

## Leadership Corner by Sr. Sandy

St. Joseph Sister Mary McGlone began her NCR Third Sunday in Ordinary Time column with *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!" I bet you thought the Christmas season was over. According to some, it ended on January 6. Others opt for a 40-day Christmas season, lasting until February 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Matthew's Gospel, which ends with Christ's promise to be with us always, reminds us that all time is now Emmanuel time.*

I stand with the 40-day people, keeping my mother's crib set up through the Presentation, which is also her birthday. Several years ago I gave a retreat during this time of year, which I titled, "Just Past Christmas, Not Quite Lent." It took place during another shortened period of this already shorter part of Ordinary Time in our Church Year.

The scriptures of ordered or numbered time provide a window into Jesus' active life as we become witnesses to how he lived true to the words he spoke. I find watching THE CHOSEN during this time especially helpful. The main characters, including Jesus, are portrayed more genuinely than any I have ever seen. I have experienced both the *lectio divina* and *visio divina* forms of meditation. THE CHOSEN provides for me what I call "video divina." As I relate to one character or another in their vulnerability, strengths, and weaknesses, they become mirrors of my own.

I am reading *Dearest Sister Wendy* by Robert Ellsberg, the author of the "Blessed Among Us," portrayals of holy persons in *Give Us This Day*. In this volume, he chronicles numerous and often daily emails between himself and Sister Wendy Beckett (1930-2018), the contemplative nun, hermit, and art historian who lived on the grounds of Quindenham Carmelite Monastery in England. On February 15, 2017, she wrote: "God gives us so many ways of entering into our vulnerability and contingency. If we don't get it from the natural world, we can get it as we age from the physical world, and all the time for everybody from the emotional world...Thinking about the approaching season of Lent makes me realize how infinitely deep and beautiful this season is. It is the time



### The Chosen

*"a first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. It's the first free show that tens of millions of people won't stop talking about."* (Angel Studios website)

Sr. Donna Frey is offering the opportunity for you to come on Thursday afternoons beginning February 2 at 3:30 p.m. at the Convent Offices to begin watching the First Season of The Chosen. She will start with Episode One and continue through the present Season Three on a weekly basis. (45/60 minutes). Don't worry if you miss an episode.

An inspiring interpretation of the humanity of Jesus! The Gospels will surely come alive for you.

Just come if you are interested.

of year when every Christian has to face the sincerity of their desire for God...So I think of all the millions of Catholics turning, perhaps shamefacedly, to Our Blessed Lord during this season and giving Him the great joy of His being able to give Himself to them. It's so obvious that we can't give anything. But since we live in Him, we don't have to."

Lent, the next 40 days just around the corner, provides me with an opportunity to make good on any spiritual or relational resolutions I have made and to use the spiritual tools the season provides to strengthen my weaknesses. I can only give God who I am, complete in all my incompleteness. Jesus, as portrayed in THE CHOSEN in how he relates to those who accompany him and those he encounters, reaches beyond the TV screen to let me know that He is happy with my gift, imperfect as it is.

May your Lenten time truly be Emmanuel time.



## Rest In Peace

Virginia Mowka Matuszek, MMC '48 ~ December 20

Gary Bartling, father of Ileana Bartling Sizemore, SUA '77 ~ December 23

Thomas Wuest, brother of Associate Mary Wuest Obert, SUA '49 ~ December 30

Sr. Kateri Kaufman, OSF/T ~ January 4

John Ulmer, father of Jennifer Ulmer Viertlbeck, SUA '81 & Molli Ulmer, SUA '84 ~ December 31

Mary Margaret Donaldson, SUA '69; MMC '73; sister of Elizabeth Donaldson, SUA '72 ~ January 1

Sr. Kateri Kaufman, OSF/T ~ January 4

Wesley Falls, father of Janice Falls Buehrer, SUA '90 ~ January 6

John Harron, brother of Dr. Sheila Harron, SUA '61 ~ January 8

Keith Swihart, father of Amanda Swihart Czerniakowski, SUA '98 ~ January 8

Kathleen Foss Snyder, SUA '70 ~ January 14

Judith Beumel Konrad, SUA '61 ~ January 17

Shirley Ann Pawlicki, MMC '59 ~ January 18



### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March 2023 newsletter is Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Please send your stories to Michelle at [mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org).

Pray with the Ursulines:  
Communication Tape

It is recorded Mondays,  
Wednesdays and  
Fridays.

Call 419-536-9375.

## Sister Updates



**Sr. Beth Hemminger**  
Rosary Care Center  
6832 Convent Blvd., #212  
Sylvania, OH 43560

## Valentine's Day

Lacy cards and long-stemmed roses,  
Boxes of chocolates,  
A young man proposes.

Ballroom dancing to familiar old tunes  
And decorations of heart balloons.

On top of all this  
We have a Love Divine,  
In other words,  
A Heavenly Valentine.

So along with the love of sweethearts,  
family and friends,  
We have God's Love  
That never, ever ends.

- by Sr. Margaret Anne Carstensen



**"Those we love are the snowflakes of life  
- none are the same, each is beautiful and  
all bring something special to our world."**

**- Author unknown**

## From a Grateful Heart...

Dear Sisters,

How grateful I am to those of you who taught or supported the teachers at Mary Manse. I was able to get my BSN when nobody else in Toledo had a nursing program.

I pray that each of you are doing as well as you can. I am now in my 80's as well.

How fortunate we all are to know our Lord Jesus and to be grateful for all the blessings he has given us.

Gratefully yours,  
Betty Ann Gill Arner  
Class of 1964



From the Desk of Sister Lorraine:

This year, we are celebrating the quinceanera of the Water Woman in Honduras; 15 years since we first arrived at the concept of entrusting the solution for clean water into the hands of a mother; 15 years since the first 10 Water Women were commissioned. Those first 10 Honduran Water Women now number well over 32,000 in Honduras alone, and over 158,000 across 48 countries! As a mission born from the wisdom of Hispanic peoples, it just makes sense to think of this as "our" quinceanera, in celebration of the role of Water Woman which conveys dignity, courage and leadership. And like any family celebrating a quince, this is a moment to pause and give thanks for all that has been, and all that will be.

Celebrate the Blessings with us!



## Associate News by Kitty Meyers

When I opened our kitchen blinds yesterday, I was surprised to see so many birds in our backyard. There were Carolina Chickadees, a Red Bellied Woodpecker, Robins, the most vibrantly colored Cardinals I believe I've ever seen, House Finches, and Red Breasted Nuthatches. I found myself both delighted by their presence and yet fearful for them and their ability to find food as it is still very much winter even though our temperatures and lack of snow aren't indicative of the season.



Almost immediately the verse from Matthew 6:25-27 came to mind: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them...Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" The birds returned from their Winter homes to the feast our heavenly Father provided for them of delicious winter berries on bushes and small trees, backyard bird feeders full of seed, and fish in the lakes and rivers that haven't frozen over this winter.

As I went about my day, I thought about Angela's words on poverty: "Do not trouble yourself about any of your temporal needs, because God, and He alone, knows, can, and will provide for them. He who wants nothing for you but only your good and your joy." These words have rung true for my husband, Larry, and me throughout our marriage,

but particularly these last three years as we have lived with the fear of contracting Covid. In the early weeks, and then months of Covid, when we and most other Ohioans were shuttered at home, we put our fears into God's loving hands. We felt then, and continue to feel now, how His loving care embraces us and walks us through this new way of life. We have been able to visit with family and friends, have birthday and holiday parties, and even cooking classes with them via the magic of Zoom. Most importantly we have been able to attend Mass and Ursuline prayer services via livestream. We used to tune in to hear Governor DeWine give his Covid updates and to hear his wife, Fran's suggestions on how to help with the boredom of isolation. We followed one of her suggestions to the letter - we had coffee and homemade cookies at 3 p.m. every day, something we still do more than a few days each week! Our lives have become far more simple, more ordinary in the last three years. Yet, they've become so much richer with the certain knowledge that God truly, wonderfully, amazingly sees to our every need.

We continue to ask God for the grace, patience, and fortitude to do whatever He asks of us each day. We also seek Angela's guidance in her Counsels and Legacies, especially this month as we celebrate her feast day.

### A Reflection on St. Angela

"Angela's Company challenges young women to find new possibilities for themselves through their faith. Independence and understanding of living a contemplative life, and changing social norms for others through love of God."

- Kate, Class of 2024





## Associate Updates

1. SOCK DAY – Thank you for the tremendous response. Many items were donated and stuffed into socks on January 28. Some socks will be distributed by St. Ursula students as part of the Labre project. All the stuffed socks will be distributed to those in need.
2. Restaurant Dinner Gathering – We would like to get together for dinner on Tuesday, February 21, at 5 p.m. at Jing Chuan. Please let Val know by Friday, February 17 if you are able to join us at 419-536-9587 or [vmyers@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:vmyers@ursulinecenter.org).
3. Valentine's Day – Items were collected and bags will be assembled on Wednesday, February 8, at 2:30 p.m. and distributed in time for Valentine's Day. Thanks to all who contributed items, volunteered time for assembly and who are taking time to deliver them.
4. Notes and Cards – Please continue to send notes and cards to the Sisters, especially those in the care facilities. Contact with you is very important and very much appreciated.
5. New Associates – We currently have two new associate candidates. If you know someone

who has expressed an interest in exploring the prayer experience of becoming an Ursuline Associate, be sure to stay in touch with the individual and invite him/her to do so.

6. Newsletter Writers – If you have some thoughts you would like to share we always welcome new or previous authors. Your story can be a simple reflection on your personal experience with the Ursuline Sisters, your spiritual experience as an Ursuline Associate, or your personal reflection on St. Angela. We ask that articles are no longer than one page but even just a paragraph or two would suffice.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Debbie and Jess

[ursulineassociates@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:ursulineassociates@ursulinecenter.org)

Do not be anxious if you do your best. God will provide for your spiritual and material needs. Since God has founded this community God will take care of it, for as Scripture says, "I never saw a virtuous person deserted or their descendants forced to beg for bread."

Taken from the "Fourth Counsel" of Saint Angela

We have several boxes of Ecobulb Softwhite 60w equivalent bulbs in the office. Please call the Convent Office at 419-536-9587 if you could use a light bulb or two.



## *From the LCWR Presidency*

# Communication, Community, and Communion

by Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP — LCWR President

I have been grateful over the years to have persons who review my writings, looking for errors in grammar or the inevitable typos. Early on, it was my mom who made sure my lowercase letter “b” was not really meant to be a “d” or the use of “then” or “than” was appropriate to the context. Later, it was friends who endured my requests to have just one more look so that what I thought I was trying to communicate actually made it on to the page. As we all know, communication, be it auditory, written, or a gesture is limited by the capacity, articulation, reception, and understanding of those involved. Communication can be difficult, most especially when the subject matter touches our lives at its core.

In December, I was privileged to participate in a series of dialogues in Rome among the English-speaking canonical conferences of religious and the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Members of the United States Conference of Secular Institutes, and vowed women and men religious from Ireland, Canada, Australia, Scotland, England, Wales, Aotearoa-New Zealand, and the United States prepared written reports about our respective conferences prior to the gathering. Each 10-page report offered general information pertaining to our individual conferences, then more specifically, focused on vocations, governance, and continuance. Briefed with this background information, we met together as conferences to unpack our stories further on the first day, followed by a joint-meeting with members from the dicastery the next day.



These experiences provided me with a tangible expression of John 1:14a, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” Together, in person, we shared our passion for religious life; the struggles that plague our leadership roles; our concern for God’s people and Earth; and our trust in Christ who remains in and among us, calling us forward. Meaningful communication formed community, not merely due to the words used, or even by the depth of the stories shared. It was formed through the gift of the Spirit which united our hearts

by our very presence to one another. We were open to seeing each other in our similarities and differences, committed to speaking our lived experiences, and given to listening with compassion. Laughter was genuine and banter moved the soul in comfort and eagerness for more. We were being a synodal church; witnessing Christ’s true presence among us.

Community gave way to a deeper sense of communion whereby God’s mission to proclaim the Good News of Christ’s love tethered us to one another. Even today, I trust this engagement with the broader church to be more than expressions of niceties given in a passing moment. Reading the “Working Document for the Continental Stage,” that moves us into the next phase of the Synod, affirms my hope. As we

met in Rome, the communion shared was real, and with the grace of God, will be part of the fodder for truly becoming a universal and synodal church.

The  
WORD  
became flesh  
and made his dwelling  
among us.



## LCWR Participates in Faith in Democracy Peace Vigil

Faith leaders and others gathered January 5 outside the US Capitol in Washington, DC to pray on the eve of the anniversary of the divisive events of January 6, 2021. More than 70 people gathered in person to pray and nearly 1,000 registered to participate online.

LCWR co-sponsored this event with other faith organizations – an effort led by Franciscan Action Network. LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ served as president. Participants were invited to pray with and for the challenges that have emerged since the January 6 event through the lens of both faith and democracy.

Speakers included Bishop John Stowe, (OFM Conv), Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Imam Talib Shareef, Rabbi Stephanie Crawley, and Rev. Paul Raushenbush. Using imagery from their faith traditions, they urged the need for mutual commitment and shared responsibility to address the polarities and divisive realities experienced across communities.

Participants expressed gratitude for the space created for prayer, contemplation, healing, and hope. Resources and the recording of the vigil are available [here](#).



## LCWR Joins in Thanking the Catholic News Service Staff

LCWR was among many organizations who gathered on January 12 to thank the many journalists and staff members who worked for Catholic News Service (CNS), an entity of the US Catholic Bishops Conference. The Washington, DC and New York-based offices were closed on December 31, 2022, although its Rome-based office will continue to operate.

- continued

## LCWR Joins in Thanking the Catholic News Service Staff - continued

LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ thanked the staff on behalf of LCWR, for the more than 100 years CNS provided coverage of the Catholic Church throughout the world.

## Updates from Friends in Solidarity

Solidarity with South Sudan (SSS) joins with the people of South Sudan in welcoming Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Anglican), and the Head of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) for an ecumenical visit February 3-5, 2023.



The three church leaders will meet with government officials, religious, and clergy as well as people residing in the Internally Displaced Camp in Juba. An ecumenical prayer service and a mass will be held for the public at the John Garang Mausoleum during the pope's visit. Crowds of pilgrims are expected, many walking several miles to these events.

Jim Greene, MAfr, executive director of SSS writes, "It is hoped that this ecumenical pilgrimage of peace will promote a greater desire and movement towards peace between the diverse political interests in the country... I have just returned from Malakal where there was serious fighting in an area north of the town. 56 people were reported killed on Christmas day alone! Daily refugees are flowing into the UN camp... I hope that the Pope's visit will shine a light on the hundreds of thousands of people living in similar situations throughout the country and in (camps) in Uganda."

Mumbi Kigutha, CPPS, newly appointed president of Friends in Solidarity, will attend this event. Updates of the visit will be provided to supporters.

# CALENDAR (ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

## February 2023

Thursdays "The Chosen" showing at 3:30 p.m. at the  
Convent Offices. Sisters and Associates are invited.  
4 Consecrated Life Day with Mass at Rosary Cathedral  
20 President's Day - office closed  
22 Ash Wednesday/Council meeting  
23 Community Input/Update, 1 - 3 p.m., Convent Office

## March 2023

Thursdays "The Chosen" showing at 3:30 p.m. at the  
Convent Offices. Sisters and Associates are invited.  
20-22 NAULC Meetings, St. Louis, MO  
29 Council meeting

## April 2023

6-10 Easter Break - office closed  
9 Easter  
26 Council meeting  
27 Community Input/Update, 1 - 3 p.m., Convent Office

## May 2023

1-2 LCWR Region 6  
30 Feast of St. Marie of the Incarnation. Details to come.  
31 Council meeting



Check out the  
Ursuline Sisters of Toledo  
Facebook page!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## February

7 Sandy Gelinas  
8 Louis Torda  
9 Beulah Horn  
14 Sr. Joy Gray  
18 Rebecca Alexander  
19 Fran Benlein  
26 Sr. Maria Goretti VanAusdale

## March

7 Therese Thourot  
9 Elyce Ervin  
Patricia Torda  
10 Sr. Mary Jo Szpila, SND  
13 Rosemary Anspach  
14 Rose Watt  
15 Charlotte Mariasy  
26 Mary Ellen Say



## FEAST DAY



## February

7 Sr. Coletta McAllister  
15 Sr. Claudia Holtz

## March

17 Sr. Pat Grosse

