



Ursuline Sisters of Toledo

Fall 2021

URSULINE

New Life, New Hope, New Reality

Ursuline Center, the Ursuline-sponsored nursing home that was “home” for vowed women religious, priests and Associates for many years, ceased to operate in May. In the three months since its announcement, our residents have found new addresses and have adjusted well, and former employees have found new employment, retired, are going to school, or are taking needed time for themselves.

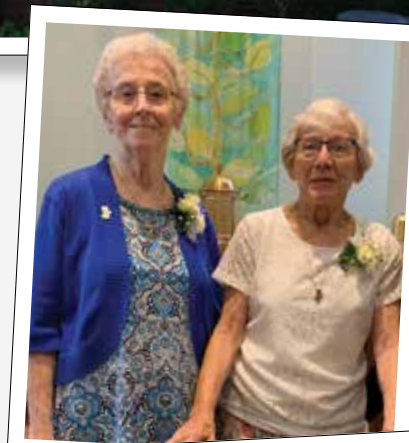
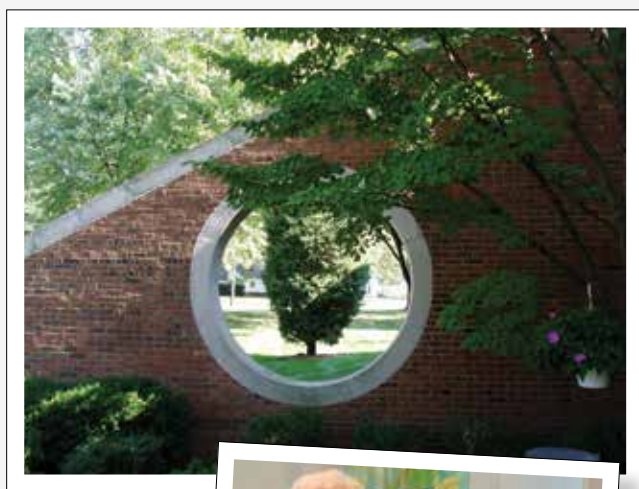
Residents relocated to new homes at Rosary Care in Sylvania, Gardens of St. Francis in Oregon on the east side of Toledo, St. Clare Commons in Perrysburg, and The Woodlands on Indian Road. One resident moved to Cleveland near her family. Our Ursuline Sisters Margaret Anne Carstensen, Angela Gaietto, Pat Grosse, Ann Marie McManus, Kenwyn Steger and Mary Ellen Nagle are at Rosary Care and Sister Coletta McAllister moved to The Woodlands on Indian Road.

The next phase of the closing included finding homes for all of the medical supplies, equipment, furniture, arts and crafts, and other items that have been well-loved and used. Area nursing homes and nursing schools were contacted, and former employees and social media were used to get the word out about the availability of these items.

We have found that word travels fast. It has been heart-warming to hear the stories of those who truly need these items... area nursing homes; families of loved ones who've had strokes; young people who are setting up their first apartment; neighbors helping neighbors; students in nursing school, and the stories go on and on.

Mark Dubielak, of the Labre Program at St. Ursula Academy, received many food items for those they serve on Monday evenings in central Toledo. He says: “Specifically, they (Ursuline Sisters) have donated their unused food items to the Toledo Labre Program for distribution to the poor and needy of our community. The downsizing of the Ursulines is directly benefiting the hungry people that Labre serves each week of the year. SUA students have already shared some of this food and... will continue to give it all away into autumn.” The food that Labre did not take went to St. Paul's Community Center and Cherry Street Mission Ministries.

A garage sale for the general public was then held July 13–16 and July 21–22. Our sadness has been turned to joy for so many who benefited from items needed



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Welcome

Since the announcement that Ursuline Center was closing, more than one well-meaning person has commented that it is too bad that the convent is closing or asked very sincerely where I will go and what I will now do? Other Sisters have been asked the same kind of questions. As you will see as you read the stories in this issue, while some of the Sisters have indeed moved, we have not gone away. We are present still.

We announced the closing of Ursuline Center on Ash Wednesday and on May 27, just 4 days after Pentecost, the last resident moved to her new home. It was as if the Holy Spirit planted seeds in the ashes of our shared memory and used our tears to water seeds of new life.

Isaiah 43:18-19, part of the first reading for the Fifth Sunday of Lent proclaimed to us:

*“Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;
see, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?”*

The prophet’s words have come to pass as we and our Associates, inspired by the special gifts given to St. Angela, strive to live the gospel values as we live into the future. I invite you to read these stories, perceive the new life they proclaim, and celebrate it with us.

Sister Sandra Sherman
President

New Life, New Hope, New Reality

for loved ones, and those they cared for in their homes. We are blessed by their commitment and stories of need. And they have been blessed by what the Ursuline Center could provide for them in making life easier.

Life continues to move forward for the Ursuline Community and Associates. On June 10–11 the Community held its annual Assembly that was to be in 2020 but due to COVID was postponed three times. The discussions and work of the Assembly focused on leadership models and the present leadership reality, looking ahead, and best practices for maintaining connections with the Sisters wherever they live. Choosing a theme for the upcoming Chapter of Affairs and Elections in 2022, and reviewing reports from various groups including the Leadership team’s yearly report, were additional topics addressed.

The Assembly closed with a liturgy in the Ursuline Center chapel (first time all the Sisters were gathered since COVID), a special prayer of consecration to the Sacred Heart, one of the Community’s special feast days, and a catered meal followed. Being together as a community was most definitely the high point of the two days. The spirit of St. Angela Merici was definitely present in the sharing and table discussions at the meetings and in the dining room.

The Sisters are truly being good stewards of their property by leasing the Ursuline Center building to St. Ursula Academy. Future plans for the building are yet to be determined and finalized. The Ursulines are strong-willed and deeply spiritual in their endeavors to move forward. They are not defined by the building but rather who they are – filled with trust and providence in God, determination and perseverance in being Gospel-oriented and putting the mission of Jesus and vision of St. Angela before them each day.

The support of all the Sisters’ friends, donors and benefactors gives them hope that the future will unfold in a new and different reality pleasing to God. Gratitude and deep-felt thanks go to all those who have stood by them as they continue to live their call to religious life amid so many challenges in the world around them. God is good; God is faithful!



Sister Carol Reamer, Sister Margaret Manion, Sister Mary Ellen Nagle, and Sister Sandy Sherman mark their choices from suggested chapter themes.

Catholic Sisters Week a Success

Catholic Sisters Week, a week dedicated to honoring women religious for their contributions, both past and present, to our communities, was held March 8-12, 2021. Catholic Sisters Week is also intended to broaden awareness of Catholic Sisters, whose lives and ministries often remain behind the scenes.

On the Ursulines of Toledo Facebook page, friends were invited to share how an Ursuline Sister had made an impact on their life. Here are some of the posts:

Pat L. – “Thank you, dear Ursuline Sisters! I treasure my days at SUA (class of ‘66). I also attended St. John’s Point Place! So many of you have influenced my life... Sister Stephanie, Sister Maria, Sister Elizabeth Marie, Sister Gabriel, Sister St. Dominic... I am grateful for all of you!”

Marilyn E. – “Thank you sisters for my wonderful elementary education at Good Shepherd and St. Pat’s. I became a teacher because of your powerful influence.”

Mary Catharine P. – “Those of us fortunate to be educated by the Toledo Ursulines owe you a profound debt of gratitude. How many generations have been taught since they set foot in Toledo!?”

Anneliese S. – “Wonderful teachers and wonderful women of faith!!!”



Sister Sandy Sherman, left, Sister Margaret Manion and Sister Donna Frey load food items that were donated at the Ursuline Convent Offices.

A Call to Action

As part of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Sisters in Sub-region 6 invited Associates and friends to come together during Catholic Sisters Week to help End Hunger.

The Catholic religious Sisters in the Toledo Diocese sponsored a “Challenge to End Hunger” by collecting non-perishable food items to benefit the Toledo Seagate Food Bank. The collection of food items was a collaborative 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.

Sponsoring the food drive in Toledo were the Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Sisters of Mercy, Alma, MI, and the Sisters of the Visitation – prayerful presence. The food donated through the Ursuline Sisters was gathered at the Convent Offices and brought to Walt Churchill’s Market on Briarfield Blvd. in Maumee, Ohio, where a truck was filled with food items from all those participating.

The response to the Challenge to End Hunger was overwhelming! In all, Sisters, Associates and friends of the seven area women religious congregations collected 24,294 pounds of food that will be supplied to families in need throughout Northwest Ohio.

Thank you to all who helped make Catholic Sisters Week a success!

“Paul and I support the Ursulines because the Sisters have given so much to the community. Devoting their lives to the service of others is living the Gospel. Since the Sisters have helped others, we want to show our gratitude and help them.”



Paul and Teri (SUA ‘75) Bockstahler



Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen



Sister Mary Ellen Nagle



Sister Pat Grosse



Sister Claudia Holtz



Sister Ann Marie McManus



Sister Rita Mae Johns



Sister Maria Goretti Van Ausdale

Ursuline Jubilarians Celebrate Years of Blessings

Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen 70 Year Jubilarian

In my years of ministry I have been extremely blessed. Besides teaching, I have promoted “Devotion to the Sacred Heart,” had a wonderful dance ministry with liturgical dancers, done “Sacred Dance” programs in rest homes with both children and adults, and taught “Line Dancing” in four places. My Bible Group is still gathering after 40 years. Being Sacristan at the Ursuline Center was an honor. My Community and family have always backed me up in all these wonderful ministries that God worked through me. Indeed, I have been blessed.

My ministry is definitely moving forward. Now, at Rosary Care, I have a brand new program called “Spiritual Music with Gestures,” or in other words, “Chair Dancing.” There are also many opportunities to visit and interact with residents and staff.

Sister Mary Ellen Nagle 70 Year Jubilarian

I am happy to be an Ursuline and am currently studying our foundress, St. Angela Merici, by reading two volumes on her history. I am grateful to my community and happy to have been a teacher, carrying out the work of Angela. I look forward to continued relationships with the Associates.

Sister Pat Grosse 65 Year Jubilarian

Of the many blessings of the past I like to recall how I came to Mary Manse College mainly to study music. Halfway through I decided I could teach mainly piano without finishing college. A little noise told me I was going to finish and not only finish college, but also become a part of this place. The Lord had plans for me and I am very grateful, especially for this turning point in my life. Now I know the Lord will continue to plan every part of my life to the very end and I need to trust He knows what He is doing even if I don’t.

All my life has been part of His plan. In the course of many years, teaching was uppermost – classroom teaching or piano teaching. When time for a change came I helped out at the Ursuline Center in various ways. This included feeding birds for many years, getting involved in reflexology and Reiki, both which were beneficial for many people.

Life keeps changing and so must we. The Lord knew what I needed. Everyone needs variety in their life. It is good to think of so many good people who have influenced me and cared about me and also many who continue to care and love. Life continues in communion of saints.

Sister Claudia Holtz **65 Year Jubilarian**

As I reflect on the past 65 years as an Ursuline Sister I am awestruck at God's calling me to various types of ministry and giving me the graces to grow and serve in so many ways. Each calling opened my eyes to the beauty and the struggles in peoples' lives. It was a sacred honor to accompany many people through good times as well as through many troubling circumstances.

I believe it was my years as a hospital Chaplain that really opened my eyes and my heart to people of many different faiths and beliefs who welcomed prayer and comfort, sometimes reassurance, as they prepared for their final journey. Even those who claimed no spiritual grounding often seemed to be open to reassurance when death seemed imminent.

I thank God for calling me to be an Ursuline, and I thank all my Ursuline Sisters, past and present, for loving and supporting me through 65 years of blessing and grace. I am confident that the love of God, my Ursuline Sisters and my family will accompany me to the end of my earthly journey and into our Eternal Home.

Sister Ann Marie McManus **65 Year Jubilarian**

As I reflect on my 65 years of religious life, I cannot express enough my gratitude for the marvelous experiences I have had. First, teaching has been my primary ministry. I've also had many other opportunities, such as working at WGTW-TV Channel 30 as a technical specialist where I gave workshops in schools and wrote curriculum and handbooks for using

television effectively in the classroom. I've been a tour guide at the U.S. Capitol, and gave workshops to senior citizens and kids on bike safety through the Toledo/Lucas County Safety Council. My last hurrah was working at Maria Child Care which I loved dearly.

I have worked with Notre Dame and Franciscan Sisters, and now I live with them at Rosary Care. As my last move to Rosary Care, I have been missioned to follow in St. Angela's footsteps, giving love, compassion and support to all of the Sisters, priests and residents who live here.

Sister Rita Mae Johns **60 Year Jubilarian**

God has blessed me with a love of teaching and a talent for doing so. I enjoyed this ministry for 49 years. My greatest joy was teaching Religion and preparing my students to receive the Sacraments.

I have retired from teaching but not from ministry. God has blessed me with good health so that I can continue my service. Therefore, I'm doing volunteer work at my parish and at area nursing homes. I experience God's presence in my life, in my service, in unique ways now.

Sister Maria Goretti Van Ausdale **60 Year Jubilarian**

How does one ever begin to reflect on how one has been blessed in one's years of ministry? The blessings, like the stars in the sky, are too many to count. The greatest blessing and the one I cherish the most is God's faithfulness to me. His ever presence, love, guidance, and assistance have continued to bless me over and over again and helped me to be who I am and helped me to do the things that I have done. God truly has done wondrous things for me! His faithfulness is everlasting! I am ever grateful and filled with awe.

Every morning I ask God to show me what He wants me to do this day – (His will be done!) and I ask for the help in doing it for His honor and glory. In keeping my heart, eyes and ears open, I am shown many ways to help others. He helps me not to be afraid but to follow my heart in being open and available for any work of charity and mercy that presents itself to me. Blessings given to others reap many blessings to the giver. I have found this to be true and rewarding.

At the Border in El Paso, Texas



In April 30, 2021, three Ursuline Sisters flew to El Paso, Texas for a one-month voluntary assistance program with refugees at our border to receive their legalization papers. **Toledo Ursuline Sister Carol Reamer**, and Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Kathy Neely and Yuli Oncihuay had ministered in Peru for many years.

The Sisters responded to a request from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) to volunteer with refugees seeking asylum in the United States.

“The Sisters volunteered in the Casa del Refugiado of Annunciation House founded in 1978 in El Paso, TX. Refugee families are brought here by volunteers in a bus. Upon arrival other volunteers greet the guests, help them with their documents, dispense articles like blankets, towels, personal items, and take the guests to the dormitory and showers. The Salvation Army supplies the three meals each day which the volunteers help to serve.” (Courtesy of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, KY)

The refugees connect with their sponsor families who purchase the bus or plane tickets to their destination. The refugees come from Cuba, Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and other countries.

“Growing up in Tiffin, Ohio, Sister Carol developed her love for immigrants and helping them in the sixth grade! Her religion teacher asked her to come visit migrant farm workers in the farm fields that summer. When asked why she continues to work with refugees, Sister Carol replies simply, ‘Because I can’t not do it. It’s been in my blood since I was young.’” (excerpt from *The Dome*, a publication of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, KY)

The following reflection speaks to what touched Sister Carol’s heart:

“I wish I could explain to you all that I learned, saw, felt, loved, hoped, cried... in my month with the team, volunteers and guests on the border of El Paso and Mexico. No time to learn last names. But first names were enough to make friends. The turn-over of guests was constant.

“One afternoon as I was walking to the Roperia where I worked giving out clothes, I began to see various new guests wearing the same kind of color of clothes. Little by little, there were more of these people, sitting in the chairs to be registered. I wasn’t working in registration, so I smiled, nodded my head, and continued walking.

“The volunteers learned that these new guests had come from another country, where they didn’t speak Spanish or English. They had been taken to a detention center before coming to us. They had to give up their own clothes; we never learned why. The new clothes were the same

for everyone in that detention center: men, women, children all wore dark blue t-shirts, grey lounge pants and flip-flops. (The flip-flops especially were often two different sizes.) Because I worked in clothing, they came to me, one family at a time. Each person was only allowed one set of new clothes and shoes of their choice. We worked together without words to find clothes that fit each member of each family. But what **touched my heart** the most were the smiles and tears of joy.”

“I wish I could explain to you all that I learned, saw, felt, loved, hoped, cried...”

Pandemic - Lives Were Changed and Blessed

Much has been written about the pain and suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the learnings, the changes, the comfort, and the blessings of many months of upheaval in the lives of millions of people around the world. The following are reflections by some of the Sisters and Associates who have found or rediscovered what has been important to them during this time.

Sister Coletta McAllister:

“Looking back, I can see that blessings were everywhere in the special care shown by the staff, in the support of all residents for the welfare of others, in the phone calls from friends, and in the constant hope that this would soon end. Despite the relaxation of most restrictions, it is still not over. But I’m ever hopeful that in time, we will be blessed by the end.

“During the long COVID year I learned that with the Lord’s help I can survive any stressful situation as long as I keep my trust in Him. I learned to take one day at a time and to not concentrate on the slow passing of each day – a day exactly as all those just passed. ‘And it came to pass’ eventually came true.”



not love our neighbor.” How people behaved, treated others and even worship God in this pandemic caused consternation to many.

As stated above much was lost in the lives of many and Associate

Kathy Sarver shares her experience

of loss. “The Pandemic of 2020 – I will always remember this time because it robbed me of spending some critical time with my dad in what would become his last months. I visited my dad through the windows of Kingston (Care Center) and watched him cry because he just didn’t understand why we couldn’t come in. And then explain to my mom why dad was crying. The weather was cold so we couldn’t keep the window open and dad was hard of hearing. What was a blessing is that Kingston at the time allowed us to spend the last 48 hours around the clock with him and we were able to send him off with peace.”



For Associate **Jane Charette:**

“The pandemic provided a master class in living. Over the past 18 months, I have learned key lessons about myself. I wanted to control my days; I missed being with friends; I often felt bored and stalled; I failed to act on my ‘to do’ list. On the other hand, I felt grateful for my health, my family, my spirituality,

and my chance to live. I reached out to others. As life opens, I find a new joy in my effort to live each day with a deeper gratitude for the gift of life.”



In her comments, **Jovita Harrah**, Associate, alluded to the difference of opinion of many in our country over issues of masks, social distancing, eating out, and going to church. Many people have been ridiculed during this pandemic, careers ruined, jobs lost, lives lost. Due to the political divide in the midst of COVID, she recalls “Jesus’ call to love our neighbor and do good. Because as the scriptures say to us, we cannot say we love God if we do



“Right from the beginning the pandemic hit me hard,” said **Sister Mary Kay Garvin**. “I could no longer go to the Center and assist at Mass. My faith sharing group also decided not to continue gathering at this time. A double loss for me. Prior to the pandemic I had chosen the word ‘gratitude’ to reflect on each night. I wrote down one thing that happened during the day that I was grateful for. I reflected on this. If it was a person, I would pray for them. All of these things I reflect on give me peace of mind. The best is that I know, God, our Father is watching over me and loving me.”

Each person may find that reflecting on this long period of the pandemic may be more painful and full of suffering. Others may have found comfort in the altered experiences of daily living. All of us have learned something about ourselves, relationships, what is more important in our lives, and we found that we have been blessed in some very deep and meaningful ways.

Welcome New Associates

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates welcomed two new Associates, Marcia Kolbeck and Theresa Smith, this past year.

Marcia Kolbeck writes:

"My first encounter with the Ursuline Sisters was at Rosary Cathedral Grade School. I then attended St. Ursula Academy for high school. My nursing career began at St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing. In our first year of training, we took our college courses at Mary Manse College.

"My mother was a graduate of Mary Manse College. When she died, we donated many of her supplies and equipment to the Ursuline Center. I felt a connection to the Ursuline Center and thought I would enjoy volunteering there after I retired.

"I am a member of Rosary Cathedral Parish and this is where I met Sister Nancy Mathias. We became fast friends. I was now retired and told Sister of my interest in volunteering and my desire to gain a greater understanding of her community through the Associates Program. Sister guided me through the application process and I asked her to be my mentor.

"Despite the pandemic, our friendship has deepened and Sister Nancy has introduced me to St. Angela Merici and St. Ursula with such respect and affection. They are two women who I knew little about growing up, but whom I've come to love and appreciate over the course of my studies. I look forward to becoming an Associate Member of this Community."

Her internet search for a friendly spiritual community caused **Theresa Smith** to request information on becoming a Toledo Ursuline Associate. Associate Sarah Abts and Theresa met on the phone in February 2020, continued their monthly conversations, prayers and discussions of St. Angela and the Toledo Ursulines

"The Ursulines have been a part of the fabric of my life since I was in kindergarten and through college. They educated our girls as well. Our family is so honored to be a part of Angela's charism."



Nanci (Associate) and Don Riddle

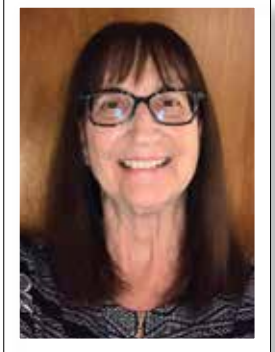


Sister Nancy Mathias, left,
with Associates Marcia Kolbeck
and Sarah Abts

through spring, summer and fall, and completed Theresa's mentoring process with a tour of the Archives accomplished by phone, emailed photos of artwork at the Ursuline Center, and snail-mailed newspaper articles, documents and books.

Theresa's familiarity with St. Angela grew from her daughter's attending an Ursuline high school in Santa Rosa, CA and her long relationship with a spiritual director who is an Ursuline Sister, now living in St. Louis. For many years, Theresa was a third order Benedictine Camaldolese Oblate, but changes in that community's attitude toward women prompted her search for another group. In St. Angela, Theresa says she found a joyous, gentle Christian woman who created a structure to encourage women to live celibate lives in their homes. About Angela, she says, "I feel like I met my sister." Married only a short time before her daughter Amy's birth, she has stayed single and is comfortable with time alone, but appreciates the "connection to people like me" that being an Ursuline Associate gives.

Theresa is a California native, now living in Rohnert Park (near Santa Rosa) and working as a nurse with seniors, on whom she dotes.



Associate
Theresa Smith

Welcome Marcia and Theresa!



Debbie Bercher
Co-coordinator



Jessica Torda Gamby
Co-coordinator

Spirit of St. Angela Lives On through Associate Program

Since COVID hit in 2020, life has changed significantly for people throughout the world and the Ursuline Community and Associates are no exception.

The Ursuline Leadership is happy to announce that two Associates have stepped forward to coordinate the Associate Program as it picks up momentum now that life is changing. After meeting with Leadership, Jessica Torda Gamby and Deborah Bercher have agreed to be coordinators of the program. After many dedicated years as director of the program, Sarah Abts is stepping down. Sarah hopes to remain involved and be of assistance wherever she is able. Deepest gratitude goes to Sarah for all she has done for the program, the Associates and for her dedicated spirit and commitment.

Jess formerly ministered at the Ursuline Center in Human Resources and as Life Enrichment Director. Debbie has had a long history with the Ursuline Sisters with her aunt, Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen, her mother-in-law and Associate Pat Bercher (deceased), and aunt and Associate Betty Welch. Debbie's husband, Mike, was an Investment Consultant for the Community and as time passed, Mike became a resident of the Ursuline Center.

Activities are being planned that were popular in the past and new programs are being created. The hope is to engage the Associates in continued volunteer opportunities, visiting the Sisters, and being available for other experiences that keep the connection with all the Sisters. Associates are welcome to suggest new ideas and thoughts to further nourish the spirit and life of St. Angela Merici. There is a desire to strengthen relationships and carry on the legacy of the Ursuline Sisters.

The Associate Program has given many Associates a home in the heart of Ursuline spirituality as based on the life of Angela Merici. Looking ahead to a re-founding of this program, Jess and Debbie have hopes of new vitality and resourcefulness in continuing to discover more of Angela Merici as a woman for the 21st century.

Angela's Companions

The Ursuline Leadership has put into place a group of individuals named Angela's Companions to assist with the spiritual component of the Ursuline Sisters' transition to their new homes. The purpose of Angela's Companions is to keep the Ursuline presence alive amongst our Sisters who have moved from the Ursuline Center.

Sister Mary Jo Szpila, SND, Pastoral Care and Liturgy Coordinator for the Ursuline Sisters, says, "The initial response to create Angela's Companions was to provide immediate support and presence to our Sisters who were transferring from Ursuline Center during the time when COVID restrictions were in place. This included assistance with the moving and set-up in her new environment, provision of mail and communications, and attention to her preferences and needs. Pastoral care support included attention to availability of Mass times and places, the individual's well-being, and acceptance of God's Will in these circumstances. Interaction with pastoral staff at new places of residence for the Sisters is affirming."

Eventually, Angela's Companions will grow to include any Ursuline Sister who moves from her current home.



Angela's Companion Valerie Myers, right, visits Sister M. Angela Gaietto at Rosary Care Center.



In Loving Memory

Sister Kathleen Padden



Sister Kathleen Padden, 91, a leader in education and her Ursuline Community, died November 3, 2020 at Ursuline Center. Sister Kathleen was much loved and respected within the St. Ursula Academy and Catholic community.

She was an advocate for all-girls education, a mentor and encourager, had a warm smile and

sense of humor, and was a wealth of knowledge about our rich Ursuline history.

Sister Kathleen's love of history and education followed her throughout various ministerial assignments. Her teaching career began in the elementary schools of Rosary Cathedral and St. Angela Hall in Toledo; St. Gerard, Lima; and St. Rose, Perrysburg. She taught Health and Physical Education, History, American Government, and Religion at St. Ursula Academy. Sister Kathleen became Assistant Principal in 1966 and assumed the principalship in 1970. From 1974 – 76 she was the Assistant to the Principal at Central Catholic High School, Toledo.

In 1976, Sister Kathleen was elected to the General Council of the Ursuline community and served in that capacity for two three-year terms. Sister Kathleen also served as the High School Consultant for the Diocese of Toledo. In 1979 she returned to St. Ursula Academy as Principal. She served there until 1982 when she was elected General Superior of the Community, serving there for two terms. In 1989, after a short sabbatical, Sister Kathleen went to Hachinohe, Japan and taught conversational English at St. Ursula High School. Upon her return, she was assigned to St. Ursula Academy and served as President until she retired in 2001, having served a total of 28 years at St. Ursula Academy. She was elected to the General Council in 2002 for one four-year term and also served as Archivist.

Sister Kathleen enjoyed serving as Archivist and was always eager to share her knowledge and stories about the formation of the Toledo Ursulines, ministries of the Sisters, the changes she had seen in her 70 years of profession, and more, until her health would no longer permit her to do so.

Sister Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents, John R. and Katherine (Cartwright) Padden, brothers John R. Jr. and Maurice 'Tim' Padden, and her sister, Patricia Davis. She remained especially close to her surviving sisters-in-law, Lois G. Padden (deceased) and Janice E. Padden, and her large extended family, who along with her Ursuline Sisters, Associates and friends, celebrated her 70th Jubilee in 2020.

Sister M. Antoinette Cosentino

Sister M. Antoinette Cosentino, the longest-living Toledo Ursuline, died November 8, 2020 at Ursuline Center at the age of 103.

Five months before her death, Sister Antoinette had celebrated her birthday, pandemic style, with family and friends holding signs, waving and singing 'happy birthday' from outside the Ursuline Center windows. "My friends keep me going with their prayers," she often said.



Sister Antoinette taught at St. Angela Hall, St. Thomas, Good Shepherd, St. John, St. Agnes, and Rosary Cathedral schools in Toledo; St. Rose in Perrysburg; St. Gerard in Lima; Nazareth Hall in Grand Rapids, OH; and St. Mary's School in Tiffin. She served as Principal at St. Gerard, Lima after having taught for more than 45 years. Sister Antoinette became the Director for Religious Education at St. Bernard in New Washington, OH, and at St. Jude in DeWitt, MI. She then served as a part-time teacher in the Religious Education classes at St. Charles Parish in Toledo, and a teachers' aide at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Toledo. Sister Antoinette tutored individuals at St. Ursula Academy Convent and served as the Sacristan for the Ursuline Center until her health would no longer permit her to do so.

Sister Antoinette was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Rose (Calo) Cosentino and three of her siblings: Sister Mary Jane Cosentino, OSU, Catherine Cicconetti and Vincent Cosentino. She is survived by her sister Theresa Enciso and brother Joseph Cosentino, Jr., cousins in Ohio and New Jersey, and many

nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, and great-grand-nieces and great-grand-nephews totaling approximately 50, as well as her Sisters and Associates in the Ursuline Community.

Sister Elizabeth Marie Brell

Sister Elizabeth Marie Brell died at the Ursuline Center on March 29, 2021 at the age of 93. Throughout Sister Liz's long life she was passionate about family, education, teaching, travel, art, and her many, many friends of all ages and backgrounds.

Sister Elizabeth Marie began her teaching career at St. Angela Hall and continued at Good Shepherd, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. John, and St. Charles schools in Toledo; St. Mary, Tiffin; and St. Rose, Perrysburg. She served as Principal at St. Gerard, Lima, and at St. John and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She taught Art at Central Catholic High School. Sister Elizabeth Marie served on the Toledo Diocesan Liturgical Commission and was a co-founder of the Toledo Diocesan Elementary Principals' Association.

Leaving the education field after 32 years, Sister Elizabeth Marie became a Licensed Practical Nurse, spending 17 years at the former Riverside Hospital and St. Charles Hospital (Toledo), where she especially loved working second or third shift in the nursery so she could rock the newborns. When Sister Liz retired from nursing, she pursued a variety of interests, primarily in art. She drew, painted, and crafted cards (sometimes on paper she made). Her love for art began while she was in late grade school, when she took art lessons at the Toledo Museum of Art on Saturday mornings. Many years later she enrolled in a pottery course, soon becoming an accomplished potter. She loved these

new mediums of clay, porcelain and stoneware, as well as the new friends she made. One particular piece she created, a "dwelling place" designed to replicate an African hut, was one of two pieces, chosen from among 50, to be exhibited at the



Toledo Museum of Art. She made hundreds of bowls, platters, vases, and other primarily utilitarian pieces – selling much of her work each summer at The University of Toledo's Art on the Mall, but also graciously sharing her work with her extended family. Today these cherished pieces are still in use or on display at most of her nieces' and nephews' homes.

Sister Liz loved to travel, especially in Western Europe, but was always up for a road trip anywhere, either driving alone or with friends. A special destination for many years was Muskegon, MI to visit her sister Pat and family.

In her later years, Sister Liz was chairman of the Ursuline Center Building Committee, oversaw the community's vast collection of artwork, and enjoyed sharing her knowledge of that artwork and its artists with others. With her fine eye for design, Sister Liz decorated the Ursuline Center lobby and chapel throughout the year.

Sister Elizabeth Marie was preceded in death by her parents; Clarence and Bernice (Fike) Brell, sisters, Mary Louise "Pat" (Ronald, deceased) Byersmith and Barbara "Poochie" (Peter, deceased) Weston; brother, R. Michael "Mike" (Ursula, deceased) Brell; sister-in-law, Joanne Seidel Brell; and niece, Rebecca Brell Heater. She is survived by her brother, Thomas "Tom"; numerous loving nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews, with more on the way; and her Sisters and Associates of the Ursuline Community.

Sister Elizabeth Marie donated her body to The University of Toledo, College of Medicine.

***"I am proud to support the
Ursuline Sisters in their mission of providing
a solid foundation for the empowerment of women
and Christian family values through education,
care and ministry and help them create a lasting
legacy for generations to come."***



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the Ursulines for my education at Mary
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friends and activities over 60 years ago.
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*First place winner
Jean McDowell Summer, left,
with her Mary Manse classmate,
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