



Ursuline Newsletter

Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 50 No. 5 • May 2026

Leadership Corner by Sr. Sandy

For the last several years I have decorated my front and back yards with solar lights. From Holy Saturday through Thanksgiving the lights are white, changed to blue until Holy week, when my yards are unlit. This year I kept the blue lights in place even through Holy Week, joining a movement begun by women religious in which people everywhere are displaying blue lights in their windows as a sign of hope in perpetual vigil for peace and solidarity among humankind. As the bare branches of the bushes develop nodes that began to bud and now are in full leaf, the blue lights shine bright at night as though from inside the bushes. "Nodes are places where the life within bursts through to life on the outside," said Corbin Hannah, S.P., in a recent *Horizons* article in *Global Sisters Report*.

Blue flames are the hottest part of a fire. It reminds me of the image of Christ with continuous sprays of blood and water pouring forth from his heart. While the original image dictated by St. Faustina only depicts the color of red (blood) and white (water), the image we are most used to seeing often seems to emit a third spray of blue. Medical images of the human heart shows our oxygen rich blood as red and our oxygen depleted blood as blue. When phlebotomists are looking for a good vein, they seek a large blue one. But in reality, our blood is not blue. It is instead our skin that absorbs red light and reflects blue light. Apart from the science, some interpret blue light, and particularly blue flame as purifying, cleansing, and refining by a compassionate fire, a divine revelation or the Holy Spirit.



This year the Church will celebrate Pentecost on May 24, and nearly three weeks later, we will celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart for which our community is named. This year is particularly significant. We will not only renew our consecration to our Lord's Sacred Heart but also celebrate a new milestone in our community's history with a ceremony ritualizing the transfer of our governance from an elected President and Council to an Appointed Leader (Pontifical Commissary), and her appointed Delegate.

As each of us continues to live out the remainder of our lives as Toledo Ursuline Sisters and Associates, may we keep our eyes on the flaming Heart of Jesus on fire with mercy, witness the reflection of his fire in others, and reflect the fire of the Holy Spirit who breathes within us. May our every inhalation be filled with holy breath and our every exhalation breathe love and compassion upon the earth.

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.



Congratulations *Festa* Winners!

1st Prize - \$2,500 - **Allison Kwasniak**
(ticket purchased by **Donna Welch O'Connell, MMC '66**)

2nd Prize - \$1,000 - **Carolyn Mack Maraldo, SUA '56**

3rd Prize - \$500 - **Janet Stanford Bosserman, SUA '70**

Thank you to all who participated and supported the Ursuline Sisters of Toledo!



Rest In Peace

Shirley Persinger, California Associate - July 26, 2025

Lillian Shields, mother of Ruth Shields, SUA '90 -
March 25

Sr. Catherine Therese Barber, Ursuline Sister of
Mount Saint Joseph - March 25

Sr. Amelia Stenger, Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint
Joseph - March 28

Sr. Kathleen M. Moross, Sister of Mercy of Alma -
March 29

Anna Sailer Betz, MMC Associate and mother of
Christine Betz Hartman, SUA '71 - March 29

Beth Gaietto, daughter of Tom & Mary Gaietto, and
niece of Sr. Mary Angela (dec.) - March 30

Beverly Schoettley, mother of Kelly Schoettley
Sprader, SUA '87 - April 1

Agnes (Welter) Heckman, cousin of Sr. Donna Frey -
April 1

Richard Eppard, father of Jeanette Eppard Roesner,
SUA '93 - April 3

Judy Schlagheck Keller, SUA '55; MMC '73 - April 4

Sr. Margaret Marie Greenwell, Ursuline Sister of
Mount St. Joseph - April 7

Mike Frase, cousin of Sr. Sandy Sherman - April 8

Annette Lauer Swiderski, MMC Associate - April 9

Sr. Mary Alyce Koval, Ursuline Sister of Youngstown -
April 12

Patsy Woods, mother of Kathryn Woods Covarrubias,
SUA '72 - April 19

Sr. Kathleen Ogrin, Ursuline Sister of Cleveland - April 19

Sr. Mary Bryan Gabel, SND and former resident of the
Ursuline Center - April 23

Sr. Yvonne Fischer, OSF/T - April 23

Rev. Fred Duschl, retired priest of the Diocese of
Toledo - April 23

Associate Larry Meyers, husband of Associate Karen
(Kitty) Meyers, SUA '74 - April 28

*Ursuline Sisters of Toledo
Transfer of Leadership
Ceremony*



*All are invited
to witness this historic moment
in the life of the
Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart.*

Friday, June 12, 2026
11 a.m.
Ursuline Center Chapel

Luncheon to follow.

*Kindly RSVP by contacting
Val at vmyers@ursulinecenter.org or
419-536-9587 by Friday, May 29, 2026.*



Ursuline Jubilee Celebration

Sunday, June 14, 2026
3 p.m.
Christ the King Parish

All are invited!
Please RSVP
to Val at 419-536-9587 or
vmyers@ursulinecenter.org
by Friday, May 29, 2026.

75 Years
Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen

70 Years
Sister Claudia Holtz
Sister Ann Marie McManus

65 Years
Sister Rita Mae Johns
Sister Maria Goretti Van Ausdale

60 Years
Sister Nelda Chafitelli
Sister Donna Frey
Sister Carol Reamer

50 Years
Sister Carol Kronfield
Sister Sandra Sherman

Stop Trafficking! Awareness Advocacy Action

The 2024 Global Report on Trafficking of Persons reported a 25 percent increase between 2022 and 2019, as more children are exploited and forced labor cases spike due to vulnerabilities brought about by conflict over water and land resources and poverty, in part due to climate change.

From the LCWR Executive Director

Peace Be With You!

by Carol Zinn, SSJ — LCWR Executive Director

The Easter season scriptures are filled with words and images of Jesus extending peace to those he encounters, offering solace to those afraid, feeding the hungry of heart and body, inviting conversations of meaning and mutuality, remaining faithful and hopeful in the face of doubt and resistance, and witnessing to the power of Love as a testimony to that which both lasts and overcomes everything that is not Love.

This Easter season global media fills our screens with words and images that stand in stark and sinful contrast to the most sacred texts and celebrations of faith traditions that mark their Holy Days of prayer, fasting, service, and commitment to the tenets of their beliefs in a world of peace, justice, compassion, unity, mercy and love.

These Easter season days are filled with opportunities for us to choose how we will move through our contemporary journey of the Paschal Mystery -- the dying and rising, the waxing and waning, the noise and the message, the dust and the chaos of our times. We are the disciples locked in the upper room. We are the ones racing to the tomb to see with our own eyes what the Lord has done. We are the Emmaus travelers stunned to learn that the stranger is the Risen One who walks with us. We are the early followers who look for Jesus in the wrong places. And we are the post-resurrection ones who struggle to believe that Light always overcomes the darkness, Life always prevails over Death, and Love never fails. Never.

On the eve of Mercy Sunday, Pope Leo XIV called the global family together to pray for peace. Ongoing reflection on his words will affirm and fortify our understanding of our call in these times:

“War divides; hope unites. Arrogance tramples upon others; love lifts up. Idolatry blinds us; the living God enlightens. My dearest friends, all it



takes is a little faith, a mere ‘crumb’ of faith, in order to face this dramatic hour in history together -- as humanity and alongside humanity. Prayer is not a refuge in which to hide from our responsibilities, nor an aesthetic to numb the pain provoked by so much injustice. Rather, it is the most selfless, universal and transformative response to death: we are a people who are already risen! Within each of us, within every human being, the interior Teacher teaches peace, urges us toward encounter and inspires us to make supplication. Let us rise from the rubble! Nothing can confine us to a

predetermined fate, not even in this world where there never seem to be enough graves, for people continue to crucify one another and eliminate life, with no regard to justice and mercy...let us, therefore, unite the moral and spiritual strength of the millions and billions of men and women, young and old, who today choose to believe in peace, caring for the wounds and repairing the damage left behind by the madness of war...there are certainly binding responsibilities that fall to leaders of nations. To them we cry out: Stop! It is time for peace! Yet there is no less responsibility that falls to all of us -- men and women from all over the world. We are an immense multitude that rejects war not only in word, but also in deed. Prayer calls us to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built-up day by day -- in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities. A Kingdom that counters polemics and resignation through friendship and a culture of encounter. Let us believe once again in love, moderation and good politics. We must form ourselves and get personally involved, each following our own calling. Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace!”

In which Easter season do I/you/we believe? What does our belief look like in practice?

LCWR's Annual Trip to Rome Includes Private Audience with Pope Leo



Vicky Larson, PBVM; Kathy Brazda, CSJ; Pope Leo; Carol Zinn, SSJ; and Debra Sciano, SSND

by Vicky Larson, PBVM

The LCWR presidency — Kathy Brazda, CSJ; Debra Sciano, SSND; and I — and executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ traveled to Rome from March 21–28 for the conference’s annual visit to the Vatican. These meetings are intended to maintain open lines of communication and foster mutual understanding. LCWR helps shape the agenda, offering an opportunity to share the conference’s work and concerns while also listening attentively to the perspectives of the dicasteries we visit.

Pope Leo and many of those who met shared our concern for the plight of immigrants and others affected by political tensions in the United States. Many expressed tremendous admiration and appreciation for the work of the sisters throughout this country in these difficult times. As we asked Vatican officials for ideas and suggestions, we were reminded of the global scope of our church and the benefit of taking a



broad perspective and recognizing the connection of our work with our global sisterhood. We heard invitations to collaborate with our brother bishops in our local communities. We felt encouraged by the global perspective and openness to collaboration and continued dialogue.



Archive Snapshots

Sister M. Victoria Bartley

Grace Julie Bartley, born in Toledo, attended St. Mary's school and completed her high school at Scott High School. She entered the Ursuline Convent in 1914 before the move to Collingwood Blvd. Her higher education included courses at St. John's University, Columbia University, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Cornell University, Catholic University of America, and Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan.

Sister Victoria had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and took in as much as time would allow. She was a world traveler, going to the Holy Land, Italy (following the places visited by St. Angela Merici), most of Europe, Asia, Africa, India, and many more places in the United States. For many years, she collected money and books for the Ursulines in Alaska. At the end of every school year, she gathered text books from high schools and elementary schools to send to the missions in Alaska. On one of her trips to Montana, she followed Mother Amadeus' steps and visited the missions in Alaska. She was very happy that she made the trip because she found out that the Alaskan missions had more, newer and better text books than we did in the "lower 48" as they received financial help from the Federal Government coffers which seemed endless.

After that trip she spent her time collecting money for missions in Africa and India. She wanted to be a missionary in Africa or India and wrote to several bishops there. She received a reply that she was too old to be a missionary in Africa. Insulted by this reply, Sister Victoria concentrated on India. She visited there – Delhi and other large cities and found out that they could use help but the noise 24 hours a day was unbearable. She came home somewhat down but not out of the game. She had friends all over the world and was a delightful companion to any Sister when they went on trips – long or short. Sister Victoria wrote specific instructions for her funeral and arrangements. Most of them were carried out but some "slipped" by the editor. Sister Vickie died on May 14, 1984.



Praying for Our Country, Our World

~ A Silent Prayer Hour ~

Wednesdays,
May 27 & June 24

(Silent Prayer Hours may resume
in the fall - dates TBD)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Ursuline Center Chapel

ALL ARE WELCOME!





Celebrate National Nurses Week
May 6 - 12, 2026

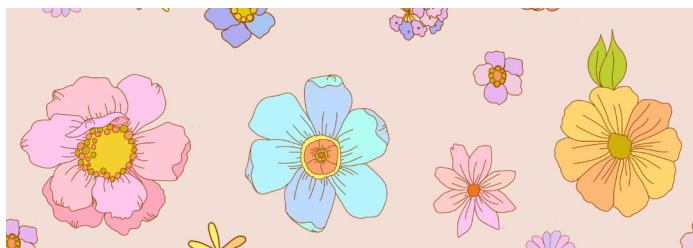
National Nurses Week is May 6 - 12, 2026 - a week that recognizes the invaluable contributions nurses make in healthcare and our lives while addressing the real-life challenges they face every day. The Ursuline Sisters and Associates would like to give a huge shout out to our wonderful nurses who look out over our health needs, take us to appointments, follow up with care providers, and meet the many, many needs we may have regarding our overall health. Thank you for the time, energy and sacrifice you put forth so that we can live the life God has called us to. We are blessed because of you!



Janet Klocinski, Bonnie Krochmalny, Megan DiCresce, Elaine Heyne, Liz Gerrity, Laurie Toth, and Mary Terry.

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

(St. Angela Merici, 10th Legacy)



**From hope to action -
Laudato Sí Week - May 17 - 24, 2026**



**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**

Catholics for Our Common Home

What is one thing YOU can do?

Laudato Sí Week 2026 invites us to move *from hope to action*. Hope is not passive; it is lived and shared through daily choices, community life, prayer, and concrete acts of care. This year reminds us that ecological conversion grows step by step - through relationships restored, creation protected, and communities strengthened. The next chapter of Laudato Sí begins with us, wherever we are.

These seven goals provide guidance on urgent and immediate actions each one of us can take in the care of our common home. “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” (Laudato Sí 14)

Seven Goals:

- Response to the Cry of the Earth
- Evangelical Economics
- Adoptions of Sustainable Lifestyles
- Ecological Education
- Ecological Spirituality
- Community Resilience and Empowerment
- Response to the Cry of the Poor

(Websites for more information: laudatosiplatform.org/about OR laudatosiweek.org)

Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for the June 2026 newsletter is Thursday, May 21. Please send your stories to Michelle at mscazzurero@ursulinecenter.org.

CALENDAR

May 2026

- 6-12 National Nurses Week
- 14 "May Movies" - Cabrini, 2:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices. All are invited.
- 17-24 Laudato Si Week
- 27 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel
- 28 "May Movies" - Conclave, 3 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices, All are invited.

June 2026

- 12 Feast of the Sacred Heart, Transfer of Leadership Ceremony, 11 a.m. Service at Ursuline Center Chapel, luncheon to follow. Please RSVP by May 29.
- 14 Jubilee Celebration, Mass at 3 p.m. with dinner to follow, Christ The King Parish. Please RSVP by May 29.
- 19 Juneteenth, offices closed
- 24 Silent Prayer Hour, 5 - 6 p.m., Ursuline Convent Chapel

St. Ursula Academy Capstone Project

On Tuesday, February 24th, senior students Aubrey Massey, Grace Rawlins, Gabriella Duvendack, and Allison Whitman presented their Senior Capstone Project for the children of La Posada Family Emergency Shelter. The students developed a slide presentation on health and hygiene, to help the children learn the importance of caring for their bodies. They also prepared a creative and nutritious owl-shaped snack made of bagels, fruit and peanut butter.

In addition, the girls engaged the children in a fun activity identifying the major food groups and led them in building air clay sculptures. This project beautifully complements La Posada's healthy lifestyle initiative, which equips families with ways to incorporate nutritious foods, exercise, and good hygiene, as they prepare to transition into permanent housing.

We are thankful for the creativity and leadership of these dedicated students, which brought learning and joy to the children and families at La Posada.

From "Compassion in Action," a newsletter of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Toledo, Spring 2026.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May

- 4 Rose Hubay
- 25 Judy Polcyn
- 27 Jane Charette
- 28 Robin Bonfiglio



June

- 9 Sarah Abts
- 16 Doug Adams
- 17 Sr. Margaret Anne Carstensen
- 22 Theresa Smith
- 23 Sr. Ann Marie McManus
- 24 Robert Mace, Jr.
- 27 Debra Kreft
- Stan Turski



FEAST DAY



May

- 22 Sister Rita Mae Johns

June

- 24 Sister Mary Jo Szpila, SND



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



Preserving Our History

archivescollaborative.org

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