

Continuing the Legacy of Spirituality and Service

A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE • SPRING 2018



Ursuline Sisters Thrive in Active Ministry

CELEBRATING THE 160th Conniversary

of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

#### **SPRING 2018**

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### A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE

From the Leadership Circle 4-6 Jubilarian Sister Lelia Kirchner 7-8 Jubilarian Sister Jean Anne Zappa 9-10 Sister Mary Jo Gramig, Parish Ministry 11 Associate Community in Ministry 12-13 Chapel Centennial in Review 14 Sister News: Our 160th Anniversary 15 Sister News: Creating Alternate Spaces and Embracing Our Future with Hope National Catholic Sisters Week 16 17 The Gift of Ministry in the Peru Community 18-19 UA Pittsburgh Grad Connected to Ursulines since Childhood 20-21 AMC for Spirituality: What Can I Do? 22 In Memoriam 23 2018 Angeline Award Nomination Form 24 Sister Janet Marie Peterworth Honored by Sacred Heart Academy



### **Our Mission**

Teaching Christian living is the corporate mission of the Ursuline Sisters. This ministry, cutting across socio-economic, racial and national boundaries, assists women, men and children to live more fully and to develop a personal relationship with God.

### ON THE COVER:

Sister Mary Jo Gramig visits with the Pre-K CCD class at Saint Frances of Rome Parish in Louisville, where she serves as Director of Family Religious Formation.

## On ministry...

Jesus had a ministry and so do you. You may think that the word ministry is reserved for "holy" people and that you simply have work to do, or a job, or a volunteer role, but not necessarily a ministry. Yet, we are called in our Christian life to serve others and that is, in a word, ministry.

Ministry and service are not reserved for the few or for the most perfect people. Ministry and service do not always get the headlines and media coverage, most often being done quietly and behind the scenes. Ministry and service to others are open to everyone, even those of us who are not able to get around much.

Service to others takes many creative forms. In this issue and our summer issue, you will read about the ministry of several

Ministry and service are not reserved for the few or for the most perfect people. of our Ursuline Sisters, including our Sisters in Peru, whose service is as varied and unique as the needs and their gifts. Our co-workers' ministry is to help us, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, fulfill our mission.

Our Associates follow in the footsteps of Saint Angela, as they consider the needs of others and how to respond. And our Angela Merici

Center for Spirituality is continually seeking ways to help its participants find their gifts and follow the Gospel call to help others where and when they can.

Jesus taught His followers and the crowds who gathered to hear Him. He healed the sick. He invited people to live the Good News and share what they had with the poor. How are we called to use our individual gifts and talents to serve others no matter our abilities and situation? Jesus had a ministry and so do you.

ministry and so do job, or a volunteer role, but not



Dister Carres Cany Osu

Sister Agnes Coveney, OSU Vice President, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville



# 2018 Jubilarians



**CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF MINISTRY** 

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

# Sister Lelia Kirchner (Mary Placidus), 70 years



Sister Lee Kirchner, center, leads Latina women in a spiritual exercise at Centro Latino in Shelbyville, Kentucky, where she currently ministers.

Sister Lelia Marie Kirchner (Sister Mary Placidus) celebrates her 70th Jubilee this year. She was born on June 13, 1929, the eighth of thirteen children born to Mary and John Kirchner, who raised the family on a farm in Lyndon, Kentucky. After the Great Depression and 1937 flood, the family had to give up the farm and move into the city, where they joined St. Joseph Parish.

Sister Lee (as she is called), recalls, "I missed the green, open countryside and spacious home on the farm, but I really loved being able to participate in school and church activities, which were not possible before, due to the distance."

According to Sister Lee, "My parents were strong Catholics and my mother's faith was like that of our Blessed Mother...firm, warm and full of wisdom and patience. Our family of 15 really had to sacrifice a good deal to move into a small six room house in the city, but we managed to fit around our large dining room table to share delicious home cooked meals every day."

She recalls other benefits to living in the city... "running water, electricity, an indoor bathroom with a tub and an icebox outside the kitchen. But we were poor. The times were hard. Six of us who were in grade school sat around our kitchen

table in the evenings to do our homework. We each had one pencil and shared an eraser! Our lunches for school were often jelly bread, or a mayonnaise and lettuce sandwich. All in all, we survived and loved and protected each other religiously."

Sister Lee played softball, participated in choir, was a bingo worker and Red Cross volunteer. Several of the Sisters from St. Joseph's encouraged her to go to Ursuline Academy (UA) in Louisville for high school. Her mother also supported her desire to go there even though financially it would be difficult. With money tight, Sister Lee babysat and worked as a soda jerk to pay for bus fare. Sister Lee says, "I truly loved UA and had several

### **Q&A** with Sr. Lee

If you did not become a Sister, what would you have become? Only God knows!

U of L or U of K? I enjoy following both teams, win or lose.



### Hobbies:

I play cards, work jigsaw puzzles, listen to my favorite music and go to the horse races with my brother.

### **Favorite Movie:**

For Whom the Bell Tolls

### Favorite book:

The Little Prince

close classmates who desired to be a religious and do something great for God...even joining the convent." Two of her most influential spiritual mentors at UA were Sister Antonia Wagner and Sister Immaculata (Dolores Hellmann) who still continues with Sister Lee on her spiritual journey.

Sister Lee entered the Ursuline Community joyously after high school graduation and received the name Sister Mary Placidus on July 4, 1948. What surprised her as a novice was the way each Sister had her own sheets, towel, and silverware because she came from a family where they slept three to a bed and everything was shared. To her, this seemed almost luxurious!

Sister Lee remembers that the novitiate was another world—so different, and at times quite difficult, but she says that there were many wonderful moments: different forms of praying, especially The Office in Latin, reflecting on bible passages, singing and enjoying new friends. She laughs as she recalls that, "One of my monthly mea culpa items I had to confess before the whole community was for breaking silence. For a while I kept my same list ready for that monthly session!" Sister Lee made it to her first profession day, receiving her black veil on July 5, 1950 and says, "What a joyful moment! Now I was going back into the world again!"

Sister Lee taught at St. George and St. Raphael schools in Louisville while attending Ursuline College. Immediately following her final profession, she took a train to Cumberland, Maryland and taught second grade for five years at Saints Peter and Paul Parish School. She loved the community there. Always a sports lover, she tells the story that she and another Sister hung back

after evening Mass to watch the Harlem Globetrotters from an upper window in the school gym, for which they did not have permission from their superior. She had to kneel on the carpet in front of the superior as punishment, but she said it was worth it to see the Globetrotters!

From Cumberland, Sister Lee then returned to Louisville to teach at St. Raphael and St. Helen parish schools for a total of thirteen years. While she enjoyed teaching and loved her students, she always carried in her

I felt so zealous until I saw our mission, Carmen de la Legua, which was a slum area of 30,000 poor families that lived along a dried-up bed of the Rimac River in straw huts and spoke another language. Oh my Jesus, guide and keep me. 99

heart a love for ministry with the poor and marginalized.

In 1963, Pope John XXIII asked religious communities to send 10% of their members to serve in Latin America. For several years, the Ursulines had sent out a questionnaire to the members asking if they would be interested in missionary work. Every year, Sister Lee would mark "yes".

Sister Lee says that in 1964 she was "surprised, overjoyed and at the same time almost in a daze as I received by phone my obedience to go to Lima, Peru, with three other sisters to begin a mission there." Sister Lee and Sister (Joseph Marie) Mary Martha Staarman were told that they were starting a school from scratch in what was a slum area, Carmen de la Legua. The other two Sisters would teach English at a Navy school. Neither Sister knew Spanish or the culture. She had some concerns, but deep in her heart she was very excited—this is what she had wanted all along! Sister Lee felt she was living like a queen in the U.S., and what she truly wanted was to be with the people that were living as "the other." So, off she went on July 8, 1964, for the biggest adventure of her life.

After a three month crash course in Spanish (over time they became fluent in Spanish), Sister Lee and Sister Mary Martha set about their monumental task. Sister Lee recalls, "I felt so zealous until I saw our mission, Carmen de la Legua, which was a slum area of 30,000 poor families that lived along a dried-up bed of the Rimac River in straw huts and spoke another language. Oh my Jesus, guide and keep me." They had no electricity, running water, sewers, basic medical care or transportation. The area had a lot of mosquitos, scorpions and vermin, and disease was rampant.

In 1965, after a lot of red tape, they were able to open St. Angela Merici School. They started it with 75 children in two first grade rooms, one box of chalk and two erasers! Enrollment quickly grew as it was the only Catholic school in the area.

Sister Lee was with St. Angela Merici School from 1964 to 1988, including ten years as principal. Through her pastoral ministry she empowered Peruvians to take over leadership positions in the school, in women's family programs and in youth/young adult groups. Sister cherishes the support they had from other missionaries, and especially from Sisters Joanna Krupa and Martin de Porres who became her soul mates.

Sister Lee embraced Vatican II's views on Gospel values, particularly the preferential option for the poor, all while witnessing first-hand the struggles of her Peruvian friends. These experiences helped lead Sister Lee to a deeper trust in Jesus, and the courage to face all of the isolation and difficulties she faced while ministering in South America, including twelve years of revolution.

In 1988, Sister Lee moved to the rural mission of San Miguel in the Andes Mountains of Cajamarca, Peru, where she worked in pastoral



Sister Lee on horseback, chats with her friend Zaragoza in the mountains of Peru.

faith-filled, happy people I know and love. In Peru I began to realize what my call as a religious really was."

In 2005, Sister Lee returned to the states, where she continues in ministry. She and Sister Annunciata

Sister Lee's personal symbol is a yellow butterfly, Sofia, for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. What an appropriate symbol for a young girl who missed the outdoor life of her family farm, and then as a Ursuline



Sister Lee's personal symbol is a yellow butterfly, Sofia, for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. What an appropriate symbol for a young girl who missed the outdoor life of her family farm, and then as a Ursuline missionary no doubt saw many yellow butterflies in the mountains of Peru, when riding on horseback to carry the Blessed Sacrament to a village or minister to a sick child. The butterflies must have seemed to her to be messengers from Heaven.

ministry until 2005. Sister Lee says, "What a blessing it was to return to my country roots, and to be among humble, gifted, faithful people who lived contemplatively. Our sisters were the first religious group to ever share our lives with them and acknowledge their many gifts as leaders in the church and villages.

Sister Lee says that from 1964-2005, "I spent the most unbelievable, difficult, happy and rewarding years of my life. Forty-one years of every kind of experience enriched my spiritual journey of serving and sharing God among some of the poorest, unattended, struggling,

Muth serve at United Crescent Hill Ministries in Louisville, preparing meals on wheels and serving senior citizens who eat lunch there.

Sister Lee also volunteers with Centro Latino in Shelbyville, Kentucky. Centro Latino is a nonprofit organization that serves Latinos in five counties with legal assistance, donations of food, clothing and educational services. She helps coordinate their free clothes closet and leads 30 Latina women each month in prayers, reflections, sharing, and exercises that help to relieve stress and concerns of daily living.

missionary no doubt saw many yellow butterflies in the mountains of Peru, when riding on horseback to carry the Blessed Sacrament to a village or minister to a sick child. The butterflies must have seemed to her to be messengers from Heaven.

In closing, Sister Lee says, "My final thoughts are so full of love, gratitude, pardon and promises. I thank God for His faithfulness to me in my times of light and darkness. My family, friends, benefactors, Associates, and especially my Ursuline Sisters are the most precious gift I can appreciate, share and enjoy."

# Sister Jean Anne Zappa, 50 years

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

Much like a team that has just won the Super Bowl, when asked what she wants to do if she ever retires, Sister Jean Anne Zappa answers, "Go to Disney World!" In fact, when she turned 65 in 2015, she participated in the Disney Princess 10k at the Magic Kingdom. "Some folks get depressed about age; I want to celebrate it," says Sister Jean Anne. She appreciates the Disney mindset. "I went there for a leadership workshop about six years ago," she recalled. "Their mission is simple keep people happy and safe."

year. She is a self-described "Italian extrovert" who freely gives hugs and has a warm smile for everyone she meets, bestowing on each person the gift of feeling loved and appreciated.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Sister Jean Anne grew up in a large Catholic Italian family with five children. She lived only eight blocks from Ursuline Academy, from which she graduated in 1967. She credits the Ursuline Sisters there with her decision to join the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. She said they inspired her not so much by what

66 I have been blessed and have received many graces as an Ursuline Sister. I have experienced God's fidelity, wonderful relationships, and have had spiritual opportunities that have touched and shaped my life tremendously. ??

When you spend a little time with Sister Jean Anne, you begin to understand why this makes perfect sense for this Ursuline Sister who is celebrating her 50th Jubilee this

### Sr. Jean Anne O&A



If you did not become a Sister, what would you have become? A politician

U of L or U of K? Steelers

### **Hobbies:**

Watching football and political shows, walking, outdoor work, woodworking

### Favorite Movie:

Les Miserables-because it's a movie about conversion and reconciliation

they did, but how they did it. She also gives a lot of credit to her family who nurtured her call to religious life. She says her family lived hospitality, generosity and service through their actions. Her first call came from God, through them, from their example of love.

When asked what she is passionate about, Sister Jean Anne answers, "Life! Relationships and people." Her ministry through the years has been evidence of this, as well as her enthusiasm, joy and energy. She entered the Ursuline community in 1967, during a period of great change in the Catholic Church and in the Ursuline community as a result of Vatican II. Religious communities were told to renew themselves, to go deep into their charism.

### Sr. Jean Anne reflects:

### Her understanding of religious life:

"Before Vatican II, we emphasized hierarchy more: first priests, then Sisters and lay people. I believe in a circle. We are



all in this together. We are all called by our baptism to serve and to see how we can best use our gifts to build up the Kingdom of God."

### On vocation and ministry:

"This life is special, but so is married life. To see parents raising children, if that's not special, then I don't know what is! Lay ministry is a special call as well. It's what we bring to our call, and how we live it out in relationship with Christ and others."

### On Saint Angela and sisterhood:

"Saint Angela said ministry ought not to be a burden, so it is not about what we do, it is about enthusiasm for life and relationships. One of the gifts of religious life is community. It's a sisterhood, that deep abiding love for each other and support for one another. And we may disagree, but we do come together. We may have different Christologies, we may not all see God the same way, but there is a bond there that is unbreakable, and is hard to describe. This bond is very deep. Even when things get tense, we still are committed to each other."

One of Sister Jean Anne's favorite quotes of Saint Angela is: "Be united in one heart and one will." Saint Angela didn't say, "Be of one mind," because as Sister Jean Anne says, "We are all different, she meant be of one heart."

### **OUR JUBILARIANS**



Sister Jean Anne after finishing the Disney Princess 10k in 2015.

Sister Jean Anne recalls, "It was an exciting time—there was a buzz around the community." As a novice, she was asked to step in to be the chair of the vow committee when the chairperson got sick, and that was so exciting to her. Sister said that is a perfect example of how her ministry changed over the years; always by invitation from others. The Ursuline Sisters did this by drawing out her gifts, and she states that, "I have been blessed and have received many graces as an Ursuline Sister. I have experienced God's fidelity, wonderful relationships, and have had spiritual opportunities that have touched and shaped my life tremendously."

With a bachelor's from Bellarmine and a master's from St. Meinrad School of Theology, Sister Jean Anne taught for twenty years, starting at Angela Merici High School in 1972 and then Sacred Heart Academy in 1978, both in Louisville, and she was also religion department chair at SHA. In 1990, Sister was asked to be the first Director of Mission Effectiveness of the newly incorporated Ursuline Campus Schools. In 1996, she served as a Pastoral Associate at St. Athanasius Parish in Louisville

and at the same time was elected to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Leadership Team as a Councilor, and then in 2002 was elected President. After her leadership term ended, her interest in politics became a reality when she interned at Network in Washington, DC and worked on domestic policy.

Sister Jean Anne has been with Shively Area Ministries (SAM) as Mission Advancement Coordinator since 2009. SAM responds to persons in poverty and crisis in the 40216 zip code in Louisville. It provides food, financial assistance, education and counseling to over 20,000 persons each year. In fact, it is the second largest food pantry in Kentucky.

During her tenure, Sister Jean Anne has played a key role in the success of SAM. She proposed, oversaw and completed a successful threeyear capital campaign for SAM, exceeding the \$600,000 goal, as well as raising an additional \$23,000 to build a Habitat for Humanity house.

She also started a Partner in Ministry program, which began with 40 donors who contribute monthly, but is now up to 200 donors. Sister Jean Anne says, "I love the people we work with, and I love working with the donors, staff and volunteers."

Gary Copeland, the Executive Director of Shively Area Ministries, says, "Sister Jean Anne is well known to be an effective fundraiser because it comes from the heart. She has a passion and a commitment to our clients—what it takes to serve is what she does."

Sister Jean Anne has also been a successful fundraiser for her own community, having most recently served as Chapel Preservation

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> Executive Director of Shively Area Ministries

Coordinator for a 3.5 million dollar capital campaign that ensures the the 100 year-old Motherhouse Chapel will be preserved into perpetuity.

Sister Jean Anne believes that Angela's charism is a very strong



Father Fintin, Angela Lincoln, Sr. Jean Anne and Father Simeon: St. Meinrad's UnStable Pub employees, summer of 1984

charism— to have survived since 1535. She sees the future of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville as evolving into something closer to the way Saint Angela and her original companions lived: freely among the people they serve, to be leaven to all.

Sister believes that the point of religious life is to share the charism with others, spread the gospel and serve the marginalized. Through her many and varied ministries over the years, Sister Jean Anne has definitely done just that.

# Sister Mary Jo Gramig, Parish Ministry

#### BY KATHY WILLIAMS

One of the first things you notice about Sister Mary Jo Gramig is how kind her eyes are. When she looks at you, you feel genuine warmth and love, which radiates deep from within. This is most definitely attributed to her strong faith and prayer life, and her love for the Eucharist. She says that in religious life she has been so blessed, "to always live in a convent where we have the Blessed Sacrament

become a Sister if that was what God wanted! She said she didn't make known to others this calling she felt until she was in high school because she "wanted to fit in," but she kept it in her heart.

Sister Mary Jo says, "As a child while praying to Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament, I felt that God put in my heart the desire to follow His call to religious life. I have great faith in Jesus' true presence in the

with Befrienders hospital ministry once a week, and continues to do so. Sister says this ministry has taught her to be an active listener and is a very grace-filled experience.

Sister Mary Jo was then asked to work at Saint Frances of Rome Parish in Louisville as Director of Family Religious Formation. It is unique among many parish education formation programs in that every parent actively



**66** What I enjoy most about my job is getting to know the families and supporting them as the first and most important teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. 🤧

and where I can go each morning for prayer. God's grace flows out in abundance. Only in and with Him do I find the strength and the joy of the Holy Spirit to live in His love and to love others as He loves us."

At an early age, Sister Mary Jo felt called to a life of prayer and ministry. She grew up in Louisville, and attended Holy Spirit parish and school. Her family members were very faith-filled Catholics. She also had a great-aunt and greatuncle who were religious, so they served as role models for her. The Ursulines who taught her, as well as a close family friend who became an Ursuline, also influenced her. She tells the story of going on a class trip to Bardstown when she was in second grade. She made a wish in a church they visited that she might

Eucharist and His call to come before Him to adore, praise and thank Him for His great love for us

in sending His Son, Jesus to die for us and in sending His Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts."

For many years Sister Mary Jo was a Montessori teacher; she also taught at several Catholic elementary schools in Louisville. She worked at Saint Vincent DePaul for a year and a half, as she felt called to work with the poor. Sister Mary Jo also began volunteering

participates in the CCD classrooms on Sunday mornings. Sister has them start as helpers in the



classroom when their children begin in Pre-K, and they volunteer 3-4 times a semester every year until their children are confirmed. Sister believes that if the parents are learning along with the child, they convey the importance of their faith to the child. The experience has extra meaning because the parent is involved.

She says that she is blessed with so many gifted parents and feels that it is a true partnership with them. "What I enjoy most about my job is getting to know the families and supporting them as the first and most important teachers of their children in the ways of the faith," she says. "We ask for their feedback and suggestions, and that is how we created our once-a-month family gatherings." These take the place of class once a month and the entire family comes together to learn and create a project and do activities. Sister Mary Jo does acknowledge that the smaller numbers in her program make this approach a bit easier; with 6-10 children per classroom it is more manageable than with a larger group that many parish CCD programs have.

Other parish ministries Sister Mary Jo oversees include: preparing parents for baptism of their children, training catechists, sacramental preparation, service opportunities, RCIC, Marriage Enrichment, and a MOMs ministry. She does not do this alone! She is quick to acknowledge help from the staff at Saint Frances of Rome and feels very blessed by them and all of the volunteers.

On a recent Sunday morning at the parish, Sister Mary Jo was in full swing in her role, and glided from one classroom to the next, greeting every student and parent by name,



My favorite quote of St. Angela is from her Rule, Chapter 8: 'Above all, obey the counsels and inspirations which the Holy Spirit continually sends into your heart.' Angela also says in her Last Legacy, 'Always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus.' I pray for the grace of a 'listening heart' to know God's will and to follow His ways, to be attentive to how He is calling me to serve Him in ministry and in my community.

remembering little details from the prior week's conversation.

Sister Mary Jo gave an interactive talk on the Eucharist to the second graders and had supplies at each table for them and their parents to use, to practice with while she spoke. That morning, we ended up in the preschool classroom where she consoled one boy who thought his card that he had made for his mother was not pretty. "You made it, and because you made it, your mother will love it!" Sister told him.

One cannot help but think of Sister's favorite parable when you see her in action in her ministry: "I am the vine and you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing... if you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you." [John 15:5, 7-11]

Sister Mary Jo truly delights in serving others and being an instrument of God's grace.

# Our Ursuline Associates are Active in Ministry

### BY BAY BALTES

Our 200+ Ursuline Associates in North and South America devote themselves to many different ministries. In this issue of the DOME, I wish to spotlight a group of our Associates whose ministry includes advancing the mission of the Ursuline Associate Community.

These Associates serve on the Associate advisory boards and spirituality committees in Louisville; Columbia, South Carolina and Cumberland. Maryland. They perform invaluable work that includes: planning meetings, directing formation for those wishing to become Associates, organizing retreats and potluck dinners, as well as, sharing Angela's charism.

Current board members in Louisville include: Rosetta Fackler, Karen Harris, Barb Mercer, Emily Mosby, Hugh Smith, Ruby Hyde, Eileen Spears, Anne McCollum, Patricia Hagan, Bob Lockhart and Diane Dickman. Sisters Jo Ann Jansing and Rita Dressman are also members of the board. The board meets regularly six times a year and on an ad hoc basis if necessary. While committee work of this type may seem mundane, it is vital to building and supporting the Associate Community.

The Spirituality Committee serves the Louisville Associates by preparing reflections for Small Reflection Group meetings throughout the year. Additionally, it provides tremendous assistance to the Ursuline Associate Office in planning and hosting the annual Associate Retreat in the spring, as well as, the Associate portion of Community Days every July. Current members of the Spirituality Committee include: Patricia Hagan, Eileen Spears, Anne Klapheke, Theresa Butler and Audrey Truax.

The Columbia Associate Community is well served by Associate volunteers Teresa Sowers and Beverly Black Belser who organize their meetings and potlucks. Likewise, the Cumberland Associate Community has a threeperson leadership team comprised of Lois Miltenberger, Joan Bundy and Mary Ann Peer who plan and lead monthly meetings and other regular gatherings for the Cumberland group.

As the Director of the Ursuline Associate Community, I am extremely grateful to these "ministering angels" because the work of the Ursuline Associates could not happen without them!

#### IN MEMORIAM

South Carolina Associate Kathleen F. Guy died December 17, 2017, at age 88. Kathleen was a native of Massachusetts who lived the last 70 years of her life in North Augusta, South Carolina. She was a faithful parishioner of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church where she served as a Eucharistic Minister and on the Bereavement Committee. She also worked for many years as a preschool teacher at Our Lady of Peace School. Kathleen was predeceased by her husband, Edward Guy. She is survived by four children, nine grandchildren, and five greatgrandchildren. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Sister Julienne Guy, OSU.

Louisville Associate Alma Maloney died January 22, 2018, at Nazareth Home Clifton at age 91. Alma was born in Louisville, Kentucky, but lived in Kansas City, Missouri for many years where she worked as an LPN. When she moved back to Louisville, Alma volunteered at the old Marian Home and in a local soup kitchen. She is survived by her four children plus grandchildren, great-grandchildren,

nieces, nephews and friends.

Louisville Associate Vanda Pellegrini died February 14, 2018, at age 90. Vanda was a native Louisvillian and a retired RN. During her nursing career she worked with patients ranging from premature infants to the elderly. In addition to being an Associate, Vanda was a 1945 graduate of Ursuline Academy (Louisville) and a former Ursuline Sister. She is survived by nieces and nephews, as well as Ursuline Sisters and Associates.

### **ASSOCIATE JUBILARIANS**

### 25 Years

Elizabeth Bradley, Louisville Marlene Kramer, Louisville

### 20 Years

Mary Louise Hall, Floyds Knobs, IN

Paula Fangman, Shelbyville, KY Vernetta Gettlefinger, New Albany, IN Marian Lord, Louisville

### 10 Years

Kate Carrico, Louisville Rosetta Fackler, Louisville Jan Farrell, Louisville Colleen Freeman, New Albany, IN Mary Rita Horn, Louisville Ruby Hyde, Louisville Jacqueline Johnson, Louisville Mary Olberz, Louisville Eileen Spears, Louisville

### THE CHARISM

# Chapel Centennial: A Look at Our Year of Celebration



The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception turned 100 in 2017, and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville celebrated in style! At the closing Mass on Friday, December 8, 2017, President Sister Janet Marie Peterworth remarked, "And so we have come to the end of our year-long centennial celebration for this beautiful and sacred space. We have had culturally and musically diverse celebrations here. We have entertained hundreds of guests—meeting old and new friends along the way. And so, this centennial year of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception is officially closed. May it live on, however, in our hearts and memories." It was indeed a wonderful year to remember.



Opening Liturgy with Louisville Chorus and St. Mary's Handbell Choir: Sunday, January 29, 2017



Sacred Heart Academy Madrigals and Harp Ensemble Sunday, June 4, 2017



King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church Choir Sunday, March 19, 2017



**Bourbon Baroque** Saturday, September 23, 2017



Bellarmine University Schola Cantorum Saturday, October 21, 2017



Closing Liturgy with Our Lady of Lourdes Choir Friday, December 8, 2017

# Centennial Celebration Sponsors

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Sacred Spaces Sunday, September 24, 2017



#### BY SISTER MARTHA JACOB

### **The Beginning: 1858-1868**

- 1858 On October 31, three Ursuline Sisters, Mother Salesia Reitmeier, Mother Pia Schoenhofer and Sister Maximilian Zwinger arrive in Louisville, Kentucky, from Straubing, Bavaria, to staff the elementary school of Saint Martin of Tours, a German parish.
- **1859** Sisters open Ursuline Academy (UA), a day and boarding school for girls at the corner of Shelby and East Chestnut in Louisville. (UA closed in 1972.)
- 1864 Ursuline Sisters receive "incorporation in perpetuity" as Ursuline Society and Academy of Education from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- 1868 Mother Salesia Reitmeier, foundress of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, dies at age 36.

### New Adventures: 1870-1895

- 1870 Sisters Margaret Mary Allgeier, Boniface Grassel and Mary Xavier Wurm arrive at SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Cumberland, Maryland, the first mission outside Kentucky. (Ursulines served there until 2008.)
- 1877 Mother Martina Nicklas purchases the first 10 acres of what is known today as the Ursuline Campus on Lexington Road and opens the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Louisville.
- 1895 Thirteen Sisters establish an independent Ursuline foundation in Paola, Kansas. (This community merged with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in 2008.)

### On The Move: 1912-1921

- 1912 Sisters in Daviess County, Kentucky, become an independent congregation known as the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.
- **1915** Sisters begin staffing schools in Ohio and West Virginia. (They served in these two states until 2014.)
- 1916 Sisters begin staffing schools in Nebraska. (In 2018 Sister Loretta Krajewski is principal of St. Luke parish school in Ogallala, Nebraska.)
- 1917 The Motherhouse (headquarters) of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville moves to 3115 Lexington Road (its present location), from East Chestnut Street.
- 1921 Action taken to provide Sisters and other women higher education with the opening of Sacred Heart Junior College on the Ursuline Campus.

### The South Calls: 1938-1946

- 1938 The Ursuline Sisters of Columbia, South Carolina, and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville merge. (The Ursuline ministry continued in Columbia until 2015.)
- 1938 Sacred Heart Junior College expands to a four-year institution and is renamed Ursuline College for Women.
- 1946 Sisters begin staffing schools in Camden and Jackson, MIssissippi. (Ursulines ministered there until 2009.)

### Ministry in 1947

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

### **Answering The Call: 1958-1968**

- 1958 The 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville.
  - -The Ursuline Sisters of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, join with the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and minister in Pittsburgh until 1993.
  - -Angela Merici High School for girls opens in Southwest Louisville. (The school merged with Bishop David High School for boys to become co-ed Holy Cross High School in 1984.)
- 1964 Ursuline Sisters of Louisville answer Pope John XXIII's call for missionaries to South America. Sisters Xavier Smith, Helen Margaret Schweri [Aguinas], Lelia Kirchner [Placidus] and Mary Martha Staarman [Joseph Marie] arrive in Peru. (Sisters Kathleen Neely [Joseph Angela], Yuli Oncihuay and Sue Scharfenberger [John David] continue to minister in Peru in 2018.)
- **1968** Ursuline College for women merges with Bellarmine College for men [now Bellarmine University.] (Ursuline Sisters were on the faculty until 1996.)

### **Times To Celebrate**

- 2008 Sisters, Associates, donors and friends celebrate 150 years of the presence and ministry of the Ursulines of Louisville.
- 2017 Celebration of the centennial of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception in the Ursuline Motherhouse on Lexington Road, Louisville
- 2018 Celebrating 160th Anniversay

# Creating Alternate Spaces and Embracing Our Future with Hope

### Dear Friends,

We, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, are heeding the call of Pope Francis to be good stewards of our resources. As the Pope said to all religious, "So I trust that, rather than living in some utopia, you will find ways to create 'alternate spaces,' where the Gospel approach of self-giving, fraternity, embracing differences, and love of one another can

Chapel photo by Adam Loney

thrive." We as Ursulines definitely find ourselves creating "alternate spaces" and embracing our future with hope.

After working with consultants and doing the analysis, we have determined it is no longer good stewardship to continue to use the Motherhouse for living quarters. This move will allow us to continue our important work in outreach and continue to support our sisters who are actively working in ministry. One could say that this returns us to our Ursuline roots. For you see, the

you will find ways to create where the Gospel and love of one

—Pope Francis 77

original followers of Saint Angela lived among the people they served.

Our chapel will continue to be used as a worship and gathering space for special feasts, funerals and prayer services by the Sisters; retreats and events of the Angela Merici Center; Mass of the Air; as well as by the Sacred Heart Schools on the Ursuline Campus. In fact, we established the preservation fund in conjunction with the Chapel's Centennial year in 2017 for the purpose of preserving our beautiful sacred space in which future generations can worship and connect with God.

We have decided to house our sisters (who are in need of assisted living) at Twinbrook in Louisville. We wanted to inform you of this move for some of our sisters and ask you to keep us in prayer as we go forward with this transition. Our corporate offices moved to the Motherhouse in March, so we have more change with this move as well. We know that we stand on the shoulders of strong women who have made other difficult yet exciting decisions over the last 160 years of our time in Louisville.

We ask for your prayers during this transition. We often reflect on Saint Angela's words: "If, according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or to do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice." Our ministry involvement will continue, the Charism of Saint Angela will live on, and the Gospel will be proclaimed no matter where the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville reside.

In the spirit of Saint Angela, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville



# National Catholic Sisters Week Events on Campus

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

### **Listening Parties**

We invited our Sisters, Associates and the public to "listening parties" on March 9 and 11 to celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week.

Our archivist, Angelica Bullock (pictured right), submitted for, and won, a mini-grant from National Catholic Sisters Week (nationalcatholicsistersweek.org) to assist her in digitizing oral histories conducted by the late Sister Concetta Waller from 1976-1982. There are 26 tapes total, which feature interviews with Sisters. The interviews include campus changes, historical events, the Sisters' various ministries and religious life after Vatican II.

The parties were in the Motherhouse library, and historic photos and memorabilia were also on display. The Sisters and the larger community came together to listen to Ursuline history, and celebrate the contributions that the Sisters have made through their various ministries. The recordings are a unique look at the Ursulines in the years following Vatican II, as they explored what those changes brought to their community and the larger Church. We will be posting the recordings on our website (ursulinesisterslouisville.org) in the very near future, so stay tuned!





### The Angela Merici Story–A One Woman Play

Jessica Julian, Sacred Heart Academy senior and Sacred Heart School for the Arts student, presented "The Angela Merici Story – A One Woman Play" to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and Sacred Heart Model School 8th grade students in the Motherhouse Chapel during National Catholic Sisters Week. This play was made possible by a mini-grant from National Catholic Sisters Week that our Ursuline Associate Amy Olson, who is also Director of Mission Effectiveness for Sacred Heart Schools, received.

Ursuline Sisters President Sister Janet Marie Peterworth got to meet "Saint Angela" after the play. We think they will be the best of friends!

# The Gift of Ministry in the Peru Community

### BY SISTER SUE SCHARFENBERGER

Wasn't it just last week (it seems) when we were celebrating the incarnate mystery of God in our lives? We, as a Church, celebrate this mystery of the Incarnation with Christmas and Epiphany. We welcomed 2018, rich with promises, and still we struggled to hope.

And now, here we are in our Lenten and Easter journey, seeking to understand the mysteries in our lives as we live one season, one feast, and one celebration after another. It is the cycle of life that keeps us in motion, in wonderment, sometimes in confusion as we struggle to link our yesterdays with our todays, and prepare for our tomorrows.

The recent political and social events in Peru seem to follow that unexpected "pattern" as well.

In late November and early December Peruvians were in full debate over whether or not we should call for an overthrow of the government, that is, to ask for President Kuczynski's impeachment over a graft scandal. Under normal circumstances you would expect a debate between political parties, conservatives and liberals, right or

left. But the debate fell by the wayside with both sides trying to see the larger picture—deciding if it would be better to continue with the same corruption or run the risk of leaving the country in the hands of even more corrupt leaders.

The president was all smiles when the vote went in his favor. The debate commenced again, however, since nothing was brought to resolution, only postponement of the inevitable.

What perhaps in hindsight could have been predicted, but which no one expected at the moment, was the indult (pardon) granted by the president only three days later to the imprisoned former president, Alberto Fujimori, who was convicted of crimes against humanity. It was the Christmas surprise! A ruthless dictator was released, and not just because of health reasons, but with an "indult", right on the doorstep of Christmas!

But all of this was almost forgotten as the country moved in the fervor of preparing for the visit of Pope

Francis. From the time he set foot on our soil, the excitement of his presence, the power of his words, the compassion of his gestures, and the inspiration of his message, broke through the formalities of the planned ceremonies and touched the hearts of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.



Our Associates gathered recently for a covenant renewal and celebration in San Miguel.

In our own community, we were blessed with the visit of Sister Carol Reamer for a month. [Sister Carol, a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Ohio, ministered in Peru with the Louisville Ursulines for many years.] At the same time, we rejoiced with Sister Yuli Oncihuay who was able to reconnect with friends and sisters during her vacation in January in Louisville, Kentucky.

In these recent months, in San Miguel, as in Carmen de la Legua, our Associates renewed their covenants, adding a new Associate in each place. These times of reflection, along with the celebration of the feast of Saint Angela, are gifts that nourish and strengthen our community. We find Lent to be a time to pause. A time to hold fast to the friendship that sustains the challenges for change, for transformation, for conversion.

Truly it is the cycle of life! The mystery of incarnate love in our lives!

# **UA Pittsburgh Grad Connected to Ursulines** since Childhood

BY ELLEN MCKNIGHT



"Strolling" on the UA campus

An only child, Pittsburgh native Mary Ann Larkin was raised in a traditional Irish Catholic family, in which her parents and extended family were part of her early faith formation. Catholic education paved the way for her enrollment at Ursuline Academy, from which she graduated in 1970.

She explained, "I was educated by the Dominicans at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish in grades one through eight. The plan was for me to attend high school there as well. However, at the end of eighth grade, it was announced that my freshman year would be the last year for the high school. My parents didn't think it would make sense to start at St. Lawrence and then have to transfer. So it was decided that I would go to Ursuline Academy (UA), which was five doors up the street from my house. I pretty much rolled out of bed and into the school each morning." She said, "If you were looking for me, it was never hard to find me. I was usually in one of three places. We joked that I lived in a triangle...my

home, my aunt's home (which was across the street from the Academy on Winebiddle) or at UA.

Was it location or destiny that played a major part in connecting Mary Ann with the Ursulines? Most likely both. Mary Ann says, "When I graduated in 1970, I headed for Duff's Business Institute for a one-year course in business. While searching for a job after business school, I

It is because of all of these Ursuline friendships and connections, both past and present, that I have included the Sisters in my will.

spent four months in the principal's office at UA helping principal Sister Rosemary King, then assisting principal Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell until the school closed in 1981. I was the graduate who never really graduated!"

The clerical support in the principal's office gave her the opportunity that eventually led to her career. She worked in the insurance industry in various capacities, but mainly as an administrative assistant for 25 years with Aetna and then 17 years with Highmark (Blue Cross/ Blue Shield), where she worked her

way up to an executive administrative assistant until she retired.

The decision to include the Ursulines in her will came 22 years after Mary Ann graduated from UA. In summing up her decision, she said, "It was a simple desire to help my friends who had become like a second family to me. My four years at UA were some of the best years in my life, and I had become friends with many of the Sisters who taught me."

Mary Ann had the opportunity to get to know the Sisters who had been assigned to the Academy over the years. Once Sister Assumpta Devine and Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell returned to Louisville, they introduced her to their friends. As Mary Ann says, "With my regular visits to their Motherhouse over the course of many years, I ended up being acquainted with most of the community, some of whom became very good friends...in some cases, best friends. It is because of all of these Ursuline friendships and connections, both past and present, that I have included the Sisters in my will."

### What's in Your Will?

If you have included the Ursuline Sisters, or you are considering inclusion in your planned giving, please make sure this information is on your legal documents:

### Corporate Name:

Ursuline Society and Academy of Education

### Mailing Address:

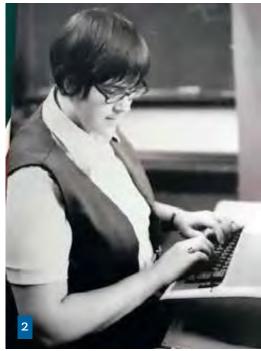
3105 Lexington Road Louisville, KY 40206

### Contact:

Ellen McKnight (502) 515-7526 emcknight@ursulineslou.org

### PLANNED GIVING





- 1. First Communion Day
- 2. Typing class at Ursuline Academy
- 3. Graduation Day
- 4. Sister Assumpta Devine (deceased) and Mary Ann
- 5. Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell and Mary Ann









# What Can I Do?

You have more need to serve others. than they have to be served.

—St. Angela Merici

#### BY GINNY SCHAEFFER

The wounds and needs, the pain and suffering in our world are immense. Even as I type that sentence I hear how ridiculous it sounds. It is such an understatement. You know the litany of threats, needs and injuries of mind, body and spirit that we face every day:

- · School shootings
- The opioid epidemic
- The environment
- Nuclear warfare
- Few resources for the mentally ill
- · Human trafficking
- 1-in-6 children who go to bed hungry
- Homelessness
- The lonely

Unfortunately, the list could go on.

What a relief it is to close our eyes, turn our heads and bury them in the sand. What a luxury to live in denial and pretend that everything is hunky-dory. I know that if I had my way, I would not face these problems and issues that are so overwhelming.





To paraphrase Jesus, though, "Listen up!" As followers of Jesus, this is not how we are to live. (Darn it!) If we profess to be Christian, then like Jesus Christ, we must pull our heads out of the sand, turn around and open our eyes to the wounds and

Every Christian is called to ministry. How are we to serve those who are in pain and are suffering? How can we be a conduit for healing and help our sisters and brothers?

needs around us and do what? Every Christian is called to ministry. How are we to serve those who are in pain and are suffering? How can we be a conduit for healing and help our sisters and brothers? That, my friends, is the \$64,000 question.

Throughout the centuries, men and women have sought a way, with God, to know how to best use their talents to minister to the needs of the world. We know this process as discernment. There is no magic formula or secret to this experience. It should not be rushed. It is more than "thinking" about a decision and deciding on our own, and it is not foolproof.

This process requires thought, reflection and prayer. I cannot emphasize strongly enough that discernment is a joint effort with God. It is vital to share with God what you are thinking, feeling and discovering about yourself and the world. It is essential to invite God to be with you as you question, make new discoveries, splash around in confusion, face your fears and wonder about stepping outside of your comfort zone. Without God, this becomes just another decision-making process.

Throughout the centuries, men and women have sought a way, with God, to know how to best use their talents to minister to the needs of the world. We know this process as discernment. There is no magic formula or secret to this experience. It should not be rushed.

### Here are four essential parts of discernment:

- It most often begins with an awakening to needs or as restlessness within your own life, a sense that there is more that you could be doing or that what you are currently doing is no longer working. Either way it is a heightened awareness to your lived experience.
- Once you have become aware, you begin to gather information. Much of this will be in the form of selfawareness. It might include paying closer attention to the restlessness you are experiencing and/or the needs that are tapping you on the shoulder.

It will also include an awareness of your strengths, passions, skills and expertise. A good friend has built houses with Habitat for Humanity for more than twenty years. When she talks about putting the rafters on a house, building walls or coping trim her eyes light up. I believe this is what Frederick Buechner meant when he wrote, "That the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." She has found such a place in her life, and so can you.

It will also be necessary to discover what your motives are, what is driving your desire to reach out to others. Does it come from a sense of duty, a need to be needed, a desire to be recognized or from a place of compassion, love and humility?

- Next, you choose. Ask yourself, "What is the best choice that will help me to fully be myself?" When you reflect upon the choices, you might notice that thinking about one brings you joy, while thinking about another possibility leaves you feeling flat. Talk it over with a trusted friend, someone you know who wants you to be the best you that you can be. Meet with a spiritual director. And, pray.
- Be alert for confirmation. Have you ever made a decision, and as soon as you made it, you knew it was wrong? Have you ever made a decision and knew immediately that it was right? Are you experiencing peace or anxiety or even peace that coexists with anxiety? Are you able to consider the questions and



criticisms of others as an opportunity for self-examination?

• I know I said there are four parts, but there are actually five: ACT and continue to pray.

None of us can meet every need that comes our way or heal every wound, but if we act intentionally through prayer and out of love, we will discover that we can do more than we ever imagined.

### Sister M. Macrina Stermec



Sister M. Macrina Stermec, 95, died at Nazareth Home-Clifton on Thursday, January 25, 2018. She had been an Ursuline Sister of Louisville since 1939.

Sister Macrina, a native of Conemaugh, Pa., served as a teacher in Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska and Pennsylvania. In Louisville she taught at St. Martin of Tours (1941-1944), St. Leo (1947-1949),

Holy Spirit (1953-1956), Sacred Heart Model (1961-1962) and St. Helen (1962-1963) schools, and was principal at St. Anthony School (1963-1969). She also served as an assistant in the Office of Finance of the Ursuline Sisters from 1986 to 2012.

She held a bachelor of education degree from Ursuline College, Louisville, and a master of education degree from Creighton University, Omaha.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews, as well as her community of Ursuline Sisters and Associates.

Visitation was at the Ursuline Motherhouse, 3115 Lexington Road, on Sunday, January 28 from 4:00-5:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm, followed by a Vigil Service at 7:00 pm. The Funeral Liturgy was celebrated on Monday, January 29 at 11:00 am in the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel. Burial was in St. Michael Cemetery.



### Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

Donations in memory of a deceased Sister may be mailed in the enclosed remittance envelope to:

Mission Advancement Office Ursuline Sisters of Louisville 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206

Please include the name of the Sister in whose memory you are giving.

Donations may also be made online through our website: www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org

# Sister Margaret Ann Hagan

Sister Margaret Ann Hagan, 71, died at Nazareth Home-Highlands on Friday, March 9, 2018. A native of Louisville, she had been an Ursuline Sister since 1965.

Sister Margaret Ann taught high school for 10 years at Holy Rosary Academy, Angela Merici High School and Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville. Following her teaching career, Sister Margaret Ann earned a master's degree in theological studies at St. Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana. She then ministered at St. Meinrad as director of seminarians' field education and served as associate academic dean in the 1990s. In 2007 she became the first woman to be honored by St. Meinrad as "Distinguished Alumna of the Year."

Sister Margaret Ann also served as pastoral assistant at St. Joseph Church in Louisville, and then at Sacred Heart and St. Joseph parishes in Rock Island, Illinois, in the 1980s. From 2003 to 2006, she was coordinator of the Ursuline Society, a collaborative effort of the nine autonomous Ursuline congregations of the mid-United States. Her service to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville included director of finance and two terms as a member of the congregation's leadership team. Her most recent ministries were aiding individuals as a spiritual director and as a retreat director.

Sister Margaret Ann graduated from Holy Spirit School and Sacred Heart Academy, held a B.A. from Bellarmine-Ursuline College (now Bellarmine University) and a M.A.T. from the University of Louisville, as well as the master's degree from St. Meinrad.

She is survived by her brother, John Hagan (Patricia), sister Charlotte Cashin (Pat), nieces and nephews, as well as her community of Ursuline Sisters and Associates.

Visitation was at the Ursuline Motherhouse, 3115 Lexington Road, on Monday, March 12, from 3-5 pm and 6-7 pm, followed by a Vigil Service at 7:00 pm. The Funeral Liturgy was celebrated on Tuesday, March 13, at 11:00 am in the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel. Burial was in St. Michael Cemetery.

Nominate a Deserving Woman for the

Ingeline

June

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Since 1991, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have recognized women for their outstanding service and dedication with the Angeline Award.

A nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrates Christian leadership as a disciple of Jesus Christ by being actively involved with challenges that face women and families today, such as illiteracy, poverty, violence, abuse or addictions.
- Reflects a contemplative love of God resulting in an openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others (charism of the Ursuline Sisters).
- Currently has a personal connection to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville through ministry, professional association, education, relationship or common goals.
- Is able to receive the award in person at a ceremony on October 20, 2018, at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Louisville, KY.

For more information and to download additional nomination forms, visit www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org or contact Sister Ruth Ann Haunz, OSU, at RAHaunz@bellsouth.net or (502) 777-6656

# Angeline Award Nomination Form

June 1, 2018

Name of Nominee:	
Address:	
Phone: E	mail:
Attach a written narrative that describes how the nominee meets or exhibits the criteri listed above. Also, include three additional letters of recommendation from individual who can further explain how the nominee meets the required criteria of living out the Christian call to reflect the love of God by serving others.	
Nominated by (your name):	
Your Address:	
Your Phone: You	our Email:
Submit Nominations to: Sister Ruth Ann Haunz, OSU	Nomination Deadline:

A Nomination form is also available on our website: www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org

3105 Lexington Road • Louisville, KY 40206

Angeline Award

RAHaunz@bellsouth.net

3105 Lexington Road Louisville, Kentucky 40206 www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org

# Sister Janet Marie Honored by Sacred Heart Academy

President Sister Janet Marie Peterworth receives Honorary Diploma from Sacred Heart Academy of Louisville at their 28th Annual SHA Alumnae Awards Celebration

Whether at a board meeting or at a rally working for justice, it is always with passion, dedication, creativity and vision. Sister Janet embodies the Sacred Heart Schools tagline, 'Learner to Leader'.

-Nominator Sister Brendan Conlon



L to R: Mary Lee McCoy, Principal, Sacred Heart Academy, Sally Miller Gamble '70, recipient of the Ursuline Teaching Legacy Award, Sr. Janet Marie Peterworth, Honorary Diploma, Dr. Cynthia Crabtree, President, Sacred Heart Schools

In February, Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, who graduated from Ursuline Academy in 1954 (the first school the Ursuline Sisters established in Louisville) received an honorary diploma from Sacred Heart Academy. Several Ursuline Sisters, Associates and family members were in attendance at the banquet at the Mellwood Arts Center in Louisville to congratulate her.

Sister Janet Marie, who holds a master's degree in English from Creighton University, was instrumental in the development of the incorporation of Ursuline campus schools, (now known as Sacred Heart Schools) and the Ursuline Core Values, which continue to ensure that the Ursuline charism stays vibrant and strong across campus. She also serves on the Sacred Heart Schools Board of Trustees.

During her years answering the call to work for social justice issues and to empower people living in poverty in West Virginia, Sister Janet Marie worked closely with Sister Brendan on an annual service project that has become a campus-wide service event. The annual Appalachian Gift Drive gives the Sacred Heart campus the opportunity to demonstrate the charism of its founding Ursuline Sisters, "A contemplative love of God and an openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others."