by student ‘elves’ of St. Ursula Academy, followed by rousing game of bingo and raffles. The annual event was a joyful start to the Christmas season.

What’s New in the Toledo Archives?

With a New Year ahead of the Toledo Ursulines, along came three new assistants in archival work. The Archives welcome aboard Adriana Daniel (Freshman), Luciana Hernandez (Sophomore) and Oluwasola Fadahunsi (Senior), students from St. Ursula Academy right next door. Filing and sorting school yearbooks belongs to Luciana, and preparing folders for data entry on the computer falls to Adriana. Oluwasola will start by



St. Ursula Academy students Adriana Daniel and Luciana Hernandez



Oluwasola Fadahunsi

pulling medical records from files. Having young people interested in history is a delight to observe.

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

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

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

Lenten Billboard Campaign

The Ursuline Sisters have joined the Sisters of Notre Dame of Toledo, the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, and the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin in a collaborative project to share a positive message about how we can minister and live the Gospel during the Lenten season. Eight digital and static billboards have been installed throughout the Toledo area and in Tiffin, featuring the message: “Who are you lifting up for Lent?” Lent is not only about what we give up; it is also about whom we choose to lift up. These messages are also appearing throughout the Lenten season on our individual social media pages.



From the US Province of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk

Leadership Team Installation

Earlier this year, the US Province installed their new leadership team! Sr. Joanne Callahan will continue to serve as the Province Leader while Sr. Meghan McArdle, Sr. Laurentine Morgan, and Sr. Catherine Talia will serve as Councilors.

Sr. Bimla Minj, Congregational Leader, was able to join the Province virtually for the prayer service and installation in the St. William the Abbot Convent Chapel.



Mourning Sr. Regina Delaney, OSU

Sr. Regina Delaney was born on October 28th in Elmhurst, New York to James and Emily. She grew up in Howard Beach and entered the Ursuline community at 18 years old because of the example set by the Sisters at Our Lady of Grace and their ministry of teaching. She was originally known as Sr. Immaculata.

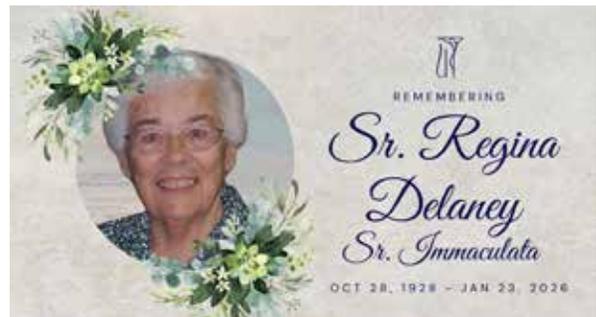
With a BS in Education from St. John's University, a MS in Science from St. Joseph's College, and a MA in Latin from Villanova University, Sr. Regina shared her love of knowledge and learning for the rest of her life. She taught at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Ozone Park), Our Lady of Grace (Howard Beach), St. Thomas the Apostle

(West Hartford), and Holy Family High School (Huntington), and served as principal of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Gregory the Great (Bellerose), and St. Mary Star of the Sea (Far Rockaway).

Sr. Regina then returned to Nativity BVM as a librarian and administrative assistant and as the Director of Religious Education at St. Benedict Joseph Labre in Richmond Hill. She also served the Ursuline community as Councilor for the Provincial government. An avid learner and reader in retirement, she had a vast interest in outer space and a personal concern for all animals. She also continued to take theology courses offered at the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation.

Known for her extraordinary kindness and encouragement of others, her friend, Sr. Mary Lou Tressy has said that Sr. Regina always showed a "genuine interest in others and happiness in their achievements."

She spent the last few years of her life at the Maria Regina Residence, surrounded by other Sisters and friends, including her sister, Genevieve. When she passed away on January 23, 2026, she had been an Ursuline Sister for 83 years.



The Latest from the Eastern Province

Christmas Sing-Along

On December 29, the Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province gathered in the Angela Garden Room at the Province Center for their Christmas celebration. They feasted on delicious treats and lifted their voices in Christmas carols led by Marty Rogers of Immaculate Conception RC Church in the South Bronx. We were delighted to have the grandnieces of Sr. Sandy Wardell, OSU who were visiting New York in attendance. Their youthful energy brought an extra spark to the celebration.



Staff Appreciation Lunch

On November 18, staff gathered at the Ursuline Province Center for a Staff Appreciation Lunch. It was a chance to come together in camaraderie and share a meal. During the celebration, leadership gave special recognition to team members serving over ten years: Lourdes Sanchez (41 years), Angela Garcia (38 years), Karol Cummins (35 years), Kathy Vernazza (24 years), Rose Marie Waldron (21 years), Vicki Piccini (20 years), Carmela Diaz-Velazquez (19 years), Francesca Torres (17 years), Danielle Lodice



(13 years), Pat Carey (13 years), and Paul DeRaffele (12 years). The Sisters were proud to honor these dedicated individuals for their longevity and thank the entire staff for their continued hard work and commitment.

Celebrating A Milestone 70th Year Jubilees

In January, Srs. Terry Eppridge, Alice Marie Giordano, and Kathleen Kuczkowski celebrated their 70th Year Jubilee, marking seven decades of faithful religious life and generous service.

Reflecting on her journey, Sr. Terry shared, *“One of the things I am most grateful for is the life companionship of wonderful women. They have encouraged me, challenged me, supported me, and been an extraordinary blessing and gift for my entire adult life.”* An artist and graphic designer, she has taught art from K through graduate school, including at Ursuline schools in New Rochelle, Wilmington, the Bronx, and at the College of New Rochelle. Her ministry continues today through political and environmental advocacy, most recently joining 45 Catholic Sisters and other people of faith on the Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation along the Hudson River, organized by Religious Organizations Along the River (ROAR), to raise awareness about pollution and promote ecological justice.

Sr. Alice Marie devoted many years to youth ministry and education, serving faithfully as both a teacher and Assistant Principal. She continues her ministry today through political and environmental advocacy, standing in solidarity with those seeking justice and equality by participating in rallies such as the Unite and Resist rally in Hastings-on-Hudson last year. Reflecting on her seven decades of religious life, Alice Marie summed up her journey in two words: **“Wondrous Gratitude.”** She shared, *“Wondrous gratitude for Angela, family, friends, Ursuline Sisters, colleagues, students, and all those I have met along the way—who have enlightened, inspired, supported, accompanied, surprised, amazed, and loved me so deeply, revealing the presence of God in my life. As I move forward, my hope is to grow ever more grateful for this immeasurable grace.”*

“I am deeply grateful for my 70 years of service and all that I was blessed to do,” shared Sr. Kathleen. Her ministry included 15 years in Greece, where she

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The Latest from the Eastern Province, *continued*



From left to right: Sr. Terry Eppridge, OSU, Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, OSU, and Sr. Kathleen Kuczkowski, OSU

served at an international Ursuline school, supporting a Province navigating challenges in the aftermath of war. Upon returning to the United States, she dedicated herself to parish ministry before transitioning into spiritual direction, a role she found especially fulfilling. Today, she resides at The Fountains in Tuckahoe, NY, where she continues to serve as a Spiritual Director to those who seek her guidance. As she reflects, *“My ministry today is to share life with the lay people around me and bring joy into their lives.”*

We celebrate their remarkable milestones with gratitude and admiration.

A Paschal Journey to Transformation

In the Fall, the Ursulines of the Eastern Province participated in a day-long workshop facilitated by Lynn Levo, CSJ, Ph.D. The focus of the day, which was both reflective and interactive, centered on our invitation to embrace the Paschal Mystery as a journey leading to transformation. “Now is a Very Acceptable Time” (2.Cor.6); it is our time to live authentically. We shared on the meaning of the Paschal Mystery for us today: Good Friday, endings and naming our grief; Holy Saturday, unknowns and living in-between; Easter, a new beginning and discerning new life. We had an opportunity to reframe the deeper story of transformation by befriending the life-death-resurrection journey of Jesus to help us find strength and gain perspective in the difficult realities upon us today.

Our experience of the day was very positive. We are planning a follow-up gathering for February where we will delve more deeply into the Good Friday reality of loss and grief.



From the Central Province

Ursulines and lay staff who work in the Central Province offices spent a **morning of service** in December at Feed My People in South St. Louis County. Feed My People is a Christian food pantry and thrift store with three St. Louis-area locations. From left are Sister Diane Fulgenzi, Sister Peggy Moore, Sister Susan Kienzler, and Sharon Hartman.

Many Central Province Ursulines attended the **Mass for the Feast of St. Ursula** at Ursuline Academy St. Louis in November, with Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski presiding. This was an especially momentous occasion as sponsorship of the academy was transferred from the Ursuline Sisters to the Ursuline Education Foundation.



News from Brown County

The Feast of St. Angela



The invitation was sent for the celebration of the Feast of St. Angela on Sunday, January 25. Catering was arranged, flowers were ordered, the celebrant was confirmed and the musicians were practicing. RSVPs were returned with anticipation for the celebration.

The Ursulines of Brown County, the Cincinnati Ursulines and the United States Company of St. Angela were gathering to share with guests the common love and respect for the foundress of the Company of St. Ursula.

Weather alerts began telling the tale of a possible snowstorm projected to dump anywhere from 6 to 12 inches in the Cincinnati tri-state area followed by frigid temperatures. The prediction was described as “one for the books”, and so it was. Fortunately, the alerts gave us ample time to change plans and go from celebrating on the 25 of January to rescheduling the celebrating to Sunday, February 15.



Guests at the postponed Celebration of St. Angela



Members of the Ursulines of Brown County and Cincinnati Ursulines

The invitations were re-sent the RSVPs received, some differences of accepting guests, but the same core of Ursuline Sisters. Mass was celebrated with a Gospel reflection provided by Sister Mary Ann Barnhorn, SNDdeN. She reiterated the Gospel message “Let your Yes mean Yes and your No mean No.” Connecting St. Angela to that wisdom of Jesus, Sr. Mary Ann described Angela as “a woman, who all of her life said YES and meant it.” She shared that St. Angela’s Counsels call for “gentleness, friendship and the sharing of responsibility.” Sr. Mary Ann concluded by thanking God for the gift of St. Angela in the world and the Ursuline influence at Mt. Notre Dame Health Center, “Together saying YES to Christ of the Gospel.”

New Video Endeavor

In January of 2025, Chatfield Edge launched a Video Production for orientation for new student/mentors/trustees to include an Historical background on St. Angela, Julia Chatfield and UBC (Ursulines of Brown County). Bob Elmore, President of Chatfield Edge announced this project at the January 13th meeting of the Mission Effectiveness Diversity and Inclusion Committee Meeting. Bob engaged the assistance of the Marketing Pack, the PR group instrumental in assisting with the transition from Chatfield College to the Chatfield Edge in 2022-23. The purpose of the video is to capture the history, legacy, mission and vision of the Chatfield Edge so those who become acquainted will have a clear understanding of the Ursuline charism. The initial meeting with the Marketing Pack was held on February 7, with some suggestions for the content. Interest in the Ursuline Archives could be accomplished through a video tour of the archives. The thinking was to do a 20–30-minute documentary style video with smaller Mission Moments (1-2 minutes) that would help to communicate the fourth pillar of the Chatfield Edge which is Servant Leadership.

In mid-October the final versions of the videos were added to the Chatfield Edge and Ursulines of Brown County websites. The final product is a group of 9 videos, 8 of which are 4-5 minutes, and one is a 20-minute view of “The Educational Legacy of the Ursuline Sisters of Brown County.” The other videos explore various topics, including:

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News from Brown County, *continued*

“Mission Fulfilment: The Ursulines of Brown County”

“Trusting and Serving with Love”

“A Comment to Educating Women: The Ursuline Sisters of Brown County”

“Servant Leadership: The Hope Emergency Project”

“Sacred Heart Chapel- Designed and Built by Women”

“The Impact of the Ursuline Sisters on the Brown County Community”

“Supporting the potential and confidence of Individuals through Education”

“Answering the Call to become an Ursuline Sister: Sister Ellen Doyle.”

A side note regarding the video done in Sr. Ellen’s memory might be helpful. In May when the filming

was in progress, Sister Ellen was one of the community members invited to participate. In July when the initial videos were being reviewed, Sister Ellen was called home to Eternal Life. The Marketing Pack team gifted us with an additional video done in her honor, which we are happy to share.

Access to the videos can be found on both The Chatfield Edge website: (chatfieldedge.org) and The Ursulines of Brown County site: (ursulinesofbc.org). The location of the videos on Chatfield’s website is under the tab: ABOUT, which includes various topics, one of which is Videos. On Ursuline’s website scroll down to the bottom of the front page to Mission Moments and press WATCH. Enjoy the history and heritage of the Ursulines of Brown County through the gift of technology.

(The following article was published in the “Let’s Chat” by The Chatfield Edge in their July edition. It is used with permission.)

Let's CHAT JULY 2025 THE CHATFIELD EDGE LITCO

PRESERVING THE URSULINE LEGACY

The Ursuline Sisters of Brown County have left a lasting imprint on education and community life throughout Southwest Ohio. Their influence stretches from the founding of Ursuline Academy to their leadership in parish schools, charitable impact, and the founding of Chatfield College, now The Chatfield Edge. Whether serving in classrooms or guiding social service programs, these women have shaped generations for 180 years with their quiet strength, faith, and commitment to service.

To honor and preserve this remarkable legacy, The Chatfield Edge is producing a series of videos that will capture the Ursuline Sisters' story — their deep roots, far-reaching impact, and the values that have built strong families and communities for more than a century. The short videos will reach back into the past while pointing to the future, showing how their spirit continues to live on through the students and missions they've inspired.

The total cost of this production is estimated to be \$30,000. Your support at any level will ensure this story is recorded while it can still be told firsthand. Help us preserve the legacy of the Ursuline Sisters and share their powerful story with future generations.

Louisville Ursulines

Our Chapter

We are preparing for our Chapter, which will be March 16-20, 2026. Our theme is “On the Journey with Love and Wisdom/En El Viaje Con Amor,” and we rely on our faithful God to guide us during this time.



We will make decisions regarding our governance based on the intense study and education we have been engaged in over the last two years. We will discern the best way to be faithful to our call and vocation in the context of our reality of a smaller community of Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. We cherish your prayers for this Chapter.

Sister Brendan Appalachian Toy Drive

The 2025 Sister Brendan Appalachian Gift Drive was a huge success, and 17 Sacred Heart Academy (SHA) students delivered Christmas cheer to Kermit, West Virginia on December 5th! SHA collected 1,367 donations—plus many more gifts from the three other schools on Ursuline Campus.

Before loading the truck, Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, OSU, co-founder of the gift drive with Sister Mary



Brendan Conlon OSU, told students about the origin of their service mission and blessed their journey.



In 1995, after witnessing immense need in rural West Virginia coal towns, the two Ursuline Sisters partnered with neighboring agencies to address dire emergencies and

severe poverty in the region. Since then, the Sacred Heart Schools community and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville assisted Christian Help of Mingo County and ABLE Families with the effort, now named in Sr. Brendan’s honor. The gifts stocked the organizations’ annual no-cost Santa Shop, providing more than 300 area families with the opportunity to select free gifts for their children. Monetary donations went toward Christmas meal baskets for each family.

Photographic exhibit in Desenzano room

A 14-panel display was installed in the Desenzano Room in November that includes every Ursuline Sister’s name and entrance date, as well as photos, both of individuals, and classes. Communications Director Kathy Rice and Archivist Laurel Wilson collaborated on the project. You may view a video and learn more here: <https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/journey-with-us>



Louisville Ursulines Inducted into the Holy Cross High Hall of Fame

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville were humbled and honored to have been inducted into Holy Cross High School’s Hall of Fame as Honorary Alumnae on

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Louisville Ursulines - continued

November 7, 2025. The roots of Saint Angela Merici High School (1959–1984) are deeply intertwined with Holy Cross, and we are thankful that the school carries on the Catholic tradition of both Angela Merici and Bishop David, while seeking innovation and excellence for its current students.



Spreading Christmas Cheer

The Ursuline and St. Peter the Apostle choirs spread Christmas cheer at Twinbrook and Nazareth Home-Clifton facilities during December 2025.



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 Sr. Clara Fehringer in both her LGBTQ, and women ministries at Historic St. Paul Church in Lexington, KY. You may also learn about Sr. Lynn Jarrell's canon law ministry, which has taken her across the globe.

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

Taizé Prayer online

Did you know? We offer a monthly Taizé prayer service online. You may view these beautiful, reflective videos at <https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/taize/>

USA Roman Union Provinces Moving to Become Region

Our Roman Union Provinces in the USA have often asked what we can do better together than separately. The three provinces have joined in JPIC, charism development and communication. We have participated in all sorts of prayer, discussions, and small groups across the USA. Our provincial leaderships have met and supported these efforts and each other.

Now we have come to clarity and are working to develop the USA Region replacing our present three provinces. This is a new structure in our Institute and an opportunity for us to create a governance structure that will fit our needs, moving into the future. The leadership of all three provinces has been working for months with the help of Canon lawyer Lynn Jarrell, OSU, to design the governance structure for this new Region. A recurring cycle of discussion, draft, consultation with membership and revision has almost brought us to a final proposal for General Leadership. Once approved, we will begin discernment for a regional leader and three regional councilors, hoping to have the Region ready to launch in August 2026.



Sister Doris (Dodie) Landers (Central Province)
Sister Mary Sterle (formerly Sister Mary Christopher) (Cleveland)
Sister Carole Marie Keane (Eastern Province)
Sister Joan McCarthy (Eastern Province)
Sister Rosella McCormick (Louisville)
Sister Paul Marie Greenwell (Mount Saint Joseph)
Sister Regina Delaney (Tildonk)
Sister Marilyn Hoover (Youngstown)





Honoring the Feast Day of St. Angela Merici in January, UEN announced annual Service Awards to twenty deserving students. The award serves as recognition for modeling *serviam* to others. Student essays often reflect how service has transformed them, just as St. Angela reminds us, “*we have more need to serve than be served.*” One of the recipients, a senior at Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, wrote about her service experience at Bethlehem Farm in West Virginia:

“At Bethlehem Farm, I learned to be present in the moment while planning for the future. The garlic and foods I picked will be eaten and will plant the next harvest. The wood I chopped will warm families during the winter. Sharing joy in service and faith, I built community and took that home to pass on, fostering connections with people from all walks of life. St. Angela's quote, ‘*Build community wherever you go,*’ resonated with me. It has been a cornerstone of my experience at UA. Driving away from Bethlehem Farm, I teared up realizing that God had given me this opportunity to see that even outside of New Orleans, I could find family and community. We shared who we were and our gifts, learned and played together, ate and sang together, served each other and accepted service when we needed help. We were strangers making connections and becoming one community.”

Students received a recognition certificate and a commendation pin. Here is the list of the 2026 Service Award recipients:

School	Student name	Grade	Nominator
Beaumont School, Cleveland, OH	Alaina L.	12	Brianna Mejak
Beaumont School, Cleveland, OH	Matilda S.	12	Brianna Mejak
Ursuline Academy, Dallas, TX	Eloise C.	11	Angie Jakubik
Ursuline Academy, Dallas, TX	Alessandra V.	11	Angie Jakubik
Ursuline Academy, Dedham, MA	Katy M.	12	Kathleen Furey
Ursuline Academy, Dedham, MA	Acadia Z.	12	Emily Amann
The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, NY	Sophia P.	12	Jennifer Schassler
The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, NY	Meredith G.	12	Jennifer Schassler
Ursuline Academy, New Orleans, LA	Estella H.	12	Beth Joubert
Ursuline Academy, New Orleans, LA	Isabella Q.	12	Beth Joubert
Sacred Heart Academy, Louisville, KY	Ayyson K.	12	Mary Selvaggi
Sacred Heart Academy, Louisville, KY	Reagan W.	12	Mary Selvaggi
Ursuline Academy, St. Louis, MO	Kathleen M.	12	Joni Mullen
Ursuline Academy, St. Louis, MO	Theresa B.	12	Joni Mullen
Saint Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, OH	Aaliyah S.	12	Laurel Fiorelli
Saint Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, OH	Angy V.	12	Laurel Fiorelli
St. Ursula Academy, Toledo, OH	Makenzie W.	12	Samantha Meklus
Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, DE	Molly H.	11	Abigail Rzucidlo
Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, DE	Sophia B.	10	Abigail Rzucidlo
Ursuline Academy Lower School, Wilmington, DE	Nadia R.	3	Samantha Varano

Ursuline community continues to be nurtured through UEN programs. The biennial Student Retreat, ***God Will Be in Your Midst***, was co-hosted by Ursuline Academy of Dallas in January. Thirty four students and eighteen teachers shared in growing their spirituality through St. Angela’s teachings. Jane Cruthirds, Director of Mission Formation

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for Sacred Heart Schools in Louisville, KY, led retreatants through spiritual sessions steeped in the writings of St. Angela, as told by authors Mary Cabrini-Durkin, Martha Buser, OSU and others. But the highlight was how the students allowed themselves to be open to the experience, to be transformed as groups of students from different schools to one group of Ursuline students. The song *Insieme* took on new meaning, when sung with linked arms and raised voices: *“My voice is one, loving and strong but with you I become a song, insieme!”*



A new immersion service opportunity has been planned for June 2026 through St. Vincent dePaul of Cincinnati, OH. The Ozanam Center for Service Learning will be coordinating a week specifically planned for Ursuline students of UEN member schools who want to better understand issues of social-justice and poverty. Students will participate in educational sessions and simulations designed to heighten awareness of social inequities as well as serve at several

local outreach centers, including Hope Emergency of Brown County, OH, a non-profit begun in 1975 by the Ursuline Sisters of Brown County. The week will

illuminate Catholic social teaching themes which are lived out through the practice of Ursuline core values.

The Ursuline Education Network is hiring for the role of Associate Director to begin July 1, 2026. The job description and application information is available at <https://appurl.io/H2lgCp6f36>. Questions can be directed to UEN Board chair Carrie Wentzel at cwentzel@shslou.org.

As our schools round out the second half of the school year,

UEN is proud to be fostering Merician spirituality for approximately 8,000 students. We perpetually offer special thanks to and for the Ursuline religious communities who, through faithful dedication, made our schools possible.

Visit us! UEN Website and UEN Facebook Group



An Update from the Youngstown Ursulines

Youngstown Ursulines open assisted living, forge new relationships

We may be fewer in numbers than we once were, but we're fortunate that we're still forging new relationships and broadening our ministry in many ways.

Our Motherhouse transformation is complete, and



Gathering in the dining room of our new assisted living are, from left, David, kitchen manager; Kelly, activities coordinator; resident Mary Lou; Taylor, senior living administrator; Sister Eileen Kernan; resident Dolores; and Sue, resident care coordinator. Behind them are stained-glass windows gifted to us by St. Nicholas Parish, Struthers, displaying the Ursuline coat of arms, St. Angela, St. Ursula and the Ursuline vows.



Part of the SOS: Support our Sisters and residents team from Ursuline High School in Youngstown and our Motherhouse. Standing from left are Sisters Helen Nordick, Martha Reed and Kathleen McCarragher, Sara, Sister Nancy Pawlen, Wendy, Anastasia and Kathryn. Seated are Monserrat, Sisters Dorothy Kundracik, Janice Kusick and Marlene LoGrasso, and Clara.

helping an Ursuline High School senior complete her Girl Scout Gold Project.

Kathryn is creating a way for UHS students to know Ursuline Sisters and learn directly from us more about our lives and ministry, which will augment what they

our 44-bed assisted living is operating. Seventeen of our 24 Sisters reside here, and we're welcoming new residents every day.

One of the first to move in shared with us the following, and it really warms our hearts.

"I must have done something good in my life that I ended up living here. This is the best place I have ever lived. Everyone is so nice to me and welcoming. I love getting up every day."

This happy resident, along with many of our Sisters, are

learn in school, and help the students develop what we hope are lasting relationships with us.

A group of students is coming to our assisted living after school for one hour every-other Friday. Even Sisters not living in the assisted living wing are participating.

So far, the students have visited with Sisters while doing a puzzle, organizing scrapbooks, perusing photo albums, and enjoying cupcakes.

Not only will our participation help Kathryn, who's volunteered with us previously, it's proving to be personally rewarding for the students and Sisters.

It also creates a way for the students to enter into ministry with us by visiting with other residents, and it will help the students earn required service hours.

We're fortunate that several UHS teachers are joining us as Associates this year. Unfortunately, our St. Angela Feast Day Mass had to be canceled for weather, but we rescheduled a prayer service in early February to welcome our nine new Associates and renew the vows of last year's Associates.

We have more than 100 Associates now. Many are very active volunteering in our ministries, marking our milestones, and helping us celebrate the lives of Sisters when they die.

Unfortunately, we had to do the latter recently. Sister Marilyn Hoover died Jan. 31 after suffering two strokes. She was 93.

Over the last several years, Sister Marilyn became an avid walker, even winning a medal for her age category in our "Nun Run" fundraiser in 2022.



Sister Marilyn Hoover and her friend, Laura, when she won her medal at the 2022 Nun Run.

Around the Mount

Join us for Lenten Day of Prayer on March 28 at Mount Saint Joseph

All are invited to join Sister Cheryl Clemons on March 28 in Maple Hall at Mount Saint Joseph (8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky.) for a Day of Prayer and Reflection titled "Deepening Our Prayer Life: Advice from the Four Saint Teresas." Throughout the day, Sister Cheryl will offer insights on prayer from Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), and Saint Teresa of Calcutta.



Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, Ph.D.

The day will include quiet prayer and reflection and opportunities for small group sharing. Lunch will be provided. The cost to attend is \$60. Sister Cheryl, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, has been offering retreats, parish missions and OCIA programs for 30 years. She has extensive training in theology, Scripture, spirituality and spiritual direction. You can find an article about the retreat online: ursulinesmsj.org/four-teresas-guide-prayer-day-led-by-sister-cheryl-clemons/

Sign up online by going to this link: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/calendar/> and click on the event and then the Register box. If you have any questions, call Doreen Abbott at 270-229-2006 or email doreen.abbott@maplemount.org.



The in-person Lent Retreat on March 28 at Maple Mount, Ky., will feature the 4 Teresas, clockwise from upper left: Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein).

New Quilt Club drawings begin April 2

Would you like to win a beautiful quilt for only \$25? Get your name into the monthly Quilt Club drawings at Mount Saint Joseph! Quilt Club tickets for the 2026-2027 year are now available. For one \$25 ticket, you get 12 chances to win a new handmade quilt. A lucky winner's name is drawn on the first Friday of each month from April 2026 through March 2027. Remember, Sister Patricia Homan of the Ursulines of Brown County was our July 2024 quilt winner! You might be a winner this year!

Purchase your tickets before the first drawing on April 2, 2026 (note that the first drawing is on a Thursday rather than on Good Friday) to get the most chances to win. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold. Proceeds support the mission and ministries of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Call 270-229-2008, email carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org or order online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club/>



Sister Amelia Stenger, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, gets ready to draw a winner's name in the monthly Quilt Club drawings. She is being assisted by Director of Development Carol Braden-Clarke. Sister Amelia helps coordinate the work of the Sisters, Associates and friends who make the quilts. Tickets for the next year of drawings which begin April 2, 2026, are available now.



"Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a right spirit
within me."
Psalm 51: 10-12

Ursulines remembered during dedication of veterans' monument at Brescia University

When Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mary Michael Barrow returned to Maple Mount, Ky., in 1945, she realized that the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women – which she had helped open 20 years earlier – had not grown as the Sisters had hoped.

At the time, Owensboro, Ky., had no four-year coed college. Just a year earlier, the GI Bill had become law, giving veterans returning from World War II stipends to attend college or trade school. Sister Mary Michael voiced her opinion that returning servicemen would use the G.I. Bill to attend college, and if there was no college for them in Owensboro, they would find one elsewhere. That was an important step in developing Brescia College.

That story was relayed by several speakers on Nov. 9, 2025, at Brescia University, during a ceremony to dedicate a Veterans monument on the college campus.

“Without veterans, Brescia may not exist,” said Lark Buckman, a veteran and 1969 Brescia graduate, who serves on the school’s Board of Directors. “After much prayer and planning, Brescia was opened in 1950.”

It was Frank Werner, a 1973 Brescia graduate, who was the first to ask if there were a veterans’ memorial on campus. That led to the formation of a veterans committee, who needed to raise \$20,000 to pay for the memorial. Instead, they raised \$27,000, Buckman said.

The ceremony, just two days before Veterans Day, featured the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 presenting the colors. Inclement weather forced the ceremony into the Brescia Chapel until it was time to unveil the monument.

Brescia President Madison Silvert told the veterans present that they are an example of what true servant leadership is about.

“No piece of marble will adequately thank you,” Silvert said.

Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters, spoke of being the daughter of a World

War II veteran who attended law school thanks to the GI Bill.

Veterans and Brescia first connected when returning veterans approached Sister Alberta Birkhead about taking her business classes in Owensboro, Sister Sharon said.



Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, tells of the long history between Brescia College/University and veterans at the dedication ceremony of a new monument on the campus on Nov. 9, 2025.

“In September 1945, Joseph Leroy Yeand was discharged from the Navy and began classes at MSJ Junior College, and Marcellus Bonaventure Oberst was discharged from the Marines in January 1946 and began attending MSJ Junior College classes in Owensboro that fall,” Sister Sharon said. The Sisters knew it was time to expand their offerings in Owensboro.

“In the closing years of the 1940s there were 76 students in the Owensboro classes, 40 of whom were men, veterans on the GI Bill,” Sister Sharon said. “When classes officially became Brescia College in 1950, there were 241 students, 60 of whom were veterans – 58 men and two women. Ever since, Brescia University has welcomed both active and veteran service men and women in all majors. I have had at least five veteran advisees who chose special education, and many others in my classes.”

“I must also add that in ways wholly unexpected, each veteran or active service member has expanded my understanding of prayer and service and commitment,” Sister Sharon said. “For I have had to learn to pray not just for an anonymous group but for men and women whom I have come to know – whose stories I have heard – who place themselves or have placed themselves in harm’s way, for me.”

Sister Sharon spoke of the similar promises and oaths that both Ursuline Sisters and service members make.

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Ursulines remembered during dedication, continued

"I would not be surprised to discover – whether you are in active service or a discharged veteran – that in many ways you still feel yourselves bound by that oath," Sister Sharon said. "For we know 'once an Ursuline, always an Ursuline,' and I've heard the same is true for you, 'once a Marine, always a Marine.' I might add, that once you embrace Brescia, Brescia will always be a part of you."

Those gathered then headed out into a blustery freezing rainstorm to unveil the monument near Seventh and St. Ann streets. It says the following:

"This monument stands in tribute to the men and women who have served our country, and to Brescia University, which has long recognized the value of their sacrifice and service.

Following World War II, Brescia took pioneering steps to develop programs and classes for returning veterans, empowering them to pursue education and new opportunities. This tradition endures, with veterans continuing to attend and graduate from Brescia University, and with members of the Brescia community proudly serving in the Armed Forces.

To all veterans – past, present, and future – we honor your courage, sacrifice, and commitment to the enduring bond between service and education.

Dedicated in 2025, the Centennial Year of Brescia University."



Jake Davis, director of Alumni and Donor Relations for Brescia University, pulls the tarp to unveil the new Veterans Monument near Seventh and St. Ann streets in Owensboro, Ky. Veteran servicemembers were on hand to help celebrate the unveiling on this windy, rainy day. The new Veterans Monument recognizes six branches of military service.



Celebrating with our Jubilarians

80 Years

Sister Lorraine Pomerleau (Central Province)

75 Years

Sister Theresa Sarich (Central Province)

70 Years

Sister Jane Wiessing (Central Province)

Sister Terry Eppridge (Eastern Province)

Sister Alice Marie Giordano (Eastern Province)

Sister Kathleen Kuczowski (Eastern Province)

Sister George Mary Hagan (Mount Saint Joseph)

65 Years

Sister Ginger Cirone (Central Province)

Sister Bernadette Marie Fronmüller (Central Province)

Sister Brendan Jacoby (Central Province)

Sister Rose Marie Moran (Central Province)

60 Years

Sister Theresa Davey (Central Province)

Sister Angela Fitzpatrick (Mount Saint Joseph)

Sister Rita Scott (Mount Saint Joseph)

50 Years

Sister Martha Keller (Mount Saint Joseph)



Younger women are invigorating the classes at Casa Ursulina

Gladys Inostrosa has been a longtime neighbor to Casa Ursulina in Chillán, Chile, but Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mimi Ballard could never get her to take a class. Gladys was busy raising five grandchildren, despite an inability to read or write.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mimi Ballard, left, with Gladys Inostrosa, holding one of her paintings that sold. Gladys took a painting class at Casa Ursulina in Chile.

“She finally took a literacy class. It did something for her self-esteem,” Sister Mimi said. “She took our painting class, and when she sold one of her paintings, it made her so happy. She couldn’t believe someone would want to buy it.”

Gladys’ story is just one of the daily successes Sister Mimi gets to witness at Casa Ursulina, the ministry she began in 1997 to empower women in

Chillán by teaching them crafting skills, and help build camaraderie, self-esteem and their spirituality.

“It’s been a good year. We’re getting younger people coming,” Sister Mimi said. “Some are grandchildren of the early women involved; others are neighbors. Of our original group, their children are retirement age, so they have more time.”

Sister Mimi is back in Kentucky for a few months, spending time at Maple Mount and with her siblings in Bardstown. She plans to return to Chile in time for the new year of classes to begin in March 2026. She is encouraged by the renewed interest in traditional crafts such as weaving and embroidery.

“When I first went to Chile, everything was wool sweaters and jackets,” Sister Mimi said. “It was all hand spun and for sale at the central market. That went out of style with imported goods. Now it’s back. It’s popular because it’s a lot warmer.”

Younger women are interested in spinning yarn and weaving because that is something their grandparents did, Sister Mimi said.

“It was a lost art for a while,” she said. “Which is a shame, because everyone in Chile raises sheep.”

“We have four different embroidery classes, featuring different styles,” Sister Mimi said. “It’s been a long time since embroidery has been a thing. Mostly younger women are interested in that.”

Young women from the tourist town of Quillon are still coming in large numbers for classes on Thursdays, something that began in 2024.

“They have such energy when they come,” Sister Mimi said. “We have three classes at a time, so they have a choice. Most choose textile recycling. People who sew always have leftover small pieces of fabric. This class teaches the women how to use it for crafts. They make some really neat stuff.”



Two of the women from nearby Quillon, Chile, with the crafts they made in the textile recycling class at Casa Ursulina, where Sister Mimi Ballard ministers.

Crafting has been in Sister Mimi’s blood since her mother taught her to knit.

“When I was a student at (Mount Saint Joseph) Academy, a classmate taught me to crochet,” she said. “When we began Casa Ursulina out of my house, we started with crochet, because you don’t need a lot of space.”

In 2006, Sister Mimi took a four-month sabbatical to the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice in St. Mary of the Woods, Ind. It’s a ministry of the Sisters of Providence that supports programs on organic agriculture and fiber education.

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Casa Ursulina, *continued*

“They raise alpacas there, and I learned to weave and spin yarn,” Sister Mimi said. “That’s what I love the most. I still teach that, with some help.”

Next year Sister Mimi will celebrate 60 years as an Ursuline, with 47 of those years spent serving in South America. Earlier this decade, the Ursuline Sisters turned over the administration of Casa Ursulina to a local board. Sister Mimi has served as president of the board, but when her visit to Kentucky in 2024-25 lasted much longer than expected, she realized a Chilean should serve as the board president.

Without administrative duties at Casa Ursulina, Sister Mimi can spend more time one on one with people.

“It frees me to do what I like to do,” she said. “I visit people who are homebound or sick. Two other women go with me. We talk and pray with them and see if they need help.”

In April 2025, Sister Martha Keller, assistant congregational leader, visited Casa Ursulina, which Sister Mimi described as “wonderful.”

“Before I left, the women told me to ask Sister Martha when she is coming back,” Sister Mimi said.

Each time Sister Mimi comes back to Kentucky, there is some concern in Chile that the day is coming when she will not return.

“I’m taking it one year at a time. I figure God will tell me when it’s time,” Sister Mimi said. “We’re working hard to make sure the mission doesn’t stop when I have to stop. We’ve added some younger women to the board, with some new ideas.”

25 Graced Years

Gratitude and joy permeated the Company of St. Ursula’s celebration of a quarter century in the USA:



Thanks for the graces of these years,
Thanks for our own vocations,
Thanks for the spiritual family God has called us to,
Thanks for the encouragement and support of friends.

Gathering in Cincinnati, we prayed together, laughed a lot, cried a little, welcomed guests, and toured the city. The culmination was a Eucharistic liturgy followed by a display in our small archives and a dinner reception with guests. The Ursulines of Cincinnati and St. Ursula Academy hosted us for this event on November 25, also the 490th anniversary of the foundation in Brescia.

Kathleen Hallinan (RIP 2008) and Mary-Cabrini Durkin had begun on that day in the jubilee year 2000.

Visitors from Canada and Italy represented our worldwide Company. Sadly, one of our own members could not get off work to be present.

Our prayers included gratitude and petition for our larger Ursuline family in the Companies and the Order around the world.



Celebrating a quarter century in the US.



Paola Cameroni of Italy represented the Federation of Companies. Bernice Daratha represented the Company of Toronto.



We had several days of prayer and sisterhood before and after the anniversary.

Ursuline Sisters and Associates bring Jesus to the ailing through Gennesaret retreats

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Shellie Intravia, Jacinta Powers, and Nancy Liddy live in different cities with differing ways to serve. But in September 2025 they came together with Ursuline Associates Amy and Tom Payne to help people with physical limitations experience Jesus.

They gathered on Sept. 26-28, 2025, at the Abbey of Gethsemani retreat center near Bardstown, Ky., for a Gennesaret retreat, named after the town in the Gospel of Mark (6:53-56) where Jesus healed the sick who were brought to him. The retreat (pronounced Juh-nes-er-et) is for people with chronic health issues who would have difficulty attending a typical retreat.

“These are people who usually don’t get out of their house other than to go to a doctor’s appointment,” Sister Shellie said. “They have a hospitality person and a medical person. The hospitality person helps them with meals, takes them on walks, and makes sure they get where they are supposed to be.”

“I feel like it brings people to a place where they can receive the love of God,” Sister Shellie said. “They can know that there are people in the world who value them, who are compassionate.”

The Paynes, who live in Owensboro, Ky., are the coordinators of the retreat.

“It’s a ministry unlike anything we’ve been involved with before,” Amy Payne said. “I’ve done lots of retreats where the purpose is for people to meet God – Cursillo, Teens Encounter Christ – but this reaches out to people who could not usually encounter the Lord.”

“These are people in real need of knowing that they aren’t alone,” Payne said. “We don’t tell them anything the Church hasn’t always told them. We have Mass every day, and they experience a loving group of

people. They have the opportunity for the sacraments – penance, anointing, the renewal of our baptism. They are able to refocus, renew and restore.”

“Sister Shellie leads a guided prayer on dedicating their suffering – to take their pain and intentionally give it to Jesus,” Payne said. “It’s a powerful weekend. We come away with more than we give.”



Participants and helpers for the most recent Gennesaret Retreat gather at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Bardstown, Ky. In the center in the yellow shirt, Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Shellie Intravia speaks with Ackie George, from Lebanon, Ky.

Sister Jacinta is a trained nurse who lives in Owensboro. She served as one of the medical volunteers at the recent retreat.

“I was moved by the ‘progression’ of the movement of the Holy Spirit from its beginning on Friday afternoon through the closing on Sunday afternoon,” Sister Jacinta said. “The guests ... came with plenty of luggage, but also hearts heavy with burdens, both physical and spiritual. As the helpers met them and continued to be present to them there was a sense of recognizing that the small acts of kindnesses, along with the words of the presenters, the holy rituals and the shared sacraments seemed to cloak them in invisible blankets of God’s warm presence. It was inspiring to me to see the guests and the helpers opening to the Holy Spirit and allowing this time

to ‘heal’ unseen areas of the hearts gathered for this short time.”

Sister Nancy, who is discerning her next ministry in Louisville, attended her first Gennesaret retreat, serving as a musician for Mass and the sacraments.

“I could tell the retreat leaders understood how healing music and song can sometimes be for people experiencing pain and suffering, and how important live music is for celebrating the sacraments and rituals,” Sister Nancy said. She was moved by all the caring support she witnessed during the weekend.

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Gennesaret retreats, *continued*

“There were a lot of generous people – from the monks, the leaders, the nurses and volunteers – who were sincerely helping the retreatants to find their way through illness and grief just by being present,” Sister Nancy said.

“On the first evening of the retreat, everyone was just beginning to feel comfortable singing together,” she said. “The next day, they lit up and found their voice during the Gospel acclamation. It was touching to hear their strong singing on the ‘Alleluia’ – a song of triumph over death.”

Father Paul Scaglione began Gennesaret retreats in his native New Jersey more than 35 years ago. A 1968 graduate of Brescia College in Owensboro, he transferred to the Archdiocese of Louisville in 1999 and began the first retreat in 2001.

Sister Shellie became involved with the ministry in 2011, when she was serving in Louisville. She knew that Father Scaglione wanted to extend the ministry to another diocese. She introduced the Paynes to the ministry in 2015 and promised to assist them if they brought the program to the Diocese of Owensboro. She now lives in Tell City, Ind., where she is director of Catholic Charities.

The Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center became the home of the retreat until Covid shut down the center in 2020. Father Scaglione stepped down once the retreat began happening at the Mount, but when the retreat center could not reopen, there was no place to host the Gennesaret retreat, Sister Shellie said.

“We called the (Trappist) monks at Gethsemani and they allowed us to return,” Sister Shellie said. “We’ve been back since 2023.”

There are some challenges with the new arrangement. Although the retreat is a nonprofit under the Diocese of Owensboro, it lost a grant when it moved to Gethsemani – even though all the participants are from the Diocese of Owensboro, Sister Shellie said. The retreat – which is free for the participants – now only happens yearly due to the cost and the distance. It is supported mostly by private donations.

Finding a priest to be the spiritual moderator for the weekend has long been a challenge, but for the past two years, Father Christopher Grief, the parochial vicar at St. Stephen Cathedral, has served that role.



Father Christopher Grief, front, kneels to wash the feet of a participant, as Deacon John Cecil does the same, at the fall Gennesaret Retreat in Bardstown, Ky. Father Grief is the parochial vicar at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, Ky., and Deacon Cecil serves at Sts. Joseph and Paul Church in Owensboro.

“It’s been a wonderful experience to work with him,” Sister Shellie said.

“Serving as the spiritual director has become an exercise in humble accompaniment,” Father Grief said. “This experience reinforces the spiritual truth that ministry is sustained by the divine power found in solitude and prayer, a rhythm consistently modeled by Jesus in the Gospels.”

He knew nothing of the retreat before the Paynes asked him to participate, he said.

“What has drawn me back stems from the retreat’s direct echo of Christ’s compassion for the sick,” he said. “What I have found is that Gennesaret is a powerful effort to bring the sick to Jesus. My prayer for all guests of Gennesaret is that they will leave with renewed strength and radical hope as they acknowledge their journey as a path to deeper union with the cross of Christ.”

Louis Yopp was one of the nine participants at the most recent retreat. He lives in Paducah, Ky., where he is a Eucharistic minister at St. Francis DeSales Parish.

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Gennesaret retreats, *continued*

"I visit the homebound and nursing home patients to take them Communion," Yopp said. "In my heart, these people are forgotten."

He talked to Amy Payne about volunteering, but she suggested he come the first year as a participant.

"I've had a lot of surgeries the past 12 years, for my heart, shoulder and knees," Yopp said. "I didn't know what to expect. When I made the turn at Elizabethtown, something moved me. I felt God stormed in and changed my life. I've never felt that closeness to everyone there," he said. "I tried to mingle with everyone. I felt like a little child of God for the rest of my life. Everyone had similar stories, but different and touching."

"I'm going to come back and volunteer next year," Yopp said. "I'll do anything they want me to do."

Amy Payne said when people have physical limitations that leave them feeling unneeded, they don't want to be a burden, so they don't ask for help.

"We tell them, 'We want you to be the receivers this weekend,'" Payne said. "We've had people who are called home by God a few months after the retreat, and their families tell us that they received such peace from the retreat."

The next Gennesaret weekend is Sept. 25-27, 2026. To apply to be a guest or to volunteer as a host team member, contact coordinators Amy or Tom Payne at 270-316-0403 or email apayneat2251@hotmail.com. To donate to this ministry, checks can be made out to Gennesaret Retreat Ministry and sent to Tom Payne, 2251 Becklynn Dr., Owensboro, KY 42303.

Sister Sharon Sullivan speaks at 'No Kings Rally'



← Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, KY), was one of the speakers during the "No Kings" rally on the Daviess County Courthouse lawn on Oct. 18, 2025. Sister Sharon spoke on behalf of equitable treatment for immigrants, which the Ursuline Sisters have supported for generations. She was joined by a handful of Ursuline Sisters and Associates, some of the estimated 500 people who attended the rally to voice their displeasure with the current administration in Washington, D.C.



↑ Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Betsy Moyer, left, and Barbara Jean Head talk with two other people who were attending the No Kings Rally.

You can read the full text of Sister Sharon's speech online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/sister-sharon-sullivan-speaks-on-dignity-for-all-at-no-kings-rally>

→ Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Judith Nell Riney, in the center, reminds everyone passing by at the rally that "We are all immigrants."



Consecration in Dallas

"I listened to my inner spirit and found that it connected with the voice and guidance of the Lord." Elizabeth Simeon describes the heart-felt process leading her to renew her temporary consecration in the Company of St. Ursula of Canada-USA on January 29.



The brief ceremony took place in Elizabeth's parish, St. Joseph, in Dallas. Daily Mass-goers – "the people I pray with" – got new insight into their fellow-parishioner. The pastor, Father Stephen Ingram, hopes that some vocational seeds were planted in children from the parish school attending the morning Mass.

Everyone glimpsed the little-known vocation to a secular institute.

After two years of temporary commitment, Elizabeth has now embarked on the next phase – three more years – before being eligible for lifelong consecration.

She lives her mission of loving service as a CNA in an elder-residence.

Why in Dallas? Elizabeth is a legally documented immigrant from Kenya but leery of traveling. Fear hangs over all immigrants, vulnerable to arrest by ICE.

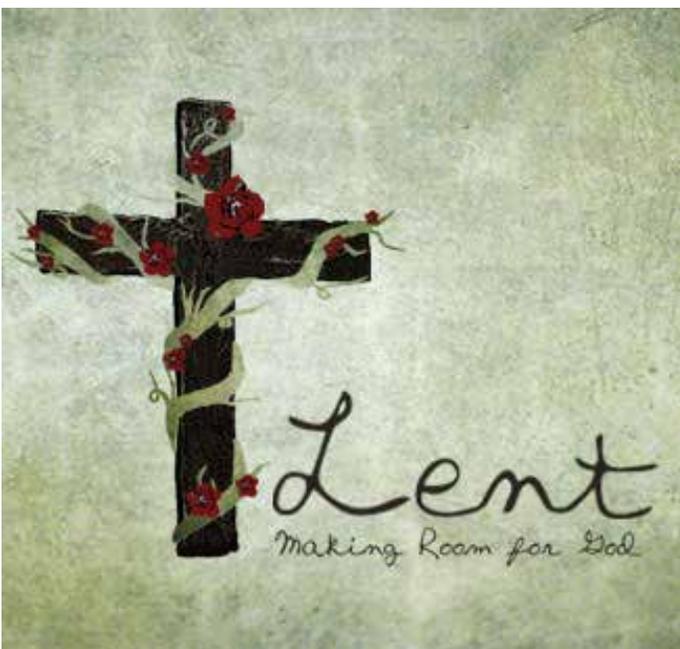
Mary-Cabrini Durkin, Directress, was present to receive her consecration.



Elizabeth and Mary-Cabrini with Sisters of St. Joseph and the parish deacon



Toasting Elizabeth at a celebratory luncheon hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, her fellow parishioners



NAULC Convergence

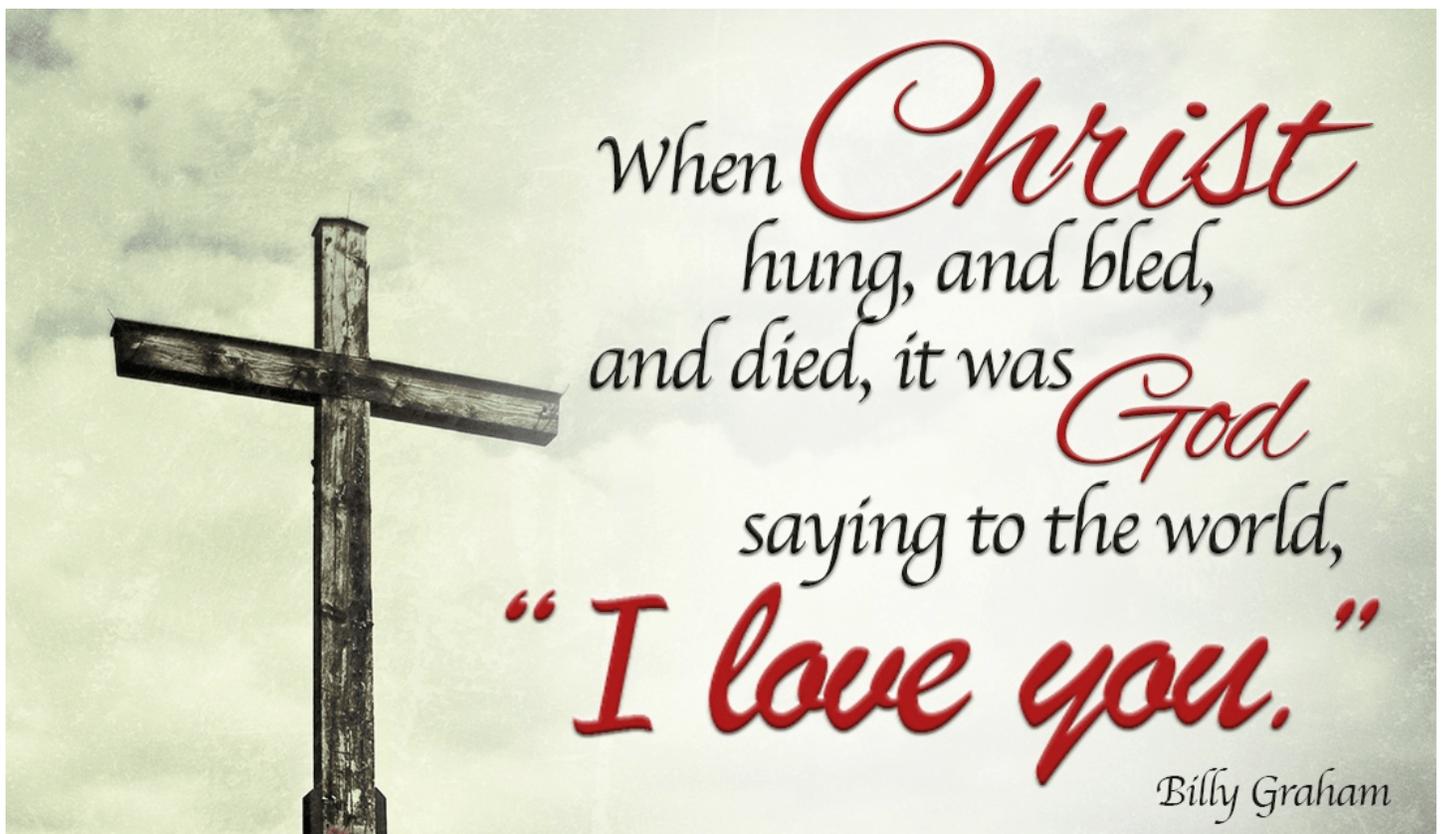
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The deadline for the Summer 2026 issue of NAULC Convergence is June 12, 2026.

Please send stories and photos to Michelle Scazero at m scazero@ursulinecenter.org.

Gather Together

“Take care to have your daughters come together from time to time...
“advises St. Angela in her Eighth Legacy. The members of the Company of St. Ursula of Toronto gather monthly, both in-person and online (see photos of a birthday celebration and a few members standing under an autumn maple tree). The Filipino group which sprang forth from the Company of Toronto also gathers monthly (see photo of group assembled for a retreat). The Continuing Formation Committee from the Federation Council created resources to be used internationally on the theme: “Sustained by faith in Christ, consecrated missionary disciples in today’s world.” This helps to keep us all united in formation and centered in purpose.



Ursulines of Prelate

As we age and slow down, so do our activities. Various celebrations and meetings do continue to happen. In October, the Sisters were invited for Thanksgiving supper at the Generalate with Sr. Anne Lewans (Congregational Leader) hosting.



On November 25th, the Ursulines of Bruno joined the Ursulines of Prelate to celebrate the founding of the Company of St. Ursula. This was the 25th anniversary of “Stirrings” taking place. The day started off with lunch and lots of visiting which was followed by a short video about St. Angela and a prayer stressing how Angela saw (and wrote about) relationships and community as very central.

On January 27th, the Sisters gathered at St. Angela Merici Residence, formerly owned by the Sisters and now a personal care home. Mass, lunch and visiting was on the agenda. The meal was delicious as usual and soft classical music was offered by the guitarist Walter Hofmeister.



As activities slow down, the leadership team continues to work steadily. On January 29th, the Sisters gathered to reflect on some of the happenings of the last year and to look towards new initiatives in the coming year. The meeting started with lunch after which Sr. Anne Lewans (Congregational Leader) shared some of the activities of the leadership during the last few months. First and foremost have been initiatives inviting others to carry on the legacy of the Sisters. Efforts are being made to give endowments to organizations that share our mission and values.



Andy Praksas (treasurer) shared possible ways in which we can simplify our accounting system. Tracy Marple (Lead Community Care Coordinator) shared how her service to us has been evolving.

