



Ursuline Sisters of Toledo

URSULINE

Fall 2023



Sister Carol Kronfield

“Nearly 25 years ago, the Ohio Area Office on Aging, in conjunction with the Toledo Police Department, formed a program called Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (R.S.V.P.). Five years ago I was asked to join the program and what a wonderful experience it has been. Two or three days a month another R.S.V.P. member and I visit senior citizens who are living alone and in need of safety checks. We look for any obvious changes in their health or living situations that require attention. Any concerns we have are reported to a police officer who, in turn, makes referrals to the Area Office on Aging. The appropriate assistance is then provided to the seniors.

“The seniors look forward to our visits. They claim we are the highlight of their day! They enjoy our smiling faces and eagerness to listen to their stories. But they are as much of a gift to us as we are to them. Between visits, I remember each client in my thoughts and prayers. They are beautiful men and women who have experienced many joys as well as hardships on their journey through life. Some have gone to Heaven to be with our Lord but they remain a blessing in my life.”

Ministry of Prayer and Presence

As the Ursuline Sisters were preparing for future leadership of the community and surfacing their priorities in the spring of 2022, it was important to look seriously at their present reality as a community, and what would be the primary focus or priority. After many conversations and meetings, the Ministry of Prayer and Presence became the over-arching theme of who the Ursuline Sisters now are. The importance of BEING becomes more than DOING.

In facing the reality of their existence, the Sisters are choosing to use their power of presence as a transformative gift to those they meet on a day-to-day basis. To be transformative, one uses the gifts she has been given for the greater glory of God. She develops skills of deep listening, empathy and compassion. Connecting with the emotions and stirrings of another's heart calls forth virtues of humility, patience, understanding, and hope.

The Ursuline community has suffered grief and loss after closing the Ursuline Center healthcare facility and it also shares sorrows and pain with individuals as they journey to a different reality. Prayer and presence are blessings we can give to others, and it is in the sharing that relationships deepen and connecting heart-to-heart become more important.

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Welcome

Of the five priorities selected by our 2022 Chapter, four can be labeled as tasks that require “doing.” The Ministry of Prayer and Presence is a way of “being.” As our umbrella priority, its relational nature is necessary for the Sisters and Collaborators whose invitation and talents lend themselves to the necessary “doing,” and yet it primarily speaks to the heart and the capability of each and every one of us. No Sister has been shy in sharing how she personally lives the Ministry of Prayer and Presence; her spirit of eagerness, excitement, and energy about it is palpable. It envelops all with whom we live and minister and who minister to us. Last October, every Sister and Associate was missioned to this ministry.

In this issue you will certainly read about: our celebration and engagement in Catholic Sisters Week and the Eucharistic Revival, our three Sisters each celebrating 65 years as members of our community, the deep spiritual legacy left by the most recent Sister who has gone home to God, the various ways of outreach in which our Associates are involved, the continuing annual celebration of the legacy of Mary Manse College, and our progress on several of the “doing” tasks we are committed to completing as time moves forward. Within each of these, we hope that you will feel the palpability of “being” through our Ministry of Prayer and Presence, live it in your own being, and pay it forward.

Sister Sandra Sherman
President

Ministry of Prayer and Presence, continued

There is a level of engagement that helps one transform a challenge or situation into something more significant and hope-filled. Connecting stretches one to be more attentive, resistant and self-emptying. Living in the present moment leads to better understanding, kindness and trust.

The power of presence calls us to be fully human, living in relationship with God. This spiritual relationship can lead to optimism and hope; can lead to trusting more deeply in Jesus and helping others to believe they are loved, cared for and in a safe environment.

The power of prayer is often underestimated yet there are many who will say that prayer does wonders, transforms hearts, changes outlooks, and gives hope. The ministry of prayer and presence is engaging in the discipline of transformation that helps to create a new way of being for ourselves and for others. This was so important to the Sisters that last fall at their Missioning Liturgy all the Ursuline Sisters and Associates were missioned to the ministry of prayer and presence for the year. This is a great reminder to all to hope in the God who loves us, trust in the Jesus who became one of us and died for us, and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in wisdom and charity.

(reference: “Becoming a Transforming Presence: Thriving in a Time of Ongoing Change” by Lynn Levo, Sister of St. Joseph, Ph.D)



Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen

“Living at Rosary Care makes it very easy to enter into the ministry of prayer and presence. Besides being with Sisters and (lay) people all day long, I visit many of the patients and pray with them.

“Rosary Care offers Mass, Rosary, Stations of the Cross in Lent, and occasional reflections. Of course, there are my own private prayers.

“Every other month I give a program here called ‘Spiritual Music with Gestures.’ Once in a while, I will hop in my visitor’s car and give them a pilgrimage showing them the 10 shrines on campus. Then we stop at St. Francis Chapel to pray.

“Since I have been here, I, along with helpers, have been promoting ‘The Apostolate of Suffering.’ I’m happy to say we have over 100 new members. My Bible Group of 42 years meets weekly, except in winter. Recently, I’ve been inspired to write a little poetry with a spiritual flavor like prayer. Guess my whole life now is ‘Prayer and Presence’ as I’m sure it is the same for many of you.”

Ursuline Jubilarians Celebrate 65 Years of God's Faithfulness



Sister Angela Gaietto

After graduating from Tiffin, Ohio's Calvert High School and working two years at the GE plant there as a secretary, Sister Mary Angela Gaietto realized she instead desired to teach little ones. She entered the Ursuline Convent from St. Mary's Parish in 1958, following in the footsteps of her sister, Sister Merici. Going wherever the need

was, Sister Angela taught elementary children at St. John the Baptist School, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, and St. Angela Hall in Toledo, and also at St. Mary, Tiffin; St. Gerard, Lima; and St. Rose, Perrysburg. Sister Angela says at that time, it wasn't unusual for her to have up to 50 children in one classroom.

Following her long ministry in teaching, Sister Angela became part of the Development Office staff at St. Ursula Academy for six years and served her community as office assistant at the Ursuline Convent offices until her retirement. Today, Sister Angela's ministry is one of prayer and presence.

With a beautiful smile, Sister Angela says, "I am very happy with my decision to enter the Convent. I have wonderful memories teaching primary grade children. It was meant to be and I've been blessed in many ways."



Sister Nancy Mathias

"I remember it very clearly, even after 65 years. It happened at the daily school Mass at St. Joseph School, Tiffin, Ohio where I was an eighth grader. A voice said to me, 'I want you to serve me as an Ursuline nun.' No one around me seemed to hear the voice. I took the call seriously, asking my grandmother to allow me to go to

Toledo and attend the Ursuline prep school at St. Ursula. I received a resounding no. I continued to carry the call in my heart. In my senior year at Calvert I told her I wanted to enter the Ursuline Convent. Her refusal was even a more adamant no. That summer I was able to get six college credits at Mary Manse College and in the Fall I began teaching second graders at St. Mary School in Tiffin. The Sisters in the school knew of my desire to become one of them. They helped me get what I needed. And on

February 2, 1959 I caught a Greyhound Bus to Toledo and became a postulant in the Ursuline Community.

"It has been a blessed journey with Christ and the Ursuline Community. It is hard to believe it has been 65 years. Christ and I have had a wonderful journey together. He has provided so many opportunities to serve Him in the Church, from teaching school in east Toledo, serving as a principal for St. Teresa School in the central city, serving on the Ursuline Leadership team and then becoming the superior of the Community, serving in the diocesan schools office, and then finally serving as a Delegate for Consecrated Life for 16 years. What an adventure Christ has given me! I have met and worked with so many wonderful people who serve the Church in numerous ways. They have inspired me and helped me to be a better person.

"I know Christ continues to call me to be His and to serve Him. He will make it known how, as we travel the years to come together.

"How blessed I am to know, love and serve my Spouse, Jesus Christ!"



Sister Kenwyn Steger

Sister Kenwyn Steger entered the Ursuline Convent from Rosary Cathedral Parish, Toledo in 1959.

Sister Kenwyn's ministries included teaching and serving as a librarian. Her teaching assignments began at St. John the Baptist School in Point Place and continued at Rosary Cathedral, St. Agnes, Good Shepherd, St. Angela Hall,

Toledo, and at St. Joseph, Tiffin and St. Gerard, Lima.

"I always enjoyed teaching," says Sister Kenwyn. "I enjoyed getting to know the kids and their parents. Now I appreciate hearing from former students."

Following graduate work at Villanova University and Bowling Green State University, Sister Kenwyn became a librarian at St. Angela Hall and continued her library work at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, substituted at Toledo Lucas County Libraries and assisted in the library at St. Ursula Academy for many years. She also assumed care of the library at Ursuline Center and enjoyed volunteering in the ICU Waiting Room at Mercy Health - St. Anne Hospital, Toledo, where she would be available for anyone who wished to talk, visit or pray. Today, Sister Kenwyn says she enjoys her times of prayer and being present to others in many different ways.

Sisters Share their Gifts of Prayer and Presence with Others



Sister Janice Ann Brown

“Being able to take the ‘Nunnie Bunnies’ for trips – shopping, doctor visits, etc. – is fun and helpful to the Sisters who have given their lives for so many people. Going to jail (for jail ministry) – but they let me out – is interesting and I hope helpful for the inmates. They pose some interesting questions. I have learned some new thoughts on life that I didn’t even think about. I hope they enjoy the music and join in. I tell them they can ‘sing, hum or even whistle.’ A few are now adding drumming to the songs. They ask for prayers for their friends, relatives and needs. Again, it’s interesting.”

Sister Bernarda Breidenbach

“Within my mind and heart, prayer and presence intertwine.

- Praying the daily rosary with a resident.
- Holding a resident’s hand and praying in silence.
- Leading a resident to her room so that she feels safe, secure and loved.
- Listening to residents and employees share with me what is happening in their lives, both the good and the challenges.
- Daily, I greet each person with a smile and tell him or her to have a good day. When anyone greets me, I grin, extend a thumbs up and tell that person that I am ready for another adventurous day.

“So many times we hear the celebrant ask us to ‘Go and now serve the Lord.’ So, let’s do it!”



Sister Margaret Manion

The ministry of prayer and presence takes many forms for Sister Margaret Manion. A Sister who is often ‘on the go’ serving others, Sister Margaret says the ministry of prayer and presence means talking to God through her actions. Wherever her tasks that day may take her, Sister Margaret shares God’s love by simply smiling or talking to people who look happy or sad, as well as noticing and lending a hand to people with handicaps. She is a great listener and lets people know she’s praying for them by sending cards on various occasions. Recognizing that God’s creatures need care as well, Sister Margaret feeds and nurtures the animals all around her.



Sister Ann Marie McManus

“My ministry of prayer and presence started at the beginning of my teaching career when I shared the presence of God



with the children I taught each day. As I go along in my life, I am able to minister with those that I meet, talk to, listen to, and counsel. My ministry is now continuing with the Sisters, staff, doctors, and nurses at Rosary Care where I live.”

Sister Carol Reamer

Sister Carol Reamer steps in to lend a helping hand at her residence at Oakleaf Village in Toledo whenever she sees a need arise. Sister Carol shares her joyful spirit by welcoming new residents, chatting and laughing at the dinner table, listening to one another's stories, carrying items for others who can't carry things themselves, and helping residents get settled at the dinner table. Her kindness is often spontaneous and always appreciated.



Women Religious Archives Collaborative

Here in Ohio, the Ursulines of Toledo, Cleveland and Cincinnati and the Ursulines of Louisville, Kentucky, and Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, have committed to be participants in the Women Religious Archives Collaborative.

Women Religious across the United States are engaged in strategic legacy planning that is multifaceted in scope and yet specific to the varying needs of each congregation. One such issue is the management and planning for the preservation of congregational archives.

In an effort to address this issue, 14 congregations in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky have committed to an initiative to establish a collaborative archives center in Northeast Ohio. Congregations need collaborative solutions to safeguard their histories and promote their stories of mission and charism to future generations.

The Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) was officially established as a 501(c)3 corporation registered in the State of Ohio. The Women Religious Archives Collaborative Center will serve as a permanent repository for the archives of Women Religious in Ohio and surrounding regions, as well as a dynamic space open to the public for research and programming.

The WRAC Board of Directors has purchased property adjacent to the Saint Vincent Health Campus, an area of downtown Cleveland, where the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine have had a ministry of presence since 1865. WRAC will be located within a 12-mile radius of six colleges and universities, The Cleveland Public Library and their state-of-the-art digitization program, the Western Reserve Historical Society, and University Circle, home to several cultural facilities including the Cleveland Museum of Art and nearby neighbor, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Archives. The land is directly off a freeway exit and close to the airport which will provide easy access to visitors in the future.

Bostwick Design Partnership has been chosen as the architecture firm for this project.

Look for further updates in the upcoming issues of the UrsuLine and on the Ursuline Convent website, www.toledoursulines.org.

(Information was taken from the May and June 2023 WRAC newsletters)



Toledo Ursuline's current archive room



Eucharistic Revival and Catholic Sisters Week

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), Sunday, June 19, 2022, began a three-year National Eucharistic Revival in the United States. The mission and vision of this National Eucharistic Revival overflows with hope for a life changing experience of the Holy Eucharist - especially of the Mass - in the lives of all Catholics.

This year, the Toledo diocesan-based religious communities of women each focused on Eucharistic Revival as announced by the US Catholic Bishops, in combination with Catholic Sisters Week. In March 2023, the Ursuline Sisters hosted two short presentations, "The Eucharist and The Spirituality of St. Angela Merici," interspersed with personal reflection, music, silence, and closing with Eucharistic Adoration. In addition, since the Ursuline Sisters and Associates are connected to various parishes in the Toledo Diocese, Sisters and Associates were invited to share what the Eucharist means to them in brief statements that are being published each month on the Ursuline website, www.toledoursulines.org.

The Ursuline Sisters also celebrated Catholic Sisters Week in March by collaborating with Catholic Sisters in the Toledo Diocese to sponsor the third annual Food Drive at Walt Churchill's Market in Maumee, Ohio. In addition, the Ursuline Sisters collected non-perishable food items and monetary donations at the Convent Offices for the month prior for those who could not make it to Walt Churchill's the day of the event.

The response to the Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive was overwhelming! In all, Sisters, Associates and friends of the area women religious communities collected

4,861 pounds of food and \$1,475.15 that was given to the Toledo Seagate Food Bank to benefit families in need throughout Northwest Ohio.

Sponsoring the food drive in Toledo were the Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, and the Sisters of the Visitation. The collection of food items was a combined effort to serve persons in need and bring much needed awareness to the current increase in food insecurity and underlying causes, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, unemployment/under-employment, and inconsistent access to healthy food.

Also during Catholic Sisters Week, five Ursuline Sisters joined together with St. Ursula Academy students to share what it means to live life as a religious Sister. Videos of these gatherings were then posted on Facebook each day of Catholic Sisters Week.



Sisters Sandy Sherman, Margaret Manion and Donna Frey with the Ursuline Sisters' in-office food collection.



Sister Rita Mae Johns

"During the pandemic, I acquired a renewed appreciation of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. I had such a longing to receive Jesus especially when watching the Mass on TV. When I was finally able to receive Holy Communion again, I could not hold back the tears. I recall that experience whenever I feel that my reception of Holy Communion is becoming routine.

"Since I retired from teaching, I have been taking Holy Communion to people, in their homes or in care facilities, who are no longer able to go to Mass. It brings me such joy to be able to do this. I consider it a special blessing when I realize that I gave someone Holy Communion for the last time before he/she went to meet Our Lord."

Ursuline Associates on the Move

Stuffing Socks for a Worthwhile Cause

Ursuline Associates joined fellow members of the Toledo Area Associate Networking Group (TAANG) on January 28, 2023 in a project aimed at bringing much needed supplies and cheer to those standing on the corners of our community.



Associate Marcia Kolbeck, Sister Mary Jo Szpila, SND and Associate Teri Thourot joined in the TAANG sock stuffing project to benefit those who are needy in our community.

Described as a “Sock Stuffing Party,” Ursuline, Notre Dame, Sylvania Franciscan, and Tiffin Franciscan Sisters and Associates gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center in Toledo to stuff new pairs of socks that were donated by the sock company, Bombas, with small items such as granola bars, crackers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand sanitizers, lotion, gum, and \$5 McDonald’s gift cards. These socks then could be carried in their cars to be given to those who are homeless or needy, begging on street corners. In addition, 100 pairs of stuffed socks were offered to the Labre Project at St. Ursula Academy to be distributed with their meals.

“St. Angela writes, ‘Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve (the poor) than they have of your service,’” says Deb Bercher, co-director of the Ursuline Associate program. “The Sock Project is another opportunity for all of us to serve those in need.”

Serving Up a Slice of Summer

The Ursuline Associates hosted its annual Summer Luncheon for Sisters and Associates on June 14, 2023 at the Ursuline Center. Sandwiches, veggies, fruit, and chips were served, and an all-you-can-eat ice cream sundae bar topped off the delicious meal. The Center was decorated with a flower theme and floral centerpieces were raffled off to several lucky winners. The Summer Luncheon was a perfect opportunity for Sisters and Associates to gather in fellowship and re-connect as a community.

Those who are interested in exploring the Ursuline Associate experience are encouraged to contact the Ursuline Convent Office at 419-536-9587.

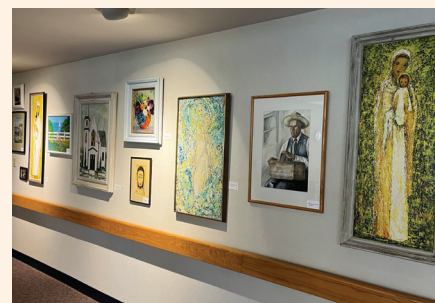
Ursuline Associate Program co-director Deb Bercher scoops up a delicious serving of ice cream at the annual Summer Luncheon for Sisters and Associates.



Mary Manse Alumni Mass & Luncheon

Sunday, October 8, 2023
Ursuline Center
4035 Indian Road, Toledo, Ohio

For more information, contact
the Ursuline Convent
Office at 419-536-9587.



Sharing our Ursuline Legacy Art Sale

On October 26 and 27, the Ursuline Sisters hosted “Sharing our Ursuline Legacy Fine Art Sale.” Paintings, prints made from wood blocks, pottery, hand-blown glass, wood carvings, and tapestry created by Ursuline Sisters and other well-known artists were for sale. Many who attended the sale and bought items shared with us their personal connections with the Ursuline artists. While it was difficult to part with these beautiful pieces of art and the memories surrounding them, it was meaningful to the Sisters that the art was going to those who appreciated the artist and the art’s value, and would indeed keep the Ursuline legacy alive.

Although the Fine Art Sale has ended, there are still many beautiful pieces remaining for sale. A catalog of these items may be viewed at www.toledoursulines.org.



In Loving Memory



Sister Stephanie Helfrich

Sister M. Stephanie Helfrich, a woman of many gifts, died at Otterbein Sunset House on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at the age of 88. Sister Stephanie entered the Ursuline Convent from St. Agnes Parish, Toledo, Ohio, in August of 1955. She graduated from St. Ursula Academy in 1952 and Mary Manse College in 1963.

When reflecting in 2022 on her 70 years as an Ursuline Sister, Sister Stephanie said, "I would not give up one day of my life to be any younger because of all the wonderful experiences I've had, through all my different ministries. Each offered great opportunities with God's people."

Sister Stephanie taught at St. John the Baptist, Point Place, St. Joseph, Tiffin, and at both Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Rosary Cathedral, Toledo, where she also served as principal.

After teaching, Sister Stephanie participated in and was awarded a certificate from the St. Louis University School of Divinity Institute of Religious Formation program.

In 1972, Sister Stephanie was elected Councilor on the Ursuline Leadership Team and was later re-elected to the Council for several terms. Sister Stephanie was a member of the Community's Formation Team and saw this ministry as an opportunity to assist those seeking a

religious vocation and supporting their discernment by walking the journey with them. At this time she began her long-standing ministry of Spiritual Direction and Retreat work, which gave her the privilege of hearing one's life story using her gift of gentle listening. Over the course of nearly half a century, Sister Stephanie helped countless religious and lay persons deepen their walk with God.

Sister Stephanie served as Assistant Vicar and then Vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Toledo for six years. She also worked in the Business Office of the Ursuline Convent as a coordinator for health insurance and until shortly before her death, continued giving Spiritual Direction and conducting Retreats on a part-time basis.

Sister Stephanie served on the national board of the Religious Formation Conference and on the executive committee of the National Conference of Vicars for Religious. Within the Diocese of Toledo, Sister Stephanie served on the Admissions/Formation (Seminary) Board, the Liturgical Commission and the Women in Church – Priests' Council.

Sister Stephanie was preceded in death by her parents, Stephen and Dorothy (Rowe) Helfrich, and brother James (Sharon) Helfrich. She is survived by her sister-in-law Sharon Helfrich, niece Karen (Grayson) Smith, nephews Stephen Helfrich, James (Dana) Helfrich, Timothy (Deborah, deceased) Helfrich, and Jeffery (Cathy) Helfrich, her very close friend Sister Mary Alice Henkel, OSU, as well as her other Sisters and Associates of the Ursuline Community.

URSULINE *Cherry Blossom* **FESTA RAFFLE WINNERS**

1st Prize

Linsee Ostrander Nungester (SUA '02)

2nd Prize

Bridget Fallat Tucker (SUA '88)

3rd Prize

Jane Schmitt Rensch (SUA '47)

Thank you to all who helped make the Cherry Blossom Festa Raffle a success!

We Appreciate Our Benefactors

The Ursuline Sisters are grateful for your generous gifts which help us make a difference in the lives of so many – through Catholic education, parish and hospital ministry, and the care of our retired and infirm Sisters. This list of benefactors includes donations received by the Ursuline Convent from August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023. If we have omitted your name inadvertently, please notify the Ursuline Convent Development Office, 4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH 43606 or call (419) 536-9587. If you donated to St. Ursula Academy, your donation is recorded in St. Ursula Academy publications.

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In Memory Of...

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In Memory Of...

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Anonymous
Debbie Bercher
Rosemary Boezi
Vivian Bork, Henninger &
Ondich Families
Pauline Broadway
Joan M. Connors
Daniel & Rosemary Cox
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Judy Kilian

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Sr. Stephanie Helfrich (dec.)

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Sister Claudia Holtz uses her artistic skills as a way of ministering to her fellow residents at Oakleaf Village in Toledo by designing and creating attractive centerpieces for the dining room tables that all can enjoy.



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- continued on next page

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We are grateful to the families of the deceased who remembered the Ursuline Sisters in their wills.

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Estate of Mary Jane Kukla Pfoutz, MMC '67

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Ursuline Center Library Books Find New Homes



During May through August, new homes were found for the collection of books that had accumulated in the Ursuline Center over many years. During the month of May, Msgr. Tad Oxley from the Toledo Diocesan Offices took many books for priests and seminarians. Also, Ursuline Sisters and Associates, faculty and staff members of St. Ursula Academy were invited to come and take whatever they could use personally and

professionally. In June, the Convent Offices engaged Kubik Fine Books Ltd. of Dayton, Ohio, which bought four boxes of books.

In July/August, the remainder of the books found their home in the library of Lourdes University, in Sylvania, Ohio, sponsored by the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters. Some books will be put out for free-taking, and other books may become part of the library. A special note of thanks to Lourdes University library personnel for their help in unboxing and sorting.

The Ursuline Convent is truly grateful to the above individuals and groups who took books, placing them into many new hands and homes.



Owen Kubik of Kubik Fine Books Ltd. and his assistant selected and packed many books for purchase that will soon find their home with new readers.