

NAULC

Convergence

"To Move Toward the Same Purpose Together"

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Summer 2025

Pilgrimage to Italy, Moving Retreat and TV Coverage for Youngstown Ursulines

A group of 17 – 15 Ursuline Associates and Sisters Mary McCormick and Norma Raupple – recently returned from a two-week trip to Italy that started in Milan and ended in Rome, with visits to Desenzano and Brescia in between.



One of the hotels we stayed in was on the shore of Lake Garda. Everyone agreed it was a highlight to visit Angela's house and the Duomo where she was baptized.

Ursuline Associate Linda McClure said the group found the visit very emotional. "When we set foot on the driveway of this home, there were unexpected tears."

We also participated in events for the Holy Year of Hope. One highlight was having Mass in St. Peter's Square with Pope Leo! So many Italians congratulated us as American pilgrims: "'We have an Americano Pope!'"

"So very exciting to be able to celebrate Mass there with 70,000 others," Linda says.

"The pilgrimage was a wonderful experience on many levels as we were bonded in the presence and



history of Angela," Sister Norma says. "We established deeper relationships to carry us into the future of our charism."

Sister Mary also felt moved by the trip.

"The pilgrimage to Italy was an experience that deepened my rootedness in St. Angela and the charism she left for the church and the world," Sister Mary says. "We were able to visit many of the sites where



New mosaic of Angela in Italy

St. Angela lived and worked. And we reflected on the ways that Sisters and Associates carry the charism in the 21st century."

We're planning to post more pictures on our social media pages.

While the passing of Pope Francis greatly saddened us all, we were grateful that local TV station WFMJ chose Sister Mary, our general superior and a professor and academic dean at St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Cleveland, as an expert source for its coverage related to the conclave and to the election of Pope Leo XIV.

You can view two of her interviews online:

<https://www.wfmj.com/clip/15507615/lasting-impact-of-pope-francis-on-the-catholic-church>

<https://www.wfmj.com/story/52759920/valley-catholic-leaders-excited-about-the-selection-of-pope-leo-xiv>

Upon returning from Italy, all of our Sisters had a weeklong retreat. Fr. Ed Keck shared with us reflections on the Paschal Mystery and the dying process that each person goes through, long before one's physical death.

His insights about the Paschal Mystery and its connection to the Eucharist touched each Sister's heart as each of us goes through the process of transition.

Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

Cleveland Ursuline 175th Celebration

Although the official date of our 175th anniversary in Cleveland is August 8, 2025, plans have already been made to celebrate on different levels throughout the year. Celebrations began on May 3, 2025 with over 300 Ursuline supporters for dinner and fellowship while watching the Kentucky Derby, a fundraising event.



On August 10, 2025 an anniversary celebration will be held on the Ursuline College campus for relatives and friends. Plans are being made for a fall donor luncheon and book launch for the Cleveland Ursuline history book being compiled by Richard Osborne, former editor of an Ohio magazine and brother of former Cleveland Ursuline, Therese Osborne, who has been interviewing our Sisters. On November 23, 2025, a Mass commemorating Sister Dorothy Kazel's 45th anniversary of death will be held at St. Dominic Church. Then Sister Laura Bregar, President of the Cleveland Ursulines, will address the First Friday Club of Cleveland at the diocesan seminary on December 5, 2025. The culminating events will begin with a Re-Member Day on April 18, 2026 for our Sisters and former Ursulines and a 175th Anniversary Liturgy at Gesu Church celebrated with Cleveland Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost.



Thriving in Troubled Times

On Saturday, March 29, approximately 140 religious sisters from seven congregations in Cleveland, including thirty-eight Ursulines, met at Magnificat High School to hear Sister Nancy Schreck, OSF speak and to share with each other thoughts about the future of women religious in these troubling times. Sister Nancy is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa and received the 2024 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award.



Ursulines Against the Death Penalty



Sister Mary Eileen Boyle



Sister Joanne Gross

Sister Mary Eileen Boyle addressed members of the Ohio State Senate and Congress to express the Cleveland Ursulines' opposition to the death penalty. Sister Joanne Gross, OSU, our attorney, sent a letter to Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and to our daily newspaper, The Cleveland News, stating that she and all the Ursulines of Cleveland did not want the death penalty reinstated. Sister Joanne wrote, "The Ursulines Sisters have been deeply touched by violent crime. The murder of our Sister Joanne Marie Mascha thirty years

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Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, *continued*

ago horrified us. We had publicly opposed the death penalty, but the prosecutors were not deterred. Only a jury's mistake on the forms resulted in the young man not facing the death penalty at sentencing.

When asked to write a reflection on her experience with the death penalty, Mary Eileen wrote: "I traveled to the state capital in Columbus, Ohio to meet with Ohio senators and representatives, urging them to support legislation that would eliminate capital punishment as a sentencing option. It was a meaningful experience. I felt heard, and our advocacy helped legislators more clearly consider their positions on the issue. Supporters of the death penalty believe it helps families find closure, preventing them from having to relive the trauma again and again. But in truth, grief and anger can continue to consume a person long after the sentence is carried out. In contrast, stories of families who have found a way to forgive those who took their loved one's life show us that forgiveness can be freeing—for both sides.

"Recently, a letter arrived unexpectedly, almost three decades after Joanne Marie's murder, addressed with an inmate number and to the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, and handwritten in childlike printing. The writer sought forgiveness for having murdered Joanne Marie. Acknowledging that he was a scared kid who should have sought help, he expressed his sorrow, asked that we forgive him, hoped someone would respond, and signed the letter with "Your Friend" and his name. . . . Stunned as we were by hearing from him after all these years, we were grateful he was alive, able to apologize and seek forgiveness.

"Our leadership team responded, noting that he had robbed God's world of a gentle soul. Nevertheless, we accepted his apology, and in the name of Joanne Marie, offered our forgiveness. Just as we had prayed thirty years ago that he would be spared the death penalty, we now promised prayers for his continued healing and redemption."

Our Sisters continue to protest the death penalty through letters and phone calls to senators and delegates as well as protest demonstrations. Please join us if you have not done so already.

CORAL Billboard



The Sisters of Northeast Ohio have joined together to sponsor a billboard that will be seen by those traveling on one of the major highways in the Cleveland area. A former pupil of the Cleveland Ursulines and now a prominent lawyer in the Cleveland area, Tim Misny, donated the use of his billboard for this important cause. The billboard is now displayed on Interstate 90 and includes "Catholic Sisters of Northeast Ohio."

East Cleveland Project

On Saturday, April 12th, after our regular OSU Congregational meeting, Ken Counihan, working on a project with St. Ann and St. Philomena Parishes to help revitalize the impoverished city of East Cleveland, addressed interested Sisters who had lived in, gone to school in and/or ministered in the area when we Ursulines had staffed two elementary schools and a high school. Once the wealthiest suburb in the United States when John D. Rockefeller lived there, it is currently the poorest, with 50 percent of the children not knowing where their next meal is coming from. Plans developed by people living in the area and outside East Cleveland include using the former St. Philomena rectory to provide free healthy lunches for the residents, building a Bishop Pilla Center on the campus by partnering with Communion of Saints (former St. Ann's) Parish, Catholic Charities, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic and Cleveland Metro Parks. Ursuline Sisters have been asked to help with some of the services in East Cleveland.

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Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, *continued*

COAR Celebration

Forty-five years ago, El Salvador was caught up in a brutal civil war. Over 70,000 people were killed or disappeared. Many children became orphans and refugees. Father Ken Myers of the Latin American Mission Team founded La Comunidad Oscar A. Romero (COAR) to take care of these vulnerable children. Today COAR is still flourishing as a home, a school, a community, and a legacy. It is supported by its Cleveland "branch" which works tirelessly to help students in El Salvador to secure their future and live in peace and safety.

On April 26, 2025, COAR honored the 45th anniversary of the Salvadoran Martyrs of 1980 at their annual benefit. Cleveland Bishop Edward Malesic accepted the award for Archbishop St. Oscar A. Romero. Sister Rose Elizabeth Terrell, OSU accepted the award for Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU. Accepting the award for Jean Donovan were Rita Dowd Mikolajczyk, Mary Fran Ehlinger, and Meg McGarry.

The Ursuline Sisters are a deep part of the Salvadoran story. Fourteen Ursuline Sisters have served on the Cleveland Latin American Mission Team since 1968. Sister Dorothy Kazel



Sisters at COAR Benefit

gave her life. In her acceptance speech, Sister Rose Elizabeth recalled how Sister Dorothy was a joyous person, always smiling, always loving people. Sister Rose Elizabeth asked all the Ursulines present to stand, especially those who had served in El Salvador. About 12 Sisters were able to be present to honor the 1980 martyrs. When they stood, they were greeted by a round of applause from the sold-out crowd at the COAR benefit. It was a heartwarming and moving testimony to the ministry of the Sisters and the life of Sister Dorothy Kazel. Sister Rose Elizabeth ended her remarks with a fervent hope that some day soon Dorothy will be named in the official canon of saints, and we will be able to say St. Dorothy pray for us.

The entire COAR event, the beautiful Mass, the benefit itself, the camaraderie and the memories were a testament to the building of the Kingdom of God. In the words of Vincent Sherlock: "the Kingdom of God is living life now. It is the people of El Salvador, the people of Cleveland, the martyrs, the missionaries, all the members of COAR, the Ursuline Sisters, living for others and with others so that God's glory can reveal itself again and again."

Ursuline College and Gannon University

On May 8, 2025, the separate boards of trustees for each school were dissolved and one Board of Trustees was established to make decisions for both Gannon and Ursuline College consisting of representatives



from both institutions. The first meeting of the combined Boards of Trustees was held on July 10, 2025 and consists of three former Ursuline College



Board Members, Sister Laura Bregar, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland President, former president of the Ursuline College Board, Teri Corletzi, and Cynthia Moore-Hardy another UC Board member along with six members of the former Gannon University Board.

Also, Sisters Laura Bregar, Ritamary Welsh and Joanne Gross travelled to Erie, PA the first week of May to celebrate the 165th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA. These Sisters founded Villa Maria College in Erie, PA. Gannon University now carries their charter and is celebrating their centennial. Collaboration is key as Ursuline College and Gannon University continue the journey of partnership.

Jubilee Celebration

The eight Sisters celebrating jubilees this year: 70 years for Marilyn Scott, Joan Tomchey, Charlotte Trenkamp

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Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, *continued*

and Nina Vitale; 60 years for Maureen Grady and Mary Ellen Brinovec; 50 years for Joanne Gross and Mary Ann Murphy participated in a Liturgy and dinner on Sunday, May 18 at Merici Crossings with the rest of the congregation. Reverend William Sweeney officiated at the Mass. Also, on Sunday, September 7, 2025, the two Golden Jubilarians will celebrate with their families and friends and the Ursuline Sisters at a 2:00 Mass at St. Noel Church.



Ursuline Sisters of Chatham: *Celebrating 165 Years of Our Life and Mission*

On the occasion of the 165th Anniversary of our foundation in Chatham, Ontario, we had a wonderful week of celebrations.

As a special tribute to our local foundress, Mother Mary Xavier LeBihan, a reflection on her life and missionary spirit was prepared by Sr. Eleanor Gleeson.

We hope you will enjoy learning about the highlights of our founding in the video provided:

[Reflections — Mother Xavier 2025–165 Year Anniversary — Ursuline Sisters of Chatham](#)

55th MOUNT RAFFLE ENTER TO WIN

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Drawing takes place Sept. 14, 2025.


Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

For more information,
contact Carol
Braden-Clarke

270-229-2008

carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org



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News from the Brown County Ursulines

Community Retreat

In February 2023 at our Chapter of Elections, the Ursulines of Brown County determined that it would be our last election, necessitating the need to petition Rome for an Appointed Leader. Our first step was to engage Sister Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN, to serve as our facilitator as we navigated the process for establishing a covenant relationship for the restructuring of our governance. Because of her personal experience with the transition of her Congregation, Mary Jo is the perfect choice. In Fall of 2024, having worked with us for a full year, Mary Jo suggested that as a community, it might be good for us to take some time to process the loss and grief we are feeling as we leave the familiar and move toward the unknown.



Sister Fran Hogan at the end of retreat.

As a community, we have not shared a "Community retreat" since the 70's. It is our practice to determine our unique needs for our yearly retreat and schedule it according to our life circumstances. We did a Community Pilgrimage in 2001 to Brescia Italy which was a wonderful opportunity to explore, as a group, the sacred places of St. Angela.

Based on the experience of her community, Mary Jo suggested Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, who had worked with the OLVN's while they were moving into a new governance structure.

We used Mt. Notre Dame Health Center facilities so that all of us, even those in skilled care could participate. We agreed to 3 days during Lent with a focus on The Paschal Mystery. We received material "Along the Paschal Journey" prior to the retreat days to prepare and engage us, even before we gathered. Mary provided additional materials for us while she was with us and gave us materials to use for Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. The images, questions and



Retreatants Sisters Lucy Schmid and Debbie Lloyd

discussions she prompted were beautiful and thought-provoking. Our shared time together was enriching, comfortable, and holy.

The closing prayer of our community retreat was filled with gifts given and received. Each of us gained a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness and unity. We expressed gratitude for each other and for the gift Mary was for each of us and all of us. As a special surprise, the Engineering students at Ursuline Academy provided our parting gifts of personalized mugs. It was their way of honoring each of us as individuals and thanking us for the legacy we share with them. Our time together with Sr. Mary was a graced time leading each of us deeper into the Paschal Mystery.



Personalized mugs created by the Ursuline Engineering students

The transition from the Ursuline Convent to Chatfield College/Edge to Dragonfly Village

In the Spring edition of Convergence, the Brown County community shared the transfer of the St. Martin property from the Chatfield Edge to Future Plans, Inc. The plan is to transform what was the campus into a comprehensive wellness and recovery center, supporting women and children. The aim is to create a nurturing environment where individuals can rebuild their lives through recovery and empowerment. The organization expects to provide essential services that address both immediate recovery needs and long-term well-being, helping families to regain stability and thrive.

This week the new signage appeared at the entrance with the title: "Dragonfly Village." Based on my research, a dragonfly is often interpreted as a symbol of change, transformation, and adaptability, both in a literal and spiritual sense. It can also signify good luck, prosperity, and spiritual awakening. Looking at the potential spiritual meaning the following was suggested:

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Ursuline Sisters of Brown County, continued

- **Change and Transformation:** Dragonflies are a strong symbol of embracing change and navigating life's transitions, whether personal or societal.
- **Adaptability:** Their ability to thrive in different environments and stages of life suggests the importance of adaptability in facing life's challenges.
- **Spiritual Awakening:** Dragonflies can represent a call to explore deeper meaning and understand the interconnectedness of all things.
- **Good Luck and Prosperity:** In some cultures, dragonflies are seen as a sign of good fortune and a positive experience on the horizon.

The campus will look different, beginning with the entrance, but it remains our hope that the mission will continue the Ursuline charism for the people in this region of the state.



Open House for new Heritage Room held May 8

An Open House for a new Heritage Room at Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky., was held the morning of May 8. Several Sisters and a few staff stopped by to view the two rooms, which are located at the north entrance (facing the highway) of the Lourdes building. The rooms contain many items that were previously located in the Museum in the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center before that building had to be taken down. Set up in the former location of the Angela Oratory, the Heritage Room still contains some of the books and items that were featured in the Oratory. Sister Amelia Stenger worked for weeks to plan the displays and write the tags for each item. She had some help from Edward Wilson, the archivist for the Ursuline Sisters. The Heritage Room will be open for visitors on special occasions such as Associates and Sisters Day and Alumnae Weekend. It can also be toured upon request by any guests who visit the campus. Contact Sister Amelia or Edward Wilson to tour the room. There is a guest book for visitors to sign.



Sister Ann Patrice Cecil looks at relics and other items in the new Heritage Room at the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse, Maple Mount, Ky. Sister Amelia Stenger, right, who organized the new space, was standing near the entrance to greet everyone.

*Jesus looked at them and said,
"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Matthew 19:26

Ursuline Sisters have connection to Pope Leo XIV from his time in Peru

Ursuline Sister Noreen Allossery-Walsh believed Bishop Robert Francis Prevost would make a great pope, she just never imagined it would happen.

Having met Prevost in 2017 after previously doing mission work in Chiclayo, Peru, from 1994 to 1999, she was happy to see him in recent televised coverage of Easter celebrations at the Vatican as the health of Pope Francis was failing.

"I remember saying to my brother, 'He really would be a very good pope, but I don't think they (church) are looking at North America,'" Allossery-Walsh said.

Watching as reports about the conclave to choose a new pope took place following the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday, April 21, she recalled Prevost, a Chicago native, was not even in the conversation for top candidates to become the new pope.

While experiencing the joy and surprise at learning Prevost was named the new pope, Allossery-Walsh said from her life experience: "I know the Spirit is working when the unexpected happens."

Prevost officially became Pope Leo XIV on Thursday, May 8, and is the first person from North America to lead the Roman Catholic Church around the world.

Allossery-Walsh recalled the Ursulines were doing mission work in Chiclayo as immigrants from Venezuela started flooding into the city in northwest Peru to escape political persecution and economic hardship and Prevost becoming involved.

Allossery-Walsh remembers meeting with Prevost in 2017 to discuss a migration conference that was being planned and was sponsored by the Ursulines, which the bishop attended.

"When they've been saying in the media that he is really genuinely concerned about immigrants and migration, I



Ursuline Sisters Noreen Allossery-Walsh, left, and community leader Theresa Mahoney, are seen here with a Time magazine cover shot of Pope Leo XIV, who has a connection with the Ursulines from his days serving in Peru. They are in front of a portrait of Mother Xavier LeBihan, who founded the Ursulines in Chatham 165 years ago on May 9, 1860. PHOTO Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News jpg, CD, apsmc

would say that started in Peru," she said.

Media reports about the new pope being serene and curious are also true from what Allossery-Walsh remembers of her meeting with him.

"He likes to have good conversation, but it was really all about, 'How are we going to respond to the migration issue in Chiclayo?'" she said.

"It was about service, it was about responding to the poor," she added. "He was ready to empower people to do that work."

Another Ursuline sister, the late Pauline Maheux, worked with Prevost in 2015 when he was the newly appointed bishop in Chiclayo, as the Ursulines were preparing to donate some property before departing Peru.

"We were really blessed, because we were getting ready to leave Chiclayo and he was newly appointed and it was like, 'This is going to be good for the church,'" Allossery-Walsh said.

News of the new pope made a celebration of the 165th anniversary of the Ursuline Sisters in Chatham on Friday extra special.

Ursuline community leader Sister Theresa Mahoney recalled when interviewed by The Chatham Daily News last month following the death of Pope Francis being asked what direction she expects the church to take in selecting a new pope.

"We will see what the Holy Spirit has in mind," she remembers saying. "I do believe that's an important piece."

Mahoney added becoming pope isn't like running for political office.

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Ursuline Sisters have connection to Pope Leo XIV from his time in Peru - *continued*



Ursuline Sister Pauline Maheux, front left, is seen here in a photo taken in June 2015 with then Bishop Robert Prevost, who is now Pope Leo XIV. They are seen here with the team at Centre St. Angela in Chiclayo, Peru, who include, from back left: Erla Hoyos, Zoila Burga Custodio, Carmen Carrasco, Juanita Diaz and Marleny Constantino Lucumi. PHOTO Supplied jpg, CD, apsmc

"It is people who come together in prayer and then see how God leads that group," she said. "This is who I think the Holy Spirit had in mind."

The Ursulines have served the communities they've lived in since Mother Xavier LeBihan arrived on the banks of the Thames River in Chatham on May 9, 1860.

"We've just always been involved in whatever communities we've been in," Mahoney said.

She said a major contribution of the Ursuline Sisters has been in education at the elementary, high school and university level.

In Chatham, the Ursulines founded Ursuline College Chatham, where many sisters also taught for years. The sisters also established Brescia College that is part of the

University of Western Ontario in London.

With many sisters now retired, some focused their efforts in recent years to helping refugees. The Ursuline sisters brought the first Syrian refugee family to Chatham 10 years ago and also helped bring refugees to Windsor and London, Mahoney said.

She said the Ursulines went in many directions since arriving in Chatham, including all across Ontario as well as had communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Northern Quebec.

While fewer in numbers these days, some Ursuline sisters remain in Windsor, Hamilton and London with one sister still in Newfoundland.

"We've just kept keeping on," Mahoney said. "There's always a need."

Allossery-Walsh said the sisterhood is happy Pope Leo XIV is leading the church, "because within the Ursulines we've lived a missionary spirit and as pilgrims."

She said Pope Leo XIV is a missionary to the world and doesn't just belong to one place. "He is God's missionary and we can relate to that," Allossery-Walsh said.

(Author of the article: Ellwood Shreve, Chatham Daily News, May 10, 2025)

Ursulines of Chatham Transition to a New Form of Governance on July 5, 2025

On November 25, 2024, the Ursulines of Chatham held an Extraordinary Chapter. During this gathering they agreed to request from Rome the appointment of a Pontifical Commissary. In the new year, January 16, 2025, a formal request was sent to Sister Simona Brambilla, M.C., Prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life to "consider the appointment of Sister Margo Ritchie, the General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, to the ministry of Leadership as the Commissary for our Ursulines of Chatham community." With anticipation and gratitude we received the Decree from Rome on April 16, 2025 appointing Sister Margo Ritchie, CSJ Pontifical Commissary. On July 5, 2025 we officially transitioned to a new form of governance as we affirmed Sister Margo Ritchie our Commissary.



Cincinnati Archives - It's a Team Effort!

The Cincinnati Ursulines' Archives are destined for the Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) in Cleveland – eventually. A team of very generous and committed volunteer archivists and historians is working hard to organize and prepare all materials for the journey.

The original team of three St. Ursula Academy alums expanded to five in recent years, as word of the joy and camaraderie experienced in the archives work spread. The Sisters' commitment to the WRAC project has provided a better understanding of the team's work. So, when Nancy Broermann, the original leader of the team began making plans to move to be near her daughter and her family in Austin, Texas, thoughts of adding new members took hold.

Nancy Stegbauer stepped up to the plate, becoming the team's first non-St. Ursula alum member. Nancy is a graduate of Notre Dame Academy in nearby Covington, Kentucky. Having been widowed not long before, Nancy, the mother of St. Ursula Academy's new principal, was looking for a volunteer opportunity. Team members welcomed Nancy # 2 with open arms. However, soon the team's Thursday workday presented a conflict with other fun activities when Nancy moved to a new retirement community. A dilemma for her, indeed! After a brief "full retirement," she realized how much she missed her time with the team and the archives work itself and discovered that the conflict is not a weekly occurrence. She has now returned to the work she loves whenever her schedule allows. A happy compromise!

When it appeared Nancy would be leaving permanently, Sr. Mary Jerome mentioned the turnover in the archives staffing to Geri Walsh, a long-time St. Ursula Academy teacher and friend of the Sisters. Geri had just retired from the Academy. While on staff, she had visited the archives and learned along with freshman classes during their winter "Spiritual Journey Days." As a lover of history and the Sisters, she did not need much time to discern her positive response. Not a graduate of the Academy, but of Cincinnati's Oak Hills High School, Geri's 44 years of teaching at St. Ursula steeped her in the Ursuline history, mission, and values. She is more than prepared for the job!

A recent project has been the sorting of documents and photos chronicling the 60+ year development of St. Ursula Villa, the elementary school, so named when grades K-8 moved to a property separate from St. Ursula Academy in 1960. From ownership and operation by the Ursulines, it transitioned through separate incorporation and ownership, with sponsorship by the Sisters, to its current status as an independent Catholic school in the Ursuline tradition with Archdiocesan oversight.

The Sisters are very grateful for their archives team members' tenacity and dedication to the finding and assembling the puzzle pieces that tell their story. They know it's a small part of the much bigger story of women's religious life in America that will be brought together in Cleveland and in other archive centers around the country.



Team members Anne Gutzwiller, Kit Overbeck, Jan Hirst and Geri Walsh focus on the multiple boxes of materials that tell the story of St. Ursula Villa.

Absent from these photos is Elaine Semancik, who is on "medical leave."



New team members Nancy Stegbauer and Geri Walsh work together on the current project, the Sisters' ministry in Archdiocesan schools.



Allison McGraw, the Ursulines' Business Manager, creates the labels for the many boxes of materials making her integral to the work of the team.

From the Cincinnati Ursulines

Our Pilgrims of HOPE

Five educators from St. Ursula Villa joined other Ursuline educators around the nation for recently completed *Life and Legacy of Saint Angela Merici 10-Day Pilgrimage and Study Tour for Ursuline Educators*, facilitated by the Ursuline Education Network and Peters Way Tours. “The Villa” was founded and sponsored by the Cincinnati Ursulines, but is now an independent Catholic school in the Ursuline tradition. It serves students from early childhood through eighth grade.

Lisa Wolfer, the Villa’s Director of Mission Integration, having created a very full album of photos of significant sites, commented, *“We were blessed with the amazing opportunity to walk where our foundress walked and pray where she prayed.”*

The pilgrims will reflect on and share their experiences with the school community in the months ahead. The knowledge, insights and resources they’ve gained will surely enhance the formation plan and process the school has been developing for several years. And the inspiration generated in these Pilgrims of Hope will energize the community as it lives its Ursuline mission into the future.

In addition to the pilgrims from the Villa, two staff members from Cincinnati’s St. Ursula Academy shared in the experience.



The five St. Ursula Villa pilgrims stand in front of Angela’s home at Le Grezze. A Sister from Poland and one from England joined the group for the photo. [Left and Right respectively]



CrossCards

Ursulines of the Eastern Province

Leadership Team Gathers for Annual RUSULA Conference

From May 21–23, Eastern Province leadership joined members of the Roman Union USA Leadership (RUSULA) at the Mercy Conference and Retreat Center for their annual meeting. This gathering provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection, collaboration, and forward planning.

In attendance were Sisters Joanne Abrams, Brenda Buckley, Jane Finnerty, Jean Hopman, Jeannie Humphries, Margaret Johnson, Susan Kienzler, Peggy Moore, Elisa Ryan, Pat Schifini, and Maureen Welch. They were joined by Ann-Marie Gardiner from the General Council in Rome, whose presence added a valuable global perspective to the discussions. Participating remotely via Zoom were Dianne Baumunk and Lynn Jarrell, who served as the meeting's facilitators.



Throughout the three days, the group engaged in prayerful discernment, shared insights, and deepened their collective vision for the future of the Ursuline mission in the United States. The gathering was marked by a spirit of unity, hope, and purpose as the leadership team continues to guide the community with faith and dedication.

Honoring Milestones of Faith and Services of our Sisters

The Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province joyfully honor several beloved members of our community as

they celebrate significant jubilees. Srs. Josephine De Pietro, Bernadette Mackay, Mary Virginia Orna, and Joan Woodcome all marked an extraordinary 60 years of faithful service, spiritual leadership, and dedication to the Ursuline mission. Their six decades of ministry have touched countless lives through education, unwavering commitment to justice, compassion, and faith.

Sr. Jeannie Humphries, OSU, celebrates her 25th Jubilee, a milestone commemorating her vibrant and heartfelt devotion to the people and communities she serves. On June 14, Sr. Jeannie will be honored with a Jubilee Celebration Service and luncheon reception at the Province Center, surrounded by family, friends, and fellow Sisters.

These jubilees are powerful reminders of the enduring strength and grace of a life lived in service to others. We give thanks for the sisters' remarkable journeys and the light they continue to shine on all who walk with the Ursuline Sisters.



*Sister Josephine
De Pietro*



*Sister Bernadette
Mackay*



*Sister Mary Virginia
Orna*



*Sister Joan
Woodcome*



*Sister Jeannie
Humphries*

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Ursulines of the Eastern Province, *continued*

Celebrating the Ursuline Global Mission at “World Flavors” Cocktail Soirée

On May 8, the Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province hosted *World Flavors: A Global Tasting Cocktail Soirée*, an evening that celebrated the Ursuline Global Mission and its life-changing work around the world. Held at the Dining Lab of the Culinary Institute at Monroe University, the event brought together friends, supporters, and legacy affiliates for an unforgettable night of food, fellowship, and global connection.



Event Committee, left to right: David Gelpi, Director of Mission & Formation, Ursuline School, Sr. Brenda Buckley, Veronica Hinds, Director of Development & Communications, OSU East, Erin Prada, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Global Education, Ursuline Academy, Sr. Pat Schifini, Karenann Carty, CNR Alum, and Martha Reddington, CNR

Guests were treated to a tasting menu inspired by *The Ursuline Global Cookbook*, featuring international dishes shared by Ursuline communities across the globe. From appetizers to desserts, every bite told a story of tradition, culture, and sisterhood.

We were honored to welcome members of our extended Ursuline family, including representatives from The Ursuline School, Ursuline Academy, Mount Saint Ursula, and Songcatchers. The evening also spotlighted two international schools directly supported by the Eastern Province, the Mother of Peace School in Cambodia and Saint Angela School in Cameroon who provided moving videos and photos of their students and staff.

Proceeds from the evening supported these and other Ursuline education initiatives. Sales from *The Ursuline Global Cookbook* specifically benefit the community kitchen at the Mother of Peace School in Battambang, Cambodia, a space where village women can hone their culinary skills and build sustainable economic futures for themselves and their families.

Cookbooks are still available for purchase! To order your copy, view event photos, or learn more about our global mission, visit www.osueast.org.



Left to right: Sarah Kelly, Chief Advancement Officer, Ursuline School, Martha Reddington, CNR Alum, Denise Moore, Former Assistant Principal, Ursuline School, and Renata Mulder, Director of Communications, Ursuline School



Ursuline Student volunteers with Erin Johnston, Director of Admissions, Ursuline School, with spouse.

News from the Roman Union Western Province

Kateri Northwest Ministry Institute

Kateri Northwest Ministry Institute (KNMI) is a training program in leadership for Native American Catholics. Kateri's mission is to empower Native American Catholics to serve their People and affirm their cultural and spiritual identity. KNMI encourages the People to take responsibility for the religious life of their local community.

The program transforms training into action by involving Native leaders fully in the pastoral education of fellow Native Catholics. Kateri participants become teachers themselves, working in apprenticeship with KNMI staff, a collaboration which enables Native People to take ownership of their place within the local community. Our ultimate goal includes training lay leaders in the Native community, healing from substance abuse and dysfunction, and promoting greater involvement of native People in their larger communities.

Sr. Mary Dostal who lives in Billings, Montana is an active member of the KNMI staff.



Sr. Mary Dostal is pictured third from the left in the second row of the latest gathering.

Integral Ecology Update

The Western Province continues a monthly zoom gathering with our lay collaborators and friends led by our three animators (Sr. Margaret Johnson, Jen

Beller and Barbara Aston), who participated in the transformational sessions provided by the Roman Union in 2023-24. This year our gatherings have been enhanced using Elizabeth Johnson's book [Come Have Breakfast](#), which we highly recommend.



Our animators in the West, from left to right: Barbara Aston, Jen Beller and Sr. Margaret Johnson

Sr. Dianne Baumunk continues working on the core team of the Roman Union Integral Ecology. In April they began a new zoom series for educational leaders from schools all over the Ursuline world to re-imagine Ursuline education in the light of ecological transformation. It's amazing to see 130 participants eagerly responding to Laudato Si' hearing the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Within the framework of the Global Compact on Education, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and Australian Catholic University organized a series of interdisciplinary dialogues around integral ecology. The March dialogue was entitled "Navigating Ethical Tensions, Complexities and Polarization" and Dianne Baumunk was one of the three panelists presenting. She was happy to have the opportunity to share the work of LCWR on Transforming Grace which our communities across the country and JPIC have utilized extensively.

From the Prelate Ursulines

It's hard to believe that we are already into June. Weatherwise it's been a mixed bag. Late in May, we still had single-digit temperatures (Celsius) and gardeners held off on planting. Despite the cool weather, the forest fire season started earlier than ever and poor air quality is making outdoor activities very undesirable.



But life goes on. Towards the end of February, papers were signed for the sale of the generalate and the keys were officially handed over to St. Paul's Hospital Foundation on February 25th.

On March 21st, a number of sisters gathered at the "new" generalate to celebrate St. Angela's birthday.

Easter Sunday, Sr. Anne Lewans, congregational leader, invited the Sisters living at Columbian Village for a delicious supper and fellowship.



On April 23rd, the Sisters met at the generalate for an assembly with Joanne Yelle Whetherall, executive director of Canadian Religious Stewardship (CRS). An overview of what has happened so far was given, as well as a brief explanation of how CRS will be part of the community's leadership in the future. A bylaw is being written that will facilitate this. Joanne, in giving



examples of other communities in the same situation, mentioned that the community is in a good position because the leadership had foresight and started the process early.



On May 8th, Sr. Bernadette Feist, received the Philip Neri Award from Catholic Missions of Canada.

The award "recognizes outstanding individuals

whose dedication and service embody the values of compassion and community, particularly in the context of missionary work." Sr. Bernadette recently retired after 54 years of serving First Nations communities in northern Saskatchewan. On May 10th, the community gathered to celebrate Sr. Bernadette's recognition.



Also in May, on two separate occasions, Sisters from St. Angela Merici came to "inspect" the new generalate. They were impressed by the spaciousness and the whole layout. The two tours ended with coffee, cake and visiting.

Election Of Pope Leo XIV: A Sign Of Hope

by Yolanda Diaz CALLIROGOS

(Yolanda is one of the three founding members of the Lay Community Saint Angela in Chiclayo, Peru)



I want to share with you, dear friends of the Ursuline Community, the joy we are experiencing today in Chiclayo and throughout Peru for the election of Pope Leo XIV, who

was our Bishop Robert Prevost Martínez in the Diocese of Chiclayo from 2014 until early 2023. There was a tremendous reaction in Chiclayo, and the days following his election we lived like a celebration.

I would like to share in these lines the reason for our joy, for we see in this event the action of the Spirit and a sign of hope. I had the opportunity to meet him and share many experiences through the Human Mobility Commission. I was the coordinator for the first three years, when the work of accompanying the migrant and refugee population began in Chiclayo. Religious, lay people, and priests, convened by our bishop, participated in this event to journey together and respond as a diocesan Church to the situation of migrants. **A person close to the people and sensitive to the suffering of the poor:** he attracted a lot of attention from the very beginning, how easy it was to reach him, his openness to receive us in his office, and his willingness to respond to the invitations extended to him.

Strong Commitment to Migrants

Faced with the arrival of hundreds of migrants to our territory in situations of great vulnerability in 2018, lay people from different communities and movements were called to participate and respond as a Church to the situation these migrants were experiencing. He became involved in the issue, encouraged and supported our work, managing and coordinating with those called to respond to their problems. He fostered solidarity, called on priests and their parishes to get involved, with public statements questioning indifference and discrimination. He said, "We are all migrants in some way," a call to view migration not as a problem, but as an opportunity. He supported Caritas' efforts to respond to this situation.

A missionary who listens and goes out to meet his people: One characteristic that marks his Vincentian spirituality is that of being a missionary. From our experience, we saw him constantly on the move, reaching out to see and hear the needs not only of migrants, but also of rural and high Andean communities. He visited his parishes during the difficult times of heavy rains, offering responses of solidarity. During the pandemic, he walked the streets encouraging people not to lose hope, blessing them with the Eucharist. He called on state institutions, civil society, and business leaders to purchase and install an oxygen plant, as many people were dying during the pandemic due to a lack of this resource.

He promoted pastoral reform in our Diocese: He adopted Pope Francis's pastoral guidelines in various aspects. His vision of the Church as the People of God, involving lay people, along with religious men and women, and priests, in the Church's mission to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate the migrant and refugee community through migrant ministry. He tirelessly encouraged people to live synodally, to work together, to embrace the diversity that exists in our Church and in society, and to break with the prevailing clericalism. He promoted diocesan assemblies to develop the pastoral plan in a participatory manner.

He promoted an outgoing Church in dialogue with the world, strengthening social ministry: migrant ministry, prison ministry, health ministry, and care for creation, with the support of Caritas. Six of our sisters from the Santa Angela Community participated in these pastoral commissions.

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Lay Community Saint Angela, Sr. Pauline Maheux with Bishop Prevost at Migration Conference

Election Of Pope Leo XIV: A Sign Of Hope - *continued*

His vocation to promote synodality was very evident and he gave many examples of this. His task was not always easy, understood, and supported by the entire Church, but important changes have taken place, and more pastoral agents are involved in the processes of change. He once told me, when I was a little discouraged by the indifference of some sectors of the Church toward the problems of migrants, "Remember that we are sowing; we cannot achieve everything at once." It was a light that allowed me to assume the task of evangelization as a process, in which we must work with conviction, certain that the Lord is at work and makes the seed we are sowing germinate.

Our Lay Community of Saint Angela has been very involved in this important experience of ecclesial reform that our Bishop Prevost promoted at the time, coordinating migrant ministry, ecological ministry, and participating in prison ministry.

During this time, I personally had intense days. I feel that I was accompanied by the Lord because I felt his call in all of this, by Angela and her concern for the Church, she inspired me NOT TO BE AFRAID, AND TO ACT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT THAT LED ME. She helped me to endure this pace and encourage everyone to have confidence and rejoice because this chosen pastor will continue with the legacy of Francis and promote the reform of the Church. I wanted to highlight mainly the features of the spirituality of our Pope Leo XIV, and as Gustavo Gutierrez said, "There are reasons for hope."



Bishop Prevost speaks at the Conference on Migration, Chiclayo Peru

The Company Celebrates a Jubilee

The Company of St. Ursula is celebrating its 25th year in the United States. Mary-Cabrini Durkin and Kathleen Hallinan (d. 2008) launched the Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 25, 2000.

Both had become daughters of St. Angela in the Ursuline Order, Kathleen in the Roman Union and Mary-Cabrini among the Ursulines of Cincinnati, whose discernment led to this beginning.

They joined the Company of Canada and the worldwide Federation of Companies in 2006. Since then, both Kathleen and Liliane Dozois have joined "the Company in heaven." Six Americans now make up the US contingent of the Company of Canada. Another three walked with the Company for several years before taking another path.

A silver jubilee celebration is being planned for November 25 in Cincinnati. Stay tuned!



Kathleen (left) and Mary-Cabrini amid cards and flowers from religious and secular Ursulines and others encouraging this new planting of the Company in 2000.



American members with photos of Kathleen (right) and Liliane in 2023

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

Catholic Sisters Week:

A Pilgrimage with Saint Angela!

Kathy Williams, our director of communications, partnered with Jane Cruthirds of the Office of Catholic Identity and Ursuline Charism for Sacred Heart Schools, to create an online pilgrimage. It tied in the 500th Anniversary of St. Angela's pilgrimage to Rome and the theme of the Jubilee

Year, "Pilgrims of Hope." An anime version of young St. Angela was created for the map, and the Vatican's Jubilee mascot, Luce and friends also appear. Our interactive map brings St. Angela's journey to life with videos narrated by Louisville Ursuline



Image of the virtual map from our website.

Sisters at each location. There are six videos total.

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

Earth Day Service Celebration

This year's Earth Day service took place on April 22 in the peaceful porch area behind the Motherhouse, where Sister Carol Curtis and Lisa Feldkamp led a meaningful celebration honoring our planet. The gathering featured special blessings dedicated to Mother Earth and marked the dedication of a beautiful new peace pole that now graces the garden.

The service gathered community members to consider our relationship with the environment and our responsibility to care for the Earth we all share.



Sister Carol Curtis leads prayer during the service.



Sister Janet M. Peterworth blesses the new Peace Pole.



Sisters, staff and Associates at the prayer service.

Papal Transition

We, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, join the global Catholic Church in mourning our beloved Pope Francis, who passed away on April 21, 2025. His revolutionary leadership opened the Church through dialogue, challenged clericalism, and championed "a poor church for the poor." His encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* called us to environmental stewardship and social justice, teaching us that, "The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all."

We extend heartfelt congratulations to Cardinal Robert F. Prevost on his election as Pope Leo XIV, the 267th pope. As an Augustinian missionary who served decades in Peru—close to our hearts through our Santa Angela Merici School in Callao—Pope Leo XIV brings deep pastoral experience and calls us to be "a synodal church, a church that walks together." His first words, "Peace be with you all!" affirm Pope Francis's Gospel message of peace and outreach.



We pray that Pope Leo XIV will continue addressing the climate crisis, extending mercy to refugees and

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Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, *continued*

migrants, and supporting human dignity for all people, especially those on the margins. In this historic moment, we offer our support and prayers as he begins his pontificate with wisdom, courage, and compassion.

March 16–20, 2026 Chapter

This Chapter of 2026 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.

Our theme is “On the Journey with Love and Wisdom,” and we rely on our faithful God to guide us during the Chapter of 2026. We cherish your prayers for this Chapter.



Ursuline Environmental Education Program and Innovation STEM Center

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville leadership team initiated a conversation with Sacred Heart Schools (SHS) about our shared commitment to Laudato Si’ and asked them to dream big. Big dreaming and strategic vision have developed into plans for a 6,000-square-foot Ursuline Innovation STEM Center, marking a transformative new chapter in innovation and environmental stewardship at SHS. The Center will be housed in the building that the Sisters once used for their laundry! It has also been used as a garage, a craft center, and a storage building.

The Sacred Heart Model School and Sacred Heart Academy students will benefit greatly from the



Outside of STEM building - renovations to date

Ursuline Innovation STEM Center starting in the 2025-26 school year, which will be the first comprehensive facility of its kind in our region.

Sister Jean Anne Zappa, president of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, stated, “We are excited that our commitment to Laudato Si’ is becoming a reality with the creation of the Ursuline Environmental Education Program and 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.”



Sisters tour the STEM Center while under construction.

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

From Sr. Sue Scharfenberger, school promoter:

It is hard to believe, but we will be celebrating 60 years of Santa Angela Merici School this year! We brainstormed activities for the celebration, with many creative ideas emerging. We had shared photos of the Sacred Heart Schools’ timeline, and a similar idea was suggested.

Each of the four study levels will focus on a particular part of our history and reenact it creatively. The second week of October will feature the principal anniversary events: the Eucharistic celebration and a dramatization of Angela’s spirit and charism with increased student participation.

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Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, *continued*

Most importantly, throughout our reflections is a deep appreciation for the Ursuline Sisters. Each teacher feels a special connection with the Ursulines and Angela's charism, which is reflected in our activities, studies, and programming.



*Students and staff at Santa Angela Merici School
in Callao, Peru*

Ursulines in Ministry Video Series

Our video series continues as we explore the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville through video

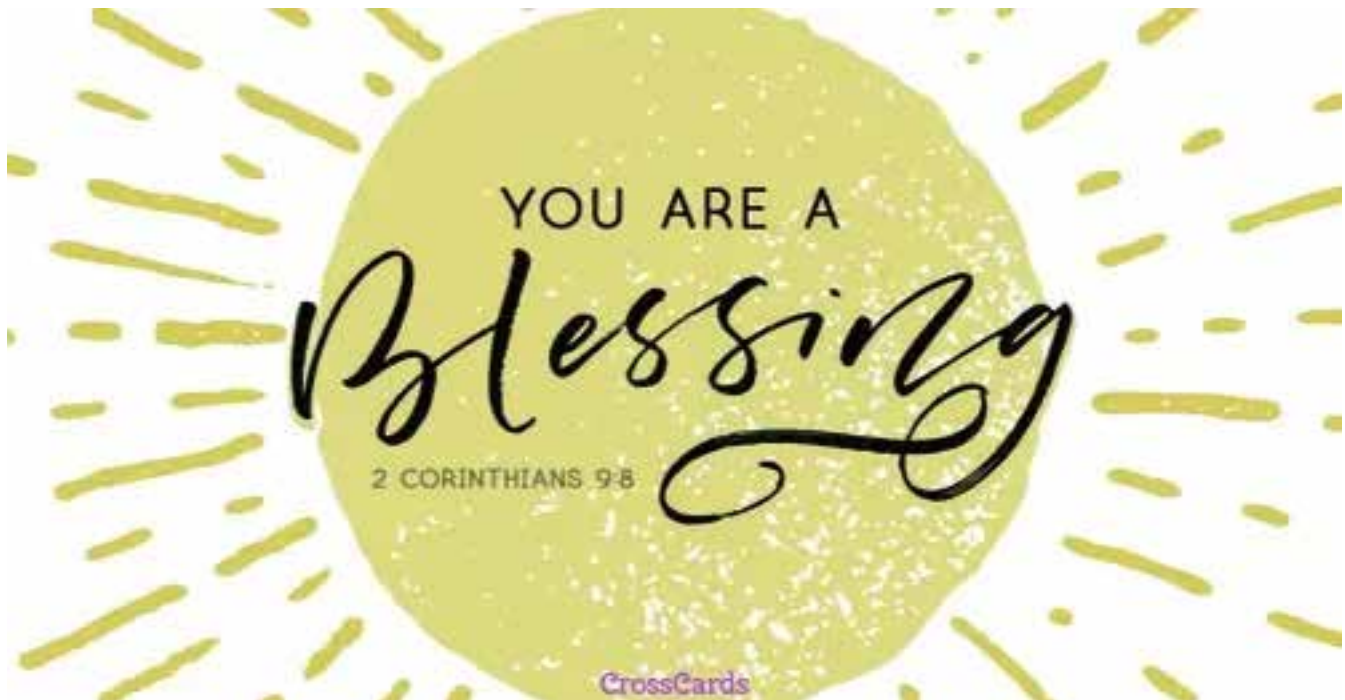
storytelling. You may now view videos on our website featuring Sr. Jean Anne Zappa in her ministry as president of the Ursulines, and Sr. Julia Davis in her way finding ministry at Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville.

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

Communications staff wins awards

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville's Communications team won several awards at the **Religion Communicators Council's** DeRose-Hinkhouse Awards, held during their annual meeting in Salt Lake City on April 25, 2025. Additionally, they won an Award of Merit for the **2023-34 Annual Report: Clothed in Grace/Vestida de Gracia** from the **Associated Church Press** on May 5 at their annual conference in Chicago. You may read more details, including links to the work, here:

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/usae-communications-team-wins-awards/>



Ursulines of Tildonk



Founders' Day

On May 17, 2025, the US Province gathered for the annual Founders' day in Seaford. Following the presentations of Sr. Geraldine on St. Angela and Sr. Jane on Fr. John Lambertz, sisters shared thoughts drawn from the talks. Similarities between the two founders emerged.

- Both welcomed new opportunities that arose believing that "All things work together for good." PS 23
- Their love of God attracted others and showed us that we grow in our relationship with God as we relate to others.
- They were hopeful despite the circumstances stemming from setbacks and losses in their lives. They kept on going showing us how they trusted in God.
- Their wisdom was shown through their ability to adapt to the needs of their times.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we were all inspired to try to follow in the footsteps of St. Angela and John Lambertz. We'll continue, to the best of our ability, to welcome new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God and those we meet. We'll remain hopeful despite the difficulties we all face, while adapting to the needs of the times. Let us all do our part to keep alive the spirit of our Founders.

Sr. Marguerite Torre Memorial Golf Outing and Dinner

Earlier this month, the US Province held their Sr. Marguerite Torre Memorial Golf Outing and Dinner.



Over 100 supporters came out to raise funds for the Sisters, especially those who are retired or ill. The honoree for the day was Mr. Louis Guerra, a successful businessman who received an Ursuline education at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Ozone Park, NY.

The event is the premier fundraiser for the Province. It was renamed to memorialize our beloved Sr. Marguerite after she passed away in 2022. She had worked tirelessly on previous golf outings, securing sponsorships and raffle prizes up until days before her passing.

Pictured here are our evening's emcee and member of our committee, Brian Shea, Mr. Guerra, and Province Leader Sr. Joanne Callahan.



Around the Central Province



Sister Regina Marie Fronmüller was showered with praise, gratitude and love for her decades of devotion to Ursuline Academy-New Orleans at the elementary school awards ceremony in May as she prepared to move to

St. Louis. She was delighted to

receive a framed drawing of the tower on the school's front façade that was signed by every student from T2 through the 12th grade—and all faculty and staff!

Sister Lois Castillon received much love and many accolades from the Ursuline Academy-Dallas community in May as she prepared to leave her longtime role as director of mission and heritage and head to St. Louis as a member of the new leadership team.



Each year, coworkers treat the Ursulines at the province offices to a lunchtime party on a date of their choosing. This year's theme was "Nacho Average Luncheon," featuring tasty (but not totally authentic!) Mexican dishes. Following lunch, games were played, prizes won, and a little Mexican dancing was done!



Sister Kevin Ritterbusch recently was joined at Villa Angela by some UA-Springfield girls from the Class of '76 for lunch, sharing memories



and catching up with one another. With Sister Kevin, from left, are Patty Kulek Ripplinger, Diane Rockford Workman, Marilyn Titone Schaefer, Rhonda Grant Brown and Sally Burg Meno.



Celebrating her 90th birthday in May, Sister Mary Frances Judge greeted visitors to an exhibit of her "Subway Series – Art Express," in Jersey City, New Jersey.



NAULC Convergence

Vol. 22, No. 2

The deadline for the Fall 2025 issue of NAULC Convergence is October 17, 2025.

Please send stories and photos to Michelle Scazzero at m scazzero@ursulinecenter.org.

Central Province Ursulines Show Support for Immigrants

The Ursuline Sisters of the Central Province have joined with 13 other congregations in LCWR Region 10 to launch two campaigns in support of immigrants this summer.

For the month of June, the “Welcome the Stranger” campaign features four billboards in prominent highway locations in the St. Louis metro area. The campaign compares the welcoming of Jesus to the welcoming of immigrants.

In July, a social media campaign, “Take Two to Pray,” will begin, featuring two-minute videos of sisters offering prayers for immigrants and inviting others to do the same. The videos will be shared on the social media accounts of the 14 participating congregations.



Company of St. Ursula of Toronto - Pilgrimage Experiences

On the topic of Pilgrimage, the Vatican Jubilee website states, “The Jubilee calls us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. When we travel, we do not only change place physically, but we also change ourselves.” Here are a couple of examples of pilgrimage experiences which changed members:

Cora journeyed to the Canadian Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland, Ontario, on May 21, 2025 with a prayer group from St. Michael’s Basilica in Toronto. She says, “It was truly a blessed experience - one that deepened my faith. The suffering of the martyrs, especially St Jean de Brebeuf, encouraged me to continue to witness to my faith which isn’t always easy.”

Florida journeyed to various place in Europe during May 2025, including Rome, with a group of parishioners from Holy Rosary parish in Toronto. After touring the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, she stated, “It was an unbearable sight. How inhumane people can become. Because of this experience, I am further resolved to accept and respect all my sisters and brothers, wherever they come from and whoever they are because we are all equal in the eyes of our loving God.”



Canadian Martyrs' Shrine
↔

← Auschwitz
Concentration
Camp





A whirlwind of a year has just concluded for member schools of the Ursuline Education Network. Since January, we have celebrated both servant leadership and athletic leadership through annual **Student Awards**. February brought together twenty-four student leaders from around the US to Higher Ground Conference Center in western Indiana for the biennial **Student Leadership Conference**. March drew forty students and teachers to the United Nations for the **Commission on the Status of Women Conference**. Each time our students gather, or are celebrated, the spirit of *insieme* grows.



*Student Leadership Conference 2025
"Be as Ministers and Servants"*

This spring, four of our member schools hosted **Global Scholar Capstone** project presentations highlighting student work over the last three years. To achieve the certificate distinction, students examine socially-



*Dennis Maas,
St. Ursula Academy, Toledo, Ohio*

relevant issues through a global lens, while engaging in rigorous study. Also this spring, the Ursuline Education Network awarded the first **Esteemed Educator Faculty Award** which is named in memory of St. Ursula Academy of Toledo Principal Nichole Flores. Nominations were reviewed by the UEN Board of Trustees

who selected teacher Dennis Maas as the recipient. Dennis happens to be a beloved teacher at St. Ursula Academy of Toledo!

The school year rounded out with an educator's pilgrimage to Italy in June in celebration of the Jubilee Year and to honor St. Angela's personal pilgrimage to Rome 500 years ago. Teachers from seven member schools, along with some of their family and friends, journeyed through **The Life and Legacy of St. Angela Merici**. Our path included Desenzano, Salo, Brescia, Florence, Assisi and Rome. Being present in Angela's foundational cities touched each pilgrim in profound ways. Spiritual highlights included Le Grezze and venerating St. Angela's Shrine. We celebrated Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Square and made a memorable pilgrim walk through the Holy Doors. As we walked our path to entry, we took turns carrying the Pilgrim



Cross while reading aloud from St. Angela's Rule. Additionally, we were able to enter the Holy Doors at three other Basilicas in Rome! On our final day, we were warmly welcomed at the General Archives of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, where their archivist, Emanuela, displayed many historical documents for our viewing. Our final stop was at the tomb of Pope Francis in St. Mary Major. It was an unforgettable experience which provided educators a deeper understanding of St. Angela's vine. Over the coming months, teachers will continue to meet virtually and prepare updated curriculum to bring the rich experience directly into their schools and classrooms.

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Angela certainly was present with us in Italy. The UEN pilgrimage overlapped similar travel with the Ursuline Sisters traveling from Cleveland and Louisville led by Sr. Mary Ellen Brinovec and Sr. Lisa Belz. Our two groups planned cross paths when possible at mutual travel points but imagine our surprise, randomly bumping into each other in the sea of 70,000+ pilgrims entering Vatican Square. St. Angela must have wanted us to sit together for mass!!!!

Since returning home, the refrain of the Jubilee hymn, Pilgrims of Hope, has developed dual meaning for those of us who were fortunate to make the pilgrimage to St. Angela's home. As the Holy Spirit renewed the apostles, we left renewed in the spirit of jubilee joy.

*Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you.
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

The Ursuline Education Network trusts in the hope given to us by God through servant Angela. We proudly carry her charism forward through our schools. Please continue to pray for us, and know we are praying for you!

Celebrating with our Jubilarians

70 Years

Sister Marilyn Scott (Cleveland)
Sister Joan Tomchey (Cleveland)
Sister Charlotte Trenkamp (Cleveland)
Sister Nina Vitale (Cleveland)

60 Years

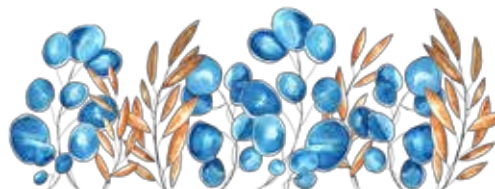
Sister Lucia Castellini, (Brown County)
Sister Maureen Grady (Cleveland)
Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec (Cleveland)
Sister Josephine De Pietro (Eastern Province)
Sister Bernadette Mackay (Eastern Province)
Sister Mary Virginia Orna (Eastern Province)
Sister Joan Woodcome (Eastern Province)

50 Years

Sister Joanne Gross (Cleveland)
Sister Mary Ann Murphy (Cleveland)

25 Years

Sister Jeannie Humphries (Eastern Province)



Sister Roseanne White (Brown County)
Sister Ellen Doyle (Brown County)
Sister Margaret Mary Cain (Central Province)
Sister Kathleen Cooney (James Patrice) (Cleveland)
Sister M. Paulette Snyder (Cleveland)
Sister Donata Kobot (Louisville)
Sister Amanda Rose Mahoney (Maple Mount)
Sister Sheila Anne Smith (Maple Mount)
Sister Bridget Nolan (Youngstown)

Around the Mount

Two Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, KY) have stepped down from their longtime ministries, and a third is retiring after 58 years of religious life.

Sister Judith Nell Riney retired in April after 45 years as the director of Library Services at Brescia University's Father Leonard Alvey Library in Owensboro, Ky. She was the longest serving Sister at the same mission, and now hands that baton to Sister Helena Fischer, the registrar at Brescia for the past 35 years.



Sister Judith Nell Riney is joined by Sarah Cox, manager of Public Services at the Brescia University Library in Owensboro, Ky. Cox is taking over as director of Library Services following Sister Judith Nell's retirement after 45 years of ministry at Brescia. The "Outstanding Alumna Award" plaque was presented to Sister Judith Nell on April 26.

Sarah Cox, who has served as manager of Public Services in the Brescia Library, will take over as director. It will mark the first time in the 75 years since Brescia opened its doors that someone other than an Ursuline Sister will lead the library.

"Thank you for all being the very best," Sister Judith Nell said during her goodbye reception. "I can't imagine not coming here every morning to unlock this library."

Sister Judith Nell was bestowed one more honor



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Sister Judith Nell Riney, second from the right, has the people in the Brescia University library laughing as she recalls one of her many pranks. Those gathered for her retirement party included fellow Brescia employee Sister Barbara Jean Head (wearing a yellow shirt). Sister Judith Nell had been the Ursuline Sister with the longest-serving ministry in the same location – 45 years.

before departing. On April 26, she was named the Outstanding Alumna award from the Alumni Association during Brescia's Laurel Awards. She received her award for "Outstanding service to the Alumni Association and/or Brescia University." Sister Judith Nell is a 1971 graduate of Brescia.

After 13 years, **Sister Lorraine Lauter** stepped down as executive director of Water By Women in April, the Louisville-based ministry she founded with medical missionaries to combat illness caused by polluted drinking water. By providing simple-to-use water filters and training women in impoverished nations around the globe to clean their drinking water, the number of deaths in children caused by dysentery has been greatly reduced. There are now nearly 200,000 Water Women cleaning water in 48 countries.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Lorraine Lauter, left, takes a selfie with a Honduran woman during a July 2024 visit on behalf of Water By Women (formerly Water With Blessings).



Sister Lorraine Lauter holds up a T-shirt that will be shipped to her Water by Women team serving in Haiti. In the background are packages of 15 filters awaiting shipment to Honduras on June 19, 2024.

Sister Lorraine said during an interview in 2024 that the ministry needed fresh leadership. Randa Chehab was selected as the new executive director, while Sister Lorraine remains as CEO and chief vision officer. She is being honored this summer by Water By Women.

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Around the Mount - continued



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Suzanne Sims, right, organized some of the Christmas decorating in 2024, along with Sister Claudia Hayden, left, and Sister Margaret Ann Aull. Sister Suzanne did a lot of different things while serving as director of Local Community Life.

Sister Suzanne Sims was honored on April 29 as she retired from full-time ministry. She has spent the past four years serving as the director of Local Community Life, a wide-ranging role that touches many facets of the Sisters' lives at the Motherhouse.

Sister Suzanne joined the Ursulines in 1967, one year after graduating from Mount Saint Joseph Academy. Her ministry career has included serving as a college professor and president, in elected community leadership, as the first director of Mission Advancement for the community, as an elementary school principal, and in parish ministry, where she was serving when asked to return to the Mount in 2021.

"Every experience of this role has taught me a lot," Sister Suzanne said during a brief retirement ceremony. "I feel like I'm a better listener, and a gentler and more compassionate person."

Blanket making for a good cause

For the second year, as part of Catholic Sisters Week 2025, the Ursuline Sisters and friends made blankets for a women's transitional housing community.

The goal was 15 blankets, one each for the residents of Fresh Start for Women. The residents are single women who have completed an addiction recovery program. The goal of the program is to help women break the

cycle of returning to destructive lifestyle patterns. They each can keep their blanket.

The volunteers made 15 blankets out of fleece. Two yards of fleece were laid on top of the other, and then the sides were cut in strips an inch wide and three inches deep. The strips were then tied together to make blankets.

The Sisters worked with Ursuline Associates, and some people from Commonwealth Connections, which works with adults with disabilities.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Sharon Sullivan, right, joins Ursuline Associate Carolyn McCarty, left, and Sisters Suzanne Sims and Mary Henning working on completing this purple blanket and 14 others as a project for Catholic Sisters Week.



Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph work on a sunflower blanket on March 10. From left are Sisters Mimi Ballard, Maureen O'Neill, Margaret Ann Aull, Michele Morek, Kathleen Dueber, Joan Riedley and Rose Jean Powers. The blankets made that week were donated to a women's transitional housing community.

Sister Martha Keller witnesses the Casa Ursulina ministry up close

Sister Mimi Ballard, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, has ministered in Chillán, Chile, since 1993, with the past dozen years on her own after Sister Ruth Gehres came home to the Mount.

Sister Martha Keller, assistant congregational leader since 2022, was concerned that Sister Mimi was serving alone, but those fears were assuaged after she spent April 1-14, 2025, in Chile.

"I can tell she is well taken care of," Sister Martha said. "Everybody helps her."

Sister Mimi had been at Maple Mount for five months, a longer stay than her normal holiday visit due to a scheduled surgery. She asked Sister Martha to come to Chile to experience the ministry to the women at Casa Ursulina that has been the great love of Sister Mimi's life.

"Their relationship with Mimi is so beautiful," Sister Martha said. "There was a great fear that she was not coming back. They respect her, and they have great confidence in her spiritual guidance. She was glowing to be back, even though she is still recovering from surgery. She is so enthused by their energy."

During Sister Martha's years in parish ministry, she visited Mandeville, Jamaica, four times, the sister diocese for the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. It is the second poorest country in the world, behind only Haiti. This was her first trip to Chile.

"I did not compare it to Mandeville, it's so different," Sister Martha said. "In Mandeville, we went to build a home, but we had no connection to the people. They are a lot poorer in Mandeville than in Chile."

The Ursuline presence is abundant in Chile, Sister Martha said, where Ursuline Sisters have served since Sister Luisa Bickett arrived in 1966.

"I just felt the spirit there. It's so warm, you feel the relationship so much," Sister Martha said. "Sister Mimi walks to church, to the market, and for her pastoral role. The women hug you when they meet you, and when you leave."

When Sister Mimi first arrived in South America, she was mainly in youth ministry. She eventually developed the crafting ministry for the women of Casa Ursulina, and now her role is more pastoral outreach, Sister Martha said. Casa Ursulina classes began about three weeks before Sister Mimi returned this year.

"Now, Mimi isn't the main teacher. She does the orientation, teaching that everyone is unique and is to be treated with respect," Sister Martha said. "They recognize those who are naturally gifted with teaching ability. They never have a problem with people stepping up."

"The women enjoy being together," Sister Martha said. "You couldn't tell who was new, they were all so engaged. It's so Ursuline-like, you empower someone to be the teacher."

Sister Martha does not speak Spanish, so Sister Mimi translated for her.

"What surprised me was how easy it was to engage with them, despite not knowing the language," Sister Martha said. "I could tell they wanted to engage."



Sister Martha Keller, seated in the center, gathers with "the breakfast club," women who prepared for their classes at Casa Ursulina and then all had breakfast together.

The women don't get out of the house much, so gathering at Casa Ursulina builds up their confidence and mental health, Sister Martha said.

"They were very enthusiastic. They get set up for the class, then they all have breakfast together," Sister Martha said. "They eat bread at every meal. Sister Mimi said she never eats alone."

One of the highlights for Sister Martha was attending Palm Sunday services at the Chapel of the Divine Teacher.

"Everyone gathered a block from Casa Ursulina. They used olive branches for our palms," Sister Martha said. "The church was packed. Everyone was singing without

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Sister Martha Keller witnesses the Casa Ursulina ministry up close - continued



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Martha Keller holds her olive branch as part of the Palm Sunday procession in Chile.

song sheets, they just knew the words. Everyone was so engaged."

A board of directors now oversees Casa Ursulina, but Sister Mimi is struggling to find someone to take over her role as president of the board. "They know if she lets that go, she may not be there anymore," Sister Martha said.

Almost immediately upon her return, Sister Mimi was sought out by the women in Chillán, Sister Martha said.

"So many people needed to talk to her. It's great to see her in her element. Her role is being present to the people and in outreach to the sick," Sister Martha said.

"We visited one woman who has cancer who remembered Sister Luisa. She had a picture of the two of them, when Sister Luisa was very young," Sister Martha said.

Sister Martha was touched by the story of a woman who brings wheat bread to share. Her son had taken his life, and for a year, she didn't want to talk with anyone. Sister Mimi told her there was no expectation, she didn't need to take a class, "just come be with us."

"They are just delightful people. They are generous with the little that they have," Sister Martha said. "A family took us to see the mountains one Saturday, and we went to the ocean one day. We went downtown to see the cathedral and market. Everywhere we went, everyone knew Sister Mimi."



Participants enjoy attending a crafting class at Casa Ursulina in Chile in April.



Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mimi Ballard, who ministers at Casa Ursulina in Chile, visits with Adriana, a fruit vendor who is friends with Sister Ruth Gehres (Sister Ruth previously ministered with Sister Mimi in Chile).

Summer
Blessings

News of the Toledo Ursulines

Small Celebrations of the 170th Anniversary Continue

Celebrating our 170th anniversary of being a community



Sister Rita Mae Johns passes out tote bag gifts to St. Ursula Academy faculty and staff.

in the Diocese of Toledo has been a gradual and sweet blessing as we meet with different groups of people who have journeyed with us along the way. Blessing cards and tote bags have been distributed to Sisters, Associates, the Ursuline Convent staff, Convent Foundation Board, the St. Ursula Academy Board of Trustees and Finance Boards, administrative team, faculty and staff, student council and class officers, and Mary Manse

College Alumni Board. In the coming months, picnics and Feast Days with Sisters and Associates will take place. The 170th anniversary final celebration will take place with a liturgy and dinner in November.

St. Ursula Academy Announces New Principal Appointment to Lead SUA

The Board of Trustees of St. Ursula Academy has appointed Lindsay (Lauder) Jordan '02 as the school's next principal, effective July 1. "We conducted an extensive search and found our ideal candidate within our own community," said Alison Krieger, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Lindsay's dedication to our Catholic and Ursuline mission, proven leadership abilities, and heart as an educator made her the outstanding choice to lead our academic program forward." SUA's Director of Advancement for the past three years, Jordan also is an alumna and parent of two current students. She successfully led fundraising initiatives that strengthened the school's financial foundation, expanded scholarship opportunities, and enhanced campus facilities. Her collaborative leadership style and strategic vision have advanced SUA's mission and will serve her well in her new role.



Lindsay Jordan

"St. Ursula Academy shaped me as a young woman, and now I have the privilege of watching it shape my own daughters," Jordan said. "My roots and heart have always been in education, and I look forward to working with our exceptional faculty and staff to ensure that SUA continues to provide an outstanding college preparatory education rooted in our Ursuline Core Values," said Lindsay.

WRAC Archives Team Visits

"We're thrilled to welcome the incredible team from the **Women Religious Archive Collaboration** to our Ursuline Archives in Toledo for a highly anticipated week of intensive archival work!" said Brandi Sharlow, Toledo Ursulines' Archive Processor. "Their expertise and dedication to preserving the legacies of women religious will be instrumental in helping us process, organize, and prepare our cherished collection for future generations of researchers and historians."

This visit in July marks a vital step toward our long-term vision: transferring our collection to the collaborative Women Religious Archive in Cleveland, where it will become part of a larger, transformative initiative to honor and uplift the stories of women religious across the United States.

Sister Janice Ann Brown's Commitment to Helping Save Lives

Sister Janice Ann Brown, since the late 1970s, has been giving blood at the American Red Cross on a regular basis. As of April 21, 2025, she has reached the 13 gallon mark. She was inspired by her father, "Curly" Brown who had a history also of donating his blood for others. She says the need of blood for people waiting for surgery or other procedures' drives her to keep on a regular donating schedule. Sister Janice Ann contributes her time to the Ursuline Community by driving sisters to appointments, shopping, delivering mail, and other needed assistance. She also helps at the jail for prayer



Sister Janice Ann Brown

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News of the Toledo Ursulines - *continued*

services when possible. Sister Janice Ann has a heart of gold when it comes to being faithful with recycling and keeping in touch with the sisters especially in nursing facilities. Congratulations, Sister Janice Ann, for giving a great example of God's message to be available for any work of charity!

Ursulines Welcome New Associate

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates are happy to announce that Laurie Toth has made her commitment as our newest Associate! Laurie has a long connection with the Toledo Ursulines: she was a caring nurse to the residents of Ursuline Center, and when the Center closed, served as health care coordinator to the Sisters residing in care facilities.



*Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen,
Sister Sandy Sherman, Laurie Toth,
Sister Donna Frey*

Laurie shares, "I've heard that when a person is preparing for the sacrament of confirmation, that they don't actually pick their saint... but that the saint 'picks them!' St. Angela has been a true friend, a real presence... I believe that working for the Sisters and getting to know them over the years has been a place

where she walked alongside... inspiring me to be open to creative, loving, or life-giving opportunities that God placed in front of me! The face of the Ursulines has been an invitation to see her gaze, which is really a gaze up, eyes on The Lord! Which is who we are all seeking, anyway! St. Angela's charism and counterculture responses that opened doors for her has also been embedded on my heart, inspiring me to bring ladies together, start prayer groups, teach children about the saints and virtues, and to travel to holy sites! (to name a few!) When discerning whether or not I'd like to become an Associate, it occurred to me that in my heart, I was one in spirit!! Thanks be to God!"

"Jubilee Year - A Pilgrimage of Hope with St. Angela"

Sisters and Associates gathered together in May and June to view, "Jubilee Year - A Pilgrimage of Hope with St. Angela," which was created by the Louisville Ursulines. The beautifully produced video presentation celebrates the 500th anniversary of St. Angela's pilgrimage to Rome in 1525.



*Sisters and Associates gathered to view "Jubilee Year -
A Pilgrimage of Hope" video series created by the
Ursulines of Louisville*



