



# Ursuline Newsletter

Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio  
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 50 No. 3 • March 2026

## Leadership Corner by Sr. Donna

As we continue to move through this holy season of Lent, I find myself reflecting on a homily I heard at the funeral of a friend of mine in January. Jim, who died, lost his wife a couple months earlier. He was dependent upon her to do many things to keep him comfortable and engaged. She was there when he needed her.

The priest who gave the homily spoke of two times Mary held her son, Jesus – when he was born and when he was laid in her arms after he died. As a baby, Jesus needed his mother, Mary, for everything, every-little-thing. He could do nothing for himself. At the time of his death on the cross, Mary could only look upon her son, her dear helpless son, not being able to give him comfort, heal his wounds, wipe his face, or hold him. She wept tears of deep pain, calling upon his Father in



heaven to give Jesus the strength he needed because she could not. Once he was taken from the cross and placed in her arms, she could finally embrace him with all the love in her heart that was now broken.

It is like this when a couple grows old together and one loses the other. Or it is like this when any loved one dies who has been loved by you or in your care. Up to a point you can DO for your loved one, but then in the end, you can only BE there as you watch the process of death take its course.

This Lent place yourself in Mary's position of holding her child in her arms so lovingly. Jesus and his mother surely had a bond that was special and beautiful. Allow this Lent to teach you the beauty of holding on and letting go.

*Thank you, Sisters!*



CATHOLIC  
SISTERS WEEK

Catholic Sisters Week is March 8 – 14, 2026, a time intended to honor all Catholic Sisters who are called to a life of service, advocacy and faith. Catholic Sisters have dedicated their lives to teaching, serving the poor, fighting injustices, sharing spirituality, empowering women, caring for our earth, promoting peace, offering hope, and so much more. The Toledo Ursulines, in particular, have made a profound impact in our community through their many ministries over the years, and they continue to be a positive influence today through their ministry of prayer and presence.

*Thank you, Sisters,* for the impact you've had and how you live out your mission in today's world!



## Rest In Peace

**Naomi Matuszek Kowalski**, MMC '71 ~ December 17

**Michael French**, father of Amy French Giordano, SUA '92 ~ January 28

**Paul Hollenbeck**, father of Corey Hollenbeck, SUA '90; Emily Hollenbeck Novak, SUA '95; Annie Hollenbeck Osborn, SUA '97 and Sarah Hollenbeck, SUA '02 ~ January 29

**Therese Klein Cherry**, sister of Mary Klein Knepper, SUA '61 ~ January 31

**Sr. M. Benita Kordiak**, OSF/S ~ February 3

**Sr. Antoinette Dudek**, OSF/S ~ February 3

**Christina Marie Durbin**, mother of Scarlett Dalton, SUA '26 ~ February 4

**Curtis Jewell**, father of Sharon Jewell Watson, SUA '87 ~ February 7

**Kathy Casaletta**, mother of Jennifer Casaletta Weaver, SUA '97 ~ February 15

**James Meads**, father of Erin Meads Darah, SUA '87 ~ February 17

**Susan Kessler Fischer**, SUA '45 ~ February 17

**Sr. Mary Helen Weber**, CPPS, sister of Rev. Herb Weber, Retired Priest of the Diocese of Toledo ~ February 20

**Rev. Jerry Schetter**, Pastor of St. Augustine in Napoleon, OH ~ February 22

### Associate Larry Meyers Honored for Years of Military Service

Associate Larry Meyers was honored by the Air Force and Hospice of Northwest Ohio on February 23, 2026, for his eight years of service. Bob, a military veteran and hospice volunteer, visited the home of Larry and Kitty Meyers in Springfield Township to present Larry with a beautiful handmade quilt, a certificate recognizing his service, and an American veteran flag pin. Before departing, Bob saluted Larry. It was a heart-felt and lovely celebration in honor of Larry.



Thank you, Larry, for your years of service to the United States of America.

### Lenten Billboard Campaign

The Ursuline Sisters have joined the Sisters of Notre Dame of Toledo, the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, and the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin in a collaborative project to share a positive message about how we can minister and live the Gospel during the Lenten season. Eight digital and static billboards have been installed throughout the Toledo area and in Tiffin, featuring the message: "Who are you lifting up for Lent?" Lent is not only about what we give up; it is also about whom we choose to lift up. These messages are also appearing throughout the Lenten season on our individual social media pages.





**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.

### *Old Irish Blessing*

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

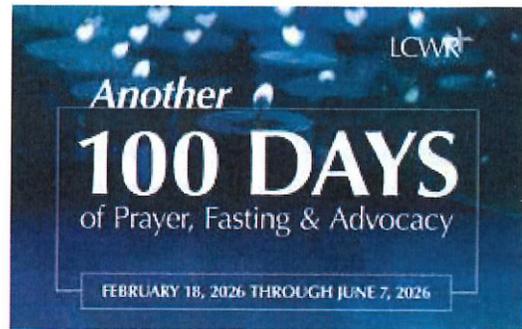
May all life’s passing season bring the best to you and yours!



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

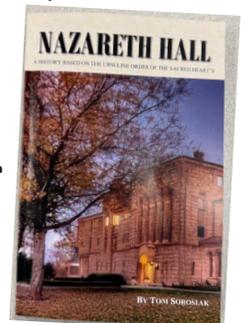
This past July and December, we invited Sisters and Associates to participate in the Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR) call to prayer, fasting, and advocacy for issues affecting our country and our world. LCWR has asked that we do this again on a day or days of our choice.

This time we have chosen **Wednesday, April 15**. 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.



## A History of Nazareth Hall

The Convent Offices has acquired two books titled, “Nazareth Hall, a History Based on the Ursuline Order of the Sacred Hearts’ Vision for Education,” written by Tom Sorosiak. Those who would like to ‘check out’ one of the books may stop by the Convent Offices. Books also are available to purchase for \$20, with proceeds donated back to the Ursuline Sisters.





## From the LCWR Presidency All Are Welcome

Kathy Brazda, CSJ — LCWR Past President

**T***odos, Todos, Todos, (Everyone! Everyone! Everyone!),* famously proclaimed by Pope Francis at the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. These words sum up Pope Francis' legacy as he invited the church to work together that all may be included. All are welcome -- words echoed by Pope Leo as he encourages bridge-building and peace.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the installation of Archbishop Ronald Hicks in New York City where I experienced the same welcoming spirit. The minute I walked into St. Patrick's Cathedral, I was greeted by the four beautiful murals celebrating the history of New York. These murals connect the 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish immigrants with today's diverse immigrant communities and include famous holy saints, such as Mother Cabrini and Dorothy Day, ordinary folks, and first responders. All are surrounded by angels of protection. As I entered, I whispered a prayer for our nation and world that all may be one.

The cathedral was full both at vespers and the installation Mass, packed with friends, family, parishioners, and civil and ecumenical leaders. I heard accents from New York and Chicago filter through the congregation as well as chatter in Spanish and English. Gathered were the People of God, *Todos, Todos, Todos!* Laity, priests, religious, bishops, young and old. All were gathered to give glory to God and give thanks for this new moment in the archdiocese of New York, for the church of the United States.

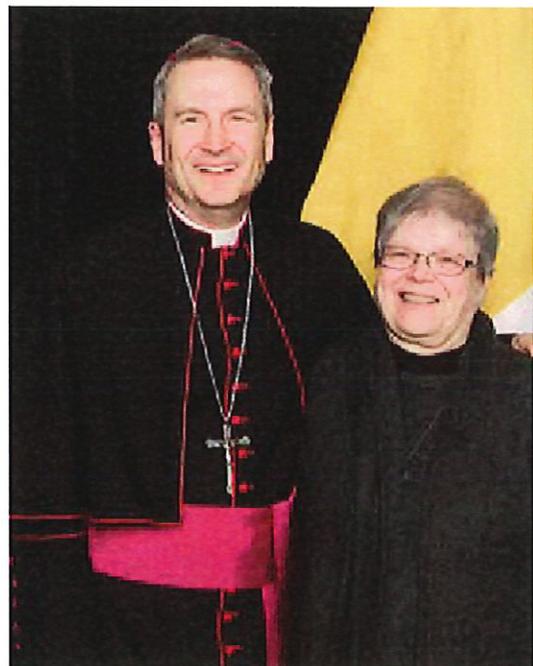
The words of Archbishop Hicks reflected humility, gratitude, and a serious call to unity. He reminded us that "We are called to be a missionary church; a church that catechizes, evangelizes and puts our faith into action; a church made up of missionary disciples who go out and make disciples, passing the faith on from one generation to the next. A church that takes care of the poor and the vulnerable. A church that



defends, respects and upholds life, from conception to natural death. A church that cares for creation, builds bridges, listens synodally, protects children, promotes healing for survivors and for all those who have been wounded by the church. A church that shows respect for all, building unity across cultures and generations."

Throughout our history, women religious have strived to be faithful to this call of the church, faithful to consecrated life and the Gospel through the lens of our charisms. Women who build bridges and work for unity. *Todos, Todos, Todos!* A spirit and action most needed at this time in our world.

In August, LCWR will gather for its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, *Many Charisms, One Spirit, One Call*, inviting our brothers and sisters from across the Americas to join in synodal conversations about consecrated life and our call in the world today. It is a new moment of solidarity. I look forward to being together to build bridges and welcome everyone. We will gather *Todos, Todos, Todos!*





## Archive Snapshots

### Sister M. Gerard Nagle

Sister M. Gerard was born Bertha Nagle on March 17, 1894 in County Clare, Ireland. She and her parents came to the United States when Bertha was an infant and settled in the Boston area. She became friends with Father Raynor, CSSR, who directed her to the Ursuline Convent of Toledo along with Sister M. Michael Burke. She entered in 1917 and received the name Sister M. Gerard.

She received her college degree from De Sales College and began teaching at Good Shepherd School. Sister M. Gerard spent a semester at St. Patrick Historic and then went to St. Mary's Tiffin. In 1926 she was appointed to Lima St. Gerard and was there for nine years before being sent to St. Agnes School. She was there for two years and returned to St. Gerard for the next 40 years. Sister M. Gerard's history at St. Gerard was a phenomenon. She knew everyone and could recall former students, their parents, cousins, and friends while they attended the school.



*Sister M. Gerard Nagle, center*

She was beloved by the priests (Redemptorists) and parishioners alike and they took up a collection to send her to Ireland as a Jubilee gift. When she became ill, she agreed to come to Ursula Hall Infirmary only after being assured that, once she recovered, she would be able to return to St. Gerard. She died at Ursula Hall in 1980 at age 86. Her funeral was held in Lima St. Gerard Church with burial in Toledo.

## Praying for Our Country, Our World

### ~ A Silent Prayer Hour ~

Wednesdays,

March 25

April 29

May 27

June 24

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Ursuline Center Chapel

4045 Indian Road

Toledo, OH 43606

419-536-9587

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*Sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters*



**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

## 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.
- 15 Day of Prayer, Fasting and Advocacy
- 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.**

*“Never fail to render your neighbor the services that may depend on you.”*

*(St. Angela Merici, 10th Legacy)*

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April 2026 newsletter is Thursday, March 19. Please send your stories to Michelle at [mscazzurero@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:mscazzurero@ursulinecenter.org).



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## March

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

## April

- 4 Karole Sigg
- 7 Joanne Schwind  
John Myers
- 8 Jan Michalak
- 16 Walter Palicki  
Nanci Riddle
- 17 Janet Helfrich  
Larry Meyers
- 18 Mary VanderLinde  
Marcie McCabe
- 21 Lois Manion
- 25 Anna Lara
- 27 Carol Ann O’Reilly  
Rose Alvarez



## FEAST DAY



## April

- 26 Sr. Donna Frey
- 29 Sr. Mary Kay Garvin



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



**Preserving Our History**  
[archivescollaborative.org](http://archivescollaborative.org)

*Have a Blessed Lenten Season!*