



Ursuline Newsletter

Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 50 No. 2 • February 2026

Leadership Corner by Sr. Sandy

When a theme consistently presents itself in my praying, reading, and thoughts, and even distractions, I eventually dismiss it as coincidence, seeing it as a God-incidence. *US Catholic* features a monthly column on the intersection of art and religion by Fr. Jerry Bleem, O.F.M., artist and art instructor. He last featured *Noah's Ark* by Charles McGee in which Adam and Eve are frantically trying to catch a snake which isn't the only animal



on the loose in the Ark. "When faced with an overwhelming task," Fr. Jerry stated, "my mother often said, 'You might as well laugh as cry.'"

The next morning with only the light of Mom's crib set, I looked at the two too-tall kings, the crookedly glued-on head of the third king, Mary's chipped nose, the hole in Joseph's hand where the missing staff belonged, and the manger which lost its front legs last year. Thinking the crib set as resilient as Mom was, I recall that next to her high school yearbook photo is printed, "*Laughter is the spice of life.*"

I had been reading *Everything's Coming Up Rosie*, by Teresa Tomeo who turns 10 sayings of her feisty Italian-American mom into little lessons. In the last one, *Keep Smiling*, Tomeo related it to Pope Francis' *Joy of the Gospel* and our call to be witnesses of our faith. He drew upon the advice of St. John XXIII who warned the people about an attitude of *doom and gloom*, "*no fungo*," or mushroom face, as her father would chime in to her mother's constant reminder to keep smiling.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you." (Mt. 6:16-18) These are Jesus' words in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday. Like St. John the XXIII, Jesus is saying to not be gloomy, "*no fungo.*"

In *Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional*, Hanna Reichel urges readers to rejoice always or "lean into joy." Reading that, I finally said, "Ok, God, I get it!" Like my mother's crib figures, we wear the scars of daily life. But wearing a gloomy face in our already troubled nation and world will not make it better for anyone including ourselves. Maybe this Lent we can make an effort not so much to give up some "*thing*" as to lift up some person, community, or situation in prayer, and when possible, in person. Share a smile and maybe even laugh. It could be the spice of our Lent.



Rest In Peace

Fr. Stan Szybka, Senior Status Priest of the Diocese of Toledo – January 2

Sr. Paul Marie Greenwell, Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph – January 3

Frederick Berning, father of Audrey Berning-Matell, SUA '74; Helen Berning Davis, SUA '77; Diane Berning Haupricht, SUA '79; Juliette Berning Schaefer, SUA '81; and Louise Berning Maxwell, SUA '86 – January 3

Barbara Ueberroth Pigott, SUA '55; mother of Karen Pigott Munsat, SUA '81 and Denise Pigott Monaghan, SUA '88 – January 8

Thomas Garvin, of Miamisburg, OH; brother of Sr. Mary Kay Garvin - January 9

D. Scott Midgley, husband of Sharon Walsh Midgley SUA '73 - January 10

Rose Ann Gerten Kaufman, MMC '70 – January 12

Sr. M. Pauline Kijek, OSF/S, MMC – January 12

Matthew Poturalski, son of Madonna Litzenberg Poturalski, SUA '61 and brother of Mary Jo Poturalski Arehart, SUA '86 – January 18

Sharon Boyer Morton, SUA '58; sister of Patricia Boyer Strasser, SUA '63 and Mary Therese Boyer, SUA '68 – January 19

Phyllis Maunz, MMC '70 – January 22

Tiffany Lambert McGrain, daughter of Ursuline friend Mireille Lambert - January 22

LCWR in Response to These Times

LCWR congregations hold the complexities of these times in heart, mind and spirit. Each action, program, article, and gathering intends to make a positive contribution to a world ravaged by division, harmful rhetoric, and violence. LCWR stands in solidarity with all of those who work on behalf of the most vulnerable. In these times, the [LCWR Call](#), the [Assembly Resolution](#), and the [Response to These Times](#) gives direction.

In solidarity with the Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR), LCWR issued a [Response to the Crisis in Venezuela](#). This statement is an encouragement to LCWR members to remain vigilant in the commitment to be well-informed, compassionate in responsive action, and attentive to ongoing nonviolence in word and deed.

Some examples of the multiple ways that LCWR joins with national and international organizations and affiliates to respond to the volume of imperatives are:

One Church, One Family:

LCWR continues as a Campaign Partner to the One Church, One Family initiative which encourages engagement in prayerful witness in local jurisdictions on behalf of those who are unlawfully held in detention, denied basic human needs, and due process. Some LCWR staff members have participated in the monthly prayer at the ICE Headquarters in Washington, DC and support sisters around the country in finding ways for presence, prayer, and response to actions which stand in violation of gospel values.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The deadline for the March 2026 newsletter is Thursday, February 19. Please send your stories to Michelle at mscazzurero@ursulinecenter.org.



Catholic Sisters Week is nationally recognized annually March 8-14th. To celebrate, women religious communities in the Toledo Diocese will host “Stuff the Truck,” a food drive benefitting the Toledo SeaGate Food Bank, on Friday, March 13, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Walt Churchill’s Market, 3320 Briarfield Blvd., Maumee. This is the sixth year the Catholic sisters have hosted a food drive for Toledo SeaGate Food Bank.

Can’t make it to Walt Churchill’s on March 13? ***Beginning now, food and monetary donations may be dropped off at the Ursuline Convent Offices any day leading up to the Food Drive.*** The Convent Offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. All donations collected at the Convent Offices will be brought to Walt Churchill’s the day of the event.

Thank you for supporting the Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive and helping our neighbors in our community who are in need of food.

Sister Update

Sr. Carol Reamer

The Grove at Oakleaf Village
4220 N. Holland-Sylvania Road
Room 203 - Buckeye Neighborhood
Toledo, OH 43623



Archive Snapshots

Sister M. Alberta Lochotzki

Born Agnes Lochotzki in 1902 in Oak Harbor, Ohio, Sister M. Alberta entered the Ursuline Convent in 1920 from St. Boniface Parish, Oak Harbor. She received her A.B. degree from Teachers’ College and did further study of art at Syracuse University,



Chicago Institute of Art and at Case Western Reserve University where she received her Master’s degree in Art. Sister Alberta taught at St. Patrick Historic, St. John, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Agnes, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rosary Cathedral, St. Angela Hall, and St. Ursula Academy in Toledo; and at Immaculate Conception, Port Clinton; St. Joseph, Maumee; and at Nazareth Hall, Grand Rapids, Ohio. She was a supervisor for the diocese for over 10 years and taught Art at both the Teachers’ College and Mary Manse College.

Sister M. Alberta did exquisite work with cloisonné on various metals, including silver and copper. Her work was on exhibit at the Toledo Museum of Art several times and also in Detroit at an exhibit for religious art. Her work can be seen in the Ursuline Center Chapel (Stations of the Cross).

Sister Alberta was known for celebrating with gusto on the Fourth of July. She had a lovely white dress adorned with a proper sash of patriotic colors which she wore along with a fitting hat decorated with red, white and blue ribbons, and always wore a pair of gloves for the occasion.

Sister became ill and was diagnosed with cancer in July of 1977. She died in February, 1978 at age 75.

Become Informed

*from the Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter,
January 2026*

Education and awareness are the first lines of defense against trafficking. When people understand human trafficking and its warning signs, they're better equipped to combat trafficking.

The first step is to become informed of the signs of both sex and labor trafficking.

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and the Blue Campaign, signs that may indicate sex trafficking include:

- Person wishes to stop participating in commercial sex but feels scared or unable to leave the situation. Disclose that they were reluctant to engage in commercial sex but that someone pressured them into it.
- A person lives where they work or is transported by guards between home and workplace; they do not have freedom of movement. This can also be an indicator of labor trafficking.
- Children who live with or are dependent on a family member with a substance use problem or who is abusive; children who stop coming to school.
- A person has a sudden behavior change, shows signs of abuse, or has bruises.
- Have a controlling parent, guardian, romantic partner, or "sponsor" who will not allow them to meet or speak with anyone alone and coaches them on what to say, or who monitors their movements, spending, or communications.
- A person feels pressured by their employer to stay in a job or situation they want to leave.
- A person who does not have control over their passport or other identity documents.
- A person is being threatened by their boss with deportation or other harm.

If you believe someone may be a victim of human trafficking, call the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or report an emergency to law enforcement by calling 911. Trafficking victims, whether or not U.S. citizens, are eligible for services and immigration assistance.

Touch Base Thursdays

Join us at the Ursuline Convent Offices to watch a faith-based, inspirational interview or movie. All are welcome. See the calendar for starting times.

February 5 - "The Cost of Playing Jesus in The Chosen": an interview with Jonathan Roumie and Father Mike Schmitz (YouTube)

February 12 - "The Way" (2010) movie starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez - 2 hours 36 minutes. "The Way" is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends, and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world.

February 19 - "The Chosen Adventures," animated and based on The Chosen episodes. Primarily created for children (of all ages).

February 26 - "His Only Son" - 1 hour 45 minutes. After being called on by the Lord, Abraham's faith is tested on his three-day journey to sacrifice his son. (Angel Studios)

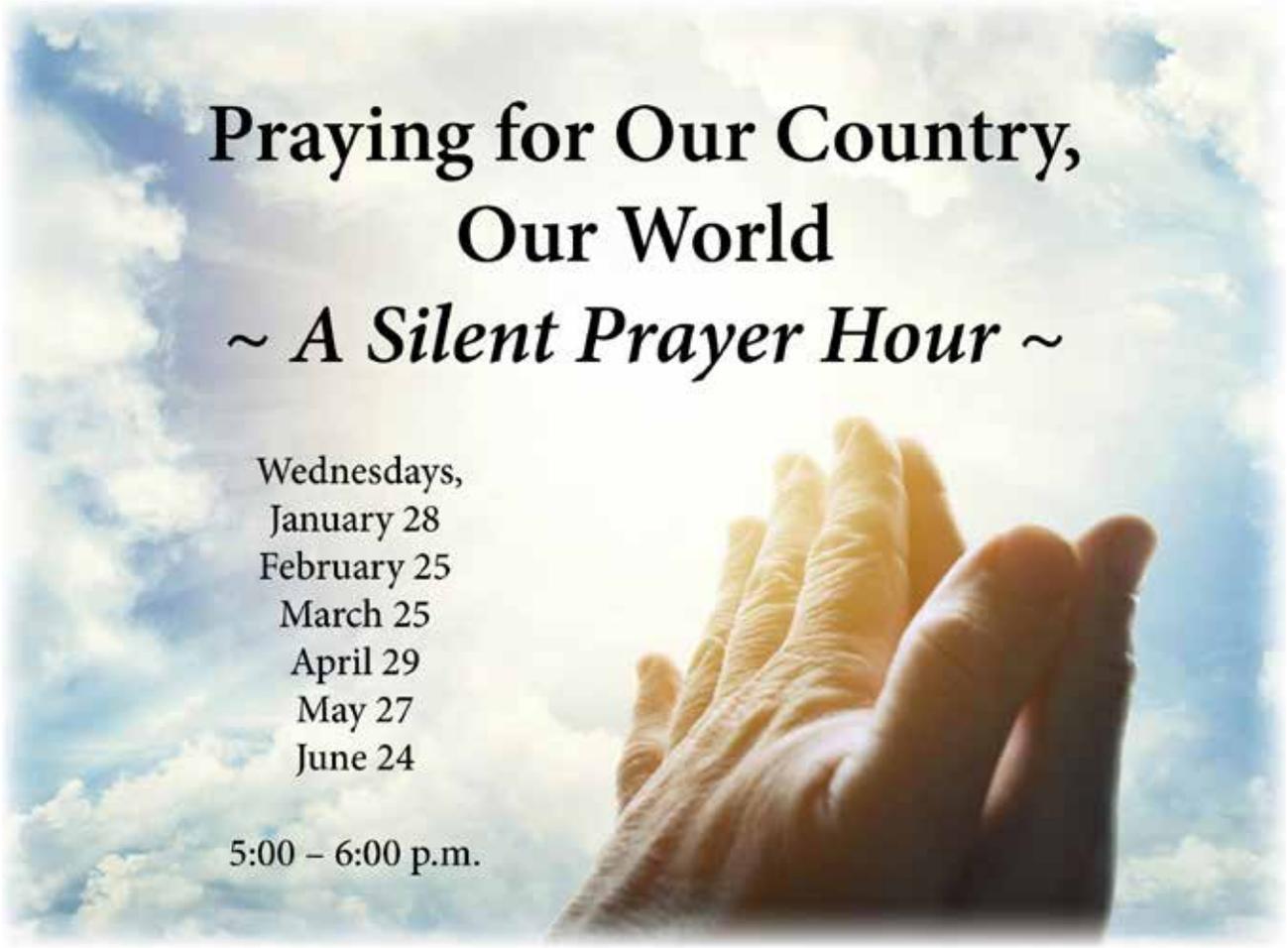
Save The Date

Study Day for Sisters and Associates

Join us in welcoming Sr. Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP in person, who will be speaking on maintaining our personal and communal hope and being carriers of hope to others.

Saturday, April 11, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sylvania Franciscan Serra Hall

Registration forms
will be in the March newsletter.



Praying for Our Country, Our World

~ A Silent Prayer Hour ~

Wednesdays,
January 28
February 25
March 25
April 29
May 27
June 24

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

No speakers, music, discussion – just SILENCE.

Come and pray for the needs of our country, our world,
and all the concerns that trouble our hearts.

Ursuline Center Chapel
4045 Indian Road
Toledo, OH 43606
419-536-9587

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters

From the LCWR Presidency
**From Flooded Floors to Global Unity:
A New Meta-Narrative**

Vicky Larson, PBVM — LCWR President

The fire alarm went off at suppertime on December 29. Thankfully, there was no fire, and the 10 sisters I live with were all fine. However, the sprinkler system leaked like rain from the dining room ceiling. Water flooded the kitchen, living room, hallway, library, and every open channel it could find.

During the flood, the strengths of my sisters showed up in force. Our congregational president went into incident command mode and coordinated the response. Some sisters scurried to gather towels and blankets to form a barrier protecting the elevator. I snapped photos for insurance documentation. Some of us moved furniture out of the water, while others worked to transform a guest room into a new community gathering space. One of my elder sisters remarked how difficult it was for her that, due to physical limitations, the most helpful thing she could do was simply stay out of the water to avoid falling. The day after the flood, our community reflected with gratitude on the people who helped us respond to the water leak and begin the restoration process.

I learned how deeply my community and I depend on routines and predictability. Suddenly, we had to adapt to new locations for every aspect of community life. It stretched the sisters to remember all the changes. In the hustle of moving things out of the water, we had no time to negotiate where everything should go, and now it is difficult to find things. This disruption reminded me how uncomfortable abrupt change can feel.

Pope Francis said, “We are not living in an era of change, but a change of era.” This is true for our world and for us in religious life. As I navigated the relatively small disruption of a water leak, I reflected on the much larger impact of disasters and injustices affecting so many people during this change of era. Evolution includes trauma, breakdowns, and failures along the



path toward breakthroughs. The chaotic nature of a change of era often leaves people feeling hopeless, frustrated, or afraid because some of our longstanding foundations will disintegrate.

In the book, *Insane for the Light*, Ronald Rolheiser suggests that a major deficit in our society is that people often live isolated lives and believe they face their problems alone. He asserts that when we feel isolated and hopeless, it may help to consider a meta-narrative — a big-picture story that reminds us we are part of something larger. When we reframe

our problems to acknowledge our connection with people around the world, we evolve toward healing. I believe Rolheiser’s theory relates to Pope Francis’ concept of integral ecology as described in *Laudato Si’*. Both conclude that everything is connected.

In these turbulent times, I wonder if we could help the world see a new meta-narrative about our interconnectedness. Perhaps these challenges are shaping a future of deeper global unity—if we choose to embrace it.



CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK 2026 // MARCH 8-14

FOOD DRIVE



FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH // 6 AM - 6 PM

'STUFF THE TRUCK' AT WALT CHURCHILL'S MARKET

3320 BRIARFIELD BLVD., MAUMEE, OH 43537

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE TOLEDO SEAGATE FOOD BANK

Most Needed Items:

**CANNED FRUIT & VEGETABLES,
CANNED TUNA & MEAT,
PASTA, SOUP CANS, CEREAL,
GRANOLA BARS, HOT CHOCOLATE,
COFFEE, PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY,
RICE, BEANS, SEASONINGS,
MONETARY DONATIONS**



*The women religious congregations invite you
to come together during Catholic Sisters Week to help
end hunger in northwest Ohio.*



**CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK**

**Sponsored by: The Sisters of Notre Dame of
the United States, Ursuline Sisters,
Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Sylvania Franciscan
Sisters, Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, Mercedarian
Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and
the Sisters of the Visitation.**

CALENDAR

February 2026

- 5 "Touch Base Thursday," 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices. All are welcome.
- 8 Feast of Saint Bakhita, patron saint for Sudan and all victims of human trafficking and slavery who is recognized for her journey from enslavement to sainthood.
- 12 "Touch Base Thursday," 2 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices. All are welcome.
- 16 President's Day, Convent Offices closed
- 19 "Touch Base Thursday," 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices. All are welcome.
- 25 Council Meeting
- 25 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel
- 26 "Touch Base Thursday," 2 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices. All are welcome.

March 2026

- 8-14 Catholic Sisters Week
- 11 Chapter
- 13 "Stuff the Truck" Food Drive at Walt Churchill's Market, 3320 Briarfield Blvd., Maumee, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 23-25 NAULC - St. Louis
- 25 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel
- 31 Council Meeting

April 2026

- 11 Sisters and Associates Study Day, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sylvania Franciscan Serra Hall.
- 29 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel

May 2026

- 27 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel

June 2026

- 14 Jubilee Celebration, Mass at 3 p.m. with dinner to follow, Christ The King Parish
- 24 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel

**Pray with the Ursulines:
Communication Tape**

**It is recorded Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays.**

Call 419-536-9375.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February

- 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



FEAST DAY



February

- 7 Sister Coletta McAllister
- 15 Sister Claudia Holtz



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



Preserving
Our History
archivescollaborative.org

Ursuline Convent Offices
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH 43606
(419) 536-9587
email: ursulines@ursulinecenter.org

*"I shall always be in your midst,
lending aid to your prayers."*

(St. Angela Merici, 9th Counsel)

The Leadership Team of the Ursuline Convent supports this statement by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious:

Choosing Nonviolence as Gospel Witness

Sun, 2026-01-25 19:43 by asanders

At this moment in history, when fear is normalized, violence is amplified, and democratic life is under strain in the United States and across the world, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) raises a clear and unwavering moral voice: **violence is not the Gospel response.**

The way of Jesus calls us to a love that refuses harm, rejects domination, and insists on the dignity of every person. Love demands more than silence or neutrality. It requires truth-telling, moral courage, and a willingness to stand publicly with those whose lives and rights are threatened. Nonviolence is not passivity; it is disciplined, courageous action rooted in justice and hope.

Across the globe and within our own communities – from Ukraine to Minneapolis – we see the tragic consequences of aggression. Violence does not resolve conflict or restore peace; it deepens wounds and multiplies suffering. Nonviolence, by contrast, requires profound interior strength and sustained commitment. It must be cultivated personally and communally, and practiced intentionally within social, political, and global systems.

Women religious have long understood this truth through lived experience. Since arriving in what would become the United States in 1727, congregations of women religious have participated in the

(over)

shaping of this nation through education, healthcare, advocacy, and service to those most at risk. Throughout the evolving life of this democracy, women religious have sought to embody gospel values in public life, especially in times of moral crisis.

In continuity with this witness, we unequivocally denounce the use of violence in any form. We call upon individuals and communities — and especially those entrusted with leadership in local, state, and federal government — to choose paths that uphold human rights, protect democratic processes, and honor the dignity of life at every stage.

In these times, the members of LCWR commit to a public, prophetic presence rooted in prayer and expressed through concrete action. We pledge to make visible the Gospel through advocacy for nonviolence, racial justice, humane immigration policies, and care for our common home. Our hope does not rest in force or fear, but in the transformative power of love lived boldly and together.

Media inquiries:

Sister Annmarie Sanders, IHM | LCWR Director of Communications
asanders@lcwr.org

