



A Celebration of Joy and Gratitude

Ursuline Newsletter

Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio
4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH • Vol. 49 No. 8 • September 2025

Leadership Corner by Sr. Donna

Hope Unbroken – Journeying in God’s Promise

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) met in Atlanta, Georgia from August 12-15. Throughout the event, participants acknowledged the struggle of these times and explored the practices that can ground them in faith so they can live “hope unbroken” for the sake of the world, the church, and their religious communities. I have drawn a few points from the keynote speakers that might be used for your personal reflection:

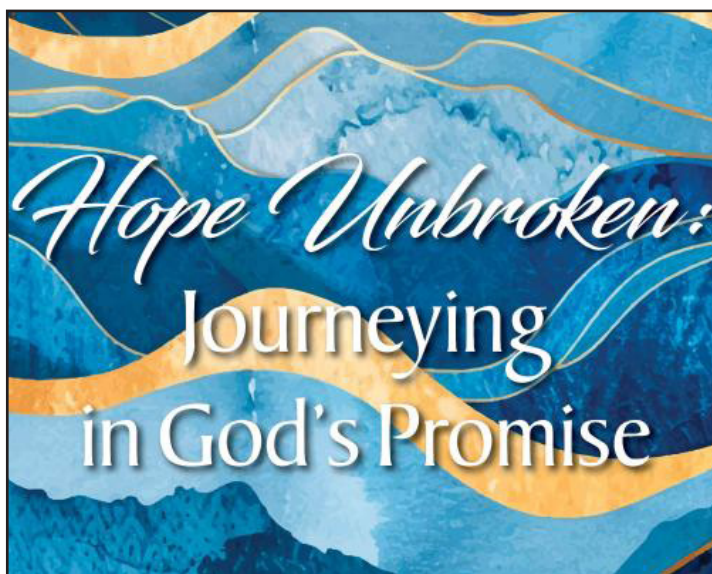
Sr. Kathy Brazda, CSJ, LCWR president:

- Dread is not of God
- Letting go of control without letting go of purpose
- We become doors and windows through which the light of Christ shines

Sr. Simona Brambilla, MC, prefect of the Dicastery for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life In Rome:

- Consecrated life is a sign of hope for today
- Humble stars are called to illuminate the night
- Nighttime can be scary but much can be born after the night
- Evil is afraid of the soft light of God

James Martin, SJ, editor-at-large at America Media – thoughts taken from his book [Come Forth](#), based on the story of Lazarus:



- Leave behind in the tomb that which binds us
- Lazarus knew who was calling him to come forth and could respond and say YES to Jesus’ voice
- Martha – focus on new life; what are we called to do?
- Mary – focus on interior freedom; how are we called to pray and discern?
- Lazarus – put away our old self; who are we called to be?



Rest In Peace

Catherine Nowakowski Scannell, SUA '71; mother of Caitlin Scannell Usman, SUA '04; sister of Marilyn Nowakowski Frederickson, SUA '67 and Janet Nowakowski Bali, SUA '80 ~ July 23

Sheila Thompson Nicholson, SUA '57; sister of Caroline Thompson Beal, SUA '61 ~ July 24

Dr. George Baibak, father of Cathy Baibak Martin, SUA '77 and Mary Pat Baibak Goodman, SUA '79 ~ July 25

Jane Yenrick, mother of Deborah Yenrick, MMC '73 ~ July 26

Jane D'Arcangelo, mother of Toni D'Arcangelo, SUA '79 ~ July 29

Phyllis Zielinski, mother of Brandi Zielinski, SUA '02 ~ July 31

Charles Benore, husband of Shelley Mercurio Benore, SUA '69; father of Monica Benore Cannon, SUA '03 and Kathryn Benore Wallace, SUA '07 ~ August 3

Stephen Verhoff, husband of Paula Kuerten Verhoff, SUA '66 ~ August 3

John Falke, brother of Joan Falke McGinnis, SUA '61 ~ August 7

William Timmerman, husband of Patricia Ward Timmerman, SUA '58; MMC '62 ~ August 10

Thomas Hancock, brother of Mary Hancock LeStrange, SUA '50 ~ August 13

Julie Inglis Christy, SUA '70; mother of Elizabeth Christy Isch, SUA '97 and sister of Diane Inglis Wyper, SUA '68 ~ August 18

Susan Kertz, mother of Joan Kertz Yurko, SUA '94 ~ August 18

Patrick McGrady, father of Michele McGrady, SUA '92 ~ August 19

Sr. M. Ricarda Witt, OSF/S ~ August 22

"Pray that God enlighten you, direct you, and teach you what you are to do."

(St. Angela Merici, Intro to the Counsels)

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the October 2025 newsletter is Tuesday, September 23. Please send your stories to Michelle at mscazzero@ursulinecenter.org.

*Welcome
Autumn*

Sister Update

Sr. Carol Reamer

The Grove at Oakleaf Village
4220 N. Holland-Sylvania Road
Room 107 - Azalea Neighborhood
Toledo, OH 43623





Archive Snapshots

Sister M. Berenice McCarthy

Born Helen T. McCarthy in Lockport, New York, Sister M. Berenice entered the Ursuline Convent in 1923. She received a Master's degree in Science Education from the University of Notre Dame and spent most of her teaching career in the fields of physics and mathematics. She wrote a science book for elementary students and was a co-writer of a physics book for high school classes which emphasized full participation of students in construction of experiments and explaining the answers to problems encountered with these experiments. Sister Berenice was always interested in helping to fund various activities in schools and was famous for collecting tax stamps and counting them to send back to the State for reimbursement. She also became acquainted with antiques and their value. Sister Berenice managed the sale of many antiques from the Tiffin Convent. She was quick to "hide" many items which were of historical significance to the Community and kept them safe to be used at Ursuline Center following the close of the Tiffin Convent in 1975. Sister Berenice was active even in her retirement years as she tutored many students in math and science. She died at Ursuline Center on September 18, 1992.



Feast of St. Ursula, Missioning, Renewal of Vows & Commitment

Saturday, October 18, 2025
Liturgy at 4 p.m.; Supper to follow
Location: St. Ursula Academy

Please RSVP to Val at
vmyers@ursulinecenter.org or 419-536-9587
by Friday, October 10, 2025.



THE SEASON OF CREATION

September, the Season of Creation, reminds us in a special way of the gift of creation and our call to care for it. It is a time to renew our hope, deepen our commitment, and walk together as seeds of peace and hope for our common home.

Questions for reflection:

- Where in my daily life do I see the "wounds of creation," and how am I being invited to respond with hope instead of indifference?
- Ecological conversion begins from within. What inner changes - attitude, habits or perspectives - am I being called to embrace so that my choices reflect greater love for creation?
- The Season of Creation reminds us that every small gesture matters. What concrete step can I take this week to sow a "seed of change" for the good of my community and our common home?



Pray with the Ursulines:
Communication Tape
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Call 419-536-9375.

2025 LCWR Assembly Summary:

Hope Unbroken: Journeying in God's Promise

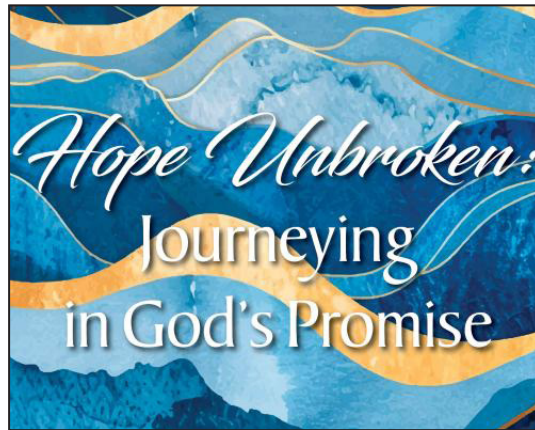
The 2025 assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) entitled ***Hope Unbroken: Journeying in God's Promise*** drew approximately 560 LCWR members as well as about 300 collaborators to Atlanta, Georgia from August 12-15. Throughout the event, participants acknowledged the struggle of these times and explored the practices that can ground them in faith so they can live "hope unbroken" for the sake of the world, the church, and their religious communities.

The opening of the assembly included a recorded greeting from the US apostolic nuncio, Cardinal Christophe Pierre; as well as in-person greetings from Sister Simona Brambilla, MC and Daniela Leggio, from the Vatican; Bishop William Wack, CSC, LCWR's episcopal liaison; and Archbishop Gregory John Hartmayer, OFM Conv from the archdiocese of Atlanta.

In a moving personal reflection that stemmed from the experience of being diagnosed with cancer shortly after assuming her role as LCWR president Sister Kathy Brazda, CSJ of LaGrange, Illinois shared in an address the questions she carried: "How could I lead when I had doubts about my own future, my own life, my own ability to be competent? How could I plan for a future that I had doubts would be available to me?" In her address, she recounted what she had learned about leadership for these times from the stance of greater vulnerability. "In surrendering to God's strength, we can come to courage and grace and the dynamism of love. With that encouragement, we can face the future through the best and worst of times."

Sister Simona Brambilla, MC prefect of the Dicastery for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in Rome, addressed how religious life can be a sign of hope today. She noted, "May consecrated life truly always be a humble prophecy of forgiveness, of reparation, of the rebuilding of bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood, of peace, of trust, of communion.

May it be a sentinel with senses sharpened and open to perceive in the night the breath of God, His gentle light, His whisper, His fragrance, His unmistakable taste, in order to welcome it, point it out, proclaim it, and walk the paths of hope that does not disappoint, because they are rooted in the Paschal Mystery, in the Heart of God."



Rev. James Martin, SJ, editor-at-large at America Media, using the gospel story of the raising of Lazarus challenged the participants to apply the insights of this story to the realities of US religious life today. He posed the questions: "What is keeping us from hearing God's voice in our lives, in our congregations, in our communities?" "What do

you, what do we, need to leave behind to hear God calling us into a surprising new life?"

A panel of three women religious leaders, Sisters Barbara Beasley, RGS; Pat McDermott, RSM; and Sara Postlethwaite, VDMF, spoke to what has held them in the challenges of religious life leadership so that their hope remains unbroken. Drawing upon their own experiences, they shared what has kept them inspired and what have been their anchors as they face the complex questions that are before religious institutes today.

Representatives from the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and The Carter Center joined the assembly in a panel presentation and shared their valuable insights on their work and how it connects to the LCWR Call for 2023-2028 and the LCWR assembly resolution.

A Pilgrimage of Hope took place on the morning of August 14, a one-mile walk through downtown Atlanta with prayer rooted in the commitment to addressing systemic injustice in the areas of racism, migration, and the climate crisis. (A recording of the one-hour walk is available on the LCWR Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lcwr.org>) Assembly

participants had two opportunities to meet in their own role groups which included sessions for leaders, executive leaders, communicators, and justice promoters, as well as guests serving religious life in other organizations.

During the assembly the members blessed the new leadership for the conference. Sister Debra Sciano, SSND, a School Sister of Notre Dame from Wisconsin was selected as the LCWR president-elect. She joins Sister Vicky Larson, BVM who will serve as president for 2025-2026, and Sister Kathy Brazda, CSJ who

will serve as immediate past-president. Elected to the national board were Sisters Karen Dietrich, SSJ; Sheena George, CSJP; Maribeth Larkin, SSS; and Maria Sheila Undang, O Carm.

At the assembly closing, Sister Mary Pat Garvin, RSM was honored with the 2025 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award. A Sister of Mercy of the Americas, Sister Mary Pat has served as an educator, consultant, and facilitator for national and international institutes and conferences of religious.



THANK YOU GOD

by Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen

Thank you God for **Family**.
Thank you God for **Friends**.
Thank you God for **Religion** that teaches life never ends.

Thank you God for **Education**.
Thank you God for **Recreation**.
Thank you God for **Dreams** that come true.
Thank you God when we place our **Trust** in You.

Thank you God for **Seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall**.
Thank you God for wonderful **Holiday Gatherings** and precious **Memories** to recall.

Thank you God for **Community Workers, Doctors, Lawyers, Nurses, Teachers, Secretaries, Farmers, Policemen, Firemen, and Therapists**.
On and on goes the list, including **Cooks** and **Environmentalists**.

Thank you God for **Spiritual Leaders** who guide us along light's way,
Until we reach our **Eternal Home** in glorious Heaven someday.

CALENDAR

September 2025

- 1 Labor Day - Convent Offices closed
- 9 Serra Club Dinner & Movie, 5:30 p.m at The Premier, Sisters only.
- 23 Council Meeting
- 30-Oct. 3 RCRI - Dallas, TX

October 2025

- 12 Mary Manse Alumni Mass & Luncheon, 11 a.m., St. Ursula Academy
- 18 Feast of St. Ursula, Vows, Commitment & Missioning, 4 p.m. Liturgy followed by supper, St. Ursula Academy. Sisters and Associates are invited.
- 22-23 Region VI Meeting - Cincinnati
- 25 TAANG Sewing Day, Tiffin
- 28 Input/Update Meeting for Sisters only, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Ursuline Convent offices
- 29 Foundation Board Meeting and Council Meeting

November 2025

- 12 Sub-region Meeting - Lial
- 23 Closing of 170th Celebration, 11 a.m. Liturgy followed by lunch, St. Ursula Academy
- 25 Council Meeting
- 25 Foundation Day of Company of St. Angela - Feast of St. Catherine Alexandria
- 26-27 Thanksgiving - Convent Offices closed

December 2025

- 6 Sisters and Associates Christmas Party, 11 a.m., location to be determined
- 13 Foundation Day, 11:30 a.m. lunch and prayer, St. Ursula Academy. Sisters and Associates are invited.
- 17 Council Meeting
- 23 Staff Christmas Lunch, 11 a.m.
- 24-Jan. 5 Christmas break - Convent Offices closed

January 2026

- 19 Martin Luther King Day - Convent Offices closed
- 25 Feast of St. Angela, 11 a.m. Mass and dinner to follow, St. Ursula Academy
- 28 Council Meeting

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

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. Rita Mae Johns
- 26 Bonnie Krochmalny
- 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
- 14 Laurie Toth
- 17 Marge Johnson
- 19 Janet Klocinski
- 20 Sr. Nancy Mathias
- 25 Sr. Donna Frey
- 31 Sr. Sandy Sherman
- 31 Elaine Heyne



FEAST DAY



September

- 16 Sister Nelda Chafitelli

October

- 7 Sister Beth Hemminger
- 16 Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen



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

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