

Former Religious is Forever Connected

BY ELLEN MCKNIGHT

Paula Hunt Fangman was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, the first child of Henry and Frances Hunt. They were administrators and teachers in rural school systems and inspired her career as an educator. It was also serendipitous that the Ursuline Sisters were part of Paula's academic life from grade school through college. She cites deceased Sister Merici Burke as the person who prepared her to teach.

While at Ursuline College, Louisville, Paula made a decision to join the order and became a postulant in 1950. In 1966, she enrolled in the University of Kentucky to pursue her doctorate in education. While there, she attended Mass at the Newman Center on campus, assisted with their programs and met Father Tom Fangman, with whom she became friends.

She returned to Ursuline College, taught in the education department and then took a position as a faculty member in the education department in the newly merged Bellarmine-Ursuline College, later becoming the department chair for one year.

Paula recalls, "The '70s were a time of great turmoil in the Church. There was a huge demand for reform and involvement of lay people in the Church. After making a summer retreat, I decided to ask for a dispensation from my vows." Tom, who was still in ministry as a priest and taught at

Thomas More College, asked for a dispensation, left his community and relocated to New York. Paula and Tom stayed in contact.

Eventually, they married, lived briefly in New York, then moved to New Jersey, where they would spend the next 25 years. A call from Catholic Charities changed the course of their lives. With no children of their own, they became foster parents, caring for a boy who had emigrated from Vietnam and eventually six more Vietnamese children, of which two pairs were brother and sister.

When their foster children were grown and gone, Tom and Paula moved back to Kentucky and joined a parish in Shelbyville, where they participated in the parish's music ministry, coordinated religious programs and became Hosparus volunteers.

Paula's decision to remember her Ursuline community in a different way came after Tom died of cancer in 2002 in the Hosparus Unit where they had both volunteered.

In revising her will, Paula tapped into her experiences as an educator, former religious, loving



Paula Hunt Fangman

- Ursuline College Alumna
- Director of Education Department ~ Bellarmine-Ursuline College
- Former Religious
- Ursuline Associate
- Angeline Award recipient
- Benefactor
- Volunteer

wife, foster parent and volunteer to direct a lasting tribute to the Ursuline Sisters.

Today, Paula continues to live the charism of Saint Angela Merici by serving as a board member and volunteer at Centro Latino, a non-profit that educates, motivates and helps Hispanic families gain access to trustworthy support systems. 🇵🇪

1. Sister Paula Hunt
2. Sister Paula Hunt, 1970-1971 Chairperson of the Education Department at Bellarmine-Ursuline College (now Bellarmine University)
3. Paula and Tom Fangman celebrate their wedding
4. Six of their seven Vietnamese foster children in 1988. (L - R) Kim, Linh, Trung, Tam, Thuan and Thang
5. Paula and Tom with their Westie, Mollie



What's in Your Will?

If you have included the Ursuline Sisters, or are considering will 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:

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