



A Celebration of Joy and Gratitude

Ursuline Newsletter

Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 50 No. 1 • January 2026

Leadership Corner by Sr. Joy

Another New Year has begun - 2026. With the New Year comes all kinds of planning and thoughts for what we'll do differently. We begin to put together plans for how this year will be different than last year. As we plan these changes we look again at our lives and see how these plans will fit with our day-to-day existence.

As the year begins, we see the realities inherent in our planning. We realize we may need to make changes to the plans we made in order for them to bear fruition. With these changes, we realize that all cannot be what we thought. We spend some time thinking and once again, alter a plan that started our original thinking.

All the planning, thinking, changing, bring us to a point where we realize how the new year will be in reality and we see our lives moving along day by day. May God grant us the grace to move in his world with the grace needed for new life to flourish.



*Santa Angela Merici
Fundadora de las Ursulinas*

Feast of St. Angela

Sunday, January 25, 2026

**11 a.m. Liturgy
followed by Dinner
** Location to be determined**

Sisters and Associates are invited.

*Please RSVP to Val at
vmyers@ursulinecenter.org or
419-536-9587 by Friday, January 16.*

HAPPY New Year

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...

PSALM 90:17a

*With the help of God
you will do much good
for others.*

(St. Angela Merici, 10th Legacy)





Rest In Peace

David Kaminski, father of Kristen Kaminski, SUA '95 and Keri Kaminski, SUA '96 ~ November 18

Wanda Samiec, mother of Christine Samiec Thornton, SUA '78; Lyn Samiec Tucholski, SUA '80; and Michelle Samiec Wolff, SUA '84 ~ November 20

Dr. Sally Holt, MMC '64 ~ November 25

Sr. Marilyn Gottemoeller, RSM ~ November 27

Sr. Mary Sterle, Ursuline Sister of Cleveland ~ November 27

Theresa Puccetti Langenderfer, SUA '53; sister of Joann Puccetti Braatz, SUA '58 ~ December 1

Nora Sutherland, mother of Noralyn Sutherland, SUA '78 ~ December 4

Robert Carey, brother of Jean Carey Austin, SUA '69 ~ December 4

Jason Osterman, brother of Marda Osterman Perrotta, SUA '91 ~ December 4

Peter Pharis, father of Paige Pharis Lichtenberg, SUA '92 ~ December 5

Rev. Joseph Albert Weigman, retired priest of the Diocese of Toledo ~ December 6

Rev. James Holup, brother of Dolores Holup Murphy, SUA '57; MMC '70 ~ December 6

Sr. Carole Marie Keaney, Ursuline Sister of the Eastern Province ~ December 7

Albert Sprenger, father of Kathleen Sprenger Hack, SUA '81 and Loretta Sprenger Coil, SUA '85 ~ December 12

Marie Bubenko, sister of Catherine Bubenko, MMC '75 ~ December 13

Sr. Rosella McCormick, Ursuline Sister of Louisville ~ December 14

Nola Connin, mother of Nola Connin Bailey, SUA '80 ~ December 19

Sr. Mary Lucy Suter, MMC ~ December 21

Jacquelyn Bennett, mother of Jane Bennett Berry, SUA '76 ~ December 24

Patricia Haladyna Dachnowski, sister of Sandra Haladyna Borysiak, MMC '71 ~ December 24

Joyce Sieja Marciniak, SUA '56 ~ December 26

Mary Pilkington Hills, SUA '49; mother of Julie Hills Tucker, SUA '75 and Jenny Hills Kraus, SUA '96 ~ December 27

Chester Bodi, husband of Joanne Juhasz Bodi, SUA '57 ~ December 27

Henry Carpenter, brother of Susan Carpenter, SUA 2029 ~ January 1





Archive Snapshots

Sister M. Carmencita Andres

Bertha Magdalena Andres was born on January 26, 1902 in Helena, Ohio. She was educated at the Ursuline Academy in Tiffin and joined the Toledo Ursulines in 1929. She attended Teachers' College and Mary Manse College and then went on to the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago for an AB degree in violin. Sister M. Carmencita received her Master's degree from The University of Notre Dame and did further work in music at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY.



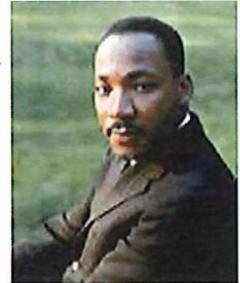
Sister Carmencita taught music in many of the parish schools and taught the orchestra and music classes at both St. Ursula Academy (36 years) and Mary Manse College (24 years). She taught the Suzuki Method of playing the violin. This method is used with small children, teaching them to play the violin soon after they learn to walk. Sister Carmencita was very successful in this regard and had many pupils who became fine violinists.

Sister Carmencita was Community-minded and enjoyed being with her sisters. She was also the "keeper" of the Stamp Collection and encouraged many sisters to save and give her stamps from all over the world.

She played with the Jewish Symphony and the Perrysburg Symphony for more than four years. Sister Carmencita retired to the Ursuline Center in 1991 and was active until her death on January 7, 1999 at age 96.

LCWR Hosts Martin Luther King Jr Virtual Prayer: January 19

At the August 2025 LCWR assembly, participants heard a panel presentation including representatives from both the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and the Carter Center. Additionally, justice promoters in attendance had the opportunity to participate in a workshop from members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center and take part in the center's nonviolence training.



To continue this commitment to the work, life, and teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr., particularly the emphasis on the steps to nonviolent resistance, LCWR will offer a 24-hour contemplative virtual prayer on January 19, from 12:01 AM - 11:59 PM ET. No registration is required to participate and the link to join is here: [LCWR Virtual Contemplative Prayer for MLK](#). Contact the Ursuline Convent Offices if you wish to participate.

Community Christmas Donations



The needs are many at this time of year. The Ursuline Convent has made the following donations to the following organizations:

Water with Blessings	\$200.00
St. Louis Helping Hands	\$400.00
Seagate Food Bank	\$200.00
Labra – SUA	\$200.00
Sisters in Shelter – Tiffin	\$500.00
Bethany House	\$500.00

From the LCWR Executive Director

O Come ...

by Carol Zinn, SSJ — LCWR Executive Director

The O Antiphons, prayed from December 17-23, catch my attention each year. Perhaps it's because they are titles Isaiah gives to the One-Who-is-to-Come. Perhaps it's because these seven antiphons found their way into some of my favorite Advent and Christmas hymns. Perhaps it's because they point to heart time that echoes across chronological time as all of humanity yearns for the Presence of the One Who is With-Us-Always yet continues to arrive anew as Wisdom, Lord, Radiant Dawn, King of the Nations, Root of Jesse, Key of David.

All these titles hearken to the love with which God loves the world entire: all nations, peoples, cultures, faithful hearts, creatures. As our beloved Pope Francis reminded us during the synod sessions: "Todos, Todos, Todos" (Everyone, Everyone, Everyone).

This Advent the O Antiphons came to my consciousness long before December 17. I thought of them when I first read "Dilexi Te" (I Have Loved You), the apostolic exhortation from Pope Leo XIV given on the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, 2025. I read his deliberate notation that this document flows directly from the teachings found in Pope Francis' encyclical "Dilexit Nos" (He Loved Us) issued on October 24, 2024. The continuity of church teaching and the encouragement for the faithful to live out their faith in tangible ways, which is the relationship between encyclicals and exhortations, captured the eye and ear of my mind and heart. And when I discovered that apostolic exhortations often follow synods, the O Antiphons sank deeper in my consciousness. How do I/we live the truth we believe that *He Loved Us and I Have Loved You* in ways that transform our own consciousness in service of the transformation of the world?

As we witness our planet in crisis and nations—including our own—embroiled in turmoil; as we are



confronted daily with images of cruelty, meanness, and disregard for human dignity; as numbness threatens in the face of lives upended by systems and structures, policies and politics whose consequences are injustice, violence, war, oppression, and domination — still the prayerful plea for wisdom, justice, leadership, light, peace, and hope rises and sings through the O Antiphons.

What surprised me, as I pondered why the O Antiphons came to me earlier than usual this year, was the abundance of goodness

unfolding all around: countless acts of compassion, mercy, tenderness, patience, love, accompaniment, presence, advocacy, prayer, and community. I noticed the volume of prayer for peace and justice offered daily by millions; neighbors quite literally caring for one another; vigils held at detention centers across our country; the steady provision of food, clothing, healthcare, and shelter through outreach efforts; voices of outrage raised—spoken, written, phoned, and emailed — to legislators; and the vulnerability courageously shared by those whose hearts and minds embody, through word and deed, the ancient longings of the O Antiphons. In these times, the words of Isaiah came alive within me. Do I — do we — see and hear the O Antiphons in our lives? Do I — do we — sing them through our living?

LCWR members, their sisters, associates, partners in mission, and people of deep faith and good will stand in solidarity with those near and far whose daily lives bear witness to the continuity of the gospel message, made flesh in the human life of the One Who Comes. Jesus, Emmanuel — God-With-Us — commands and invites us still: *Love one another as I have loved you.* O come, all ye faithful, who continue to follow the Star of Wonder and the Light of the World.

Women Religious Archives Collaborative Receives \$4.7 Million Grant to Share the Stories of Catholic Sisters

The Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) received a \$4.7 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its National Storytelling Initiative on Christian Faith and Life. The grant will fund a 5-year project to share the inspiring stories of Catholic sisters, past and present, as examples of vibrant Christian lives and service.

The nonprofit Women Religious Archives Collaborative was founded in 2022 by a collaboration of Catholic sisters in response to a growing need to plan for the future of their archives. The Women Religious Archives Collaborative is building an independent repository and heritage center, set to open in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2027 that will house collections from over 75 congregations and share the history of Catholic sisters through research, exhibits, and programming. Forty-four congregations have committed their collections to date.

These collections show how women religious significantly impacted the United States through their tireless efforts in education, healthcare, spiritual formation, and social service since their arrival in 1727. “This generous grant will amplify our mission to preserve and share the histories of Catholic sisters in the United States by supporting the processing of archival collections, identification of compelling stories within them, and the sharing of these stories in relatable and engaging ways,” said Executive Director, Sister Susan Durkin, OSU.

The 5-year project, **So the Stories Can Be Told**, will connect a diverse multigenerational audience with stories of Catholic sisters by drawing on the histories within their archives. Visitors and researchers will encounter the real lives and struggles of these faith-filled women through multimedia in-person and online exhibits, storytelling programs, and a research fellowship. The project aims to increase awareness of the role of women religious, inspire reflection

on Christian faith and service, and provide practical wisdom for personal and communal growth.

“Catholic sisters have spent their lives in service to others. Their tremendous contributions have lifted up and made positive and lasting change in the communities where they served,” said Durkin. “Through this storytelling project, current and future generations will be able to learn from the stories of women religious about the role of faith and service, women’s leadership, and the power of community to make meaningful change to better our world.”

The focus of Lilly Endowment’s National Initiative on Christian Faith and Life is to help organizations identify, produce, and share compelling stories that portray the vibrancy and hope of Christian faith and life. The Women Religious Archives Collaborative is one of 60 U.S. organizations that received grants through the initiative since 2024. These groups include media organizations, denominational judicatories, church networks, publishers, educational institutions, congregations, and other nonprofit charitable organizations.

Learn More About the Women Religious Archives Collaborative!



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



CALENDAR

January 2026

- 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Convent Offices closed
25 Feast of St. Angela, 11 a.m. Mass and dinner to follow, location to be determined
28 Council Meeting
31 Mass for the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, 11 a.m., Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, lunch to follow. Sisters only.

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.

June 2026

- 14 Jubilee Celebration, Mass at 3 p.m. with dinner to follow, Christ The King Parish

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February 2026 newsletter is Thursday, January 22. Please send your stories to Michelle at mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

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

February

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



January

- 31 Sister Sandy Sherman

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

Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2026



St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

Daily Prayer

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing this heinous crime against humanity so that every victim is freed and every survivor's life renewed. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with compassion for others. May her prayers comfort and strengthen the women, men and children who are in search of freedom.

(Say designated daily prayer below)

We ask for transformation of heart for those who inflict pain, anguish and grief on our vulnerable sisters and brothers. Give us generosity to stand in solidarity with others so that together we heal the hearts and lives of all Your people. *Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.*



Jan. 11 Nat'l Human Trafficking Awareness Day	12 We pray for the elderly who have been swindled out of their savings by their caregivers or friends.	13 We pray for those who prioritize safety and offer a supportive environment for trafficking survivors.	14 We pray for our LGBTQ+ dear neighbors who are at risk of being threatened, attacked, and trafficked.
15 We pray for the children who are forcibly recruited as combatants and informants by armed groups.	16 We pray for internally displaced persons and refugees who are vulnerable to conflict-related sexual violence.	17 We pray for children and other vulnerable people who are groomed through technological innovations such as AI.	18 We pray that corporations monitor their supply line, to eliminate forced labor and child labor.
20 We pray for women who are living in poverty and must find a way to feed their children.	21 We pray for vulnerable and intimidated elderly adults who are susceptible to abuse and are afraid to report it.	22 We pray for those who are coerced into panhandling and are beaten if they come home empty-handed.	23 We pray for the men who are forced into slave labor in the agriculture, fishing, or construction industry.
25 We pray for girls who are at risk of being abducted while attending school.	26 We pray for all who work to advocate endlessly to end human trafficking.	27 We pray for all who are inhumanely deported and are in danger of being trafficked.	24 We pray that survivors are surrounded by compassionate people who listen, support, and understand them.
30 We pray that we recognize, as consumers, we have a responsibility to advocate for those enslaved.	31 We pray for the people who are at risk of being trafficked in the upcoming Olympic Games and World Cup events.	Feb. 1 We pray for nearly 4 million individuals who are exploited by forced labor in China.	2 We pray for those who are forced through fraud or coercion to engage in criminal conduct that benefits the trafficker.
4 We pray for those who cry out and are ignored due to a lack of awareness about the trafficking signs.	5 We pray for the older adult who faces domestic violence, sexual assault, or abuse at their long-term care facility.	6 We pray for victims who are suffering in silence due to social stigma, feelings of shame, or conditions that normalize abuse.	7 We pray for children in danger of abuse and neglect, who are at a higher risk of being sex trafficked.
8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita		We pray for all who suffer from isolation and neglect. May they find support and love.	

Human Trafficking: Targeting of Older Adults

An emerging form of human trafficking is targeting individuals who are 65 and older, such as older adults who suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia, and residents of long-term care facilities. The exploitation of at-risk adults involves profiting from their vulnerability using force, fraud, and coercion.

Older adults and disabled adults are considered one of the most vulnerable populations. They may have accumulated benefits such as Social Security, food stamps, and retirement, making them attractive targets to traffickers.

It can take the form of “benefits trafficking” or financial exploitation by family members or caregivers, sometimes leading to the depletion of their hard-earned assets.

Fact:

Twenty-three states have identified that Benefits Trafficking is occurring in their state, according to the National Institutes of Health.

What is Benefits Trafficking?

Benefits Trafficking is the systematic recruitment, harboring, neglect, and financial exploitation of an elder or disabled adult who receives government benefits such as Social Security, Veterans' Benefits, Medicaid, and Medicare, and SNAP. It is a fundamental civil rights violation.

Other forms of trafficking include social isolation by guardians and overmedication to maintain compliance. The trafficking of at-risk adults often intersects with domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse.

Vulnerabilities such as poverty and homelessness can create a desperate situation where individuals are targeted with false promises of better lives. Some may experience domestic violence, neglect, or mistreatment at home that drives them to seek alternative living arrangements, making them more vulnerable to traffickers who offer a false sense of security and care. Older adults are less likely to report instances of abuse.

What can be done?

To obtain contact information for [Adult Protective Services](#) in your area, call the Eldercare Locator, a government-sponsored national resource line, 800 - 677 - 1116.

Our awareness can save victims.

If we see and/or suspect something is wrong, we are urged to call the National Hotline.
It only takes a suspicion.

**See something
suspicious?**

**National Hotline
1-888-373-3888**

**BEFREE Textline
233733**