



Ursuline Sisters of Toledo

Fall 2019

URSULINE

“Living the Vision”

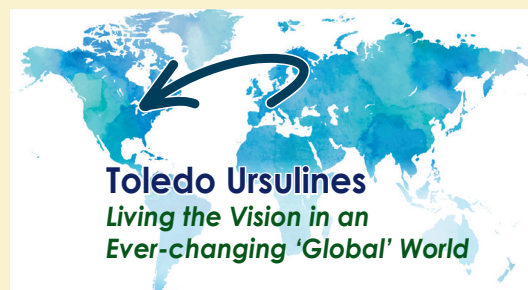
Ursuline Sisters Celebrate 165 Years

In 1854, December 12, five Ursuline Sisters from the Cleveland Motherhouse arrived in Toledo at the request of Bishop Amadeus Rappe to begin their work and presence to the people of the area. They opened a school within days of arrival and were off and running. “The Sisters found nothing that resembled an organized Catholic school system and discovered a somewhat fragmented public school system. Under the direction and guidance of the Ursuline Sisters, schools were founded and were soon to bring public recognition of a well-organized parochial school system. That was the beginning.” (taken from the Toledo Ursuline Sisters web site – toledoursulines.org)

Now 165 years later, the Toledo Ursulines remember and celebrate the many successes and accomplishments during this time. Remembered are the many parishes and schools in which the Sisters ministered, the various ministries outside of education: parish work, spiritual direction, counseling, hospital settings, prison ministry, and volunteer opportunities. Special places of ministry outside the Toledo area included California, Puerto Rico, Peru, Washington DC, and ministry in other US States.

The Ursulines’ sponsored ministries included St. Angela Hall, Mary Manse College, Nazareth Hall, and Ursuline Counseling Services. Today, St. Ursula Academy and the Ursuline Center remain as sponsored ministries. St. Ursula Academy continues to provide a Catholic foundation and quality education for the all-girls school with grades 6 – 12 and instills the Core Values of an Ursuline Education within the faculty/staff and student body. The life of St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline Sisters, becomes part of the daily life of the school.

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Welcome

One hundred sixty-five years! It seems like just yesterday, as a young Sister, I was one among many of us who proudly processed into and out of Rosary Cathedral at our 125th anniversary celebration.

While so many of our Sisters have gone to God since then, they now reach out as members of our Cloud of Witnesses in the Communion of Saints, encouraging us as we continue to live and breathe our Ursuline charism in so many and varied ways.

In this issue you will read about that new life through the stories of our jubilarians, the North American Ursuline Convocation, our newest Associates, those who remember the gift of Mary Manse College in their lives, the recent travels abroad of our Sisters and Associates, and the plan to continue living the vision and celebrating the fullness of these 165 years as we move forward. We are grateful for your support throughout however many of these years you have walked with us and invite you to both celebrate and join us in continuing to live the vision.

Sister Sandra Sherman

“Living the Vision”

Ursuline Sisters Celebrate 165 Years ~ continued

A few special celebrations are scheduled throughout the anniversary year of 2019-2020. Included will be:

The kick-off will be December 12, 2019 with 4:15 p.m. Vespers; 5:00 p.m. Supper – for Sisters, Associates, Residents, Staff and board members of the Community, Ursuline Center and St. Ursula Academy.

Other events will be:

January 26, 2020 – celebrating the feast of St. Angela with liturgy at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch. Guest speaker, Diane Fulgenzi, Ursuline of the Central Province, will give a presentation after lunch on “Angela, Woman of Vision.” (Sisters and Associates)

April 16, 2020 – Community Update and Input from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for the Sisters followed by guest speaker, Maureen Grady, Ursuline of Cleveland, to speak on “Marie of the Incarnation.” (Sisters and Associates)

June 19, 2020 – Feast of the Sacred Heart – Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 5:00 p.m. – Why the “Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart?” (Sisters and Associates)

The closing event will be October 18, 2020 – Celebrating the feast of St. Ursula with liturgy at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch. The liturgy will include the annual Missioning of the Sisters and Associates. A few highlights of the story and journey of St. Ursula will be shared.

The theme “Living the Vision” reflects the beginnings with St. Angela Merici, her life and personal vision for her Company of St. Ursula, as well as the idea of living the perfect vision (20/20) in this special celebration year of 2020. The work the Ursuline Sisters began 165 years ago continues to make an impact on the people of northwest Ohio and wherever they minister. Their presence has profoundly made an impression on thousands of lives and continues to do so wherever an Ursuline is witnessing to God’s love and people. The Ursuline Associates number 136 (35 of which are in the California Connection), and are committed to actively witnessing to the vision of Angela Merici by following her guidance and wisdom in her Counsels, Rule and Testament.

Celebrate with the Ursulines of Toledo who continue to witness to the vision of Angela Merici and the work of the Sacred Heart in the lives of others!



Ursuline Sisters' June 2019 Assembly

The Ursuline Sisters gathered for their annual Community Assembly June 13-14, 2019. The first afternoon included reports and updates on Finance, Investments, St. Ursula Academy, the Ursuline Center, and the Legacy/Archives Committee. The Legacy Committee which began in the summer of 2014 has addressed its assigned issues to the degree possible, and has been dissolved. There will be further discussion regarding the needs of the Archives and projects to address them.

On the second day, the Sisters were engaged in a reflective process of looking to the years ahead and how



best to move forward. Times of prayer throughout the day included meaningful, meditative videos, music, scripture, and other readings that focused on fulfillment and new ways to live community.

Contemplative listening provided opportunities to share thoughts and feelings. Respectful dialogue and conversation brought to light the importance of sharing stories, memories and accomplishments of the Community. The Sisters were invited to moments of silence whenever the moment called for quiet, personal prayer and thanksgiving for all that has been, is, and will be, as the journey of life continues with God's grace and blessings.

Ursulines Converge at North American Ursuline Convocation

Three Toledo Ursuline Sisters and three Associates joined nearly 200 others at the 10th Annual North American Ursuline Convocation, July 25 – 28, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Convocation – ***“Angela’s Family: Celebrating, Converging, Expanding,”*** provided an opportunity for Ursuline Sisters, Associates, faculty, staff, board members, students and friends of the Ursuline schools to listen and learn more about St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline Sisters.

Sister Claudia Holtz, who attended the Convocation, reflects:

“Congratulations are due to the team who, under Sr. Carol Reamer’s leadership, took on the task of putting this Convocation together. The approximately 180 Sisters and Associates who gathered in St. Louis could not have been more enthusiastic. It was such a joy to see the many groups of Sisters and laity so eager to share and to learn of the many ways Angela’s charism is being played out today in so many different ministries, in the many Ursuline Academies, all throughout the United States and other countries.

“Sister Teresa Maya, the keynote speaker, is a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. If one had not known this, one might well have believed that Sr. Teresa was an Ursuline. She presented so beautifully and thoroughly on the life and works of St. Angela. Her presentation touched on the conditions in our church and in our world as very similar to the time in which Angela ministered and formed her followers to do likewise in keeping with their own gifts and circumstances.

“There were three periods of four breakout sessions, each providing four different topics of interest from which attendees could choose. All were well-attended. Our own Associate Barb Torio’s session, titled ‘Spirituality for Persons

with Alzheimer’s and Other Related Diseases,’ was so well received that there were invitations that she would be invited to other Ursuline communities to present for their Sisters.

“There were many opportunities for people to mix and share during these presentations and meal times, as meals were included in the hotel registration. It was truly a happy, heart-warming and inspiring opportunity to meet and greet so many Ursulines and Ursuline Associates and to rejoice in the fact that Angela is truly in our midst today, touching hearts and spreading the love of God, inspiring loving care for our neighbor and our environment.”

Sister Teresa said that Angela was needed today because of our broken and isolated world. She spoke of charism as a gift to the Church that continues to be unfolding and asked how do we maintain Angela’s family charism in the present? Charism is about spirituality, community, mystery, and future. For table conversation one question was ‘What critical need is Angela’s Family called to respond to today?’ This paragraph was taken from her presentation outline.



Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI, former President of the Leadership Council for Women Religious (LCWR) and keynote speaker, chats with Sister Carol Reamer prior to the opening Convocation session.



"Journeys of the Heart" Worldwide Travel of Sisters and Associates

Sister Sandy Sherman and Sister Maria Goretti VanAusdale - Ireland

A year ago this past July, Sister Maria VanAusdale and I journeyed to Ireland to pay honor to her ancestors. While my other trips out of the country have always been arranged by a professional tourist company or a particular program, I took on the challenge of planning this one on my own, taking advantage of my connections. Along the way we stayed at Mercy International Centre in Dublin, The Golden Rose B&B at Knock, the cousin of a friend from the YMCA, and the Ursuline Sisters in Sligo. Our hostesses were more than gracious, as were all the people we encountered.

If I had to choose one memory from each leg of our journey, I would start with William, the 95-year-old retired Presbyterian pastor in the fishing village of Howth, who invited us in for a cold fruit drink and wanted to know what brand of Sisters we were. Next, I would choose the pause in Maria's posture in the cemetery in Corofin, as she reverently stepped into the ruins of the church in which her ancestors were baptized. Third among our travels, I would select the mosaic of the apparition at Knock, designed in Ireland and produced in Italy. The largest mosaic in Europe, it took 2 years to make, and 8 months to piece together the 300 sections. I cannot express enough gratitude for the sisterly hospitality of our Ursuline Sisters in Sligo

who took us to many places. The most lasting of these is the Holy Well, an ancient Celtic site of worship and a place of safe harbor in the woods for the Christians during the years they were persecuted. It is now a popular place of pilgrimage. Lastly, on our final day, we walked another kind of sacred ground at Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin where 16 men who stood up for their freedom from the British on the Easter Sunday Rising were executed. Among them was Joseph Plunkett, an ancestor of my brother-in-law. His wife, Grace, whom he married in prison and with whom he was given 15 minutes, painted on the wall of her cell an image of the Madonna and Child, visible from the peephole in the door. The entire trip was a personal pilgrimage which perfectly fit the journey of our hearts. ~ submitted by Sister Sandy Sherman



Sister Maria Goretti VanAusdale (left) and Sister Sandy Sherman (right) pose with a statue of Catherine McAuley at the Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland.



Sister Maria Goretti VanAusdale enters the ruins of the Ancestral Church in Corofin.

Sister Nancy Mathias - Greece

Last June 30, 2018 I retired from the Diocese of Toledo after 33 years of service. At that time Sister Sandra Sherman, our superior, offered me time away in a sabbatical program or travel. There was a pilgrimage “In the Footsteps of St. Paul” set for October in Greece. Since St. Paul is one of my favorite saints I opted for the trip.

This pilgrimage was a wonderful spiritual experience for me. My twenty-some companions were thoroughly Catholic people. The couples were married from 30 years to 50 years. Their love and appreciation for one another was palpable and inspiring.

We had Mass every day usually in a local church. Reverend Monsignor William Kubacki was the celebrant. Each day after we boarded our bus we prayed morning prayer together.

We flew to Thessaloniki, Greece. From there we drove by bus to Philippi where St. Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe. Here Lydia converted to Christianity and was baptized by Paul. We had Mass by the stream where he baptized Lydia.

The famous Cenobitic Monasteries at Meteores were next on our itinerary. The monasteries were established in the 11th century by some of the first hermits.

We visited Ephesus where Paul preached and where Mother Mary lived with St. John after the death of Christ. At Patmos we visited the cave where St. John received the Book of Revelation. On such holy ground we were walking.

Corinth was a favorite place for me. We had Mass outside in the archaeological site of the ancient ruins of Corinth where St. Paul preached. It was a beautiful warm day with a gentle breeze and I truly felt the presence of St. Paul with us.

I have just given you a few highlights of our pilgrimage. The graces that were given are still being revealed to me. Never will I read the letters of Paul to the Corinthians, Ephesians, etc. in the same way. Paul was filled with zeal for Jesus. He traveled miles and miles to carry the message to all. May I be as zealous in bringing Jesus to others.

~ submitted by Sister Nancy Mathias



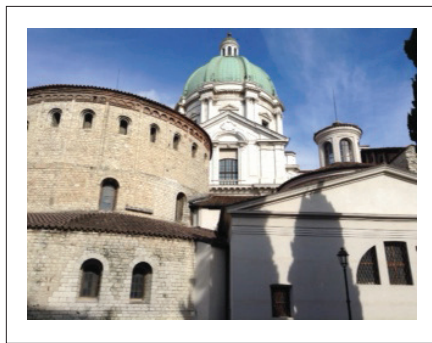
Sr. Nancy Mathias' pilgrimage included a visit to the archaeological site of the ancient ruins of Corinth.

Associate Sarah Abts - Europe and Great Britain

When people ask about our four month visit to Europe and Great Britain, they usually are hoping for a few sentences. I have a hard time condensing our varied experiences over that much water, turf, and time into a few words or sentences, other than just saying, “It was good!” When the Toledo Ursulines kindly hosted a two-hour presentation on March 31, I still had to work hard at editing. I settled on focusing on how Angela's attachment to being a pilgrim related to our journey from Scotland to Portugal, our walk along the Camino de Santiago, and our continued encounters with markers for pilgrims and medieval

communities of lay Catholic women as we traveled through France, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Angela was not the only woman to hunger for a respectable life dedicated to Jesus, but not tied to a husband or convent. Thus, my husband and I got many history lessons as we traveled, and I learned even more preparing the Power Point as I compared St. Angela Merici to Martin Luther and St. Charles Borromeo, and her Company of Ursulines to the many Beguinages. We now take for granted opportunities to live independently that were often denied deeply religious women of previous years. Our current challenge is building a meaningful community out of women and men whose lives are filled with a wide variety of worship and service commitments. We trust Angela's prayers are still with us as we follow her desire to reconcile, nurture, and offer hospitality as Jesus would. ~ submitted by Associate Sarah Abts



This is a photo that Sarah Abts took of the old and new cathedrals in Brescia, Italy; St. Angela prayed in the old cathedral.

Welcome New Associates



The Ursuline Sisters and Associates have welcomed six 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.

Elaine Heyne is a native Toledoan. Elaine graduated from St. Stanislaus grade school and Central Catholic High School in Toledo. She met her husband, Rick, at the University of Toledo. They have been married for 53 years and have three children and three grandchildren of whom they are very proud. Elaine's love for the Ursulines began while working as a registered nurse at the Ursuline Center. Elaine is committed to carrying on the spirit of St. Angela as an Associate. She was mentored by Sister Joy Gray.

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates welcomed **Leonard and Judy Polcyn** to the Associate program on April 28, 2019. Leonard Polcyn attended St. Hyacinth elementary school and went on to be a member of the first freshman class at St. Francis de Sales. He is a veteran of the Marine Corps, as well as a retired Toledo Police Officer. Leonard and his wife, Judy, have three children, Andy, Brigitte, and Tim, as well as two grandsons, Avery and Noah. Leonard's favorite activities are spending time with their two grandsons and visiting railroad museums that have a collection of large locomotives, especially steam.

Judy's education consisted of St. Hyacinth Elementary School (OSF/S), Central Catholic High School, and Mary Manse College. Her interests include spending time with their grandsons, reading, and traveling. She met, taught with, and became friends with a great number of sisters, especially Sisters Bernarda, Claudia and Margaret Manion. After retiring from teaching, Judy started attending Mass at the Ursuline Center. That's when she observed how caring, compassionate, and friendly the Ursulines are to everyone – residents and strangers alike. So when Sister Bernarda approached Judy and Leonard asking if they would be interested in becoming associates, they told her they'd think about it. One year later they said YES.

Associate Nanci Riddle mentored the Polcyns.

Joan Pauline LaVoy Cousino attended St. Joseph's Elementary School, graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1943, and graduated magna cum laude from Mary Manse College in 1963.

Joan married Wesley O. Cousino on November 9, 1946 in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Erie. Their family consisted of Marilee Joan, Matthew James, Maria Josette, Marcia Jane, and guardianship of Calvin Roger Lane. The family enjoyed camping, especially at Interlochen, and enjoyed traveling in general.

After college, Joan subbed in the Toledo Public Schools, taught music at St. Anthony's and St. Joseph Schools, and gave private piano lessons for 46 years. She was an organist at St. Joseph's in Erie and St. Michael's in Toledo, and spent 16 years as organist for the former St. Agnes Parish in Toledo.

Joan was a member of the Mary Manse Alumni and Kappa Gamma Pi. She was secretary and editor of the Kappa newsletter for many years. Joan volunteered at Heartbeat



Sister Sandy Sherman, left,
Sister Joy Gray and Associate
Elaine Heyne



Associates Leonard and Judy Polcyn



Associates Sarah Abts, Barb Torio, Joan Cousino,
Sister Carol Reamer, and Associate Nanci Riddle

of Toledo for 42 years, and also held memberships in the Toledo Piano Teacher's Association.

A lifelong parishioner of St. Joseph's, Joan was secretary for many years of the Altar Society, a lector, Adoration Team Leader, and Religious Ed teacher.

Joan was mentored by Associate Pat Bercher.

Jerry and Berta Folmar were mentored by Associate Ethel Hodnicki.

It was while visiting Ethel's husband Dan Hodnicki while he was a resident at the Ursuline Center that the Folmars gained a greater appreciation for the Ursulines and became interested in becoming Associates. "We saw the amazing care that Dan received," Berta says. "Ethel introduced us to the Sisters and we spent a year thinking about becoming Associates. We have

thoroughly enjoyed everyone we've met. Everyone is kind, friendly, open, and just wonderful."

Jerry and Berta reside in Sylvania, Ohio and are parishioners at St. Clement Parish. The couple are "snowbirds" and go to Florida for six months at a time. When in Ohio, they plan to visit and join the Ursuline Sisters and Associates often in our activities. Welcome to all of our new Associates!



Associates Jerry and Berta Folmar with Ethel Hodnicki

65-Year Jubilarians Share Joys and Blessings



Sister Beth Hemminger

On September 13, 1934 a little girl was welcomed into the world by proud parents who named her Beth. These parents provided her with spiritual and natural guidance and a loving family of one sister and two brothers. She learned to love God and appreciate nature. God guided her to become an Ursuline Sister, taking the name

Sister Mary Alma. Along with all of the other changes of Vatican II she again became Beth. All along the way she felt God's guidance. With this guidance came a sense of peace, doing what God desired for her and those she influenced, whether in a classroom, office or ministering in a parish. In retirement, God is still guiding in prayer, volunteering and being present to others. My life has been full and rich in friendships, especially with God. The girl named Beth is proud to be God's friend and an Ursuline Sister.

What has religious life meant to me these 65 years?

As I look back over these years it seems there has been much learning and teaching. When I was a young child in grade school, I recall wanting to be a teacher and serving God in some special way. Becoming an Ursuline was a great way of combining those dreams.

My dream of teaching was fulfilled in teaching in elementary school as well as in many catechism and RCIA classes. These were great years in sharing my knowledge and learning so much from the students.

Along the way there have been many teachers to enrich my life. I've learned so much from my sisters in religious life. Being able to travel to Angela's homeland, I learned more about her life and how she educated the women of her time. My time in Montana with the "Angela Experience" was another way of enriching my knowledge of Ursuline life.

Most of all my spiritual life has been enriched – by prayer, retreats, reading, conferences, Eucharistic liturgy, sharing faith with others, by living in community life.

For all these ways through the 65 years I say Soli Deo Gloria!



Sister Regina Smith

I have called you by name. You are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

In Loving Memory



Sister Gertrude Marie Conroy, OSU

Sister Gertrude Marie Conroy, 94, died at Ursuline Center on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

Sister Gertrude Marie entered the Ursuline Convent in 1945 and made her final profession of vows in 1950. She received a bachelor's degree in Education and another in Music at Mary Manse College. She did further graduate studies in Music at the University of Michigan.

Sister Gertrude Marie's teaching career began in Toledo at St. Thomas Aquinas school. She also taught at St. Francis de Sales elementary school, Good Shepherd, St. Charles, St. Agnes, St. Teresa, and St. Angela Hall. In addition, she taught at St. Gerard, Lima and St. Joseph, Tiffin. Sister Gertrude Marie served as principal at Nazareth Hall, Grand Rapids, Ohio. From 1974 until 1990, she taught music at St. Ursula Academy. She left the teaching profession and became the Director of Food Service at St. Ursula Academy Convent for nine years. Sister Gertrude Marie volunteered her services at St. Joseph, Sylvania and at Rosary Cathedral, always keeping her interest in liturgical music. She was a singing member of numerous choirs and choruses during the years, including the Ben Locke Chorale, Toledo Symphony Chorale, David Carter Chorus, Messiah Chorus (under the direction of Sam Szor), Lourdes College Chorus, University of Toledo Summer Sings, University of Toledo Community Chorus, St. Joseph Sylvania Parish Choir, the Diocesan Choir, the Rosary Cathedral Choir, and was a cantor many times for the Ursuline Sisters' Liturgical Events.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8




Sister Mary Lou DeBauche, OSU

Sister Mary Lou DeBauche, 74, died Thursday, July 18, 2019 at ProMedica Ebeid Hospice Residence.

Born and raised in East Toledo, the family was active in the former St. Louis Catholic Church. Sister Mary Lou graduated from St. Louis school, St. Ursula Academy, and completed one year at Aquinas College before entering the Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart in September of 1963. She then earned a Bachelor's degree from Mary Manse College, a Master of Religious Education degree from Seattle University and a Master of Science in Social Administration degree and LICSW (Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker) from Case Western Reserve University before working in counseling.

Sister Mary Lou's teaching career was spent at Rosary Cathedral, St. Agnes, St. Angela Hall, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and St. Thomas Aquinas schools in Toledo. She served as Pastoral Associate at St. Michael's Ridge for six years and then went on to a position of Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Associate at Galion St. Joseph for two years. Sister Mary Lou was employed as a case manager at St. Paul's Community Center for four years. She also was employed by Sandusky Valley Center and then Firelands Regional Medical Center as an Addictions and Mental Health therapist, holding that position for 18 years until retiring in 2009. A champion for social justice and those with addictions, Sister Mary Lou was a member of various ministry teams that serve the Lucas County Jail, the Toledo Correctional Institution, the Toledo Correctional Treatment Facility, and prisons in Lima, Mansfield and Madison County, Ohio until her health would no longer permit her to do so.

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, 2018 through August 2, 2019. 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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the deceased who remembered the
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Estate of Raymond Arnold**

**ESTATE OF REV. WILLIAM C. PARKER
Estate of Reverend William C. Parker**

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Ruth Mary (Cookie)
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Remembering Mary Manse College

WGTE Toledo Stories broadcasted “Remembering Mary Manse College” on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 8 p.m. At the premiere showing on March 10, 2019, members of the Mary Manse College Board, the Ursuline Community, faculty, alums, and friends of Mary Manse College gathered to celebrate and remember. Great stories and memories were shared with fondness.

The college was founded by the Ursuline Sisters at the request of then Bishop of Toledo, Samuel Stritch in 1922, as a liberal arts college for women. The school began with 30 students and in 1926 was recognized by the State of Ohio as a degree-granting institution. Accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools was received in 1933. The school operated as a women’s college until 1971 when it became coeducational. Although the college closed in 1975 the spirit and memories live on in the hearts of the alumni.

Look for “Remembering Mary Manse College” in future WGTE Toledo Stories. Check WGTE’s calendar/schedule.

DVD’s are available – To order a DVD of “Remembering Mary Manse College,” contact Cathy Kamenca at cathy_kamenca@wgte.org or call 419-380-4613. DVDs ordered through the station are \$20 if picking up in person, or \$24 if mailed.



Artwork by Kathy Palmer Gensman, MMC '63