



Ursuline Sisters of Toledo

Fall 2018

URSULINE



Sister Donna Frey, Sister Nelda Chafitelli, Sister Sandy Sherman, and Sister Bernarda Breidenbach comprise the 2018 - 2022 Ursuline Leadership Team.

Ursulines Elect New Leadership Team

The Ursuline Sisters of Toledo have elected its new Leadership Team for 2018 - 2022. Sister Sandy Sherman was elected General Superior/President. Assisting on the General Council will be Sister Bernarda Breidenbach, Sister Nelda Chafitelli and Sister Donna Frey. The Sisters acknowledge with gratitude Sister Margaret Manion and Sister Claudia Holtz who served on the 2010 – 2014 and 2014 – 2018 Leadership Teams.

Sister Ellen Doyle, Ursuline of Brown County, served as facilitator who led the Chapter members through the Chapter of Affairs and Chapter of Elections.

Sister Sandy has served as President of the Toledo Ursulines for the past four years. In addition to those responsibilities, Sister Sandy has continued to be involved in Rahab's Heart, a ministry she co-founded which takes her call to live in holy relationship beyond the Ursuline Sisters to the streets of Toledo.

After leaving Leadership, 2010 – 2014, Sister Bernarda continues to spread the Gospel and Angela's charism, "to meet the needs of the time" through her

volunteer ministry at our Ursuline Center and at Rosary Cathedral Parish where she prepares students (8th grade – sophomores) for the Sacrament of Confirmation. As a member of the 2018 – 2022 Leadership Team, she is the Ursuline Center Health and Welfare Resource Person, ministering to residents and staff along with volunteer ministry in other areas.

Re-elected for a second term, Sister Nelda, a Jungian psychotherapist, works part-time at the Ursuline Counseling and Psychological Services in Washington, D.C. where she does both counseling and spiritual direction.

Since 2010, Sister Donna has been serving at St. Ursula Academy part-time in the area of Ursuline and Catholic identity. She will continue her work with faculty, staff and students in helping to bring the spirit and life of St. Angela Merici alive and into the 21st Century.

The Chapter of Elections was held one month after the Chapter of Affairs which focused on setting goals and planning for the next four years. The theme of the

continued on next page



Welcome

Having recently traveled to Ireland, I encountered an appreciation for what is “old,” that in many ways seems to be disappearing in our culture. Not so with “US,” the Ursuline

Sisters, our Associates, Alumni, Benefactors, and all who hold our/their story in heart, mind and soul, and in whom a spark of our Ursuline DNA has taken root. That spark shines in every story inside these pages.

Formerly serving together on the 2006-10 Leadership Team, the four of us on the current Team have been charged and challenged by our recent Chapter to preserve what is of value from our past, put into motion a plan for our future, and keep before us the gift of our present, even as it continually changes.

While we celebrate a total of 370 years of consecrated life and service of our six Jubilarians, we look to how the spark that still lives in them may look and live beyond them, beyond us. Sister Donna’s uncle must certainly have had faith in it when he, through his legacy, endowed us for our own legacy through the Catholic Foundation of Columbus, Ohio.

So, too, a spark of our Ursuline DNA continues to reveal itself through new Associates who pay attention to and welcome it as we welcome them. It continues to be revealed in our many alumni, among who are the graduates of Mary Manse College, soon to be the stars of a new “Toledo Stories,” produced by WGTE Public Media.

Sister Jane Catherine’s spark of legacy through her art lives on long after she went to God in that final “act of communion,” for which Teilhard de Chardin prayed. She is just one among many of our Sisters who, while their physical selves returned to Earth in one of our four soon to be restored cemetery plots, will be remembered for their combined stories that have given us OUR story.

Quoting Chardin’s “act of communion,” Fr. Paul F. Morrissey in a recent article in *America Magazine*, wrote about “Becoming Invisible.” Sadly that often happens as we age, certainly in body and often in mind. In a television ad, those who live with the skin condition of psoriasis, beg us, “See me,” adding silently “and not my disease.” The Opening Minds through Art (OMA) grant allowed our most mentally vulnerable residents to be seen in new ways as it brought to life the gift of art within them. Father Morrissey noted that in South Africa, the common greeting of persons to others is “Sawubona,” meaning “I see you.” The answer, “Here I am,” for these residents was the spark of spiritual DNA still shining forth in them.

This issue goes to press as three of us leave for the National Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in St. Louis, which this year carries the theme “Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion.” It reflects the spark to which I have referred lived out by us through our reaffirmed directional statement, “Living in holy relationship, a contemplative presence in an ever changing world.” May you find that spark within you and shine forth!

Sister Sandra Sherman

Ursulines Elect New Leadership Team, continued

meetings was, “One mind, one heart, one will.” The Ursulines’ Directional Statement, “Living in holy relationship, a contemplative presence in an ever changing world,” was reaffirmed as the Sisters have found that contemplative presence in today’s world is more important than ever.

The focus of the next four years centers on stewardship in the care for the Sisters, their financial and material resources, and their sponsored ministries.



Ursuline Center Art Program Showcases Residents' Creativity

The Ursuline Center received a grant last fall through the Scripps Gerontology Center, an Ohio Center of Excellence at Miami University, to participate in the "Opening Minds through Art"(OMA) program. OMA is an intergenerational art-making program for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of neurocognitive disorders. Its failure-free program provides opportunities for creative self-expression and social engagement for people with dementia. OMA also provides volunteers with opportunities to improve their attitudes toward aging through the weekly interaction with OMA program participants.

During the eight weekly sessions this past winter, six Ursuline Center residents with dementia (artists) were paired with trained volunteers (students from the University of Toledo Department of Art and University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences) who assisted them with primarily painting projects to create beautiful finished artwork.

The Ursuline Center hosted its first "Opening Minds through Art" Art Show and Reception at the conclusion of the eight weeks on Friday, June 1, 2018, to celebrate each artist's accomplishments while educating the public about the creative abilities of people with neurocognitive disorders. Framed art, matted photographs of original art and notecards were available for purchase. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed visiting with the artists, viewing their masterpieces and dining on delicious appetizers.



Sister Mary Jo Szpila, SND compliments an artist on her masterpiece at the Art Show.



Activities Director Jess Gamby directed the OMA program at the Ursuline Center.





Six Ursuline Sisters **Celebrate Service, Love and Devotion to Religious Life**

Six Ursuline Sisters are celebrating milestone anniversaries of religious life this year.

Sister Joy Gray will celebrate her Golden Jubilee with a Mass and reception on September 23, 2018 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Sister Margaret Ann Babione, Sister Eileen Marie Vogel, Sister Mary Angela Gaietto, Sister Nancy Mathias, and Sister Kenwyn Steger observed milestone anniversaries of the date of their entrance into the Ursuline Community with a Mass on August 20, 2018 at the Ursuline Center Chapel.



Sister Margaret Ann Babione ~ 75 Years

Sister Margaret Ann Babione, OSU (formerly Sister Mary Roberta), entered the Ursuline Convent in 1943. Sister Margaret Ann taught in several parochial schools of the diocese and was principal of St. Rose School, Perrysburg. She became a pastoral minister and served in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Michigan in campus and outreach programs. Sister Margaret Ann says, "I have a great appreciation of being an Ursuline and serving God all these years."



Sister Eileen Marie Vogel ~ 65 Years

Sister Eileen Marie Vogel, OSU entered the Ursuline Convent in 1953. She taught in several schools in the diocese. Her longest tenure was at St. John the Baptist parish where she taught then served as Religious Education Coordinator. She ministered there for a total of 34 years. She presently resides at the Ursuline Center.



Sister Mary Angela Gaietto ~ 60 Years

Sister Mary Angela Gaietto, OSU entered the Ursuline Convent in 1958, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sister Merici. Sister Mary Angela taught primary grades in many diocesan schools. She then worked in the Development Office at St. Ursula Academy and currently serves as receptionist at the Ursuline Convent Offices. Sister Mary Angela says, "Even though I had received positive influence from family, Sisters at St. Mary Elementary and Calvert High School, I was undecided about my future. After working for two years at General Electric Company, it 'dawned' on me that I wanted to teach. Entering the Ursuline Convent was the natural thing to do. Why not? With God's grace, I have reached 60 years in the Community. Quite a milestone!"



Sister Nancy Mathias ~ 60 Years

Sister Nancy Mathias, OSU served as Delegate for Consecrated Life, Coordinator for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, and Coordinator for Mission Appeals for the Diocese of Toledo. In the past Sister Nancy has served as a principal, as major superior of the Ursulines, as a member of the Diocesan Schools Office and as president of the National Conference of Vicars for Religious. She received the Benemerenti Award from Pope Benedict in 2011. Sister Nancy's vast past and present ministerial experiences and involvements span locally, regionally and nationally. She reflects: "These 60 years of being an Ursuline Sister demonstrates for me the great love Christ has for me and His continuing call to be consecrated to Him. He has filled my life with many wonderful people to serve and love in His name. How blessed I am!"



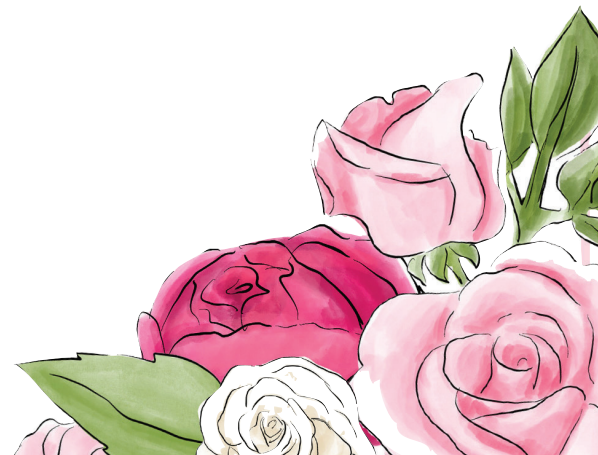
Sister Kenwyn Steger ~ 60 Years

Sister Kenwyn Steger, OSU entered the Ursuline Convent in 1959. After teaching in diocesan schools, Sister Kenwyn assumed duties in the library of St. Angela Hall, St. Patrick of Heatherdowns and St. Ursula Academy. She currently enjoys volunteering at Mercy Health St. Anne Hospital. Sister Kenwyn says, "I feel really blessed after 60 years in the Convent. There are so many experiences and wonderful things that I was able to do. My main focus was to attend Mass every day. I also have done all that I really wanted to do."



Sister Joy Gray ~ Golden Jubilee

Sister Joy Gray entered from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Bono. She taught elementary grades in Toledo and Lima before becoming an elementary principal serving at St. Rose, Perrysburg and St. John the Baptist, Toledo. She then served at the Ursuline Center Nursing Home. Sister now ministers as a volunteer at St. Luke's Hospital, Maumee and serves on the Board of Trustees for both St. Ursula Academy and Ursuline Center. "Celebrating 50 years as an Ursuline Sister, I am filled with gratitude for the gifts God has given me. Ministry means for me a willingness to be of service, to cherish each person and to do all I could to help them grow to be the person God wished them to be."



Welcome Newest Associates

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates have welcomed five new Associates this past year. Ursuline Associates share prayer, celebrations, ministry, and friendship with the Sisters in the spirit of St. Angela, and participate in a variety of activities, including faith-sharing groups, retreats, visiting Ursuline Center residents, planning liturgies, social justice ministries, book discussions, and social activities.



Bonnie Tolles is a very active member of All Saints Catholic Church in Rossford. She is a Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, weekday lector, chairperson for hospitality committee, serves on the Senior Ministry committee, and helps with the All Saints festival. She continues the family tradition of association with the Ursulines started by her sister Carol Hens, cousin Pauline Broadway, and father, Richard Hens.

Eric Baho has filled his life with volunteer activities since his retirement from work as an electrical engineer at Owens Corning. He became acquainted with several Ursuline sisters through his service and involvement at Corpus Christi Parish. He became an Associate, not to add to his volunteer activities, but to join with others whose compassion draws them to service.

Janet Klocinski was taught by the Ursuline Sisters throughout most of her school years, first at St. Thomas Aquinas grade school, followed by St. Ursula Academy and then the former Mary Manse College as part of her St. Vincent School of Nursing education. It was at the end of her nursing career when she took a position in the nursing department at the Ursuline Center, that a deeper appreciation for the Ursuline Sisters and their life-long dedication of service to others grew and became inspirational. Becoming an Associate seemed a natural extension of this long connection and genuine admiration.

Eileen Simon is a Certified Jungian Analyst who lives and practices in the Washington, D.C. area. "Living and supporting the Ursuline mission and being about embodying consciously Angela's charism have been a part of my life for 50 years," Eileen writes. "For me, becoming an Associate is formally honoring what I have been living for many years."

Phyllis Kustra graduated from Mary Manse College with majors in Social Students and Elementary Education. She learned much about interacting with people as a social worker. Graduating with the first class of nurses at Owens College, Phyllis worked for 45 years as a nurse at Toledo, Mercy and Parkview Hospitals, some nursing homes, and now as a contingency nurse at the Ursuline Center. Phyllis looks forward to growing spiritually with the Ursulines and getting involved in some of our ministries.



Pauline Broadway, Bonnie Tolles and Richard Hens



Eric Baho and his mentor, Sister Antoinette Cosentino



Janet Klocinski, right, receives her Associate pin from her mentor, Sister Joy Gray



Eileen Simon



Phyllis Kustra and her mentor, Associate Sarah Abts

Benefactors Mindful of Needs of Others

The Ursuline Sisters of Toledo have benefited from The Catholic Foundation of Columbus, Ohio. Loren P. Brown, CEO and President of the Foundation, personally visited the Ursuline Convent Offices this past spring and presented a check to the Congregation's President/Superior, Sister Sandra Sherman. The check represents the Ursulines' total 2018 annual endowment distributed from the Gillig and Music Endowment Fund.

The longer George A. Gillig lived, (uncle of Ursuline Sister Donna Frey), the more he became convinced he was put on this earth to serve and further his Catholic Church. Having no children of his own, there were several organizations that were close to his heart during his lifetime that will receive monies from his estate.

Being involved in his local parish was very life-giving for him as he became involved as an usher, visiting the sick, Eucharistic Minister, Knights of Columbus (4th Degree), and helping people as much as he could. Living a rather humble and modest life, he and his wife were mindful of the needs of others and sought out charitable organizations to help meet these needs.

The Catholic Foundation of Columbus serves the Church today by helping to create perpetual funding for the needs of the Diocese through endowment funds.

"Ursuline Sisters of Toledo has been blessed with funding from our endowment(s) stewarded by the Catholic Foundation. By God's varied grace we honor the many donors, whose charitable love for our faith and others is fulfilling the mission of our ministry through the Catholic Foundation. For more information on ways on how you can help build our endowments, please visit www.catholic-foundation.org or call Scott Hartman at 614-443-8893."

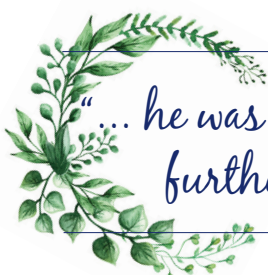
The Ursuline Sisters acknowledge receiving the check from The Catholic Foundation and are very grateful to the Gillig and Music Endowment Fund for the generous gift. The Congregation prays for the donor and the Foundation.



George A. Gillig



Sister Margaret Manion, Sister Angela Gaietto, Sister Sandy Sherman, and Sister Claudia Holtz accept an endowment gift from the Gillig and Music Endowment Fund that was presented by Loren P. Brown, CEO and President (center) of the Catholic Foundation of Columbus, Ohio.



"... he was put on this earth to serve and further his Catholic Church."

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 July 16, 2017 through July 16, 2018. 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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During the Installation Ceremony of the Ursulines' Leadership Team, Sister Nelda Chafitelli (right) placed her hand on a Bible, held by Sister Antoinette Cosentino, as she accepted the responsibility of the office of General Councilor. Sister Antoinette, 101, is the oldest living Sister of the Ursulines of Toledo community.

In Memory Of...

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Rick & Anne Hartley
Sister Stephanie Helfrich
Terence Leen
James & Cecile Mikulski
Patricia Sams
Jake & Betsy Tijerina
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SUA '54

Patricia (Sue Poulsen) Seeds

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**"Living in holy relationship,
a contemplative presence
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2nd Prize
Patrick Winkler
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3rd Prize
Shirley Pawlicki, MMC '59
Maumee, OH

Appreciation Continues for Sister Jane Catherine Lauer's Paintings

A painting by Sister Jane Catherine Lauer (1907 – 1988) titled, "Afternoon Collation 1952" was recently on display at the Toledo Museum of Art. The work of Sister Jane Catherine was chosen to be in this curated exhibit honoring the collection of the Toledo Federation of Art Societies. Work for this exhibit was selected by the Toledo Museum of Art out of more than 300 pieces that the Federation is honored to own. Many of her fellow Ursuline Sisters have not seen this particular painting until the exhibit.





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Brief History Added to Ursuline Markers in Area Cemeteries

Over the past year the Legacy Committee has been discussing ways to preserve the Ursuline Archives. One of the issues that arose last October at their meeting, was signage with a brief history of the Community at the four cemeteries where the Ursulines are buried. The committee began the process of what could be included in the history and this was then shared with the Leadership Team.

Sister Margaret Manion, Councilor, had previously expressed interest in having something at the Ursuline cemeteries after seeing this in other women religious communities' cemeteries. The Leadership Team contacted Coyle's Funeral Home for advice and eventually Mike Faehnle, AICA of Maumee Valley Memorials in Waterville, OH, was contacted to do the work.

A brief history of the Ursuline Sisters of Toledo was written and each adapted to reflect the different cemetery locations. The Ursuline Sisters are buried in Mt. Carmel, Calvary, and Resurrection cemeteries in Toledo, and in St. Joseph Parish cemetery in Tiffin, OH.

