



*A Celebration of Joy and Gratitude*

# Ursuline Newsletter

Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio  
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 49 No. 11 • December 2025

## Leadership Corner by Sr. Donna

### Prepare the Way

Around the world Christians are beginning to set the stage for the birth of a new born baby boy, Jesus. Each country and culture has its own unique traditions of how to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.



The season of Advent helps us to keep in focus the true meaning of Christmas. Yes, we get caught up in all the frills, the cards, baking, and decorations, yet we know that Advent implies a silent waiting. We wait patiently, wait with others, wait with open

arms, wait in awe for a new life that will bring new hope and new joy for the world.

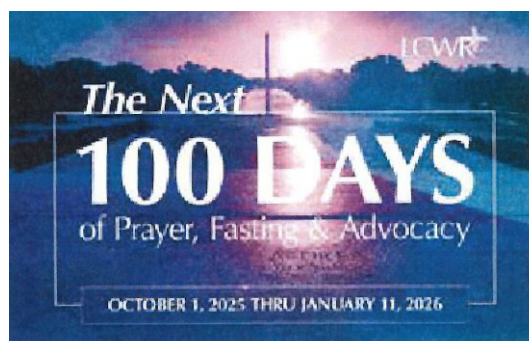
Each of us prepares our own heart as a welcoming place for this baby, the Christ Child. Winter is that time of year, not only to see the barrenness of nature around us, but to open our eyes to all the possibilities before us in hope of something more and something better. We can make our hearts a place of welcoming, a place of peace. That is what our world needs most and I think that is probably what each of us would want for ourselves, our family and friends. Prepare the way by preparing the heart for peace. After all, we are waiting for the Prince of Peace.

### Invitation to a Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy

This past July 9, we invited you to participate in the Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR) call to prayer, fasting, and advocacy for issues affecting our country and our world. LCWR has asked that we do this again on a day or days of our choice.

This time we have chosen **Friday, December 12**, our Foundation Day. When our founders came here in 1854, they began immediately to serve the people of God out of the very little they had been given. Perhaps we can keep them in mind as we fast and pray on this day.

Choose a time of day and a place to pray in a way that most helps you to connect with the Holy One who dwells within you, and speak to God from your heart about that which you feel moved to pray. Make an effort to fast from whatever may externally or interiorly distract you from your commitment to live the call of the Gospel as an Ursuline Sister or Associate. You might place your signed missioning card nearby as a reminder.





## Rest In Peace

**Douglas St. John**, brother of Rebecca St. John Moeller, SUA '60 and Carol St. John Aslam, SUA '61 - October 27

**Suzanne Kelley Badyna**, MMC '55 - October 28

**Sr. Joan McCarthy**, Ursuline Sister of the Eastern Province - October 29

**Sr. Mary Gertrude Ann Mueller**, SND - October 30

**Sr. Paula Kleine-Kracht**, Ursuline Sister of Louisville - October 31

**Frank Curson**, father of Ann Curson Friedholm, SUA '89 - November 5

**Elaine Klofta Madrzykowski**, SUA '48 - November 5

**Deborah Yenrick**, MMC '73 - November 7

**Fr. James Risacher**, senior status priest of the Diocese of Toledo and former resident at the Ursuline Center - November 11

**Jeff Wilbarger**, Executive Director of the Daughter Project and Rahab's Heart - November 13

**JoAnn Sodd Degnan**, SUA '55 - November 13

**Sr. Mary Rose Bernard Groth**, SND - November 13

**Patrick Jardin**, husband of Cadie Bergan Jardin, SUA '02, son of Patricia Goergen Jardin, SUA '66 and brother of Louisa Jardin Cook, SUA '97 - November 14

**Fr. Robert Kill**, senior status priest of the Diocese of Toledo - November 16

**Ralph Barnikowski**, father of Heather Bartnikowski Casier, SUA '99 - November 19

*Put your whole soul  
into the enterprise you  
have undertaken - Rejoice!*

*(St. Angela Merici, 9th Counsel)*

**Pray with the Ursulines:  
Communication Tape**  
**It is recorded Mondays, Wednesdays  
and Fridays.**  
**Call 419-536-9375.**



## FOUNDATION DAY LUNCH & PRAYER

Saturday, December 13, 2025  
11:30 a.m.

St. Ursula Academy  
All are invited!

Please RSVP to 419-536-9587 or [vmyers@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:vmyers@ursulinecenter.org) by Friday, December 5.

## SEASON 5 of THE CHOSEN



Join us for the viewing of Season 5 of The Chosen! Show times begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Ursuline Convent Offices. All are welcome to attend.

Episode 6	December 4	"Reunions"
Episode 7	December 11	"The Upper Room I"
Episode 8	December 18	"The Upper Room II"

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January 2026 newsletter is Tuesday, December 23. Please send your stories to Michelle at [mscazero@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org).



## Christmas Party for Sisters and Associates

Saturday,  
December 6, 2025  
11 a.m.

at Ursuline Convent Offices

Plan to join the Ursuline Sisters and Associates for an afternoon of Christmas cheer, lunch and delicious desserts. Come celebrate this joyous season together!

Please RSVP to Val at [vmyers@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:vmyers@ursulinecenter.org) or 419-536-9587 by Friday, November 28, 2025.



## Feast of St. Angela

Sunday, January 25, 2026

11 a.m. Liturgy

followed by Dinner  
St. Ursula Academy

**Sisters and Associates are invited.**

Please RSVP to Val at [vmyers@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:vmyers@ursulinecenter.org) or 419-536-9587 by Friday, January 16.



*From the LCWR Presidency*

## Travel with the 'Map You Make Yourself'

Debra Sciano, SSND — LCWR President-Elect

It seems appropriate that I write my first LCWR leadership column as we enter the season of Advent, a time understood as the arrival or coming into existence of something new.

As I grow accustomed to this new role, I come with an attitude of listening, learning, and opening my heart to all that touches your hearts — to all that keeps you up at night, to all that stretches you, and perhaps even perplexes you on this journey we share.

This is a time to be realistic yet optimistic, trusting that we are not alone. It is a time to remember those who have gone before us, who faced their own challenges and hardships and yet remained hopeful and steady along the way.

During a week of meetings with the LCWR presidency and executive director last month in Baltimore — and time simply to get to know one another — we reminisced about the days of paper maps, AAA triptiks, and MapQuest, long before the advent of GPS navigation. We also spoke about how often we travel to serve our sisters, our partners in mission and institutes, and to respond to urgent needs within our congregations and throughout our hurting world. As demanding as that can be, it helps me to create a sense of home wherever I land, to stay grounded in the heart of our Source of Love, and to welcome each day praying for the grace to surrender to the flow of life and be fully present.

As we begin this sacred season of Advent with joyful hope and anticipation of Christ's coming, let us accompany one another using a special kind of map as we pray the following blessing.

*Debra Sciano, SSND (second from left) begins her term in the LCWR presidency with Vicky Larson, PBVM; Kathy Brazda, CSJ; and Carol Zinn, SSJ*



"The Map You Make Yourself"

"You have looked at so many doors with longing, wondering if your life lay on the other side. For today, choose the door that opens to the inside. Travel the most ancient way of all: the path that leads you to the center of your life. No map but the one you make yourself. No provision but what you already carry and the grace that comes to those who walk the pilgrim's way.

Speak this blessing as you set out and watch how your rhythm slows, the cadence of the road drawing you into the pace that is your own.

Eat when hungry. Rest when tired. Listen to your dreaming. Welcome detours as doors deeper in. Pray for protection. Ask for guidance. Offer gladness for the gifts that come, and then let them go.

Do not expect to return by the same road. Home is always by another way, and you will know it not by the light that waits for you, but by the star that blazes inside you, telling you where you are is holy and you are welcome here." -- From *A Blessing for Women's Christmas* by Jan Richardson





## Archive Snapshots

### Sister St. Pierre Rochette

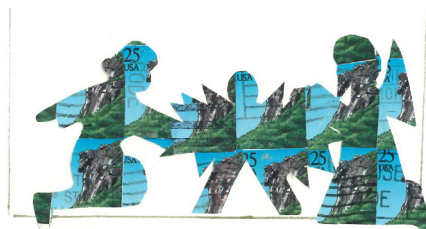


Consuelo Emily Rochette was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 25, 1897. Her mother died when she was a baby. She then was put in the care of nurses and spent her school years at a boarding school in Milan, Italy. She also had a Diploma from Collegio Reale delle Fanciulie, Milano, Italy.

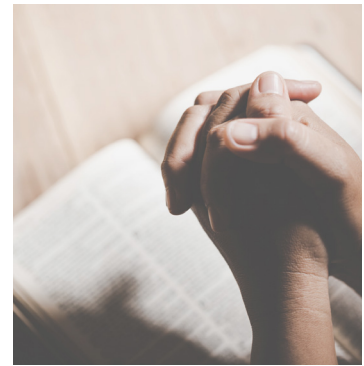
Consuelo converted to Catholicism when she was 17 years old, without her father's knowledge (he was Jewish). She wanted to become a Nun right away but had to wait for a year from the time of her conversion. She came to Toledo to work as a secretary in the Overland (Willys) Company. She entered the Ursuline Community on the advice and direction of her spiritual director, Reverend George Johnson, in 1916. She earned further degrees from Teachers' College, Notre Dame University, and the Sorbonne, France. Other courses were taken at the University of Detroit, Case Western Reserve and St. Louis University. Sr. St. Pierre was fluent in Spanish, French and Italian, and was called upon by many for translation of those languages for both personal and business documents.

In 1948 her father, a resident of Buenos Aires, Argentina at the time, died while visiting her here in Toledo. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery.

In her retirement, Sr. St. Pierre became adept at cutting figures and making cards from stamps. The colors of the stamps determined what she pasted and cut them to represent, particularly Christmas themes.



She resided at Ursuline Center from its opening in 1985 until her death on December 20, 1994 at age 97.



### Alliance to End Human Trafficking November Newsletter

#### PRAYER RESOURCES

Loving God,

We remember all the faithful departed—those known to us and those forgotten by name.

May they rest in the light of Your mercy and find eternal peace in Your presence.

Strengthen our hearts with hope, and help us live in ways that honor their memory.

Amen.

*"Gratitude grounds us and reminds us that even in a world marked by injustice, there is beauty in the people who show up, speak out, and extend compassion."*



## CALENDAR

### December 2025

- 4 The Chosen, 3:30 p.m., Convent Offices
- 6 Sisters and Associates Christmas Party, 11 a.m.,  
Convent Offices
- 11 The Chosen, 3:30 p.m., Convent Offices
- 12 Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy
- 13 Foundation Day, 11:30 a.m. lunch and prayer,  
St. Ursula Academy. Sisters and Associates are invited.
- 17 Council Meeting
- 18 The Chosen, 3:30 p.m., Convent Offices
- 23 Staff Christmas Lunch, 11 a.m.
- 24-Jan. 4 Christmas break - Convent Offices closed

### January 2026

- 19 Martin Luther King Day - Convent Offices closed
- 25 Feast of St. Angela, 11 a.m. Mass and dinner to follow,  
St. Ursula Academy
- 28 Council Meeting

### February 2026

- 16 President's Day, Convent Offices closed
- 25 Council Meeting

### March 2026

- 11-12 Chapter
- 23-25 NAULC - St. Louis
- 31 Council Meeting

### April 2026

- 11 Sisters and Associates Study Day, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
Sylvania Franciscan Serra Hall.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### December

- 4 Pat Cryan
- 7 Shirley Persinger
- 10 Mary Obert
- 18 Sr. Claudia Holtz
- 20 Barb Torio
- 22 Janet Ellzey
- 27 BJ Stevens
- 28 Jovita Harrah
- 31 Mary Richard  
Nancy Turski

### January

- 1 Chris Soto
- 4 Bill Moore
- 5 Eric Baho
- 6 Eileen Simon
- 7 Sr. Mary Kay Garvin
- 27 Berta Folmar
- 31 Bonnie Tolles



## FEAST DAY



### January

- 31 Sister Sandy Sherman

### February

- 7 Sister Coletta McAllister
- 15 Sister Claudia Holtz

### Learn More About the Women Religious Archives Collaborative!



Scan the QR code with  
your phone camera to go  
to the WRAC website!



Check out the  
Ursuline Sisters of Toledo  
Facebook page and  
website!



Preserving  
Our History

[archivescollaborative.org](http://archivescollaborative.org)

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