

URSULINE

DOME

Continuing
the Legacy
of Spirituality
and Service

A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE • Summer 2018

Amy Olson and Kevin Wadle
Ursuline Associates

Embracing Our Future with Hope
Carrying Forward the Charism of Angela

SUMMER 2018

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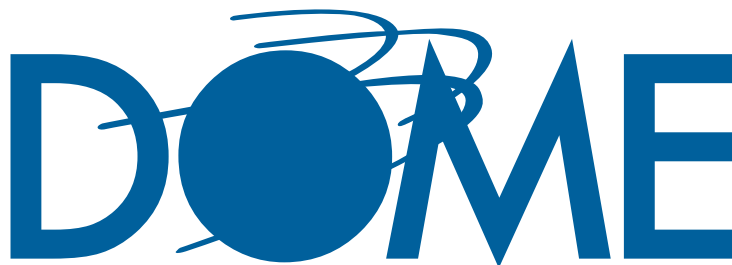
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A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE

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URSULINE SISTERS
OF LOUISVILLE

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:

Amy Olson and Kevin Wadle, Ursuline Associates, share what being Ursuline Associates has meant to them both individually and as a family on pages 4–6 of this issue.

What is a charism?

A contemplative love of God and a resulting openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others.

—St. Angela's Charism

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. How are we approaching the future? This issue's theme and articles are our response: Embracing our future with hope; Carrying forward the charism of Saint Angela.

After choosing this theme, we realized that we often use words which are not part of most people's everyday vocabulary. One is "charism," which we attribute to and connect with Saint Angela Merici, our founder.

According to my thesaurus, "charism" is not a word; rather I was directed to the word, "charisma," a gift or power believed to be divinely bestowed. This captures some of our understanding of the term. We, like many religious orders, refer to the "charism" of Saint Angela. We understand it as her special gift given by God to the Church and the world and demonstrated through her life, her writings and her interactions with people around her. We strongly believe that, for nearly 500 years, her charism has inspired, guided, motivated and influenced her followers around the world.

Through many years of study, discussion, debate, and above all, prayer, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville developed a statement which we believe captures for us the charism of Saint Angela: "A contemplative love of God and a resulting openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others."

Probably most of you know us as classroom teachers. However, Saint Angela Merici did not found the Ursulines for that particular ministry. Through historical research, we know that Angela brought together a group of diverse people, mostly women (widows, matrons, virgins, older, younger, wealthy, poor, educated and uneducated), not for a specific task, but for mutual support and prayer. They were involved in all types of work and services out in the world, including instructing others in the Catholic faith.

"What's the theme?"

This question always is the first point of discussion for the DOME editorial board. For this issue, we came to a decision quite quickly, based upon questions posed by some of you, our readers. You see us growing older and smaller in number and rightfully wonder what the future holds for the

As followers of Angela, we also have been blessed with writings coming directly from her. Her writings have shown us her deep belief in God's love for her, for her followers and for all humanity. One quote has served as an inspiration for us, and an explanation of why "we embrace the future with hope." Saint Angela writes:

If, according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice. And always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ, and there to offer most fervent prayers, For in this way, without doubt, Jesus Christ will be in your midst, and... he will enlighten and teach you what you have to do.
—Last Legacy

With this advice and promise, (which is part of our charism—perhaps even part of our DNA), throughout their history, Ursulines have proven to be women of deep faith and great hope.

I feel that the articles and features in this issue of the DOME clearly testify to that hope and trust in God. As you read of past and current changes, you learn of our Sisters who now serve outside formal classroom teaching; our Ursuline Associates who follow and live the charism of Angela in their daily lives; our Sisters who live in and bring Saint Angela's charism to a new senior living facility. You will also read of our celebration and remembrance of past decisions that resulted in wonderful success and growth. And above all, you will read of the wonderful men and women who minister with us in our mission "to teach Christian living."

It is my fervent prayer that you continue to join with us in "embracing the future with hope."



Sister Paula Kleine-Kracht, OSU

Sister Paula Kleine-Kracht, OSU
Councilor, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

Amy Olson and Kevin Wadle, Ursuline Associates

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

On a beautiful summer evening recently, Amy Olson and Kevin Wadle sat on their back deck and explained what being Ursuline Associates has meant to them both individually and as a couple. Every year since they were married, Kevin and Amy have chosen one new subject, hobby or activity to

position for Sacred Heart Schools (SHS). She heard about the Ursuline Associates from the then Director of Associates, Theresa Butler, and also found out that some friends of theirs, Kim and Bobby Sison, from their home parish, St. Leonard, were Ursuline Associates. When Amy found

out that men also could become Associates, she told Kevin about it, and suggested it as their activity for the year.

Fast forward to 2018, and Amy and Kevin are as excited about the Associates Program as they were when they first joined in 2014! When asked what becoming an Associate will bring to your

life, Kevin said that, “You have to jump in and commit to something that challenges you. You have classes twice a week for approximately eight months while you are in formation. After formation, you can be in a small group. Our small group meets four times a year on Sunday afternoon for discussion after reading our ‘assigned’ materials. It’s like exercise—after we meet, you are so glad you carved out that time.”

Associates are people that can come from different walks of life, but share the same beliefs. Rather than tell people they are Associates, or tell them they are Christians, Kevin says that the Associates try to live their Christianity, and explains, “There is

THE CHARISM

of Saint Angela Merici and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville is a contemplative love of God and a resulting openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others.

a difference between vocalizing it, and living it so people want to be like you, by the example you show. The Ursuline Sisters are living examples of this. They do not talk about everything they have done or are doing; they just live it. And people see that as so real.”

As Director of Mission Effectiveness for SHS, Amy has recruited several Associates from the staff of the Sacred Heart Schools. Amy also wanted to start intergenerational activities and programs with the schoolchildren and Ursuline Sisters in order to build a connection between the two groups. Together with the Sacred Heart Preschool director, she started a program whereby Ursuline Sisters are assigned to a classroom. The Sisters visit with that class throughout the year. The children and Sisters grow very close, send each other cards and notes, and pray for each other.

Kevin said one of the preschool children told someone, “I have a sister! Her name is Sister Macrina.” Amy said the friendship between the preschoolers and Sisters is amazing—that the children pray for the Sisters and treat them like rock stars when they visit. They talk to their pictures that hang on bulletin boards throughout the school. She added, “We don’t know how far this will go in terms of awareness. Some people



Amy, Elise, Gabrielle and Kevin on Elise's First Communion day at St. Leonard Parish, Louisville

learn. They sometimes will venture out on their own to explore the chosen area, but often do it together.

One year, their new subject was to sign up to become foster parents. As a result of that ministry, Amy and Kevin have a foster daughter in their lives, Elise, who came to them as a newborn and who now lives with another family. Elise visits often and stays with them for holidays and long weekends. They also have a biological daughter, Gabrielle, who just completed her freshman year at Murray State University.

Amy was teaching on the Ursuline Campus at Sacred Heart Preschool in 2015 and had just applied for the Director of Mission Effectiveness

don't go to Mass; where else are the children going to get this one-on-one experience with a Sister? This is one of the ways the Ursuline Charism can live on."

Sacred Heart Academy (SHA), the girls' high school on campus, has a Charism Class that the students take their senior year. They learn about Saint Angela—how she gathered a group of women and founded the Company of Saint Ursula. This company presented a third way of life for women when marriage and cloister were the only alternatives. Her followers lived in their homes and went about their accustomed duties, paying attention to the way they served and the love that motivated them.

One of the students who took the course this past year said of the class, "Through the Charism course we learn better how to be strong women of great faith. I believe that being a strong woman of great faith embodies what Angela wanted women to be

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Kevin says that the Associates try to live their Christianity, and explains, "There is a difference between vocalizing it, and living it so people want to be like you, by the example you show. The Ursuline Sisters are living examples of this. They do not talk about everything they have done or are doing; they just live it. And people see that as so real."

”



Art project from the Charism Class at Sacred Heart Academy

like." One of Amy's hopes that will result from the Charism Class is an increase in younger women as well as men joining the Associates.

The students also begin to see the Sisters as real people once they get to interact with them in small groups during class. Amy stated that, "As a result of having the Sisters visit in class, the girls can see them as approachable. It is an extension of community. We are showing them that we are part of this bigger community and making connections."

This connection becomes real for adults, as well. When you enter the Associate Program, you are paired with a "seasoned" Associate or Ursuline Sister as your companion. In Amy and Kevin's case, they were paired with Ursuline Sisters—Kevin with Sister Rosella McCormick, and Amy with Sister Rita Dressman.

They both have a very close relationship with their companion Sisters; in fact, they call Sister Rosella "Rosie." They said that they hope all Associates have such a good relationship with their mentors as it has greatly enhanced their lives.

Kevin says that, "One of the best parts of being an Associate for me is being in community with my companion, Sister Rose."

Both Kevin and Amy think the Ursuline Associate Program is the best kept secret around! They emphasized that it is not a one-year formation and then you have arrived. Kevin added, "It is a journey. It is about lifelong formation, about growing your faith." They think many people would be interested in being an Ursuline Associate because so many people now are seeking and looking for something bigger than themselves. And, because the reading and discussions change every year, it is ever-changing, and meets you where you are spiritually.

As a married couple, they say that it has brought them closer because they discuss the topics from the readings. When their daughter Gabby was a senior at SHA, she was in the Charism Class, and they were able to discuss what she was learning and share as a family. And, now that they have "graduated" from formation and are in the small group, Kevin says,



Amy with her companion, Sister Rita Dressman

“Before it was looking at the forest, now you start to see the trees,” regarding the subject matter and the spirituality.

Then there are the little things, like how it applies to your everyday life. For example, at Mass recently, Kevin said the priest mentioned the word “charism” and they were both so pleased that they knew what that word meant! Kevin added, “Charism is a word that is not used often, but it is a wonderful way to say that this is your purpose. For example, this year my charism is X, but it doesn’t mean it cannot change and my charism becomes something else.”

Kevin said that for men, the attraction to join the Associates

level than we are—they know in what direction they are moving.”

Amy added, “We are constantly amazed that we have something in common with Saint Angela Merici, this woman from the 1500s. The Associate model is actually closer to what Saint Angela originally envisioned for her Company of Saint Ursula. Her Companions lived in their own homes and came together for fellowship and faith-sharing. They didn’t dress alike; they wore the clothing of their individual work or ministry. It is as if we have come full circle. That is very powerful. The Associates come together and strengthen one another, and then go back and do the kind of work you are called to do in the world.”

“

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Kevin with his companion, Sister Rosella McCormick

would be the chance to participate in a quest to strengthen his own spirituality. He added that it’s rare for someone to do it on his own, since we are intrinsically formed to be in community with each other.

Part of the attraction for Amy and Kevin is the draw to be close to the Ursuline Sisters and learn about these amazing women. Kevin said, “There is so much history behind these strong women and what they have accomplished over the past 160 years in Louisville. You always leave feeling rejuvenated. All you have to do is be around the Sisters for any length of time. They have a peace about them; they are at a different

The Associates are open to the Holy Spirit and truly carrying on the Charism of Saint Angela, which is “a contemplative love of God and a resulting openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others.” They are finding new ways to continue the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville’s mission of a life of prayer, community and participation in the teaching mission of the Church.

For more information on the Ursuline Associate Community, please contact Bay Baltes, Director of the Associate Community via email: bbaltes@ursulineslou.org or by phone at (502) 896-3956.

Sister Theresa Kruml (Stanislaus) Parish Ministry in Iowa

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

Sister Theresa Kruml found her calling early in life. When she was in third grade, a priest told Sister Theresa that one day she would be a religious Sister, and “that was it,” she said. She never changed her mind after that. As she looks back on her childhood, she loved going to Mass and the parish missions, so the priest must have seen something in her. It was these little things that formed her, as well as the influence of her family, who were very devout Catholics. One of her sisters, Georgia Jean Kruml, is also an Ursuline Sister of Louisville.

From 1948 to 1950, her freshman and sophomore years of high school, she attended St. Patrick Academy in Sidney as a boarder. She met the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville at St. Patrick. “I loved the sisters and would assist with the little grade school children or any other tasks to be near the sisters. When word came that Mother Rosalin Schaeffer, then the Ursulines’ Mother Superior, was



Sister Theresa with the Tuesday Bible study class at Saint Wenceslaus Parish, Iowa City, Iowa

become an Ursuline Sister. Mother Rosalin requested written permission from her father, due to Theresa’s young age. So, during halftime at a football game, she and her father met behind his car to sign the paperwork. At 16, the high school senior left on her first plane ride to Louisville to enter the convent!

Sister Theresa entered the convent on Sept. 8, 1950. A graduate of Ursuline College, Creighton University and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, she earned master’s degrees in education and pastoral theology.

She taught for 33 years in schools in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Nebraska. After retiring from teaching, she studied clinical pastoral education at Humana Hospital-University of Louisville. She earned certification as a Catholic hospital chaplain and was in ministry at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois for nearly seven years.

Sister Theresa then moved to Iowa City, Iowa in 1994. She worked

at Mercy Iowa City Hospital as a paid chaplain until 2013, and then retired at the age of 79. Now, she is a volunteer chaplain at the hospital, as well as at Mercy Home Health.

The parish ministry piece for Sister Theresa comes at Saint Wenceslaus, a parish of approximately 700 families. Sister Theresa serves in several ministries at the parish, including leading the RCIA program.

Sister also teaches the second grade Reconciliation class at Saint Wenceslaus. Sister says the second graders each give her a little wave when they come up for a blessing at Communion. “There is such joy in their faces because they know they will receive the Eucharist in May.” The catechumens whom Sister Theresa works with in RCIA shake her hand when they come into Mass. She says, “They develop a relationship with me and the parish and know they are part of the family.”

Sister Theresa seems to have a knack for developing relationships

The catechumens whom Sister Theresa works with in RCIA shake her hand when they come into Mass. She says, “They develop a relationship with me and the parish and know they are part of the family.”

visiting St. Patrick, Sister Theresa sought her out to ask if she could



Sister Theresa with her young friend, Gabriel

wherever she goes. As she explains it, “I try to have a cheerful smile for everyone I meet, and people seem to respond to that. Or, as I like to call it, ‘The Ripple Effect of Grace.’” She has several stories of meeting strangers who are now dear friends and who have entered the Church as a result of an encounter with her.

young woman who is entering the Church wanted to get her husband into RCIA, but Sister Theresa could see he wasn’t quite ready. She told her, “Dear, you have to let grace operate on its own time.”

Sister Theresa seems to have a perpetual fountain of energy! She unlocks the church every weekday

Sister Theresa seems to have a knack for developing relationships wherever she goes. As she explains it, “I try to have a cheerful smile for everyone I meet, and people seem to respond to that. Or, as I like to call it, ‘The Ripple Effect of Grace.’”

She tells of such an encounter with a man who followed her down the aisle of the grocery store, informing her, “You know, I’m an atheist.” She said to him in reply, “That’s nice, I hope you are a good one.” He ended up buying supplies for her to take to the crisis center she was going to that day!

As Sister Theresa says, “You’ll never bring anyone to the Church unless you’re welcoming and accepting.” One

morning at 6 am for the 7 am Mass. She leads a Bible study every Tuesday morning after Mass, and ministers to the homebound and those living in assisted living/nursing homes. Additionally, she uses old t-shirts to make cloth diapers to send to Nicaragua and makes little dresses for impoverished girls in South Africa.

She loves to bring Communion to anyone in need. The parish youth

minister, Ellen Poliskey, recalls that, “Last year my son, Gabriel, was born the evening of Easter Sunday. I was in labor all day and hadn’t received Communion. Sister Theresa came over to the hospital late at night to bring me Communion so I could receive Jesus on Easter. “ Gabriel and Sister are now best buddies!

Sister Theresa says she has loved everything she has done in religious life. During the 33 years that she taught school, her goal was to make learning exciting for the kids, and that is how she approached teaching. She thinks that children will rise to your expectations of them if you call out their gifts. She also applies this to the adults she works with now, as well. She says simply, “I just want people to be better for having known me.”

In her office hangs this prayer of Blessed John Henry Newman, which she prays daily, and is her life motto:

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, That my life may only be a radiance of Yours.

*Shine through me, and be so in me
That every soul I come in contact with
May feel Your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me,
but only Jesus!*

*Stay with me and then I shall begin to
shine as You shine,
So to shine as to be a light to others;
The light, O Jesus, will be all from You;
none of it will be mine;
It will be you, shining on others through me.*

*Let me thus praise You the way You love
best, by shining on those around me.
Let me preach You without preaching,
not by words but by my example,
By the catching force of the sympathetic
influence of what I do,
The evident fullness of the love my heart
bears to You.
Amen.*

A Tale of Two Sisters in Spiritual Direction Ministry: Martha Buser and Helen O'Brien

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

Sister Martha Buser (Olga)

For someone who is literally a rock star in the Ursuline world, what strikes you the most about Sister Martha Buser is how down to earth and humble she is. A well-known author of two books on Ursuline foundress, Saint Angela Merici, *Also in Your Midst* and *Lover of Us All*, international speaker

University in Pittsburgh in 1964, while teaching grade school for seven years and high school for thirteen. Sister Martha recalls, "I thought, this is it, I am going to be a teacher the rest of my life." But in 1972, the superior, Sister Adelaide (Fackler), said she wanted me to be the novice director.

So people wanted me to talk about her." The Ursulines in Cincinnati were the first group to invite her to come speak about Angela, and that was the beginning of her "Ursuline Tour," as she calls it.

Word of mouth spread about her talks, and in 1980 she was invited to

“As I stand before God, the God I know; and I stand before God as I know myself; and what I desire in my deepest heart; that is what we talk about in spiritual direction and that is what prayer is.”

and retreat leader, Sister Martha is delightfully humorous and laid-back, all qualities which serve her well in her current ministry of spiritual direction.

Sister Martha went all the way through the Sacred Heart schools, and was greatly influenced by the Ursulines who taught her. She was attracted to missionary work, but she was also attracted to the Carmelites and their monastic way of life. It then dawned on her that the Ursuline Sisters had both worlds—contemplative and missionary.

During her junior year in high school it became evident to Sister Martha that she was called to religious life. She told the boy she was dating she was going to enter the convent after graduation, which led to a broken heart (his). She recalls, "The boldest thing I ever did in my life was come through the door and say, 'Here I am.' It's a definitive statement."

She earned her bachelor degree in English in 1958 from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, then her master's from Duquesne

Because part of what novice directors did was to introduce the novices to Saint Angela, Sister Martha went back and studied Saint Angela in depth. And, she says, "I fell in love with her. She came alive for me, because she was a very real person. And, I have a gift—or some may call it a curse—I speak well and I write well.

lead an institute in Brescia, Italy, about Saint Angela and Ursuline Spirituality.

By the time the "Tour" was over, she had given talks in every Ursuline motherhouse in North America. She says she, herself, had nothing to do with it. It always seemed to her that divine intervention led her—just when she thought her path was set



Sister Martha Buser in her home office

Q&A on Spiritual Direction with Sr. Martha

What is Spiritual Direction?

"It sounds like one person is telling another person what to do, doesn't it? It's another ear to hear where God is leading them. It's listening. I don't talk a great deal. I listen and then I ask questions, like, 'Where did that come from?'"

"I treat everyone individually, and discern what is good for each person. Angela was a spiritual director. She said to have each one engraved on your heart separately because that is

how true love acts."

Some of the first questions she asks people in spiritual direction are:

"What do you want?"

"Who do you think God is? Not, who should you think God is?"

"And, how do you know God? What name do you give God?"

Digging Deep

"When you ask, 'Who are you when you stand before God?'...that is a whole different story. That's what

prayer is. As I stand before God, the God I know; and I stand before God as I know myself; and what I desire in my deepest heart; that is what we talk about in spiritual direction and that is what prayer is."

"And I just listen. And I just say, 'That's interesting, tell me some more about that.'"

"Sometimes I think, 'are they ever going to put things together?' And then all of a sudden, God gives it to them, and it's wonderful."

one way, God had other plans. Sister Martha says, "I never asked for all this. I was just going to be an English teacher!"

Interwoven throughout these years of travel was her ministry of spiritual direction. Sister Martha was doing spiritual direction parallel to all of the writing and speaking, because that is what her ministry truly was. She thinks it was always her calling, but

she didn't really recognize it at first.

So, a young girl from Louisville, who wanted to be a missionary, and who loved to pray, but only saw herself teaching English, got to travel the world as a missionary for Saint Angela, as well as guide young women to become Sisters. And, during all of these ministries over the years, she helped others discern their own prayer and faith journey and continues to do

so with great love and understanding. One could say God definitely had a plan for Sister Martha Buser.

As Sister Martha wrote in *Lover of Us All*, "When all is said and done, all the books about Angela Merici written and read, nothing is left but to acknowledge; it's all about love."

Sister Helen O'Brien

For Sister Helen O'Brien it only took one year of being at Ursuline Academy in South Carolina for her to decide on becoming an Ursuline Sister. Her father had served in the Army during WWII. After the war, her father remained in the military and was assigned to Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

While in South Carolina, her father insisted that Joan attend Ursuline Academy in Columbia. Ironically, she remembers saying, "I don't want to go to a Catholic school. I don't want nuns!" She only went there from 1950-51, but she says, "That one year sealed my life!"

When asked what it was about the one year spent with the Ursuline Sisters that made such an impact on her, Sister Helen says that while she was not very religious or spiritual as a child, that time at UA awakened

something deep in her. There was also an at-home-ness about the school because it was so small and intimate—there were only about eleven girls in her sophomore class.

In 1951, her father got transferred to San Francisco. In July of 1952, the then-Mother Superior, Sister Columba Ishanski wrote to Joan, "Sister Ferdinand said you are interested in becoming a Sister. You could come and do your senior year at Sacred Heart Academy and be a postulant at the same time. The teenaged Joan said, 'Let's get on



Sister Helen, right, with Sister Theresa Nguyen, OP

with it!" So, her parents put her on a plane to Louisville in December 1952.

Sister Helen received her undergraduate degree from Ursuline College in Louisville, and her masters

from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She taught for twenty years in Louisville at several Catholic grade schools, then at Sacred Heart Academy where she was Dean of Students as well. She served on Leadership from 1976-1984, and again from 1996-2002. In between the two Leadership stints, she was Director of Formation for twelve years. Working in formation led her to her current ministry of spiritual direction.

She realized that she needed training in order to be with the novices in a way that wasn't in a parent-child role; that she needed to be more freeing in her approach to them. She found the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago, which placed an emphasis on doing one's own spiritual work in order to serve the ones with whom you were in ministry. In other words, one needs to fill her own well first, so she can serve others. She attended the Institute for nine months in 1987, becoming certified in Spiritual Direction.

The spiritual director that Sister Helen was seeing at the time suggested she study psychosynthesis at the Kentucky Center for Psychosynthesis, which just happened to be down the road in Lexington. She was trained there and also completed an internship at the Jesuit Renewal Center (now the Jesuit Spiritual Center) in Milford, Ohio.

Sister Helen uses the psychosynthesis training in her spiritual direction, but indirectly. As she says, she is not a counselor, but psychosynthesis is a good background for understanding human personality, growth and development. For example, if someone brings up something that is a sub-personality of theirs or shadow self, Sister Helen can help people to identify that it is only part of them; that it does not represent the complete person that they are.

Some people come to her fully engaged and ready to go deep into their

relationship with God. Others are not used to talking about such a private subject and often do not have the words for it. Sister Helen says that in these situations she sees it as intentionally holding the interior space and waits for an opportunity to invite that person to dialogue. She tries to be mindful of where that person is in his or her life circumstances, and always keeps an open invitation on the table to talk. Sometimes a question, such as: "How have you experienced that in prayer?" gently invites the person to go deeper.

As Sister Helen says, "In spiritual direction, I want to be with people in a manner that allows them to reflect on their lives in a way that includes reflecting on God's relationship with them. My hope is that in talking, people move from the circumstances of their lives to being in touch with their deeper selves and with God's desire for them—God's desire in them.

"I often ask people to 'go deeper' than their words to perceive an image of what their words are not able to

Some people come to her fully engaged and ready to go deep into their relationship with God. Others are not used to talking about such a private subject and often do not have the words for it. Sister Helen says that in these situations she sees it as intentionally holding the interior space and waits for an opportunity to invite that person to dialogue.

grasp fully." Sister Helen believes that John the Baptist is a good mentor for spiritual directors. She states that he urged his disciples to go to Jesus, and asked of them: "What are you seeking? Who are you looking for?" To paraphrase John 1:18: Jesus lived close to his father's heart. "Where do you live?" These are the questions she asks in spiritual direction.

"We so often struggle to find God; it is a joy when we truly find God," Sister Helen says. "It is amazing. It takes us a long time to come to the realization that God has always been there with us." What Sister Helen delights in is when people are in touch with what God's grace is doing in their lives. She calls this second-hand grace—just enjoying the gift of God with people. This is her greatest joy as a spiritual director. She tells of being with someone that morning who cried with gratitude to be in touch with God's love. As she says, "What more could you ask for in a ministry?"

Sister Helen's ministry has evolved from teacher to formation director, and now spiritual direction. Her experiences have built on each other. She started teaching when she was twenty. She says that she would not have had the life experience then to be a spiritual director; that she had to grow into her relationship with God.

"If you are growing spiritually, then those you accompany will grow as well. It's part of holding that deeper space, holding the belief, holding the faith. Spiritual direction is something you grow into, as you grow into your relationship with God. And, as with so many ministries, you get better with age, like a fine wine."

Sister Helen has definitely found, and held, that "deeper space" and so many are blessed because of it.

Sister Rita Ann Wigginton (Mary Lisa), Deaf Ministry

BY KATHY WILLIAMS



Sister Rita signing with a member of the deaf community at St. Stephen Martyr Church

Sister Rita Ann remembers exactly when she knew she wanted to become a religious sister—it was in the eighth grade at St. Clements School when a Maryknoll priest came to class to speak about missionary work in Africa. She had wanted to become a doctor, but decided against that after working in a hospital as a candy stripper! However, the missionary life still attracted her, and the Ursuline Sisters who taught her at St. Clements and Angela Merici High School in Louisville influenced her decision to join their order after she graduated from high school.

Sister Rita Ann's father was in the Army, and the family had moved around a lot until she was ten. In fact, she was in seven different schools in eight years! When she eventually encountered the Ursuline Sisters in Louisville at age 11, their stability and discipline impressed her. "Sister Victor Waller was such a good teacher," said Sister Rita Ann, recalling sixth grade at St. Clement School. "She was strict

but fair and you knew where you stood with her." At Angela Merici, Sister Jo Ann Jansing was one of her teachers, and she ended up being a great support to her when she made the decision to join the Ursulines.

So, Sister Rita Ann, who had found her vocation in eighth grade, then found her life's ministry while visiting Sister Barbara Bir's family as a junior professed Sister in 1969. There were

six girls in the family, and five had been sent to Catholic schools, but the oldest, Jo, who was deaf, had not. The Catholic schools did not provide services for the deaf, so the family enrolled her in Louisville Deaf-Oral School, where she was educated, but

did not learn sign language until she was a teenager. Excellent at lip-reading, Jo was able to cope at school and at home, but she felt marginalized in both environments.

At the same time Sister Rita Ann had this experience visiting Sister Barbara's family, questions started being raised in the larger Church as to why the Catholic Church wasn't doing more for the deaf. Sign language was coming out of a closet; it was being recognized as a true language. Prior to the late 1960s, if you signed, you got your hands slapped in schools. Educational theory had changed on signing by the '70s, so, all at once it seemed, there was a need for the Church to take on an active role in ministry with the deaf.

In the course of talking with Sister Barbara and Jo's parents, Sister Rita Ann learned they felt that they had failed in passing on the faith and wished they had all learned American Sign Language (ASL) in order to be closer and to more fully share the faith with Jo. They gave Sister Rita this advice: "If you're going to work with deaf people, you need to learn to sign." So, learned to sign she did. And not

"If you're going to work with deaf people, you need to learn to sign." So, learned to sign she did. And not only did she learn to sign, she delved into a new culture, the culture of those who are deaf.

only did she learn to sign, she delved into a new culture, the culture of those who are deaf.

While most of her fellow Sisters were getting teaching degrees, Sister Rita Ann asked, "What about these deaf people? Can I get an advanced

**Deaf ministry
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degree in something to work with deaf children in religious education?" With her superior's blessing, Sister Rita Ann sought post-graduate training in Deaf Ministry. She earned a master's degree in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and later went to Boston College, where she earned a Certificate of Advanced Educational Specialization in Religious Education.

Her goal was to get a job in the public school system, teaching children who were deaf during the week, and also as a catechist, teaching religion to children who were deaf on the weekend. But, God is full of surprises! Father Charlie Dittmeier (now in Cambodia), who had been working with the deaf, contacted her to ask if she would work with the deaf in pastoral work. This work was with the Catholic Deaf Office of the Archdiocese of Louisville. At that time, the Catholic Deaf Office was the only place where people could come for an interpreter, secular or religious.

Sister Rita Ann worked in Louisville for five years, then went to pastoral positions with the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio as Director of Ministry for Deaf; Catholic Charities Deafness Services Director in Brooklyn, New York; the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky as Director of Ministry for

the Deaf, and a stint as Co-Vocations Director for the Ursuline Sisters.

In 2008, she was elected to one term on the Leadership Team. She served part time in Leadership while at the same time moving into a part-time position with the Ministry Formation Program (MFP) based out of Chicago, Illinois, and continues to serve the deaf community in this capacity.

The Ministry Formation Program is a four-year program of education and formation for Catholic deaf and hard-of-hearing women and men to acquire and develop ministerial skills necessary to serve as active Catholic lay ministers in a deaf community. Its students come from dioceses all over the country. It welcomes hearing

six weekends a year: three in the fall and three in spring. They arrive Friday afternoon and the session ends at about noon on Sunday."

Of her ministry over these nearly fifty years, Sister Rita Ann says, "I always retained that desire to help. Deaf ministry IS missionary work; work that is not being done. You go in and get enculturated with the people, you learn their language and work with them, adapt to their culture. It's a very invisible culture. The missionary piece is still there. The doctor piece is still there from a spiritual aspect—helping people."

For her, it is a great privilege to be able to communicate her faith with this linguistic minority and to be able to hear what the deaf want to tell her.



Sister Rita signing during Mass at St. Stephen Martyr Church

adults who have skills in signing and communicating with deaf persons.

The four-year curriculum is demanding, but rich in opportunities for development in many disciplines, including Adult Education, Family Ministry, RCIDA, Social Service Ministry, and Youth Ministry. "Each student attends classes in Chicago

"The deaf community is a culture, not a handicap or disability."

For more information on the Ministry Formation Program (MFP), visit: <http://www.mfpchicago.org>, or contact Sr. Rita Wigginton, Director, at 502-640-4957 voice and text, 502-416-0126 Video Phone or by email: mfpdirectorchicago@gmail.com

Embracing Our Future with Hope

BY SISTER SUE SCHARFENBERGER

San Miguel

A special blessing that we have received in the province of San Miguel these past few months came from many good people—Mission Partners of the *Water With Blessings* project (Middletown, Kentucky) that Sister Lorraine Lauter, OSUMSJ, began in other mission countries some years ago. In the province of San Miguel, 120 people in the towns of Chalaques, Zaragoza, Sayamud, Sunuden, Huaylulupampa, Rio Pampa, Calquis and the city of San Miguel now have water filters that supply clean water for drinking and bathing their young children. Water is life.



Water With Blessings Project in San Miguel

This filtered water is 99% pure and brings greater health to families and neighbors in these remote areas of our province. May God bless these good people who give so generously of their time, talent and treasure for the health and well-being of our global sisters and brothers, and who truly help to fill our world with hope.

We are experiencing greater hope as well with the Rehabilitation Center, “Santa Angela Merici.” In April, a new physical therapist, María Valdez, and a new secretary, Sheyla Sariano, began working with our support group. We are looking forward to their time with us and to all their service with the patients and their families.

Callao

Our house was filled with laughter, loud chatting, and enthusiasm as we enjoyed the visit of the 15 young women from Sacred Heart Academy and their two teachers this spring. We were first planning to receive visitors from Sacred Heart Academy in the early 1990s. The outbreak of terrorism and cholera (two good reasons to not entertain young visitors) prevented that dream from being realized. So, we had been waiting for this visit for a long time.

Sacred Heart Academy and Saint Angela Merici School

hold many things in common: our four core values, our rootedness in Angela Merici, our coat of arms, and our tradition of education in values. What we have dreamed for is that our students feel the connection of community, reverence, leadership and service not only within their own walls, but

reaching across borders, with a belief that our hope for the future lies in our being truly connected. We need to realize that we are more alike than different, and that even our differences can enrich us when shared.

Indeed, there are many reasons for Embracing Our Future with Hope!



Our new Physical Therapist, Maria Valdez, in San Miguel

Celebrating the Year of Ursuline: 50th Anniversary of Ursuline College and Bellarmine College Merger

In June 1968, Ursuline College and Bellarmine College merged to form a co-educational college that is now Bellarmine University. The university and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have launched a year-long celebration of the merger's anniversary, recognizing the legacy of Bellarmine's enduring Ursuline bonds.

The celebration began on Saturday, June 2, when 1968 graduates of Ursuline College—the last class to graduate from the college with that name—along with other alumnae took a tour of the Ursuline Campus as part of Bellarmine's annual reunion weekend. Ursuline College was a Catholic college for women established by the Ursuline Sisters at 3105 Lexington

many different ways throughout this 'Year of Ursuline,'" said Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, OSU, president of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. "I remember 50 years ago. The years leading up to the merger were difficult ones for the Ursulines.

"We saw our college of many years changing its nature from an important all-female institution to a co-ed institution. And I suppose Bellarmine's founders felt the same way when their all-male college went co-ed. It is wonderful to know that fifty years later Ursuline College still lives on in the historical memory of Bellarmine University. It is gratifying to see Professor Bob Lockhart's beautiful statue of Saint Angela Merici on the campus; former

Ursuline College president Sister Angelice Seibert's picture on the wall along with Bellarmine's presidents, and streets on campus with historic Ursuline names."

Dr. Susan M. Donovan, Bellarmine's president said, "We're grateful for the leadership and vision that Bellarmine's founding president, Monsignor Alfred Horrigan and President Seibert—and members of both communities—displayed in successfully negotiating

and implementing this merger, which resulted in an exceptional institution of Catholic higher education that continues to rise in regional and national prominence. The legacy of Ursuline College and Ursuline core values of community, reverence, service and leadership, as well as their commitment to social justice and care for creation, are continually present in Bellarmine's mission, curriculum and campus life."



Ursuline College alumnae on Ursuline Campus tour in June

Road in 1938, with roots going back to the opening of Sacred Heart Junior College and Normal School in 1921. In 1968, it merged with Bellarmine—a Catholic college for men—after several years of increased coordination between the two colleges.

"The Ursuline Sisters are happy that the fiftieth anniversary of the merger of Ursuline College and Bellarmine College is being commemorated in so



A calendar of events will include:

- Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education's Teacher Education Induction Ceremony, featuring remarks by Ursuline Sister Paula Kleine-Kracht, in Bellarmine's Nolen C. Allen Hall (September 14 at 5:30 p.m.)
- a tree planting on Bellarmine's campus during the Blessing of the Animals (October 4 at 5 p.m.)
- Mass for the Feast of St. Angela Merici at the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel (January 27 at 3 p.m.)
- opportunities for Bellarmine students to spend time with Ursuline Sisters
- recognition of Ursuline alumnae at a Bellarmine alumni awards dinner and an athletic event

Learn more at: www.bellarmino.edu/ursuline-celebration

Update on Twinbrook and Our Moves

BY SISTER AGNES COVENEY

Several people helped in the moves of nine Sisters to Twinbrook, a family-owned assisted living facility, only five minutes drive from the Motherhouse. From mid-February to early April of 2018, the Health Team focused on making this transition go smoothly.

Health Team members Janet Sauer, Sister Katherine Corbett, Susan Sherman, Stacy Wells and Diane Flechler helped the Sisters in one way or another—accompanying the Sisters in selecting their rooms at Twinbrook, finding boxes for packing, and many other kinds of assistance.

This team was the mainstay for the Sisters making the pilgrimage to Twinbrook Assisted Living. Other Sisters moved from the Motherhouse into apartments, and one joined other Sisters who reside at Nazareth Home-Clifton. We are all grateful to Rick Raderer, Director of Campus Services, for organizing the move, scheduling movers and keeping us on track during this transition!



*Photos from our April Open House at Twinbrook:
Top right: Sisters and friends gather in the party room
Second: Sisters visiting with each other
Third: Sister Sara Delaney with one of her paintings
Bottom: Getting a tour of Sister Colette Kraemer's apartment
Above: Sisters Janet Peterworth and Julienne Guy at the Open House*

Embracing the Future with Hope

BY GINNY SCHAEFFER

*All shall be well, and all shall be well
and all manner
of things shall be well.*

—Julian of Norwich

Both women had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Both underwent mastectomies the previous day, and that is where the similarities ended.

I was a nurse's aide for both women on their first post-op day and was assigned to provide their care. It was shortly after 7 am when I stepped into the first room and was startled by how dark it was. The drapes had been tightly pulled together and pinned shut. There was not so much as a night light on to show the way to the bathroom. I actually had to stop and allow my eyes to adjust to the darkness before I proceeded to the bedside.

As my eyes grew accustomed to the lack of light, I was eventually able to make out the silhouette of the bed across the room and the form of a body lying flat on its back and perfectly still. She made neither a sound nor a movement as I approached her. The last detail that came into focus was probably the eeriest of all: as she lay there, deathly still, both of her hands were lying crossed, resting on her belly. I had to look twice to make sure she was breathing.

Having finished the care for the first woman, I stepped across the hall into the room of the second woman. The difference was literally like night and day. As I walked into the room, I had to once again give my eyes time to adjust. This time the room was flooded with light. The drapes were pulled back as far as they would go, allowing the morning sun to immerse every nook and cranny of the room with its brilliance. The patient was sitting up in bed, her eyes bright, her hair combed and her lipstick on. She greeted me,



Hope is not sustained in a vacuum. St. Paul connects hope with faith (trust) and love. Hope is a grace, or gift, that God offers freely (of course, it never hurts to ask) and it is nurtured by love, the love of God, the love of others and the love we have for ourselves.

and everyone who entered with a broad smile and a "Good morning! How are you?"

I know. I know! You cannot make this stuff up. I would find the contrast between the two women almost impossible to believe if I had not seen it for myself.

Over the years I realized there are a couple of assumptions I have made regarding this experience: if body language is any indicator of what someone is thinking and feeling, it might be fair to presume that the first woman I saw that day expected to die and the second one hoped to live.

The second assumption: even if both women failed to survive the cancer, the quality of life for the second woman would be light years better than that of the first woman.

Why? In a word, hope.

In his book, *The Awakened Heart*, Gerald May describes true hope as a longing for the deeper desires of the heart. Hope is open ended, flexible, willing to suffer and can even be disappointed, but it never dies. It is what empowers a woman who has been diagnosed with cancer and undergone a mastectomy to wake up the next morning open to the possibility that life goes on. It may not be what she envisioned for her life; but hope energizes, restores and heals.

Hope is not sustained in a vacuum. St. Paul connects hope with faith (trust) and love. Hope is a grace, or gift, that God offers freely (of course, it never hurts to ask) and it is nurtured by love, the love of God, the love of others and the love we have for ourselves.

No matter what you are facing, no matter what your future holds, the invitation is to always embrace it with hope.

Left at an Orphanage, Embraced by Ursulines

BY ELLEN MCKNIGHT



Sister Annette with some of "her boys"

Mike Duncan was five years old and mystified when the court ordered his mother to take him, his two brothers and sister to St. Joseph Children's Home in Louisville, Kentucky. Abandoned by her husband during WWII, Mike's mother had no income and was caring for her invalid parents, all while trying to rear five children aged eight and under.

Today, Mike understands that, "Mom did the best she could." The four oldest siblings went to the orphanage as a group at the request of their mother, who didn't want them separated. An infant sister was sent to relatives. At the orphanage, Mike and his brothers joined a rambunctious crew of 47 boys. Mike would live at the Home from the age of five to eleven.

Little did Mike know a second mom would step into his life at St. Joseph's—a mom unlike any "mom" he had ever seen, a nun in full habit. This was Sister Annette Rutledge, who took care of over a thousand boys, "her boys," as she called them, during her 42 years

of service at St. Joseph's. To all those in her care, she was a house mother, disciplinarian, confidant, leader and for some, their best friend. Mike says unequivocally, Sister Annette changed his life for the better.

All activities for the children were confined to the campus buildings and grounds where they had food, clothing, shelter, chores, education, religious instruction, sports, music, structure, stability and most of all—adventure on the grounds.

A second separation, more traumatizing than the first, came when their mother remarried,

and she and her second husband came to the Home to take the Duncan children back. Mike remembers hanging onto Sister Annette's skirt and sobbing. He said St. Joe's was the only home he had really ever known, and now he was experiencing being taken away from "his home" for a second time.

Mike said once they settled into the family home with their mother and stepdad they were

afraid to venture outside, as it was a world apart from St. Joseph Children's Home. Luckily, a neighbor invited them all to a birthday party, and besides cake, they experienced a taste of freedom. He cheerfully admitted there was no turning back!

After serving in the army, Mike met Helen. Both were born and raised in Louisville, lived blocks apart and worked in the banking business. They met while waiting at a bus stop together, and that was the start of a long courtship that led to marriage.

Now retired and with no children of their own, Mike and Helen stay very active in their parish, with friends and in the community. Both were involved for decades with St. Joseph Children's Home.

Mike and Helen are grateful for the care Mike and his siblings received at the orphanage and wanted to update their will to ensure the organizations and people who influenced their lives would be remembered. Including the Ursuline Sisters, who staffed the Home from 1897 in 2010, as beneficiaries in their planned giving just made sense.

Reminiscing about Sister Annette, Mike said she was visited often by hundreds of boys whom she helped to raise. Many of "her boys" were at her bedside praying the rosary when she took her last breath on an overcast day that quickly turned into sunshine and birds singing. He believes she showed them a sign that she would be looking out for "her boys" in eternity.



Mary Catherine Duncan with her children on a visit to St. Joseph's. Clockwise, Mom, Kathleen, Diana, Mike, Patrick and Daniel



Mike and Helen Duncan

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

Questions? Contact:

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

Helen Dillon Mazzoli Memorial Fund



Romano (Ron) L. Mazzoli established a memorial fund to honor his late wife Helen and to support the ministries, needs and services of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. With donations from friends, family, classmates, colleagues and constituents, it is Ron's hope that this fund, with oversight by the Ursuline Sisters, will be sustainable well into the future.

Questions? Contact Ellen McKnight
(502) 515-7526 or email Ellen at
emcknight@ursulineslou.org

You may also contribute online at
www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org



The Honorable Ron Mazzoli
Romano "Ron" served 12 terms (24 years) representing Kentucky's Third Congressional District, Louisville, Kentucky and other parts of Jefferson County, Kentucky, in the United States House of Representatives from 1971 through 1995. Through his lifelong dedication to public service he was the primary architect, along with Senator Alan Simpson, of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

Helen Dillon Mazzoli (1934-2012)
Helen graduated from Ursuline Academy in 1952 and Ursuline College in 1956, both in Louisville, Kentucky. Her teachers were the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. During college she danced and taught dance classes. After graduation, she taught Latin at Sacred Heart Academy from 1956-1960. Starting in 1967, she embarked on the role of a supportive partner during her husband's lengthy political career.

Both Ron and Helen dedicated their lives to their faith, family, friends, volunteer activities, community involvement and public service.



HELEN DILLON MAZZOLI
MEMORIAL FUND

"My late and beloved wife, Helen Dillon Mazzoli was 'Ursuline' through and through."



In Ron Mazzoli's words, "My late and beloved wife, Helen Dillon Mazzoli was 'Ursuline' through and through." Helen was Ursuline-educated: Ursuline Academy, Class of 1952 and Ursuline College, Class of 1956. She was Ursuline-bred: epitomizing all the refinement, virtues and character that mark Saint Angela Merici's women. Helen was Ursuline-loved. She relished and was the grateful beneficiary of the love the Sisters shower on their "girls"—not just while they are in the classrooms, but long after the girls have become women and have moved into family life and careers of their own.

Helen earned the nickname "Miss Twinkle Toes" due to her love of dancing.



beginning at the age of three. Helen was a very talented dancer and taught dance classes while in high school and college. Active in volunteering in her local community even in college, Helen performed in the USO program during WWII, touring hospitals and orphanages in and around Louisville.

Helen was Ursuline-educated: Ursuline Academy, Class of 1952 and Ursuline College, Class of 1956. She was Ursuline-bred: epitomizing all the refinement, virtues and character that mark Angela Merici's women. Helen was Ursuline-loved.

Helen Dillon Mazzoli, the beloved wife of the Honorable Romano (Ron) Mazzoli, died in 2012. She was a 1952 graduate of Ursuline Academy Louisville and a 1956 graduate of Ursuline College, both in Kentucky. She was a gifted teacher, supportive companion and cherished friend. Ron said, "Helen was 'Ursuline' through and through." He recently established a memorial fund to honor her and to support the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville's ministries.

Donations in memory of Helen may be made payable to the Ursuline Sisters and mailed to:

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
Helen Dillon Mazzoli Memorial Fund
3105 Lexington Road
Louisville, KY 40206

Or online through our website at:
www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org



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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

How to join our Facebook Alumnae Groups:

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Angela Merici High School Alumnae	https://www.facebook.com/groups/204857089557878/
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1 First, you must have a personal Facebook Account:

TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT GO TO:

https://www.facebook.com/r.php?locale=en_US

It will walk you through the steps, you will need to fill in your name, email, password, etc.

2 Once you have a Facebook Account, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

NAME OF GROUP

You will see a button under the green cover photo that says:
"Join/Follow" **Click** on that.

3 Mission Advancement will get a request from you.

We will check the database to ensure that you are an alumna of one of these schools.

Once that is confirmed, we will approve your request.

Note: If you are not an alumna, your request will be denied. This is a closed group to protect the privacy of the alumnae of the school.

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