

# URSULINE DOME

*Continuing  
the Legacy  
of Spirituality  
and Service*

A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE • SPRING 2020



Sister Carol Curtis,  
left, and Sister Mary  
Theresa Burns, our  
newest Ursulines

**In this issue:**

## Transitions and Transformations

**CELEBRATING OUR JUBILARIANS**



# A Message of Hope During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Sisters, Associates and friends,

Last night, as I walked across the now-empty campus where our Motherhouse and Sacred Heart Schools sit, I pictured in my minds' eye the little preschoolers, the jostling model school students on the playground, and the young women of the Academy dashing from one building to the next. It is so quiet on campus, you can only hear the birds and of course, the construction work that continues on the Motherhouse.

In addition to the schools on campus being closed, our Sisters have had to postpone a very important governance meeting that only takes place every six years. Workshops, retreats and meetings have also been cancelled, which has been disappointing, but necessary. All of this adds to the empty feeling on campus.

As I got in my vehicle to drive home, I was struck by how empty the streets are. None of the usual hustle and bustle of rush hour. I found myself praying for all of the now empty restaurants, shops and their employees, wondering how they will get through this crisis.

Yes, we are in crisis. This is a pandemic of unprecedented proportions in most of our memories. The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville do, however, have a history with pandemics. Along with many other religious communities, we served at Camp Taylor right here in Louisville in 1918 during the Spanish Flu pandemic that killed over 50 million people. We cared for the sick soldiers at great risk to our own health, with several of our number falling ill.

We did not give up hope then, and we will not give up hope now.

The season of Lent is a time of penance, of fasting, of being connected to the suffering of Jesus on the cross. Through our prayers and actions, we connect with those on the margins, those who will be hit the hardest during this crisis. We pray for those infected, and the caregivers, as well as, those on the front lines battling this disease.

We ask our God to give us strength, to guide us through these dark days. We see the blossoms of spring and remember the beautiful children that will fill our campus again, and we have hope.

We remember our foundress, Saint Angela Merici, and her words, "Have faith and keep up your courage." We ask for her intercession, and we continue to keep all of you in prayer. Together, let us keep hope alive.

—Sister Janet M. Peterworth, OSU  
President, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville



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## Transitions and Transformations

Transitions, transformation and change are the themes of this issue. The COVID 19 pandemic is changing many lives. You as well as your families and friends are experiencing a lot of change. When we are in the midst of change it can be a challenge to undergo a transition, to leave what has become familiar and accept what is new. This issue of the DOME offers to you many examples of transition, the changes and evolutions in our Ursuline lives. I'll highlight a few stories that speak to transitions in this issue, but be sure to read it all—the Associate Community news,

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The lesson is that transitions and changes make you stronger and make you the person you are today.”

the Peruvian Journal, and what's happening in Planned Giving and in the Angela Merici Center.

For one thing, as you see on the cover, we have gladly welcomed two sisters, Carol Curtis and Mary Theresa Burns. They both began their

journey in religious life as Carmelite nuns. Then the Carmelite monastery on Newburg Road undertook a transition—some of the sisters moved to a nursing home and some came to stay with us. Carol and Mary Theresa gradually learned more about Ursulines and Saint Angela Merici. They each expressed an interest in the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. Thus, for the past three years, they have shared with their respective mentoring group, joined us in meals, meetings, liturgies, prayers, ministries and absorbed all manner of Ursuline Sister life. Read all about this and their transfer of vows as Ursuline Sisters and celebrate with us this good transition!

Just imagine the transitions in the lives of our Sisters celebrating their jubilees (anniversaries) of 75, 70 and 60 years of Ursuline life. The following pages contain wonderful stories of the transitions eight of our Sisters have lived out in their lives—the triumphs, changes in ministry, examples of living the Gospel in daily life, and the countless ways these Ursulines have touched many people. I am always amazed and

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edified when I hear stories of the changes my sisters have weathered all their years. The lesson is that transitions and changes make you stronger and make you the person you are today.

Saint Angela certainly saw a great deal of change in her life. She says, “And if according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something different, do it prudently and with good advice.” Let us follow her example and seek the guidance of the Spirit as we review our life transitions and look forward to the inevitable changes, those gifts of newness that come to us from God.



*Sister Agnes Coveney, OSU*

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

### ON THE COVER:

Sister Carol Curtis and Sister Mary Theresa Burns spend some time in Bingham Park, where Sister Carol volunteers with the Olmstead Park Conservancy.

# 2020 Jubilarians



## Sister Isabel Lehmenkuler, 75 years

BY LYCETTE BELISLE



Sister Isabel Lehmenkuler is celebrating her 75th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. She grew up in Saint Matthews and went to Holy Trinity School where she was first introduced to the Ursuline Sisters. Sister Isabel shared, “I

thought the Sisters were just wonderful and they always reminded me of God.”

Sister joined the community in 1945 and began teaching in 1947 at Saint Elizabeth of Hungary School. She then taught in Nebraska (1950–57) at St. Patrick Academy in Sidney and Blessed Sacrament School in Omaha. Sister Isabel received a bachelor’s degree in 1953 and a master’s in education with a minor in theology in 1957 from Creighton University.

Sister Isabel was then called back home to teach at Our Mother of Sorrows. She served in the Ursuline Sisters’ Office of Personnel and Professional Development (OPPD) from 1969-1974. She also served at St. Boniface School in Evansville, Indiana. Sister Isabel completed several clinical pastoral education units and served at University Hospital in the summer of 1981, where she worked with 20-25 sick women at any given time. This “began a whole new experience” for her.

After 30 years of teaching, she served at Baptist Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina for a year. She returned to Louisville for a year and again served in OPPD (1984-85) before accepting a position as a chaplain at Providence Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina.

She shared that her 15-year experience at Providence was one that she truly loved, and that the south is where she learned the true spirit of volunteering. “Sister Maria Goretti Lovett and Sister Cecilia Hatem were into everything,” she stated. Their involvement inspired Sister Isabel to volunteer as well. She volunteered as chaplain for the City of Columbia Police Department for several years. Sister

Isabel shared that riding along with the officers, “got me to see another side of the community that I hardly knew existed, but I loved that part of it, too.”

Once she turned 70, however, she decided it was time to move back to Louisville. She served as the director of the Associate Community (2000–03). Sister Isabel expressed that it was “great to see people that wanted to follow the way of Saint Angela.” She then held various leadership and staff roles, and participated in numerous volunteer activities.

Sister Isabel recently moved to Nazareth Home-Clifton after experiencing a stroke that left her in a wheelchair and resulted in her “learning a different relationship with God completely.” Being seemingly helpless revealed a new understanding of God taking care of her at each step of life. “The Lord and I are trying to walk together until He decides to call me home.”

Presently, Sister is learning to accept the kindness of people as they help her. For instance, her niece got her a cup for her wheelchair and a portable lap desk so that she can easily work on things. And, some of the Sisters came over to visit after the archdiocesan jubilee celebration in early February. They told her all about the celebration, took her picture, and brought her flowers from the table at the reception.

Sister Isabel also reflected on some of the changes that have occurred during her time as an Ursuline Sister. “I think the Lord still has work to do with this group of Ursulines,” she asserted. “We really have to dig deep to find where the Lord is going to lead us as a community.” 🙏

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## Sister Martha (Olga) Buser, 70 years

BY KATHY WILLIAMS



Sister Martha Buser is celebrating her 70th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. A native of Louisville, and the youngest of three children, she attended Sacred Heart Schools from second grade through high school. Sister

Martha was greatly influenced by the Ursulines who taught her, one of whom was Sister George Marie Long, her principal at the model school and a great mentor to Sister Martha.

Sister Martha says that she was attracted to missionary work, but she was also attracted to the

introduce the novices to Saint Angela, Sister Martha went back and studied Saint Angela in depth. She says, "I fell in love with Angela. She came alive for me because she was a very real person." One of the novices told the Ursulines in Cincinnati about her talks, and they were the first group to invite her to come speak about Angela. That was the beginning of her "Ursuline Tour," as she jokingly calls it!

Word of mouth spread about her talks, and in 1980 she was invited to lead an institute in Brescia, Italy, about Saint Angela and Ursuline spirituality. By the time the "Tour" was over, she had given talks and retreats in every Ursuline motherhouse in North America, several in Europe, and spent six weeks in South Africa in 1990. Encouraged to write down her

"The boldest thing I ever did in my life was to come through the door of the Motherhouse and say, 'Here I am.' It's a definitive statement."

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 of high school, it became evident to Sister Martha that she was called to religious life. Sister Martha entered the community after high school. She recalls, "The boldest thing I ever did in my life was to come through the door of the Motherhouse and say, 'Here I am.' It's a definitive statement."

She earned her bachelor's degree in English in 1958 from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and her master's from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh in 1964 while teaching grade school for seven years and high school for thirteen. When Sister Martha returned to her roots to teach English at Sacred Heart Academy (SHA) (1962-69), Sister George Marie was principal and they renewed their long friendship. Sister Martha recalls visiting the then 100-year-old Sister George Marie at Marian Home, and she took Martha's hand, and said, "Martha, it's all about love."

In 1972, she was asked to be the novice director. Because part of what novice directors did was to

retreats, the book, *Also in Your Midst*, became a reality in 1991 and is now in five languages and its third printing. *Lover Of Us All* followed as a companion book, and now there is a DVD available (see page 6) of Sister Martha reflecting on all the chapters from both books.

Sister Martha founded the Angela Prayer Center in 1979, and was also on staff at the Milford Spiritual Center in Ohio, all the while traveling to lead retreats and talk about her books. Interwoven throughout these years of travel was her ministry of spiritual direction.

Sister Martha became the first woman to direct the Permanent Diaconate program (1987-94) for the Archdiocese of Louisville after an invitation from Father Roy Stiles, who told her Archbishop Kelly had made the request. "Every time Father Roy took me to Shoney's for breakfast, I knew he wanted something!"







Sister Martha Buser, far right, discussing her books with (from left) Associates Lisa Steiner, Amy Nall, Amy Olson and Sister Janet M. Peterworth.

she says, laughing. She told him “No.” She says that a few days later, she ran into the archbishop at an event, who took her aside and said jokingly, “I could command you in holy obedience to do this,” to which Sister Martha laughed and replied, “No, you can’t! You are not my canonical superior!” She told him she had to pray on it and ended up taking the position. As a result, many deacons were graced and touched by a woman’s view of leadership and spirituality.

In 1994, Sister Martha co-founded the Company of Saint Angela, an association for laypersons following the spirit of Saint Angela. In 1997, she founded the Angela Merici Center for Spirituality, which is now led by Ginny Schaeffer. In her “retirement,” Sister Martha continues to be a presenter, writer and spiritual director.

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. And during all of her ministries over the years, she helped others discern their own vocations and faith journeys.

Sister Martha reflects, “I want to know if I have communicated God’s love, and if people have known they were loved by God after encountering me. My life as an Ursuline has helped me develop that.” Sister Martha has her answer in a quote from a Wayside Christian Mission resident whom she served, “Miss Martha, you help us so much. You show us the love of God.” 🙏

“Miss Martha, you help us so much. You show us the love of God.”

### Also in Your Midst and Lover of Us All book discussion video series with Sister Martha Buser, OSU is now available on DVD!

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have produced a video series of Sister Martha Buser, OSU discussing each chapter from her books *Also in Your Midst* and *Lover Of Us All*.

**DVD Cost: \$15.00**

Pay by check please, if you would like to purchase them.

**Here’s how to get one:**

1. Make check payable to:  
Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
2. Mail to:  
Ursuline Sisters of Louisville  
ATTN: Kathy Williams  
3105 Lexington Road  
Louisville KY 40206
3. Once we receive your check, we will mail you the DVD.

Please include your name and mailing address.

**Note:**

If you would like a copy of the books, the cost is \$5 each.



## Sister Colette Kraemer, 70 years



Sister Colette Kraemer is celebrating her 70th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. She was taught by the Ursulines starting in the second grade. She had a close friend, Mary Margaret Schmoll, who happened to have an aunt who was an Ursuline Sister.

Sister recalled being invited to an investment ceremony and shared that she continued to attend a few more, as she was inspired by them. "The Ursuline Sisters always impressed me as being very happy, really good teachers and interested in what they were doing, so that all impressed me as a kid."

She was interested in going to the convent as early as the seventh grade, but she did not say anything at first. However, once the Ursulines started a program for aspirants in Columbia, South Carolina, she was intent on going. Her friend, Mary Margaret, was a year ahead of her and went down during her junior year, but Sister Colette's dad would not allow her to go.

Sister Colette said that bothered her and led her to go to confession. She voiced her concerns to the priest who told her he did not see a problem with her going. At the time she was maybe 15, but she was confident in her decision. She told her dad what the priest had said in confession. The following summer, while she and Mary Margaret were praying, her father entered her room with tears in his eyes and said that she could go to the convent. That began her journey as an Ursuline Sister, spending her senior year as a postulant.

At age 20, in 1952, Sister Colette was in the last group to teach after making first vows. She received assistance from Sister Wilma Breighner during her first year as a teacher and described her as absolutely wonderful. Her teaching career lasted over 30 years. She taught in Louisville at Saint George School, Saint Martin of Tours School, Sacred Heart Model School, Angela Merici High School and Sacred Heart Academy. Sister Colette also taught at our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sister graduated from Ursuline College and earned master's degrees from both Duquesne University in

Pittsburgh and Saint Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont.

She recalled numerous moments that left an impression on her during her time as a teacher. She recalled the time a young girl stuck around the classroom at the end of the school year after everyone else had left. Sister Colette could not figure out what was wrong, and finally realized that the young girl did not want to go home because she did not want to leave Sister! She also shared stories from the time she spent leading the drama club at Angela Merici High School. She put on 14 plays during the seven years that she was there, and recounted many stories involving her students learning more about themselves and having a sense of pride regarding the work that they were able to accomplish.

“Early on, when I was just beginning and didn't know how to do anything, God always seemed to put somebody close at hand to help.”

In addition to teaching, Sister Colette served as Office of Ursuline Life Director (1988-87), on Leadership Team (1988-96), as co-director of the Associate Call (1988-92) and as director of Mission Effectiveness for the Ursuline Campus Schools between 1997 and 2007. She also served as a trustee and secretary of the board of Sacred Heart Schools (2010-12).

Sister Colette stated, "Early on, when I was just beginning and didn't know how to do anything, God always seemed to put somebody close at hand to help." She now resides at Twinbrook Assisted Living. Sister

Colette has not only been able to influence numerous individuals during her time as a Sister, but her life has been greatly impacted by the people she has interacted with and the ways in which they touched her life. 📖



# Sister Mary Denis West, 70 years

BY LYCETTE BELISE



Sister Mary Denis West is celebrating her 70th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. Her thoughts about religious life started in 1945, before she was even a Catholic. Sister Denis recalled approaching a priest about desiring to be a nun and he responded with, “I

think you had better become a Catholic first.” She was baptized a year later.

“I think the Lord was talking to me,” she said, when she reflected on what attracted her to the Catholic Church. When she was seven years old, she would go to Mass with one of her friends. It was during this time that she began asking questions. As her curiosity grew, she began developing a desire to be involved in the Church, and eventually with the Ursuline Sisters.

Sister Denis attended public school until her junior year and graduated from Ursuline Academy in 1949. Her journey to religious life began that year. She was invested in 1950, made her vows for three years in 1952, and professed final vows in 1955.

Her teaching career lasted 29 years, during which she taught at Saint Raphael, Our Mother of Sorrows and Saint Helen in Louisville. She then taught in Columbia, South Carolina, after which she taught at Holy Trinity in Louisville, then in Cumberland, Maryland. Her final assignments were at Saint Clement and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary schools in Louisville. She felt as though she was learning along with the first class of second graders she taught because she was very new to Catholicism.

She enjoyed it all, but her career as a teacher came to an end when she developed Spasmodic Torticollis, a neurological neck disorder for which there is no cure. Sister Denis shared that it took six or seven years before she could even get a diagnosis because the doctors did not know much about it at the time, and it is still not well-known. Sister is now able to manage her disorder with Botox and said that she is lucky because the disorder is not the same for everyone. Depending on where the muscle spasms occur, Botox does not

even work for some. There is still not an understanding about what causes the disorder, but in her case it was a combination of a car accident and genetic factors.

After teaching, she worked in the dining room at Marian Home, assisted as a community driver for the Sisters, participated in the ElderServe program and, in her later years, volunteered at Baptist Hospital East.

Sister Denis recognizes the harsh reality of her disorder and expressed a desire to share this as a way to take the good with the bad. It is apparent that she has not allowed Spasmodic Torticollis to control her.

Sister Denis has a passion for sports; golf, bowling, roller skating, basketball and softball are just some of the sports that she played. Because sports played such a huge role in her life, it has been a hardship for her to be limited in mobility and to use a walker. However, she counts her blessings and feels that she has so much to be thankful for.

One thing Sister is especially thankful for is the fact that she still has a good memory. “The main thing is your mind,” she stated. “If the mind goes, even if you’re healthy, it’s sad because your mind rules the body.”

Sister Denis expresses extreme joy and gratitude for a few people in her family converting to Catholicism, including her parents and her brother who was killed in World War II. Her faith has had a profound impact on her life, and she pursued a religious life very intentionally. “I have had many joyful days and some hard days like other people, but I have been happy being a religious and I thank the Lord for His many blessings and giving me a long life.” 🙏

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# Sister Sara (Virginia Ann) Delaney, 60 years

BY KATHY WILLIAMS



Sister Sara Delaney is celebrating her 60th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville.

The second of five children, Sister Sara grew up near the Ursuline campus. In 1953, her father died in a car accident when Sister Sara was twelve and the baby of the family was only 22 months old. She remembers her neighbors coming together to help, and

her mother's strength in keeping the family together. Sister Sara says, "My mother was a joiner. We joined Turner's for gymnastics, teen club, summer activities and Plantation Swim Club."

Sister Sara loved the Ursuline Sisters she had as teachers at Holy Spirit Parish school and Sacred Heart Academy. Her senior year, Sister Pat Lowman, who was her homeroom teacher, "told us that, 'Out of our class, five should enter the convent.'" She found herself thinking more and more about joining the Sisters, and one day decided that she would say "yes" to this call.

Her mother arranged several exciting experiences for her before she entered the convent, including renting a convertible for her to drive for a few days. She recalls, "I drove it through the park as I had always thought the neatest thing to do would be to look up at the trees while driving around."

Her mother also found ways to stay connected with her, even after she entered the convent. "The postulants took a walk on the campus every night. Well, every night my mother and little sister would find us and walk behind us. I would move to the back of the line, and I would get to see them every night that way. Also, my brother was a server at Holy Spirit, and they would send their servers over for Mass at the Motherhouse. Of course, my mother had to bring my brother to Mass and wait for him. I was able to see them that way, as well." Her mother, Virginia, also became an Associate—another way to stay connected!

Sister Sara says that, "I literally went from high school at Sacred Heart Academy to the motherhouse, to classes at Ursuline College, to teaching at Sacred Heart Academy, all on the same campus. I never had a chance to get homesick!"

“ I literally went from high school... to the motherhouse, to classes at Ursuline College, to teaching... all on the same campus. I never had a chance to get homesick! ”

Sister Sara earned her bachelor's degree from Ursuline College (1964) and a master's in mathematics from the University of Illinois (1969), while continuing her career, spanning four decades as a math teacher. She taught at Sacred Heart Academy for eight years. After teaching in Georgia for two years, Sister taught and served as an administrator at Angela Merici High School until it merged with Bishop David. She taught at Holy Cross High School for one year and then returned to Sacred Heart Academy until 1998. Later, Sister taught part time at Holy Rosary Academy, Most Blessed Sacrament, Our Mother of Sorrows and St. Francis of Assisi parish schools, retiring in 2010. Sister Sara took a leave from teaching in 1993-94 to care for Sister Elaine Eckert in Pittsburgh.

Like all of us, Sister Sara's life has not been without loss or difficulties. Her close friend, Sister Elaine Eckert, died of brain cancer in 1997, and her own mother died in 2010. Sister Sara became depressed, but with the love and support of her community, is now healthy and well. She loves to help others, and living at Twinbrook Assisted Living gives her the opportunity to do that every day. She loves to meet all the residents and hear their stories. For many years, Sister painted, but now focuses her creative energies on gardening with one of her sisters and helping family members. Sister Sara says, "I like being a caregiver and helping others. That is my ministry now." With her big smile and sunny disposition, Sister Sara is certainly a gift to others! 🌞



## Sister Rita (Ursula Marie) Dressman, 60 years

BY KATHY WILLIAMS



Sister Rita Dressman is celebrating her 60th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. The oldest of three children, Sister Rita grew up on her father's family farm in Cumberland, Maryland. She attended

Saints Peter and Paul grade school, then went on to Ursuline

Academy in the same building, where she was taught by the Ursuline Sisters.

Sister Rita said that they were blessed to have had a Sister in every grade. She also had an aunt and two cousins who were Ursulines, so she was very familiar with the Ursulines. She recalls, "I remember the Sisters' joy, their working together, their love for the students, and their prayerfulness."

According to Sister Rita, "All of these people influenced my vocation to become an Ursuline Sister. My family also influenced my decision, we prayed together every night that we would all answer God's call, whatever that was." She entered the community the fall after her high school graduation.

Sister Rita graduated from Ursuline College (1964) and earned her master's of education from Xavier University in 1969. She taught at Our Lady of Lourdes (1964-67), where Sister Maria Goretti Lovett was a real mentor to her. Sister Rita said, "We had more fun together working with the children. I think we worked around the clock! At Lourdes, almost every month we had a play. We wrote our songs and made our own scenery. We made this huge storybook for one play we did, and the characters came out of the pages. One little boy got stuck in the book and they had to go up on stage and root through the pages to find him!"

After Lourdes, Sister Rita helped start the Montessori school on the Ursuline campus with Sister Marlene Oetken, who was the director. They started with twelve students, ages 3-5 years in a one-

room prefab building now known as the Sacred Heart Preschool with a current enrollment of 244 students!

Sister Rita returned to her beloved mountains in 1973 to teach at Saints Peter and Paul School and Saint John Neumann School in Cumberland. In the following years, she taught at Sacred Heart Model School and Saint Francis de Sales School in Morgantown, West Virginia. She returned to Cumberland in 1984 to teach at Saint John Neumann School while caring for her aging mother.

Sister became the Director of Religious Education for SS. Peter and Paul Parish in 1989. In 2003, after her mother died, she returned to

Louisville and served as Vocation Director from 2004-2008, then on the Leadership Team from 2008-2014.

Sister Rita served as the coordinator for the Ursuline Sisters living at Sacred Heart Home, now Nazareth Home-Clifton (2009-2018). She continues to work with them and the Sisters at Twinbrook on various projects for the homeless, for their Associate friends in Cumberland and for their young friends at Sacred Heart Preschool.

Sister Rita is also involved in other volunteer ministries and spiritual direction. She says that, "I have been blessed on this journey of 60 years by the love and support of my Sisters and all the people I have encountered in my ministries. I have been especially blessed by my God who gifted me with this call to the Ursuline Sisters. I will always be grateful." We are certain that everyone who Sister Rita has ministered to over the past sixty years feels equally blessed. 🙏

I remember  
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students, and their  
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# Sister Kathleen (Joseph Angela) Neely, 60 years

BY KATHY WILLIAMS



Sister Kathleen (Kathy) Neely is celebrating her 60th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. Sister Kathy says, "My favorite small town, Cumberland, Maryland, happens to be where I was born. I am the eighth of ten children born to Angela and Bob Neely."

Taught by Ursuline Sisters at Saints Peter and Paul School and Ursuline Academy, Sister Kathy says, "I liked their humor and friendly interactions. They had a spark, a spirit about them that revealed their humanness."

Sister Kathy entered the community after high school, received her bachelor's in speech education from Ursuline College in 1965, and taught at Holy Trinity Parish school (1964-68). She later earned her master's in education from Spalding College (1980).

Sister Kathy had developed a love for the Spanish language in high school, and wondered if she would ever serve in Latin America. Her most vivid memory as a young Sister in 1968 was reading the message on the community's bulletin board that stated, "Volunteers For Peru Needed," and signing her name on the sheet, thinking it would be years before she was called. A few weeks later, she was asked to go to Peru the following month!

Sister Kathy first taught at the Peruvian Navy School, then joined several other Ursulines in Carmen de la Legua, which at the time was a slum area outside Lima. She started teaching mentally and physically handicapped children in a makeshift room that the Saint Angela Merici School let her use. She and a British priest, Father Austin Garvey, joined forces and named their school Fe y Audicion (Faith and Hearing).

In 1985 Fe y Audicion merged with a larger school, and in 1991 Sister Kathy moved to the Andes Mountains, to San Miguel in the Cajamarca region of Peru. There, she joined Sisters Lee Kirchner, Betty Albers and Martha Counihan. They worked with rural catechists, traveling many miles to smaller towns doing pastoral ministry. In 2012, Sister Kathy was able to help start a rehabilitation center (Saint Angela Merici Rehabilitation Center) for

physically and mentally challenged children and adults that serves the entire province of San Miguel.

Sister Kathy says that San Miguel was her favorite place that she ministered in, and recounted a favorite ministry story: "In my early years in San Miguel, Ana Maria Barbaran (now an Associate) and I went to a small town called Tayapampa to help with the prayer services in their chapel. We had to travel by horse and burro. Ana did NOT want to get on the small horse, but to give her courage, I got on the burro first and I gracefully fell over the other side, which did NOT help Ana with her fear! As I was falling slowly, I felt the burro be in solidarity with me, helping me to fall slowly and gracefully. I ended up looking at the belly of the mule. There is a saying in Peru for the color of the sky at times, called "La Panza del Burro" (the color of the belly of the burro). I know firsthand what the color of the belly of the burro is. I didn't have a scratch on me, but when we want to laugh, we remember that story."

Presently in transition from leaving Peru and returning to Louisville, Sister Kathy says, "I feel greatly blessed to have been given the gift to serve as an Ursuline with the people of Peru in their beautiful and colorful country. I have learned much from my second family and country. I have a great respect for the land and the importance of global solidarity. I believe that the Gospel is all about building community no matter where we are. I am eternally grateful to God, to our Ursuline Community and to my family and friends for the wonderful support for our Peru Ministry." 🙏

Her most vivid memory as a young Sister in 1968 was reading the message on the community's bulletin board that stated, "Volunteers For Peru Needed," and signing her name on the sheet, thinking it would be years before she was called. A few weeks later, she was asked to go to Peru the following month!



## Sister Sue (John David) Scharfenberger, 60 years

BY KATHY WILLIAMS



Sister Sue Scharfenberger is celebrating her 60th jubilee as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. The second of four children, Sister Sue attended Saint Raphael Parish school where she was taught by Ursuline Sisters, then went to Assumption High School.

Sister Sue entered the Ursulines after high school, began university at Nazareth College (now Spalding University) and graduated from Ursuline College (now Bellarmine University) in 1964. Sister Sue also did theological studies in Rome, Italy, and received a master's degree from St. Mary's College in 1969.

When asked about her calling to become an Ursuline Sister, Sister Sue says, "My mother and father were people who cared about others. Both were religious persons: my father was Catholic and my mother was Lutheran. I think I learned the values of service and embracing diversity from them." She adds, "I fell in love with the spirit and Charism of Angela."

Sister Sue started out teaching at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish school in Louisville (1964-65). She then taught at Ursuline Academy (1969-70). While teaching at Sacred Heart Academy (1970-73) Sister Sue was also responsible for formation in the community.

From 1973-78, Sister Sue served in social work in the rural area of Hernando, Mississippi with Sacred Heart Southern Missions, visiting and assisting rural poor families. She also worked in pastoral ministry in two parishes there. Sister Sue says, "The last 40 years I have worked in Peru. Both Mississippi and Peru are 'favorites,' where I learned from the people, and where my social consciousness was deepened while learning of their struggles and celebrations."

During her time in Peru, Sister Sue has served in pastoral ministry at Santa Angela Merici Parish in Carmen de la Legua (1979-85 and 1988-01) in the urban Lima area. She also did apostolic work (pastoral ministry) at both Cajabamba Parish (1985-87) and San Miguel Parish (1987-88), both in Cajamarca. The

Diocese of Cajamarca is located in an isolated, rural area of the Andes Mountains. Travel for many residents is on foot or horseback, with many hardships in their lives. Sister Sue carried God's message of love and peace to people living in poverty in this mountainous region for many years, and in the valley of the Mantaro River in Huancaayo.

In 2008, Sister Sue returned to the urban area of Carmen de la Legua to serve as the director of mission effectiveness at Saint Angela Merici School. Additionally, Sister Sue ministers to different women's groups in working with empowerment, including the Peruvian Associates. She networks with other social justice groups through the center for investigation and studies, Bartolomé de las Casa. She also serves as a facilitator for other religious communities in their planning and organizational meetings.

Sister Sue shared a favorite memory from her ministry: "While on the Leadership Team in the community from 2002-2008, I lived at the Casa Latina, Catholic Worker House in Louisville. I was present in the hospital birthing room on four occasions, accompanying women as a translator as they gave birth. This was a blessed experience, awesome and sacred."

This last quote from Sister Sue is so appropriate. She quietly works side by side with those she is in ministry with, never seeking the spotlight, always seeing Christ in others. Sister Sue has a heart for those on the margins, and it shows in her words and actions. 🙏

“...from 2002-2008, I lived at the Casa Latina, Catholic Worker House in Louisville. I was present in the hospital birthing room on four occasions, accompanying women as a translator as they gave birth. This was a blessed experience, awesome and sacred.”





# With Love from Peru

BY SISTER KATHY NEELY



Sister Kathy's recognition ceremony by the San Miguel municipal government. L to R: receiving official gifts; Sisters Katherine, Kathy and Yuli; and Sister Kathy with San Miguel Associates

In 1964, God called us, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, to walk in mission with our sisters and brothers in Peru. In 1967, during our annual community retreat, as I was walking along the road on our beautiful campus, I looked down and watched my feet as I walked and began to wonder if my feet would ever walk in mission on Peruvian soil. In 1968, a simple message on our bulletin board (see page 11) read: "Volunteers For Peru Needed," and the rest is history. Forty-five years of being able to walk with our Peruvian sisters and brothers have spoken to me of how blessed we are: our Ursuline Community, and our people of the United States, to know, love and serve God through the gift of our mission in Peru.

Our Peruvian ministry involves innumerable people of all ages: our school, Santa Angela Merici in Callao, the Santa Angela Merici Rehabilitation Center in San Miguel in the Andes, our Ursuline Associates, and many other groups and programs. Yet one group has inspired me most: the rural catechists of the province of San Miguel, Cajamarca. These animators of the faith, men and women farmers from small towns, come to the parish monthly to learn, to pray together and to tell their experiences of sharing the Word of God in their small chapels or community centers with the families in their areas. The text from Isaiah 52:7 comes to my mind when I think of them: *How good it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains bringing*

*the Good News of peace to all.* Accompanying the rural catechists in their homes and in their communities and experiencing firsthand the challenges they face has helped me to grow in my faith and as a person.

We extend our love and gratitude to all who help us to be one of these messengers of the Good News to others: our Ursuline community of Sisters and Associates, our families and our friends. May our God of Life bless each reader of our DOME and their loved ones. May we be the global family that our planet Earth, our Home, asks us to be for the Common Good and for the survival of us all.

And so, after 45 years in mission in Peru, I am returning to the States to share what I have learned with others. As welcomes are so important to our (Peruvian) culture, so are good-byes.

While not easy, it was with much gratitude that I received the farewell hugs of appreciation from the people of Peru: the Associates, the rural catechists, the parish community, the Center for Rehabilitation staff and simply the people on the street. And just when I thought the good-byes were behind me, the municipal government gave me and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville a special recognition in a ceremony of gratitude for our years of service in San Miguel. It was a blessing to have Sister Yuli Oncihuay, Sister Katherine Corbett, and Sister Katherine's sister-in-law Kathy, present for the ceremony. 🙏

# From an Ursuline Enclave Comes a Gift of Gratitude

BY ELLEN MCKNIGHT



Nestled in the mountains of far Western Maryland is the city of Cumberland, where the first three Ursuline Sisters of Louisville arrived in 1870. More than 100 young women from the area joined the congregation, with several returning to teach and minister in parish churches and in elementary and secondary schools. The Sisters taught at Saints Peter and Paul, Saint Mary, Saint John Neumann and Bishop Walsh High School and were involved in many other ministries.

Ursuline Associate and benefactor Lucille Twigg McIntyre attended all eight grades at Saints Peter and Paul and is grateful for her Ursuline education. She was friends with Sister Rita Dressman's family and remembers the Dressman grocery store delivery truck picking up the Twigg siblings and driving them to school. Lucille completed commercial courses at Allegany High School, graduating in 1946. Soon afterward, she married Carl Lee McIntyre, a grocer who put her business skills to good use. Lucille said, "God knew I would marry a grocer. I kept all his books for 30 years!" Together they owned a neighborhood favorite, McIntyre's 7-Day Market.

Recalling Ursuline educators and mentors, Lucille shared memories of two favorite teachers at Saints Peter and Paul: dearly loved Sister Bernarda Paslick who taught from 1937 – 1941, and Sister Alvina Constantine who taught from 1939-1941, who she said was "pretty strict."

As an adult, in the spirit of Saint Angela Merici, Lucille sought to serve others through volunteer work. She received a certificate from the Pastoral

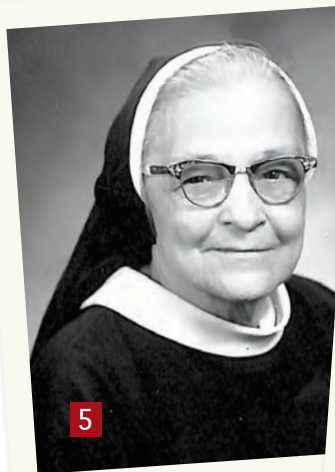
Visitor Training Program of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Division of Health Affairs. She worked with Sister Helen (Ludgera) Breighner at Hospice in Sacred Heart Hospital once a week, remembering the calming effect Sister Helen had with patients.



Lucille, now 92, indicated will inclusion on the remittance envelope inserted in a recent DOME issue. Widowed in 2008 after 62 years of marriage, she said, "Carl and I had a good life, were blessed with four children, 14 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren." When asked about the decision to include the Sisters in their planned giving, she said, "Before 2005, my husband and I made our wills together, naming the Ursuline Sisters as one of our beneficiaries. I appreciate and feel the Sisters' prayers. Carl and I were truly blessed." 🙏

1. Saints Peter and Paul
2. Classmates
3. Sister Alvina Costantine taught 6th grade
4. 8th grade May Procession





5



6



7



8



9



Above: Handwritten names of second grade classmates

- 5. Sr. Bernarda Paslick taught 5th grade
- 6. Sr. Helen (Ludgera) Breighner, co-volunteer at Hospice at Sacred Heart Hospital
- 7. & 8. Family photos
- 9. Gardening

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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:

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

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We make every effort to ensure that you receive the maximum tax credit allowed by law. When making a donation, make your check payable to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, and mail to Mission Advancement Office, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206, or use the enclosed remittance envelope.

The check must be processed through the Mission Advancement Office for the Ursuline Sisters to generate the proper documentation you will need for your tax-deductible donation.

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# Transitions and Transformation

Sister Mary Theresa Burns and Sister Carol Curtis

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

How does one leave a cloistered life of over 25 years to transition to a life outside the walls and then transform themselves and their ministry into one of apostolic works within a new religious community? Sister Mary Theresa Burns and Sister Carol Curtis have both done just that since the Monastery of the Discalced Carmelites in Louisville closed in August of 2015. Sister Carol, then Mother John Baptist of the Lamb of God, was serving as prioress of the Carmelites when they made the decision to move out of Carmel and sell the building to the Archdiocese of Louisville.

At Sister Carol's Mass of Vow Transfer, Ursuline President Sister Janet Marie Peterworth shared that, "I received a call out of the blue one day in 2015 from Mother John Baptist, who explained that, 'The Carmelites were moving out of their building, and would we happen to have any room for a few of them to move in?'" She thought to herself—this could be us in this situation. So, of course, she said yes, knowing they had plenty of room, and soon the Carmelites came.

Sister Carol emphasizes that the move into the Motherhouse was intentionally temporary. The contractual arrangement with the Ursulines made clear that they were not establishing a separate cloister there. "When four of us moved here, we were not moving as a Carmelite community; we were each moving here for the particular needs of our own transition." Ultimately, one sister transferred to another Carmel and four Carmelites settled at Nazareth Home-Clifton. Sister Carol and Sister Mary Theresa, meanwhile, were exploring their own paths.

## Sister Mary Theresa Burns

One of five girls in her family, Sister Mary Theresa grew up in Louisville. She attended Assumption High School and graduated from Bellarmine University. Raised Catholic, Sister Mary Theresa knew of the Carmelite sisters because her grandmother had been a benefactor of theirs for years, so growing up, she always knew about Carmel.

Her paternal grandmother had given her a book about "the Little Flower," Saint Therese of Lisieux, titled, *The Story of a Soul*, when she was eleven years old. After reading it, Sister Mary Theresa knew she



Seen through a divider of wood and metal bars, the cloistered nuns sing vespers in the chapel of the Carmelite Monastery in Louisville, Ky (CNS photo / Marnie McAllister, The Record) March 30, 2015

wanted to become a Carmelite. She read that book every year until she was about twenty. After the death of her beloved grandmother, her favorite person in the whole world, she became very angry with God. She recalls, "I turned all of that off and decided I didn't want God in my life anymore."

After college, Sister Mary Theresa had a conversion while singing in the choir at Saint Martin of Tours in Louisville. She recalls that, "In 1989, during Holy Week, I was just overwhelmed with, 'Did this really happen? Did Jesus die and rise again?' And then I realized it had to be true. If I understood that Good Friday and Easter Sunday had to rely on each other, I had to believe that it was true because of the way the scriptures reported it. And Jesus had to have been SOMEWHERE between Friday and Sunday, you know?"

Sister Mary Theresa continues, "He had to have been God. Only God could have done that. It was a grace. And if that was true, I had to be devoted to Christ. I had to belong to Him." That was the beginning of her return to active participation in the Catholic Church. She began discerning entering the Carmelites.

Ironically, her mother had hoped she would become an Ursuline Sister of Louisville since they were not cloistered, and they had other relatives who were Ursulines, including Sister Sarah Stauble.



Sister Mary Theresa instead joined the Carmelites and entered their monastery in 1990. She was very happy in her new life. Then, in 2001, she got sick and was diagnosed with reactive hypoglycemia. She struggled for years with her health and diet to control her symptoms.

In 2015, however, her condition was getting worse. That same year, after moving to the Motherhouse, Sister Mary Theresa was diagnosed as having an insulinoma after blacking out. Emergency surgery cured her illness and she remains healthy today.

Not only did the surgery rid Sister Mary Theresa of her dietary concerns, but it completely changed her discernment. Before, she had been very concerned about taking this medical condition into a new community. She couldn't drive because of potential blackouts and she couldn't be independent. Now, all these possibilities opened up.

Sister Mary Theresa knew that she didn't want to be cloistered again. Bring cloistered again would mean a move out of state, and She did not want to move so far

**It wasn't until she attended the Convocation that Sister Mary Theresa felt "...called to become an Ursuline—to have all these women as my sisters, to be a daughter of Angela."**

away that she couldn't visit her original community of Carmelite sisters, or her family.

Sister Mary Theresa explored several other communities during this transition period. Then in June 2016, Sister Janet Marie invited her to the North American Ursuline Convocation. She was so touched by the offer that it was a turning point for her. It wasn't until she attended the Convocation that Sister Mary Theresa felt "called to become an Ursuline—to have all



Sister Carol Curtis, left, and Sister Mary Theresa Burns at Sister Mary Theresa's Mass of Vow Transfer, January 27, 2020

these women as my sisters, to be a daughter of Angela. The closing ceremony made me realize how much I loved being with these women and what they were about. How, even though they were from all over, they were all sisters to one another. I then understood that the Louisville Ursulines had everything I was interested in—contemplatives in action with ministries such as spiritual direction and being a chaplain."

Sister Mary Theresa continues, "Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell was a chaplain and Sister Helen O'Brien was a spiritual director. I could see myself in one of those ministries! Sister Sarah Stauble is a cousin of mine, and at one point, my mother had wanted to be an Ursuline, so I had a family history. All of a sudden, I thought, 'Why would I be looking anywhere else? I admire these people so much—the strength, the brilliance of these women; what they have accomplished and what they can still do.' I wanted to be part of that."

After earning a certificate in spiritual direction, Sister Mary Theresa decided she was feeling called to be a chaplain. She currently is earning her master's degree in theology from St. Meinrad and is serving at Nazareth Home-Clifton in Louisville as a chaplain, where she has formed community with the Ursuline Sisters who live there, and continues to be in community with the Carmelites who live there, as well.

## COVER STORY

Sister Mary Theresa also emphasizes that, “Carmel was not a detour, it was a necessary part of the journey. And the Ursulines are not a ‘settling for.’ It is not, ‘Well, if I can’t be Carmelite, then this is the next best thing.’ It is what I am called to be now. And it is every bit as important and treasured as my years in Carmel.”

Sister reflects, “The vocation to Carmel was very real—I would still be there today if things hadn’t changed. But things did change. And that reason resides in God. God had that reason for calling us all out. My journey is now away from what I had lived in Carmel. Although I have the foundation and the spirituality, the life is not for me anymore. It doesn’t fit me anymore.”

“I think whatever someone is called to, whether it is single life, married life, religious life or cloistered life—it is because God knows what that soul needs for spiritual growth. Our souls are as individual as our fingerprints or our faces.”

Sister Mary Theresa made her final profession of vows on Monday, January 27, the feast day of Saint Angela Merici. She thanked Saint Angela for sharing her feast day with her and said, “In 2017, I had the great privilege of going on a pilgrimage to Italy and walking in Saint Angela’s footsteps. In Brescia, we visited Saint Angela Church, and while there I had a deep desire to become one of her daughters and be connected to her. It means so much that this is my profession anniversary.” Saint Angela is surely pleased with one of her newest daughters, Sister Mary Theresa Burns.

### **Sister Carol Curtis**

Sister Carol Curtis lived in Illinois as a child and went to high school in South Carolina. Growing up in the Nazarene Church, she was inspired by her family’s tradition of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer. The example of the missionaries that had stayed with her family over the years, kept the idea of missions work on her mind during her college years at Dartmouth. Looking for a church to call home, she attended the Catholic Newman Center on campus. Sister Carol recalls her foreign study program in 1984, the summer after her sophomore year: “When I went to mainland China, I couldn’t really find any kind of church. They had recently re-opened the Catholic Cathedral. It was a “patriotic” Catholic church. They had stripped the church of all ornamentation, but I would slip in there early in the morning, in the dark, for



*Sisters Carol Curtis and Yuli Oncihuay on the Ursuline Campus, 2016* Mass.” “When I went to Taiwan after that, I attended an English-speaking parish, mostly Filipino. I tried going back to a few Protestant churches, but I was really drawn to the contemplative atmosphere.” Sister Carol adds, “While staying in Taiwan, I realized that the sacramentality of the Catholic Church is what drew me to it. Soon, I was received into the Church by an Irish priest in Taiwan!”

After college, she entered the Peace Corps and was stationed in Mali, in West Africa. There were Malian Catholic Sisters living in her village and missionary Sisters in the region. It was the first time she saw religious life up close and personal. The Sisters allowed her to share in prayer, including the breviary, and recreation time together. After a year in the Peace Corps, she began to discern religious life. As Sister Carol says, “Becoming a Sister didn’t make me faith-filled—it was the product of my faith.” Sister Carol had already encountered Teresa of Avila, the founder of the Carmelites, through her writings. On a break halfway through her term in the Peace Corps, she came to Louisville to settle family affairs; she visited Carmel and then maintained contact with the Sisters. During the year after her Peace Corps service, she worked while completing her discernment, then entered the monastery in May 1990.

It was the Carmelite tradition of personal prayer and the personal relationship with Christ that drew her in. Sister Carol states, “I wasn’t entering for the sake of the walls. That was just a part of the life.” When



asked how someone who had lived halfway around the world and who had experienced as much as she had, could enter a life behind the walls, she explains, “For some people, time in another culture broadens them; for others, it deepens them. By living intensely in this small village community, you have a sense of the universal lived in the intensity of the local. In Mali, I was right on the edge of the desert. So, it is a wilderness area which brings a sense of solitude. It intensifies the spiritual life in many ways. That desert spirituality resonated with me.”

Sister Carol continues, “There’s a simplicity in being close to the earth. That came back to me up in the Andes Mountains (when she visited the Ursulines’ ministries there in 2019). I don’t need to travel to Paris or to Rome. These people in Africa and the Andes are really living life so intensely. But even in Carmel, one found intensity in community life. We were living within this two-acre world. We were composting—you had a sense of an ecosystem. If you look at the real core of these different ways of life, there is a continuum. It is these core things that are attractive to me.”

When asked what drew her to the Ursuline community after spending 25 years as a Carmelite, she says, “I was living with them; praying with them, and so, for me it was discovering that the Ursulines, too, had a contemplative charism, and that their ministry simply flowed out from that charism.”

During her transition, Sister Carol worked at Shively Area Ministries and interned at the Coalition for the Homeless and St. John Center, a day center for homeless men. Concern for the homeless has stayed with her; she currently volunteers with UP For Women and Children, a recently opened day center for those experiencing homelessness. When asked what else she is currently doing in ministry, the list is extensive, and Sister Carol’s enthusiasm is evident! Her own engagement with diverse cultures motivates

her ongoing study of Spanish. Drawing on her life in Carmel, Sister Carol has oriented her study toward contemplative ministry. She graduates this spring with a master’s in theology from Saint Meinrad, with a focus on scripture and spirituality. She hopes to share this with others through educational and retreat presentations, both on-site and virtual. She is also in a three-year spiritual direction internship with the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Milford, Ohio, and will begin as a spiritual director this summer. She recently has joined the archdiocesan outreach to women in jail and prison.

Ecology is another work of mercy, both spiritual and corporal, which attracts her: it gives a sense of

the whole, a groundedness. Sister Carol notes, “Since leaving Carmel, I have been missing working with the earth.” Inspired in part by the Synod on the Amazon, she recently attended a film colloquium, “The Call of the Forest”, which launched her local engagement in Earth Advocacy and volunteer training as a Park Steward for the Olmsted Park Conservancy. Already she participates in community forestry efforts to maintain biodiversity by limiting

When asked what drew her to the Ursuline community after spending 25 years as a Carmelite, she says, “I was living with them; praying with them, and so for me, it was discovering that the Ursulines too, had a contemplative charism, and that their ministry simply flowed out from that charism.”

invasive species and to sustain our natural parks as community green space. “Integrating ecological justice and social justice with spirituality is this new generation’s spirituality,” Sister Carol says. She continues, “Angela’s spirituality of building community intertwines social justice with care for our common home. I have enjoyed discovering the Franciscan tradition as part of Angela’s heritage and how it fits with the parks and trees, with the world.”

Sister Carol shared, “While visiting Peru this past fall, Sister Kathy Neely and I went out to have our morning prayer in the Andes. She had been using a Maryknoll prayer book; we opened up the book that morning and there was, quite amazingly, a prayer from Saint Francis: ‘The world is my cloister. My body is the hermitage. My soul is the hermit within.’” The world, it seems, really is Sister Carol’s cloister. 🌿

## Meet the Associates of Carmen de la Legua, Callao, Peru

BY KATHY WILLIAMS

Carmen de la Legua Reynoso District is one of the seven districts that comprise the port city of Callao. It is part of the metropolitan area of Lima, the capital of Peru. In 1964, Sisters Lee Kirchner, Mary Martha Staarman, Mary Xavier Smith and Helen Margaret Schweri moved to Lima to start a new ministry there.

Sisters Mary Xavier and Helen Margaret taught at the Peruvian Naval School, while Sisters Lee and Mary Martha were tasked with starting a Catholic school from scratch in Carmen de la Legua, which was at that time a slum area of 30,000 poor families living in huts along a dried-up bed of the Rimac River. From these humble beginnings, Saint Angela Merici School was opened in 1965, and in October of this year will celebrate its 55th year. Carmen de la Legua has grown to become an urban area of brick homes, shops

and other wrongs to this day. They say that the Associate meetings are a safe place for them to share and gather as women in support of each other.

The Callao Associates gather once a month in the home of Sisters Sue and Yuli. They were very friendly to us, giving us an embrace and a kiss on the cheek. There is a range of ages and professions among them. Carmen is the vice-principal at Saint Angela Merici School, Patty works in the airline industry, Sonia and Rayda have their own produce shops at a local market, and several are abuelas (grandmothers).

At the start of the meeting, Carmen led a reflection on Saint Angela, whom she said was, “a woman of her time, for our time.” The group sang a beautiful song in tribute to Saint Angela, and had several minutes of quiet prayer time. Carmen shared that at the beginning

The group is all female, and they choose to keep it that way. The Peruvian culture is still very much a male-dominated one and many women suffer domestic violence, emotional abuse and other wrongs to this day. They say that the Associate meetings are a safe place for them to share and gather as women in support of each other.

and businesses, and while still a poor area, the people manage to find work and feed their families.

As a natural outreach of their ministries in Callao, the Sisters began small Christian groups with women in Carmen de la Legua. When our Associate ministry was started in 1979 in the U.S., the Sisters in Peru also began an Associate group in both Carmen de la Legua and in San Miguel, in the Andes Mountains.

While visiting Peru in October 2019, my daughter Elizabeth and I stayed with Sister Sue Scharfenberger and Sister Yuli Oncihuay in their home in Callao, which is only two blocks from the school. Sister Yuli teaches kindergarten and Sister Sue is the Mission Effectiveness Director. Both Sisters work very hard at the school, and they also are in ministry with the Associates of this area. The group is all female, and they choose to keep it that way. The Peruvian culture is still very much a male-dominated one and many women suffer domestic violence, emotional abuse and

of the year, the group together selects themes that are important to them. Each month, a couple of them take a turn presenting that theme.

Vilma said that they go on one retreat a year. This year’s theme was “The Charism of Angela and The Cry of the Poor.” It connected ecology with the poor and care for the earth. Elena added that they also have topics that cover their own realities, including upcoming elections, the corruption in their country and current events. Sonia shared that they also talk about health-related topics, such as aging, depression and how they can be aware of health issues.

The group engages in social justice issues and attends protests for issues like violence against women and defense of children. They also assist Sister Sue with retreats for other women. Gladys shared that, “Together we do a service project. Over the course of a year, we collect items and take them to either a children’s home or a women’s group.



## ASSOCIATE JUBILARIANS

### 40 Years

Judith Dombrowski  
Donna Ising

### 35 Years

Mary Alayne Burks

### 30 Years

Michael Anne Fultz  
Dorothy Schulz

### 25 Years

Dorothy Downey  
Roberta Henkel  
Claude Zimmerman

### 20 Years

Marie Esselmann  
Lucille McIntyre  
Joanne Musteric

### 15 Years

Jim Hughes

### 10 Years

Loretta Aberli  
Teresa Bennett  
Phyllis Clark  
Lane Clatterbuck  
Regina Leitner  
Betty Moore  
Audrey Truax  
Pat Turner  
Jean Wilson

### 5 Years

Genevieve Churchill  
Sandy LeFebvre  
Emily Mosby  
Becki O'Bryan  
Malinda O'Daniel  
Diane Spicer



1. Rayda and Sonia
2. Ana, Sister Kathy, Patty
3. Carmen and Sister Kathy
4. Elena and Gladys
5. Turrón
6. Causa de pollo
7. Dance party: Vilma in front, Sisters Sue, Yuli and Kathy and Elizabeth; Asunción Valdez in rear

When asked how they share the Charism of Angela and the Ursulines, Sonia shared, “My sister and I meet many women in the market where we work. We talk with them and try to help them gain a sense of confidence. We invite them to our meetings, also.” Vilma said that, “Wherever I go, I share the Charism of Angela however I can.”

They always have food at their meetings, and this one was no different. Carmen had made us a delightful Peruvian dish: Causa de pollo. In between two potato layers was a chicken and vegetable mixture. Fun fact: there are 3,000 different kinds of potatoes grown in Peru! This was followed by a cake called Turrón that is served during the month of October. During this month, Peruvians celebrate the feast of Señor de los Milagros, “The Lord of Miracles.”

We also had an impromptu dance party with the Sisters and some Associates after the meeting, dancing to songs from Mamma Mia—such fun! The love and caring these women have for each other is very evident. In spite of hardships and sacrifices, they find real joy through the group. The Charism of Angela is alive and well in Carmen de la Legua, thanks to Sister Sue, Sister Yuli and these Associates. ¡Bendiciones! 🙏

# From Peace to Shalom

BY GINNY SCHAEFFER

It is an amazing scene, mind-boggling, almost impossible to comprehend, but one I overlooked for years. Everything Jesus has worked for, trusted in and given his life for is about to come crashing down around him. He will be betrayed by someone in his inner circle and denied by another. He will be arrested on trumped-up charges and tried in the middle of the night by those who fear him. He will be denounced by the crowds who had just welcomed him a few days earlier with palm branches and hosannas. Finally, he will be tortured, paraded through the streets as a condemned prisoner and executed in a horrific manner.

That's not the scene I'm talking about, though. It's what happened the night before as he gathered around the Passover table with those closest to him. Jesus knew what was about to happen. He saw the storm clouds gathering and he could read the signs of the time.

Knowing that his time had come, Jesus did not want to leave those he loved empty-handed or feeling abandoned. He spoke to them of love, joy, peace and unity.

Here is the part that is so astounding, bordering on the unbelievable. How could anyone who was about to face the horrors Jesus knew was coming his way speak of peace, much less promise it? Yet, that's what he does:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*

*I do not give to you as the world gives.*

*Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.*

—John 14: 27

The peace that Jesus offers is not the peace the world offers—freedom from conflict usually by imposing power over others or ourselves. It is important to note here that the word Jesus would have used was not peace, but the Hebrew word *shalom*, which has several nuanced meanings: wholeness, completeness, integrity, nothing broken, everything fitting together. In his book, *Living a Life that Matters*, Rabbi Harold Kushner

writes that to wish someone *shalom* is to wish them the blessings of wholeness and integrity, no fighting with yourself, no quarreling between the two halves of your divided soul, no matter the circumstances.

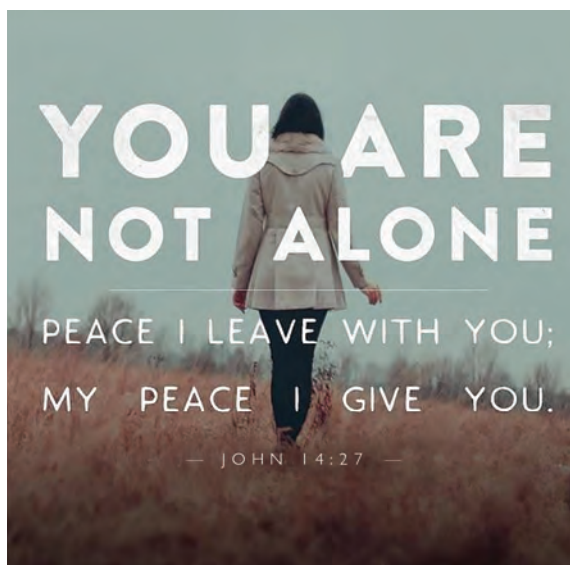
We see this *shalom* come to fruition in Jesus later on that same evening. Knowing what is about to happen, the fully human Jesus is divided within himself. No human in their right mind wants to experience the horrors of crucifixion. So, he does the only thing he

knows to do. He goes to God and pours out his heart.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, accompanied by his closest friends, Jesus finds a secluded place and begs God, his *Abba*, to be spared. Three times he pleads with God for his life. These are not sweet, poetic prayers. They were guttural, primal, filled with fear, dread and anguish. In Luke's gospel, Jesus experiences such agony that "his sweat becomes like drops of blood."

God met Jesus in his agony in the garden. The struggle within Jesus is quieted, the division in his soul is made whole and he is able, once again, to live from a place of integrity. Jesus is now able to accept Judas' kiss of betrayal, to denounce the violence of Peter and to heal the high priest's slave. He asks the temple police who they are looking for and hands himself over to them. This is the grace, the power and the strength of *shalom*.

The invitation for us is to follow the example of Jesus. What is your burden, your agony? What divides your soul? Like Jesus, we must be honest and real with ourselves and God. No more pretending that everything is under control. No more denying what is happening to you or around you. God desires to be with us in our fear, anxiety and pain, not because God is some kind of sadistic peeping-Tom, but because Love seeks to heal, make whole and transform us from the peace the world gives to *shalom*. 🙏





## Angela Merici Center for Spirituality Quarterly Schedule

**NOTE: Because of the current public health emergency, please check the AMC website or Facebook page for updates on scheduled events.**

<https://amcspirituality.org>

(502) 896-3945

Follow us! Facebook: @amcspirituality

Instagram: amcspirituality

### Sabbath Moments Schedule:

May 9 A Mother's Love

Sister Rita Ann Wigginton, OSU

June 13 Opening the Locket

Sister Carol Curtis, OSU

Time: 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Ursuline Motherhouse (handicap ramp)

Cost: \$10

Bring your lunch for fellowship after the session

### Taizé Prayer Schedule:

May 11, June 8, July 11 at 7 p.m.

Motherhouse Chapel

Cost: free will offering

### Discernment: Discovering God's Will in Everyday Life

What is God's will? How do I know if a certain decision is God's will? Is there a difference between my heart's desires and God's will?

The basis of this workshop is that God is always speaking to us and that discernment is a holistic spiritual practice that helps us to understand what God is trying to say. Topics will include: What is discernment, distinguishing spirits of truth and falsehood, using our own lives and other tools for discernment, knowing when to wait and when to act.

June 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Motherhouse Library

Cost: \$50

### Ursuline Academy Pittsburgh 2020 All Class Reunion October 16-17, 2020

Cost: \$45, includes reception and tour of Ursuline Support Services (Murray Ave.) on Friday  
School Tour and dinner at Remo's (Babcock Blvd.) on Saturday

Contact: Ruth Anne (Garrison) McGinley '68  
(717) 728-3174 or [ruthamcginley@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthamcginley@yahoo.com)

## Sister Annunciata Muth

Sister Annunciata Muth died at Nazareth Home-Clifton February 9, 2020. She entered the Ursulines in 1945 and recently celebrated her 75th year as a professed religious.



Sister Annunciata, a native of Louisville, ministered primarily in education and spent 59 years serving in 15 different schools.

In the Archdiocese of Louisville, Sister Annunciata taught at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Raphael, St. Elizabeth, St. Helen, St. Theresa, St. Rita, St. Jerome and St. Athanasius schools, as well as, Sacred Heart Academy and Sacred Heart Model School. She also taught at Pope John XXIII School in Madison, Indiana, St. Paul School in Westerville, Ohio and three schools in Nebraska: St. Patrick in North Platte, Blessed Sacrament in Omaha, and St. Patrick in Sidney.

Sister Annunciata served as a teaching assistant at Holy Spirit School from 1997 to 2006.

She volunteered at United Crescent Hill Ministries.

Sister Annunciata graduated from Sacred Heart Academy and Ursuline College, and earned a master's degree from Creighton University, Omaha, in 1960.

She is survived by her sister, Dorothea Muth Redmon of Louisville, several nieces and nephews, as well as her community of Ursuline Sisters and Associates.

*Expressions of sympathy may be made  
to the Ursuline Sisters and mailed to the  
Mission Advancement Office,  
3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206*

**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.



## Sacredly Centered

The fundraising campaign to preserve the Motherhouse Chapel is \$360,000 short of the \$3.5 million goal. The board and donor restricted Chapel Preservation Fund was established in 2017 with donations to be used for much needed upgrades, repairs and renovations to this century old sacred space.

Help preserve this epicenter of spiritual life for the Sisters and schools. **Please use the special remittance envelope in this DOME for your gift designated to the Chapel Preservation Fund.** Inclusion in your Planned Giving is also an option.

**Send corrections, changes of address and story ideas to:**

Mission Advancement Office • 3105 Lexington Road • Louisville, KY 40206  
(502) 515-7523 • Fax (502) 896-3913 • [communications@ursulineslou.org](mailto:communications@ursulineslou.org)