



URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE

Historical Timeline

1535

Angela Merici founds Company of Saint Ursula in Brescia, Italy.

1691

Ursuline Convent in Straubing, Bavaria opens.

Oct. 31, 1858

The Ursulines of the Immaculate Conception of Louisville, Kentucky, were founded as an independent monastery from the Ursuline Motherhouse in Straubing, Bavaria. Bishop Martin J. Spalding of Louisville sent Father Leander Streber, OFM, pastor of St. Martin Church, to Bavaria to seek sisters to teach German children in his parish and other parishes in the diocese. Three Ursuline Sisters— Mother Salesia Reitmeier, Mother Mary Pia Schoenhofer and Sister Mary Maximilian Zwinger— arrive in Louisville, Kentucky from Straubing, Bavaria. The sisters immediately begin teaching at St. Martin School at Shelby and Gray Streets.

1859

Sisters open Ursuline Academy, a school for girls (closed in 1972).

1861

Sisters begin teaching at other parish schools in Louisville.

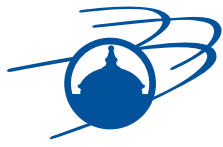
1864

Ursuline Sisters receive "incorporation in perpetuity" as Ursuline Society and Academy of Education from the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

June 25, 1868

Mother Salesia Reitmeier, the founder and first superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, dies at age 36.





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1868

Sisters begin staffing schools in Indiana.

1870

Sisters begin staffing schools in Western Maryland.

1874

Five sisters answer request to staff Mount St. Joseph Academy in Daviess County, Kentucky.



1877

Sacred Heart Academy opens on Workhouse Road (now Lexington Road).

1895

Thirteen sisters establish an independent Ursuline Foundation in Paola, Kansas.

1912

Sisters in Daviess County become an independent congregation; known as the Mount St. Joseph Ursulines.

1915

Sisters begin staffing schools in Ohio and West Virginia.

1916

Sisters begin staffing schools in Western Nebraska.

1917

Dedication of new Motherhouse on Cherokee Drive (now Lexington Road).

1918-1919

Ursuline sisters join other women religious taking care of the soldiers at Camp Taylor, Louisville, during the flu epidemic.





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1921

Sacred Heart Junior College opens on Lexington Road (later becomes Ursuline College.)

1937

On the Lexington Road campus, sisters house refugees from the Great Flood of the Ohio River.

1938

Ursuline Sisters of Columbia, South Carolina, join the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. Sacred Heart Junior College expands to a four-year college for women; renamed Ursuline College.

Sisters welcome two Sisters from the founding house in Straubing, Germany -Sisters Caecilia Staemmer and Seraphina Winkler who found it necessary to leave Germany during World War II when the Nazi army took over the convent. They remained until the late 1940s.

1946

Sisters begin staffing schools in Camden and Jackson, Mississippi.

1947

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville are teaching 9,705 pupils in grade schools, 1,349 in high schools, 273 in college, and sponsoring 19 vacation programs, 15 weekly religions classes for children who attend public schools and caring for 140 orphaned children.



1956

Ursuline Speech Clinic opens (closed in 1996).

1958

Ursuline Sisters of Pittsburgh join Ursuline Sisters of Louisville.

1959

Angela Merici High School for girls opens in southwest Louisville (closed in 1984).



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1962

Ground is broken for a new building for Sacred Heart Academy on four additional acres adjoining the east end of the campus.

1963

Coordination of calendars, classes, and other activities begins between Ursuline and Bellarmine Colleges.



1964

First Louisville Ursuline missionaries arrive in Peru, South America.

1967

Ursuline Montessori Pre-School opens.

1968

Ursuline College and Bellarmine College (now university) merge.

1968-1969

Sisters hold Special General Chapters (meetings) to respond to the call of Vatican Council II to congregations of women and men to “renew and adapt to the needs of the times.”

1970

Ursuline School of Music and Drama opens.

1972

Ursuline Academy, Louisville, closes.



1976

On January 11 a fire in the Motherhouse sharply disrupted the lives of the Sisters and led to changes in the methods and place of caring for the infirm sisters.

1977

Marian Home opens (closed in 2010).

Historical Timeline



Together in Spirit and Ideals

1980

Associate Call Program established.

1981

Ursuline Academy Pittsburgh closes.

1983

Sisters mark the 125th anniversary of the arriving in Louisville with a year of “Pilgrimage Within the Kingdom” to celebrate with folks at sites throughout the USA and Peru where Ursulines had served or were serving.

1984

Angela Merici High School and Bishop David High School consolidate to become Holy Cross High School.

1986

Ursuline Child Development Center opens.

1990

Ursuline Sisters enter into sponsorship of the five units on the Ursuline Campus which are separately incorporated as Ursuline Campus Schools (now Sacred Heart Schools).

1997

Angela Merici Center for Spirituality opens.

2008

Sisters and those affected by/influenced by Ursuline celebrate 150 years of the presence and ministry of the Ursulines of Louisville.

2010

Marian Home is closed.

Present

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville continue their ministries in education, healthcare, parish and pastoral services, prayer, spirituality, social services and social justice, both as staff and volunteers, in 4 states and in Peru.

