

Leadership Corner by Sr. Sandy

I began my retreat in a warm waterfront cabin in Port Huron, MI. The first night's fierce wind made a sound as if someone was walking up above me while the rain battered the walls and the waves pulsed with urgency. Yet I felt surrounded by the Holy, held in the arms of God. A collector of various forms of the prayer of Hours, I took with me a recent one containing the writings of Teilhard de Chardin. In the morning I prayed from Sunday's Prayer at Dawn, "God encompasses us on all sides, like the world itself."

As one whose birthday is the last day of October, followed by the celebration of All Saints and commemoration of All Souls, I become more conscious each year of the moment when I will take leave of my earth birthday and enter my eternal one. That second evening as I settled into prayer, a burning smell suddenly filled the room, followed by sounds of distress from the furnace closet and then by smoke that enveloped me in a cloud. I spent the second night in my hosts' home across the yard. To their constant apologies, I replied, "This is somehow all part of my retreat which God will reveal in time." The next morning, grateful to God and to my hosts, I realized how close to my eternal birthday I may have come. "Lord of my childhood, Lord of my last days," prays Chardin, "You have become in my mind and my heart much more than the God who was and who is: You have become the God who shall be."

The evening found me back in the cabin, warmed by a space heater, the open oven, a three-wick, scented candle, and a thick, fluffy robe my hostess told me to take home and give to another in need of warmth. I

had been given for prayer by my retreat director, a reflection on the Magnificat, "A Revolutionary Song," by Elizabeth Johnson. It is not a coincidence but a God-incident that I who fled a smoking cabin was given this selection from a book entitled *Hearts on Fire*. Johnson references Martin Luther who wrote that in his lifetime, Jesus preached the great reversal. Very simply put,

I who am warm now am commissioned to bless one who is cold. "To Your deep inspiration which commands me to be," Chardin prayed, "I shall respond by taking great care never to stifle nor distort nor waste my power to love and to do."

Of the four modalities of warmth, my host and hostess provided, I cherish two: The first - the robe gifted me to be gifted; the second - the three-wick scented candle, meant to dispel the odor of residual smoke. It kept the fire in my heart burning, and became part of the doxology for my prayer. Knowing I could have been badly injured or worse, I prayed it in gratitude to my guardian angel and to my personal communion of saints who interceded for me to a God who is not yet finished with me this side of life. Thanksgiving is a time for expressing our gratitude to God for all with which we have been gifted and to consider how we might, in turn, invite others to share in the abundance of the blessings we have received. As performed by the artists of Abbey of the Arts, "Glory be to the Maker, Lover and Keeper, as ago, in this breath, and will be forever. Amen." Glory be to God, the Maker, Lover, and Keeper of each of you and your loved ones in this season of thankfulness. May you feel held in God's arms.





Rest In Peace

Marilyn Smith Mossing, SUA '51; mother of Jennifer Mossing Tekkey, SUA '90 - September 26

Jane Ann Dobrzykowski Mosser, SUA '44 - September 27

Sr. Naomi Aull, Ursuline Sister of Mount St. Joseph - September 29

Marty Van Ausdale, brother of Sr. Maria Van Ausdale - September 30

Ned Turner, cousin of Sr. Maria Van Ausdale - October 1

Sr. Joan Marie Recker, SND; MMC grad - October 1

Hannah Davis, mother of Fr. Mark Davis, pastor of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Parish - October 2

Nancy Haenggi Wicks, SUA '66 - October 3

Lawrence Peterman, husband of Susan Klepetko Peterman, SUA '60 - October 7

Kathryn Craig, mother of Barbara Craig Fischer, SUA '78 - October 7

Kathy Hart, mother of Sheila Hart Chiricosta, SUA '77 and Mary Lynn Hart Burns, SUA '80 - October 10

Mary Ellen Geiger Schreiber, mother of Carolyn Geiger Breckner, SUA '71; Catherine Geiger Roberts, SUA '75 and Gary Geiger, advisor on the Ursuline Foundation Board - October 12

Sr. Patricia McLean, Ursuline Sister of Chatham, Ontario - October 14

Sr. M. Gervase Lochotzki, OSF/S - October 15

Sr. Rose Ann Muller, Ursuline Sister of Louisville - October 19

Patricia Powers Wade, SUA '56; Mary Manse College Associate ~ October 22

James Silk, Sr., Former Trustee of Mary Manse College ~ October 23

Eileen Hausknecht Dayton, sister of Joan Hausknecht, SUA '71 ~ October 23

Audrey Boicey Berlacher, SUA '48 ~ October 25



All are invited to come, relax, and bring a drink or snack if you wish. Showings begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Convent Offices. Hope to see you there!

The Chosen Clips

November 2 - Bishop Barron with Jonathan Roumie

November 9 - "It's deepened my own faith" - Jonathan Roumie talking about Jesus from The Chosen

Jonathan Roumie and Dr. Hahn's favorite scenes from The Chosen

A Catholic Priest responds to Mary in The Chosen

The Chosen conversation with Father Gaffey CSC

Notice of Cancellation

Previously, Sisters, you were asked to reserve Saturday, November 11, 2023 for a Celebration of the Charism of Religious Life day in Tiffin, Ohio. Please be advised that this day is now cancelled. The Advent Day of Reflection at Rosary Cathedral on December 2, 2023 sponsored by Sr. Anthony Mary Diago, Delegate for Religious Life, is now on the calendar. Look for more further details.



Archive Snapshots

May God's blessings
be with you - all
the way to Him
Here is my picture
so you won't forget me!
Sr. Marie de Lourdes



SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES

"The Doors in Angela's Life" by Sister Donna Frey

Come and spend an afternoon with Angela Merici as she passed through many doors in her life. You will surely find yourself at one of these doors. Please RSVP with Val at 419-536-9587 or email vmyers@ursulinecenter.org by November 6.

Sunday, November 12, 2023

1 - 3 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
Light refreshments will be served.



**June 2023 -
June 2024:**

The Parish Year Eucharistic Revival



When I receive the Eucharist all else seems to fade into the background and for those few moments it is just me and Christ. His presence becomes very real for me and I give praise and thanks.

~ Debbie Bercher, Ursuline Associate



Associate News by Sarah Abts

It's time to put our gardens to bed, put more blankets on our own beds to enjoy their warmth a little longer in the morning, and time to adjust to the increased hours of darkness each day. And for a gardener, the often slower pace of late fall and early winter, when not masked by the frenzy of commercialized holidays or unrealistically high expectations for family gatherings, gives me time for reflection on how things used to be and are now. In the past year, I have been wrestling with why my "to-do" list has so few check marks after a day of constant action. I am trying to get the courage to ask God directly, "Do you want me to stop making lists and just go with the flow of whatever presents itself as most necessary this day?"

As I have re-started my habit of daily time with God, more than the frequent prayers as the day progresses, one insight has been: this can't be something I tick off on my "to-do" list. It has to come from a more basic fulfillment of need and joy in my relationship to God. After a few days of this time with God, I see that I am less anxious – not feeling as pulled in seven directions and unable to choose where to focus, and still able to accomplish necessary tasks. Some days I am able to just "sink into God," but other days I need the physical movement like "tapping" on the body's energy points to have honesty and direct conversation with God.

The St. Ursula Feast Day celebration on October 21 was a joyful gathering. Fr. Frank spoke of his joy with the text (1 Thess. 1:1-5b) that was an excellent homily base, and of his happiness to be with Ursulines again in their chapel. "We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power

and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction." Our assembly likewise remembered with love and gratitude all those gathered and with us in spirit only. The crowd was not huge, but we were excited to greet each other. As usual, I was frustrated to not be able to sit at the meal with more people and learn more of their lives, tribulations, and healing. We send love to all those we did not see and prayers for your health. Angela gathers us all.

I am grateful for the work that Deb Bercher and Jess Gamby have done to organize Associate gatherings for more than two years. They bravely stepped up to fill the gap in leadership without the previous assurance of an Associate Board that would find new leaders in due time. Just as the Sisters have found new ways of governing, gathering, and caring for each other with fewer able bodies and without the dining and residence capabilities of the Ursuline Center, so we Associates need to adjust our ways of choosing leaders and organizing fellowship and prayer with the Sisters and planning to carry on their legacy. In general, our abilities are waning also, so things must be simpler, but we still have the desire to serve and to pray and socialize with the Sisters. I know Angela and the Holy Spirit will help us move forward sensibly and charitably, but I do not know how the Holy Spirit will surprise us! I pray that each of you will prayerfully consider any call for service.

Sr. Donna has led a group meeting weekly to watch *The Chosen* and commentary on it. It has given us a new image of Jesus and the early church. We know this actor is not really Jesus, but I think *The Chosen* helps us bring a living, laughing Jesus into our prayers.

May we continue Angela's enthusiasm to be in Jesus' company, Sarah Abts

Associate Updates

TAANG Sewing Day - 45 garments were sewn and sent out to children in need. Thank you again to all who put the time in to cut patterns, sew and pack by size. You helped provide much needed items for many children around the world.

Halloween Treat Bags – The bags were filled with delicious treats and homemade decorated cookies and distributed to Sisters at Oakleaf, Sunset and Rosary Care. Thank you to all who made this possible.

Rahab's Heart Dinner – A delicious dinner was put together by Sisters and Associates which included casserole dishes, shrimp appetizer and desserts. The ladies in attendance appreciated the wonderful food, service and companionship. Thank you to the Associates who donated all the wonderful food and their time to make this dinner happen, especially to Val Myers, Sarah Abts and Laurie Toth who helped serve. This was another way for the Associates to serve those in need in our community.

Afternoon Reflection - The Afternoon Reflection entitled “The Doors In Angela’s Life” by Sr. Donna Frey will be held on Sunday, November 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Ursuline Convent Offices. There will be an opportunity for prayer and light refreshments for Sisters and Associates. Please **RSVP to Val by November 6 at 419-536-9587 or vmyers@ursulinecenter.org**.

Christmas Luncheon – This year’s Christmas luncheon for Sisters and Associates will be held

on Wednesday, December 6. We will be serving Panera soup and salad. If you would like to provide a dessert or help out with the event please let us know. Please RSVP to Val by Thursday, November 30 (vmyers@ursulinecenter.org or call 419-536-9587). We look forward to celebrating with you!

New Associates - Do you know someone who has expressed an interest in the ministries of the Ursuline Sisters? Please encourage them to check out our website, stay in touch with them and encourage them to join us. As our numbers grow so can our ministry as Associates. A new flyer will be ready for distribution very soon and can be distributed to that interested individual.

Newsletter Writers – WE STILL NEED YOU!! Please consider helping us out with this. Your story can be as simple as a one or two line 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. Consider sharing your experiences with all of us.

Debbie and Jess

ursulineassociates@ursulinecenter.org

*Lord, let us see your gift of love in each of our Sisters and Associates, knowing that in their company our lives will be enriched now and forever. Amen.
(Concluding Prayer from “Prayer of Commitment”)*

SUA 8th Graders Reflect on Quotes of St. Angela

“In God one has all wealth.” - Rule, Chapter 10/6

This saying really sticks out to me because it is saying that you don’t need to be rich or have grand objects for you to be a better person. God is the wealth in our lives; he will help us get to the right path, and he will also take care of us if we are struggling.

~ Ellie



From the LCWR Presidency **Choose Life**

Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP — LCWR Past President

I had another reflection prepared for this *Update*. It focused upon the Synod in Rome. I commented on the uplifting ecumenical prayer vigil where hundreds of youth from around the globe gathered in St. Peter's Square with Pope Francis and leaders of churches from different denominations to entrust the work of the general assembly of the Synod to the Holy Spirit. I marveled at the inspiring reflections my Dominican brother, Timothy Radcliffe, OP, presented during the three-day retreat before the Synod's official opening. I expressed soul-sized hope as this assembly began, with men and women listening together for the guidance of the Spirit, all for the life of the world.

However, I was soon shaken from this uplifting reverie when on October 7, 2023, just before dawn, Hamas militants from Gaza waged a surprise attack on Israel from the air, sea, and ground. Video footage of skies lit up by missiles and the droning sound of sirens were soon displayed and heard on TV screens throughout the world. As the sun rose further in the sky, death and destruction was in full view. Another war is raging and our list of prayers continues to grow. But for who or what do we pray?

I have been edified by many responses from journalists and faith leaders who acknowledge Hamas' horrific behavior yet do not choose one side over the other in



their judgment or focus for intercessory prayer. In a clip from one of the news outlets, a Jewish man spoke of being in solidarity with his people, sharing their suffering and grief. Yet he continued, "As a human, I also stand in solidarity with the innocent Palestinians. Pray and encourage people not to take sides – pro-Israel or pro-Palestine, but take the side of human rights and dignity and equality for all." For someone like me who has not experienced the effects of war first-hand, taking such a position may appear naïve,

even uncaring. Yet evil made flesh in wars and acts of domestic violence throughout the world can never be eradicated by further violence. Ultimately one side may claim victory but hate and vengeance remain on the horizon ready to reappear in another form of injustice and calamity.

Let us take time today to pray
that all persons of influence and
power choose life for all --

life that witnesses to the
goodness of creation.
Together, let us find a way to live
in communion, participation,
and mission,
not only in word, but in action.
May it be so!

Let us take time today to ponder the words of Deuteronomy 30:19-20a: "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may have life and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him." Let us take time today to pray that all persons of influence and power choose life for all -- life

that witnesses to the goodness of creation. Together, let us find a way to live in communion, participation, and mission, not only in word, but in action. May it be so!

Alliance to End Human Trafficking Honors Founders

The Alliance to End Human Trafficking, formerly US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, celebrated 10 years since the organization's founding at its annual conference, September 28-30 in Skokie, Illinois. The conference officially announced the organization's new name, the Alliance to End Human Trafficking, and recognized Margaret Nacke, CSJ and Ann Scholz, SSND as founders of the organization. Speakers focused on both the reality and necessary advocacy to end human trafficking. Further information is available at the alliance [website](#).



Margaret Nacke, CSJ and former LCWR associate director Ann Scholz, SSND are recognized as the founders of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking



LCWR member Anne Victory, HM with Ann Scholz, SSND at the Alliance to End Human Trafficking Conference

Note: The Ursuline Sisters of Toledo are members of The Alliance to End Human Trafficking.

Thanksgiving Day

There was a special feeling on the way,
as I walked to church Thanksgiving Day.

The frost was on the ground,
the air was cool and brisk,
perfect for November weather.

The opening song was,
“We Gather Together.”

What a spirit of unity,
praising God with a grateful voice.
Beginning with prayer in the morning,
was a very wise choice.

Then, of course, there is feasting with
family and kin.
With so much celebration, where does
the conversation begin?

It starts with a pause of silence,
while hearts ponder God's goodness.

Then, before passing the turkey and
dressing,
someone prays a Thanksgiving Blessing.

~ By Sr. Margaret Anne Carstensen



CALENDAR

(ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

November 2023

- 2 The Chosen clip, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 4 Serata di Gala - SUA
- 6-7 LCWR Region 6 - Cincinnati
- 9 The Chosen clips, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 12 "The Doors in Angela's Life," by Sr. Donna Frey,
1 - 3 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices.
- 22-24 Thanksgiving - Convent Offices closed
- 25 Founding of the Company of Angela 1535
Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria
- 29 Council Meeting
- 30 Community Input/Update, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Sisters only.

December 2023

- 2 Advent Day of Reflection for Religious -
Sisters of the Diocese, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Holy Rosary Cathedral
- 6 Associate Christmas Luncheon for Sisters and Associates
- 7 The Chosen clip, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 12 Foundation Day, Vespers at 4:30 p.m. followed by Supper.
Sisters and Associates are invited.
- 20 Council Meeting
- 21 Staff Christmas Lunch - 11 a.m.
- 22 - Jan. 2 Christmas Break - Convent Offices closed

January 2024

- 11 The Chosen clip, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 15 Martin Luther King Day - Convent Offices closed
- 24 Council Meeting
- 28 Feast of St. Angela - 11 a.m. Liturgy followed by
Luncheon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the December 2023 newsletter is Wednesday, November 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

November

- 2 Marcia Kolbeck
- 6 Sr. Bernarda Breidenbach
- 8 Carol Pruss
- 12 Dr. Richard O'Reilly
Karen (Kitty) Meyers
- 13 Sr. Regina Smith
- 14 Jerry Folmar
- 16 Joanne McGinnis
- 19 Michelle Scazzero
- 20 Hilaire Daly
- 21 Jess Gamby

December

- 4 Pat Cryan
- 7 Shirley Persinger
- 10 Mary Obert
- 12 Joan Keavy
- 15 Ellen Bires
- 18 Sr. Claudia Holtz
- 20 Barb Torio
- 22 Janet Ellzey
- 27 BJ Stevens
- 28 Jovita Harrah
- 31 Mary Richard
Nancy Turski



FEAST DAY



November

- 4 Sr. Carol Kronfield
- 4 Sr. Carol Reamer

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Check out the
Ursuline Sisters of Toledo
Facebook page!