

**JOURNEYING
WITH CHRIST
IN HOPE AND TRUST**

Ursuline Newsletter

4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 47 No. 8 • September 2023

Leadership Corner by Sr. Donna

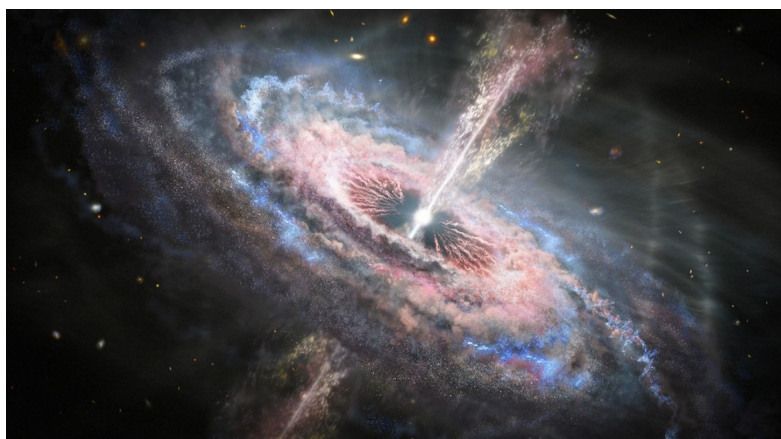
**“... and by your Holy Name, be it blessed above the sands of the seas,
above the drops of the waters, above the multitudes of the stars.”**

(Prayer of Angela – Rule)

St. Angela Merici says little about creation in her writings. Yet we know she lived on a farm in the country, among vineyards and olive trees. She lived close to Lake Garda, mountains, and probably walked barefoot along the sandy shore. She most likely worked the land, tended the animals, weeded the gardens, and took in many sunrises, sunsets, the moon and the stars.

The above phrase, lifted from her personal prayer found in her Rule, gives us a touch of her gratitude for our earth. Although she said little about creation she clearly tells us how we are to be in relationship to one another and I believe this includes how we relate to the earth. Her phrase, often quoted, “live in harmony”, applies so well to how we treat, reverence and respect our earth, our galaxy, our universe, and beyond.

The recent Leadership Conference for Women Religious held in Dallas, TX, had as its theme “Drawn by Sacred Mystery – a Journey into Hope.” A question was posed for our reflection – “What



awakens my sense of awe, wonder, imagination, curiosity?”

“Relationship is the most fundamental power in the universe.” “The vastness of God’s universe lives in us.” Our lives are surrounded by mystery, and we are invited to embrace God’s continuous birthing of new life in the universe. All we need to do is look at the images from the Webb Telescope as an example of God’s creation still at work.



The Chosen

Beginning in September, video clips from the actors of the show, *The Chosen*, will be shown in the Ursuline Convent Offices. All are invited to come, relax, bring a drink or snack if you wish, and hear how the show has impacted the actors’ personal lives. All showings will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Convent Offices. Please see the calendar for dates. Hope to see you there!



Rest In Peace

Irene Radkiewicz Burt, MMC '63 - March 14

Pauline Schreider, Ireland cousin of Sr. Ann Marie McManus - July 19

Michael Boyer, brother of Sharon Boyer Morton, SUA '58; Patricia Boyer Strasser, SUA '63 and Mary Therese Boyer, SUA '68 - July 21

Joe McManus, cousin of Sr. Ann Marie McManus - July 26

Charles Smith, husband of Jacquelyn Pitzen Smith, SUA '60 - July 29

Sr. M. Thomas More Ruffing, OSF - August 1

Christine Irmen Gill, MMC '60 - August 3

Dorothy Uhl Zimmerman, SUA '62; MMC '71; Formerly Sr. Mary Bernard; Ursuline Associate - August 6

Neil Montagino, brother of Josephine Montagino Braz, SUA '62 - August 6

Sr. Mary Rosellyn Theisen, SND - August 7

George Trombley, father of Michele Trombley, SUA '88 - August 8

Timothy Toffler, brother of Carol Toffler Fleischman, SUA '66 - August 8

Mary Drouillard Posadny, MMC '74 - August 8

John Fay, brother-in-law of Associate Chris Soto - August 9

Rosendo "Fuzzy" Flores, father-in-law of SUA principal Nichole Operacz Flores, SUA '89 - August 9

Margaret Marconi Russ, SUA '61; MMC '68; sister of Susan Marconi Hochanadel, SUA '66 - August 9

Patricia Hilfinger, mother of Jean Hilfinger Frederick, SUA '78 and Lisa Hilfinger Nunnally, SUA '86 - August 10

Kristina Perry, cousin of Sr. Rita Mae Johns - August 10

Sr. Bernadette Hannaway, Ursuline Sister of the Eastern Province - August 12

Sr. Marie Montgomery, Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph - August 18

James Jaros, brother of the Rev. Joseph Jaros (dec) - August 19

Mark Thees, husband of Elizabeth Hunt Thees, SUA '80; brother of Michelle Thees Meehan, SUA '85 and Maureen Thees Jagos, SUA '88 - August 19

"Freedom Means Never Surrender"

The Anastasia Fund, WGTE Public Media and the Northwest Ohio Polish Cultural Center will present, "Freedom Means Never Surrender," a historical documentary about the exceptionally heroic lives of Colonel Marian Wojciechowski and Wladyslawa Poniecka-Wojciechowski on Friday, September 8 at Franciscan Center, Lourdes University. The daughter of this family, Maryann Wojciechowski, is a 1964 SUA graduate and Valedictorian of her class. Please see the enclosed movie flyer for details.

Sister Update

Sr. Pat Grosse
Rosary Care Center
6832 Convent Blvd., #310
Sylvania, OH 43560



St. Ursula Academy Opens New Turf Field on Campus

St. Ursula Academy officially welcomed athletes and fans to its new on-campus turf field on Saturday, August 19, for the first soccer games of the 2023 season. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place prior to the Varsity game. Speakers at the ribbon-cutting event included President Mary Werner '74 and Athletic Director Mike Donnelly.

Strasser Field, named in honor of Jim and Pat (Boyer '63) Strasser, who provided the lead gift, is a state-of-the-art playing surface fully equipped with the latest technology and safety features. The field is durable and weather-resistant, and it provides a comfortable and safe environment for athletes and students. The new field represents an important milestone for SUA and its athletic programs; it is a significant investment in the school's future and its commitment to providing a high-quality education, both in and out of the classroom.



St. Ursula Academy hosted its first soccer game on Strasser Field on Saturday, August 19. SUA soccer players joined (left to right) Athletic Director Mike Donnelly, President Mary Werner '74, and Principal Nichole Flores '89 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony before the varsity game.

Sisters, if you plan to attend the Mary Manse Alumni Mass and Luncheon on October 8, 2023 and have not RSVP'd, please contact Val as soon as possible.



June 2023-June 2024: The Parish Year Eucharistic Revival

I tell you, it is food for my soul, but most of all, it is reality that this is a sacrament that renews my soul with its ability to forgive my sins.

I was not going to reply to this question yet I can't get the anguish (out of my mind) of those patients I ministered to at the hospital, so worried about not receiving communion because they have not gotten to confession. Usually I try to explain that if they do not have mortal sin and (have) the desire to be repentant for the sins they have committed then they can receive communion. My thinking is that this power of the Eucharist has not been adequately conveyed to them, Catholics on the whole, and they let the greatest grace slip through their fingers/life.

For me, I use every opportunity to go to communion as Jesus says: **do this in memory of me**. What a great way to remember **a loved one; remember Jesus**, taking Him with us.

~ submitted by Jovita Harrah,
Associate





Associate News by Deb Bercher

FAMILY VACATIONS

Family vacations - sometimes taken for granted. For some, sometimes dreaded. Recently, I was blessed to be able to take a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with my daughter, Jen, and granddaughters, Meghan and Maddie. We spent eight days together enjoying the beauty of God's creation in the Porcupine Mountains, Pictured Rocks area and Sleeping Bear Dunes. We talked. We laughed a lot (especially when I sat down in Lake Superior unintentionally with my clothes on!). Every day brought a reason to celebrate us and the special time we were spending together. And that's exactly what we did. We were taken aback by the beauty of the rock walls and cliffs and the oranges, blues and greens of the copper composing them - truly evidence of God's hand. I felt surrounded by both beauty and love. When I got home I found myself sitting and thinking - remembering the past few days and being thankful. I took many pictures and preserved many memories that way. But it was the time we spent - something to always cherish and remember. We truly witnessed wonderful things!

"Undoubtedly you will witness wonderful things if you direct all the praise and glory of God and to the good of souls."

(St. Angela Merici, Intro to the Counsels)



SUA 8th Graders Reflect on Quotes of St. Angela

"In God one has all wealth."

- Rule, Ch. 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 the 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, SUA 8th Grader



Jubilee Celebration 2023



65th Jubilee Celebration of:

*Sister Angela Gaietto
Sister Nancy Mathias
Sister Kenwyn Steger*

Friday, September 8, 2023 at 11 a.m. in the
Ursuline Center Chapel

Associate Updates

Rahab's Heart Dinner – On Friday, October 20, at 6 p.m. the Associates will be providing dinner for the women with whom volunteers walk. As mentioned last month, we are in need of 5 casseroles, 3 desserts and at least 3 volunteers to serve the guests that evening. The number of guests varies and can be as large as 20 ladies. If you can provide any of these things, please contact Val in the Convent Office, vmyers@ursulinecenter.org or 419-536-9587 by September 20 so we can plan the event and make sure we have all the food we'll need. If you cannot attend but would like to provide food, that can be arranged also. This is another way the Associates can become involved in another ministry in our community.

As Sr. Sandy explained: "The volunteers or Companions of Rahab's Heart walk with women, many now older, who live with the effects of trauma which may include human trafficking, sexual/physical/emotional violence or exploitation, addiction, and poverty. The monthly dinners are a time when everyone, including those who provide the meal, are invited to sit at the table and share in the present." Please consider being a part of this important ministry.

Dinner Gathering – We would like to get together for dinner again, this time at LongHorn Steakhouse on Talmadge Road at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12. Please RSVP to Val at vmyers@ursulinecenter.org or 419- 536-9587 by Thursday, September 7 if you plan to attend.

Afternoon Reflection - The Afternoon Reflection entitled, "'Doors' To Angela's Life" by Sr. Donna Frey will be held on Sunday, November 12 from 1-3 p.m. at the Ursuline Convent Offices. There will be an opportunity for prayer and light refreshments. Please mark the date on your calendar.

Sock Project – We will again take part in the TAANG (Toledo Area Associates Networking Group) sock project. Socks will be stuffed with gift cards and distributed to groups working for

people in need. If you know of such a group that could distribute socks to its members, please let us know. This event will be held next spring. Date to be announced.

TAANG Sewing Day – The TAANG Sewing Day during which we sew and package dresses and shorts for children in need will be held on Saturday, September 9, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Evergreen Room at Rosary Care Center. If you have any material that could be used for lightweight dresses or shorts, we welcome donations. Please check your e-mail for the flyer and form for volunteering. Many hands are needed, not just to sew, but to cut patterns, and sort and organize all the dresses and shorts to be shipped to children in many different countries.

New Associates - If you know someone who has expressed an interest in exploring the prayer experience of becoming an Ursuline Associate, be sure to stay in touch with the individual and invite him/her to join us. As our numbers grow so can our ministry as Associates. A new flyer that can be shared with that person will be ready for distribution soon.

Newsletter Writers –WE NEED YOU!! 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.

Debbie and Jess

ursulineassociates@ursulinecenter.org

"Above all, be unassuming and kind. Let your words and actions be directed by charity, accepting all things with patience; for it is by these two virtues in particular, that the forces of evil are conquered."

*(from the Fifth Counsel of
"The Counsels of Saint Angela")*

Edited Summary of the 2023 LCWR Assembly “Drawn by Sacred Mystery: A Journey into Hope”

The 2023 LCWR assembly entitled **Drawn by Sacred Mystery: A Journey into Hope** was held from August 8 -11 in Dallas, Texas. The religious life leaders and guests explored the realities facing US religious life today through a cosmic lens, noting how their story fits with what is evolving and emerging in the larger universe. They also explored how they can grow in awareness of the sacred mystery that surrounds them and trust its movement within their lives and the lives of their institutes.

Main speakers included theologians Sister Barbara E. Reid, OP, president of Catholic Theological Union; Sister Jung Eun Sophia Park, SNJM, a professor and workshop and retreat leader; and Margot Fassler professor emerita of music history and liturgy at the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Brian Swimme (California Institute of Integral Studies) set the context for the assembly, noting that the development of the universe “takes place through the power of relationship...

“The explosion of a star is a primary revelation of love at a cosmological level...A love that is a divine give away. A love that holds nothing back. A love exemplified by the history of Catholic sisters. A love that reveals the heart of divinity. The star dies in its final act of generosity, and out of that generosity, the future of the universe is born. Take this image to heart. It is the cosmological form of your love.”

LCWR president Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP reflected further on Dr. Swimme’s insights in her presidential address. She stressed the critical need to not lose hope even in the face of the numerous changes taking place in the world and in religious life. “Do we recognize a life of prayer as a lifeline that connects us to God and all that is visible and invisible? Do we truly believe that selfless prayers of gratitude, lament, supplication and praise not only unify us as a global community, but can actually make a tangible, concrete, real-life difference?” Using the analogy of navigating a car, she said that we should give Jesus the wheel.

Sister Barbara Reid OP (president - Catholic Theological Union), looked at the end-of-Gospel

narratives and noted, “As we let ourselves be drawn ever more deeply into Holy Mystery, the Gospels point the way for us to journey in resurrection hope... Today we speak of deep resurrection...Recognizing our interconnectedness with Earth and all living things, we now envision the whole evolving world of life will be transfigured by the resurrecting action of the Creator Spirit. Our response to such a gift is awe, self-emptying, and holding on to each beloved one as we create ever wider circles of love in mission.”

Sister Jung Eun Sophia Park SNJM, (professor and workshop and retreat leader), compared the journey of religious life today to the story of *Alice in Wonderland*. “We deal with being puzzled in this new landscape. We naturally are touched by the fear of the unknown and the anxiety of the uncontrollable, yet we can remain steadfast holding one another, and tending the Mystery with hope...No one reaches a final destination...The final destination is itself unknown, and yet our journey never ceases to expand, challenge, and engage us. It is why we are so fully alive; we live by crossing borders, embracing mystery, and creating community.”

Dr. Margot Fassler (professor emerita of music history and liturgy at the University of Notre Dame), drew from her scholarship on the mystic Hildegard of Bingen describing her approach to leadership as the *magistra* of her monastery and inviting the attendees to consider the parallels to their leadership today.

The assembly attendees had opportunities to apply these theological and cosmic concepts by attending one of eight sessions focused on areas of interest for today’s leaders. (Toledo Ursuline Sisters Sandy, Donna, Margaret, and Nelda each attended a different session). At the conclusion of these sessions, one representative from each session formed a “wisdom circle” on stage where they shared insights that arose from their session into how religious life is evolving and the response this evolution calls forth.

Throughout the assembly, participants were invited to pray with the African concept of *ubuntu*, “I am because we are,” and the question: “who am I becoming because we are?”

The LCWR members heard preliminary data from the interviews that were conducted with the 271 leadership teams that are members of LCWR. The findings are currently being studied by a team working on the LCWR Emerging Future of Religious Life initiative. The results will be used to form programs and services LCWR will offer its members.

During the assembly the members blessed the new leadership for the conference: new president-elect Sister Susan Ernster, a Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration; the president-elect Maureen Geary, OP, president for 2023-2024; and Sister Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP now immediate past-president. Elected to the national board were Sisters Rose Martin, RSM; Verónica Esparza Ramírez, OP; and Celeste Trahan, CCVI.

The assembly concluded by honoring Sister Donna Markham, OP with the 2023 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award. She has served in leadership positions in her Adrian Dominican congregation, in behavioral healthcare both in Canada and the United States, and most recently as the first woman president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA. Sister Donna spoke of experiences in her lifetime of “wordless reverence that led to a certain emboldening of the soul... You and I have our own inner reservoirs of profound encounters that have changed us, transformed us, converted us. Standing along the holy edges of profound suffering, we know we will never be the same again. And we become even more emboldened to live religious life in all its full radicality... For me, I am no longer afraid of what may become of me in speaking truth or doing what I know to be right... We will allow absolutely nothing to prevent us from reaching out in compassion. This is the gift and the hope I believe we women religious leaders offer to our broken, angry world today.”

Also in service of this assembly were Sister Maria Elena Martinez, OSF, facilitator; Julie Tragon, coordinator of prayer and liturgy; and Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, collaborator on prayer.



Pray for our administrators, teachers, staff, and students as they begin the 2023-24 school year!

Pray with the Ursulines: Communication Tape

It is recorded Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays.

Call 419-536-9375.



Check out the
Ursuline Sisters of Toledo
Facebook page!

Ursuline Convent Offices
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH 43606

(419) 536-9587

email: ursulines@ursulinecenter.org

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October 2023 newsletter is Thursday, September 21. Please send your stories to Michelle at [mscazero@ursulinecenter.org](mailto:mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org).



CALENDAR

(ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

September 2023

- 4 Labor Day - Convent Offices Closed
- 7 The Chosen clips, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 8 Jubilee Celebration, 11 a.m. followed by Luncheon, Ursuline Center
- 9 TAANG Sewing Day, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Rosary Care Center
- 12 Associate Dinner, 5 p.m., LongHorn Steakhouse, Sisters and Associates are invited.
- 14 The Chosen clips, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 20 Maumee Bay Picnic, 4 p.m., Sisters and Associates are invited at attend. Please RSVP by September 13.
- 25 Council Meeting

October 2023

- 5 Community Input/Update, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Sisters only.
- 5 The Chosen clip, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 8 Mary Manse Alumni Mass & Brunch, 11 a.m., Ursuline Center
- 19 The Chosen clips, 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent Offices
- 21 Feast of St. Ursula (vows, commitment, missioning), 4 p.m. Mass followed by supper. Sisters and Associates are invited.
- 24 Council Meeting

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 Afternoon Reflection, 1 - 3 p.m. Details to follow.
- 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
- 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

- 7 Sr. Janice Ann Brown
- 10 Gail Foreman
- 13 Sr. Beth Hemminger
- 16 Sr. Nelda Chafitelli
- 20 Dan Quinn
- 21 Therese Cooper
- 23 Sr. Mary Alice Henkel
- Sr. Rita Mae Johns
- 26 Bonnie Krochmalny
- 27 Sally O'Connell
- 30 Sr. Carol Reamer

October

- 1 Val Myers
- 6 Suzie Stapleton
- 10 Becky Tobias
- 11 Milan Mihalek
- 13 Amy Good
- 14 Christina Rode
- 14 Veronica DeLa Cerda
- 17 Marge Johnson
- 19 Janet Klocinski
- 20 Sr. Nancy Mathias
- 22 Edna Mae Trotter
- 25 Sr. Donna Frey
- 31 Sr. Sandy Sherman
- 31 Elaine Heyne



FEAST DAY



September

- 15 Sr. Mary Alice Henkel
- 16 Sr. Nelda Chafitelli

October

- 7 Sr. Beth Hemminger
- 8 Sr. Kenwyn Steger
- 16 Sr. Margaret Anne Carstensen
- 16 Sr. Margaret Manion



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FREEDOM MEANS NEVER SURRENDER

**HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY
PREMIERE SHOWING**

Friday, September 8, 2023

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. Program starts at 6:45 p.m.

**Franciscan Center, Lourdes University
6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania, Ohio**