

URSULINE

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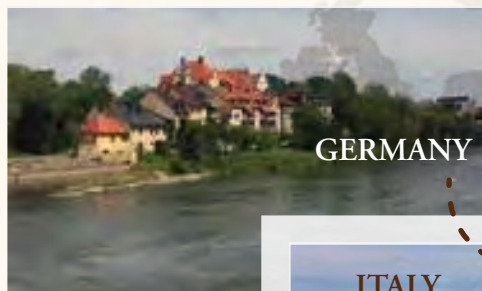
*Continuing
the Legacy
of Spirituality
and Service*

A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE • SUMMER 2017

LOUISVILLE



GERMANY



ITALY



The Journey: **WALKING IN ANGELA'S FOOTSTEPS**

On the eve of their departure for Italy and Germany, five pilgrims received a community blessing at the Motherhouse in Louisville. Sent off with prayers and well wishes were: Sr. Rita Ann Wigginton, in her 52nd year of religious life, who would email journal entries along the way; Sr. Carol Curtis and Sr. Mary Teresa Burns, for whom the pilgrimage was part of their formation as they transition to the Ursuline community; and Sr. Katherine Corbett, who marks her tenth anniversary this year and whose sister was invited along.

Story on page 4



• SUMMER 2017 •

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Our Mission

Teaching Christian living is the corporate ministry 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:

*Tracing the route of the
Ursuline Pilgrims in the
Summer of 2017*



A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE

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Dear Friends,

“We are Companions on the Journey, breaking bread and sharing life.”

These are the first words of a liturgical song by Carey Landry sung in churches years ago. As I write this column, the Church is preparing for the feast of Pentecost, and it will be Ordinary Time when you read it. Each year the Church takes us on a liturgical journey through the mysteries of our faith. Each year we try to wrap our hearts a little more around the meaning of all these Scripture stories, the indescribable love of God who shared our humanity for a time, and where we fit into the evolving plan of God.

Through the ages, the human race has been confronted with scientific information which caused major transitions in the understanding of the earth and how it exists and how it came to be. These new understandings brought with them the need to re-imagine the God who was operating in those transitions and to re-develop theologies that could give meaning to our human existence. God’s creative plan is an evolving one, and we humans are part of that plan. Evolution is no longer confined to the sciences but must be part of theology as well. Today we are blessed with theologians and scientists of faith who are stretching our minds, our hearts and our souls to see new meanings in old truths. While change is going on all around us, and while we will never be able to grasp the immensity of the mystery of God, we can be open to seeing in new ways that God is with us, God loves us, God can be trusted, God is in charge and that is what matters. That is what roots us on our journey.

Our personal faith journeys are strengthened when we share them with others. The Ursuline family is big: Sisters, birth families, Associates, co-workers, benefactors, friends, all we have met along the way in our ministries. When we break bread together and share life together, we strengthen our faith and our hope in that message of God’s love. We can, more easily, keep that message alive through living as Jesus did...with his help. The words of Carey Landry’s song ring in our hearts: *“We are made for the glory of our God, for service in the name of Jesus; to walk side by side with hope in our hearts, for we believe in the love of our God. We believe in the love of our God.”*



Sister Jo Ann Jansing

Sister Jo Ann Jansing, OSU
Councilor, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

The Journey:

By the time our group reached Milan, we were 16 pilgrims in all, including Louisville Ursuline Associate Kathy Mattingly from Cumberland, Maryland—each of us eager to walk in St. Angela's footsteps and visit the places where the foundress of the Ursulines spent her life. Sr. Rita Ann Wigginton shared her reflections:

We encountered very hot weather and a gigantic bike race, Italy's version of the Tour de France. We had to abandon the bus at some spots, but I was pleased to see the places I had heard others talk about or had read about. I was disappointed at not being able to get close to the Cathedral in Milan due to the bike race.

In Desenzano, we journeyed to the home where Angela was born. A visit to St. Mary Magdalen Church offered us a look at a series of pictures depicting significant events in Angela's life, her relic, and the painting of her death mask. After a bus drive to Mericianum, we stood in front of a plaque marking the spot in the field at the family farm where Angela had a vision that reassured her about her older sister, who had died suddenly.



Desenzano

The property now is a retreat center run by Ursuline Sisters and they have lovely renderings of Angela throughout.

The next leg of the pilgrimage took us to Le Grezze to see her childhood home, which has a chapel inside where we prayed. Outside, there are markers representing Ursulines all over the world. Angela's presence was palpable. You just felt her being there. This, for me, was a high point as was seeing the crucifix under which Angela prayed in Salò.

and where she died, while the current church is where she is laid out. I was in AWE. I could feel her presence. She was there; she was with us; she was ALIVE with us.



Angela's bed and stone pillow



Crucifix in Salò

Day trips to many historic sites included time in Brescia at the church where St. Angela lived and died. The church is actually three churches built on top of each other with the first church built on the bones of the early martyrs. We were literally standing on the shoulders of those who died for our faith.

The second church was the one where Angela lived in a side room

We pilgrims pushed on to Sienna, where we saw relics of St. Catherine, then to Assisi to visit sacred places related to Sts. Francis and Clare. Pentecost Vigil Mass in the Basilica of St. Francis was lovely and we received a special blessing for being pilgrims.

We arrived in Rome on Pentecost, and, despite heavy traffic, we were able to make our way to St. Peter's Square for Mass. So many Catholics

Walking in Angela's Footsteps



St. Peter's Square Pentecost Sunday

from around the world standing together was inspiring. So was the art depicting our faith on display at the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel. The Pieta was my favorite.



Pieta in St. Peter's, Rome

Rome is where we five Louisville pilgrims bid farewell to Italy and our travel companions who returned to the United States while we boarded a plane for Germany.

We received a warm welcome by the Sisters in Straubing and it was a thrill to see the Ursulines of Louisville's founding house! It was awesome to visit the place that was home to the first three Sisters who came to Louisville from Straubing. Our Motherhouse Chapel (in

Louisville) is modeled after their chapel, although ours is much bigger and less ornate.



Pilgrims in Regensburg

Before leaving on a train to visit Regensburg we went to the crypt under the Straubing chapel to see the grave of Mother Pia, one of those first three Sisters to arrive in Louisville, and Sr. Seraphina, who came during WWII to stay at our Motherhouse.

On our last day in Germany we took another train ride that brought us to Landshut, home to the Ursulines' great-grandmother house, built in the 1600s. What a treat! We got a guided tour by the man who cares for the property and he was quite proud to show us around.

I felt at HOME in Straubing. The Sisters were just so warm and welcoming. Even with the language barrier, there was a feeling of one with Angela. And the hugs and smiles were a universal language.

Pilgrims on the Journey

"It was a vacation and retreat and renewal all wrapped up in one! E.E. Cummings words come to mind, 'I thank you, God, for this most amazing day.'" (journey)

—Sr. Rita Ann Wigginton, Pilgrim

"It was awesome to literally witness the foundations of faith in different strata of ancient church foundations, crypts and catacombs. Arriving in St Peter's Square for Pentecost Mass confirmed the awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit for unity and mission. We felt at home with our Sisters in Straubing, and the return flight deepened my appreciation for the journey of our foundresses."

—Sr. Carol Curtis, Pilgrim

"Throughout our journey, special as it was in itself, our guide Sister Mary Ellen enhanced it for us by keeping our minds and spirits contemplating the life and pilgrimage of St. Angela, so that we felt her spirit was traveling with us. I have a new appreciation and reverence for our Mother Angela that's more alive in me now than ever. I am in deep gratitude to all who made our pilgrimage possible."

—Sr. Katherine Corbett, Pilgrim

Compassionate Message is Rock Solid



Sisters at the Motherhouse and Nazareth Home—Clifton got crafty!

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer designated April 15–23 as “Give-a-Day” Week. Acts of service and compassion were crafted and carried out by individuals, businesses, religious, civic and neighborhood groups, as well as corporate employee teams.

The overall theme of the projects was to demonstrate love, hope and kindness through actions.

In the past, the Sisters have done various projects spreading a word or deed of kindness. This year the sisters at the Motherhouse and Nazareth Home—Clifton channeled their artistic energy by painting rocks with special words or messages.

Some of these colorful rocks were shared with the Sacred Heart Schools on the Ursuline Campus, while others will show up wherever the sisters go...be it the grocery store, a neighbor's lawn, or their doctor's office, to name a few spots. It is the Ursuline way of sharing a compassionate word with others and hopefully making a difference.

The Art of Diplomacy

A well-deserved high school graduation diploma finally got into the hands of Ursuline Academy (Louisville) alumna Rosemary Hargadon Darst, '50, even if it was 66 years late. Ursuline President Sr. Janet Marie Peterworth, '54 took a call from Rosemary's granddaughter, Casey Blocker Arnouts (Sacred Heart Academy, '08) explaining that her grandmother did not receive her diploma due to extenuating circumstances. Casey was inquiring about getting one for her as a surprise. That's all it took for Sr. Janet Marie to grab her UA diploma and through graphic design magic had Rosemary's name and other details replace the writing

on the Peterworth diploma!

Though a few years apart, both Sr. Janet Marie and Rosemary had some shared history. They grew up on 38th Street in West Louisville, attended St. Columba elementary school and Ursuline Academy. This request for an authenticated document seemed serendipitous.

Rosemary said, “I was overwhelmed when I finally received my diploma.” We're glad it was worth the wait.



Volunteer Appreciation Award

A group of Ursulines attended the St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon where they learned that the Ursuline Sisters had been selected to receive the Father Timmel Award which recognizes representatives of a church or faith-based group that volunteer together regularly at the Open Hand Kitchen. Additional service included writing Christmas cards for the homeless and baking cookies at different times for the clients who come to the Open Hand Kitchen. Sr. Rita Dressman received the award on behalf of the Ursuline Sisters and thanked everyone who helped with various projects. Also, Sr. Rita was thanked for her dedicated service in initiating this volunteer service for the sisters and associates, being the contact person with St. Vincent de Paul and for scheduling and reminding the volunteers when it was time for their participation.



L to R: Srs. Jamesetta DeFelice, Katherine Corbett, Rita Dressman, Loretta Guenther, Rosella McCormick, Julia Davis and Father Gerald Timmel

Visits to Associate Communities Reaffirm Ursuline Influence

In the past few months, I have had the opportunity to visit Ursuline Associate Communities in both Columbia, South Carolina, and Cumberland, Maryland. These trips—I've made three of them so far—are always very enjoyable and enlightening.

In late April, Sr. Julianne Guy, Sr. Maria Goretti Lovett, Ellen McKnight of the Mission Advancement Office and I visited with the Associate Community in Columbia. Sr. Julianne spent many years as a teacher and administrator at Cardinal Newman Middle School and High School there. In addition, she was principal at St. Joseph School for many years, and before she retired to the Motherhouse in 2015 had spent over 10 years as Director of Senior Life Ministry for St. Joseph Parish. Sr. Maria taught for over four decades, first at St. Peter School and then at St. Joseph School, prior to her retirement and move to Louisville in 2016.

During our two-day visit we toured various sites in Columbia that were part of Ursuline history in that city. In addition, Sr. Julianne made a presentation on Saturday to about 35 people at the St. Joseph Church campus, recounting the history of the Ursuline Sisters in South Carolina, first in Charleston beginning in 1834, and then in Columbia from 1858 to 2016.



Katy Sniegon and Bay Baltes

On Sunday we attended the 12:15 liturgy at St. Joseph Church. After Mass, we met with the local Associate Community in the parish hall. I had the great pleasure of signing Katy Sniegon's initial covenant as an Ursuline Associate.

Katy's companion, Associate Teresa Sowers was also present at the gathering.

Following Katy's signing her covenant and receiving her Associate pin, the other attendees signed their covenant renewals. Ellen McKnight then shared a video highlighting the history and work of the Ursulines, which also included a testimonial from an associate. From May 19–21, Sr. Rita Dressman and I went to Cumberland to meet with the Associate Community there. Sr. Rita is from Cumberland and has many friends and relatives there. Friday night we had a wonderful dinner at Carolyn Neely's home with the local Associate Leadership Team. Saturday was their semi-annual Day of Reflection, which started with 8:30 a.m. Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Church.



L to R: Freida Spriggs, Brenda Patton, Lucille McIntyre, and Diane Spicer

After the Liturgy about 35 associates gathered with us in the parish hall for a group discussion around several questions, including, "How have our names for God changed as we have aged?" and, "What are things that give us hope in our lives?" We then moved into a discussion of how the associates can continue to grow and expand their local ministries in the Western Maryland-West Virginia area. At noon we sat down to community and a delicious pot-luck provided by the Cumberland Associates (pictured above). After lunch, we concluded the Reflection Day with a renewal ceremony for four local associates, followed by a prayer service for all in attendance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Repurposed Retirement Funds

You cannot keep retirement funds in your account indefinitely. You generally have to start taking withdrawals from your IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or retirement plan account when you reach age 70½. Once you reach age 70½, you are required by the IRS to take annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). If you want this money to be tax-free, you can set up a direct transfer from your retirement account to a designated charity. That's what benefactor Radetta Nemcosky did when she made the choice to give a portion of her RMD to the Ursuline Sisters.

Radetta said, "My husband Ron and I wrote our wills shortly after our marriage in 1968. Ron wanted to be certain to include the Ursuline Sisters as he

appreciated their dedicated teaching while he was a student at St. Francis de Sales High School in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Over the years, we each invested in IRAs, and our plan was to use the RMDs for travel. When he died in 2003, I lost my travel incentive. Thus, when I was 70½ and required to take the RMDs, I immediately decided I wanted the annual amount to go to our designated nonprofits. There is much joy in knowing that the dollars are currently at work. (I have a friend who labels this "warm money" as opposed to "cold money" when one dies!) For those who have the basic needs and value giving, this is a method worth consideration."

Celebration in Morgantown, West Virginia, honoring the Ursuline Sisters in 1965 – the 50th anniversary of the Sisters' arrival in Morgantown.
Left to right, standing: (unidentified), Margaret Shiel McGovern (sister of Sr. Thecla), Sr. Moira Burke, Sr. De Paul Mike (Sylvia Lawler), Sr. Charlesetta Smith, Sr. Mary Laurana Burke, Sr. Mary Amadeus Bendgen and Sr. Elizabeth McMannon.
Seated: (unidentified)



Ron Nemcosky, freshman year at St. Francis HS

To discuss your IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) as a Planned Giving option to benefit the Ursuline Sisters, contact your financial advisor, and then let Ellen McKnight, Director of Mission Advancement for the Ursuline Sisters, know your decision. She can be reached at (502) 515-7526 or email her at emcknight@ursulineslou.org. For legal documents, the corporate name for the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville is Ursuline Society & Academy of Education.

The mailing address is 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206.

Reunion Liturgy unites Sacred Heart Academy Alumnae and Chapel Centennial Supporters

The Sacred Heart Academy (SHA) Reunion Weekend was a celebration of anniversary graduation classes and the Chapel Centennial on Pentecost Sunday. Following the liturgy, vocalists in grades 9 through 12 from the Bel Canto, A Cappella and Madrigal choirs at SHA along with the Flute and Harp Ensemble from the Sacred Heart School for the Arts filled the Chapel with music. The Irish Heritage Concert was a magical performance of singers and musicians that left alumnae, Sisters, friends and families awestruck by their collective talent. The students and directors departed for Ireland on an international debut tour from July 5–14 to share Kentucky's rich Appalachian folk music heritage abroad.



A child plays the harp.



Musicians and singers in concert



Beginning of the Liturgy on Pentecost Sunday



Choir soloist

Moved by the Spirit



Soloist with the Missionary Baptist Choir

In the second of a series of Chapel Centennial Celebrations planned throughout 2017, the Ursuline Sisters hosted the King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church Choir of Louisville on Sunday, March 19, for an evening performance of gospel music.

Led by Rev. Darrell Martin and Rev. Charles Elliott, III, 40 choir members filled the sanctuary space with striking vocals, solos, instrumentals and energetic direction from the choir directors. Dominant vocals and strong harmony with Christian lyrics are the hallmarks of Gospel music, which can be traced to the early 17th century. With roots in the black oral tradition, hymns and sacred songs are typically repeated in a "call and response" fashion.



Joyful praises filled the Chapel.

Performing to an audience of Sisters, Associates, friends and families, the music set feet tapping, bodies swaying and hands outstretched in praise. At the close of the hour-long performance, the choir members went pew-by-pew mingling with attendees and rejoicing in their kindred spirit.



View of the choir from the choir loft

The King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church has been led by Rev. Dr. Charles Elliott Jr., senior pastor and community activist since 1961. The church is located in downtown Louisville. The church choir spreads God's love through vocals, instrumentals and dance performing at church services and civic functions throughout the year.



Centennial Celebration Events

These last three events are open to the public at no charge and take place in the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel, 3115 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY, 40206. Space is limited, so if you plan to attend any of these celebratory events, please contact Kim Bradley at (502) 515-7523, or email her at kbradley@ursulineslou.org.

Saturday, September 23, 2017

7 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Bourbon Baroque

Saturday, October 21, 2017

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(Feast of St. Ursula)
Bellarmine University Choral Groups

Friday, December 8, 2017

7 p.m.
Closing Liturgy
(Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
Archbishop Kurtz and Our Lady of Lourdes Church Choir

To learn about Chapel Centennial Celebration Sponsorship Opportunities: Ellen McKnight, Director of Mission Advancement (502) 515-7526 or email her at emcknight@ursulineslou.org



Join us on Facebook as we Livestream each of our Centennial Celebrations!
www.facebook.com/UrsulinesLouisville

*View of the choir loft from the sanctuary*

Chapel Preservation

Midway through our year-long celebration of the Motherhouse Chapel centennial, we are more than halfway to our Chapel preservation fund goal. We set a goal of \$3.5 million, and with gifts, pledges and bequests, we are close to \$2 million.

We want everyone to have an opportunity to be a part of this exciting endeavor. Your gift will allow us to have sufficient funds to make the Chapel ADA accessible, make needed repairs and updates, and preserve the Chapel for continued use as a special and beautiful worship space.

An appeal letter requesting your participation will be mailed soon. This invitation gives you an opportunity to help build up God's reign and spread the gospel message by preserving a worship space that is home to the Ursuline Sisters, Sacred Heart Schools, Mass of the Air tapings viewed by the homebound, and the site of other religious and community gatherings. Eucharistic celebrations, profession of vows, funerals, and Taizé prayer evenings are just some of the worship experiences held in the Chapel that nurture people to go forth to serve God and God's people.

Ways to Donate

Return the enclosed remittance envelope or visit our website: UrsulineSistersLouisville.org and click on Partner With Us/Areas Currently in Need of Support.

To learn more about Chapel Preservation Opportunities, call Sr. Jean Anne Zappa, Chapel Preservation at (502) 896-3999 or email jzappa@ursulineslou.org

Noted Louisville Historian to Speak in Motherhouse Chapel

Steve Wiser, an architect, historian and member of the Louisville Historical Society, will present a lecture on Sacred Worship Spaces in Louisville on **Sunday, September 24 at 2 p.m.** in the Motherhouse Chapel in Louisville. No charge, ample parking, open to the public.

*2016 Missioning service**The altar at Easter*

Children Thrive in Mentoring Ministry

When the buses rolled in, Sr. Ruth Ann Haunz was waiting. She opened the door wide at Francis Center and welcomed the backpack-laden youngsters with a smile and a kind word.

Francis Center is the newest of 32 Kid's Café sites sprinkled across the Louisville region, and the only one sponsored by a Catholic entity. Francis Center, itself, is a ministry of St. John Paul II parish: a place that welcomes residents in the Hikes Point and Buechel neighborhoods of Louisville. Responding to the vision of Pope Francis, the Center strives to create and support ways of living the Gospel, opening doors to all neighbors and offering opportunities for the well-being of body, mind and spirit.



Sr. Ruth Ann Haunz with a student

Here at Kid's Café, three days every week during the school year, 45 elementary students can count on homework help, encouragement and a hot meal. "Homework help is good but just as important is a safe place, routine and discipline, where they are loved and accepted," said Sr. Ruth Ann. "We want to show them love."

Sr. Ruth Ann has ample help to do it. Today: 17 volunteers in the homework hall and three more in the kitchen.

"I feel personally blessed by the volunteers here," she said. There are 45 volunteers in all. "I find volunteers everywhere. Two were in my YMCA water exercise class. Half come from John Paul II Parish and many

from St. Martha Parish." Most are from the Buechel/Hikes Point neighborhood.

Jil Ice, a retired special education social worker, helps with homework three days a week. "You always want to be somewhere you're needed," she explained, just before students arrived at her table and started pulling out workbooks. "A lot of what we do is behavior and self-esteem. We can't praise enough. Behavior and academic progress are intertwined."



Dinner is served.

There are high school volunteers, too. Rosemary Dong and her younger sister, April, both students at Sacred Heart Academy, were regulars during the school year. "I'm surprised I like working with kids because I'm not always patient," Rosemary confessed with a smile. "My favorite age is fourth grade. These kids are fun. They make me laugh. It also helps me appreciate the small things I overlook."



Sacred Heart Academy student, Rosemary Dong, helps a student with math homework.

A few minutes after Rosemary spoke with me, a child settled in beside her and asked for help with math.



Ray Schweri tutors two young boys.

At a nearby table, two boys saddled up to Ray Schweri who sports a white beard, a smile and a gentle manner. The results are tangible. “I like coming here. I’m getting better grades,” said Stephanie, a fourth-grader with a huge grin. “I get all As and Bs!”

Attendance is consistent and schools regularly ask if there is space for additional students, as they have waiting lists of parents who want to send their children. Once the homework is completed, there is time for board games or a trip to the playground before dinner is served. Today’s menu: chicken alfredo, garlic bread, tossed green salad and sliced watermelon, courtesy of Dare To Care. “Take my picture!” said Amréé as she held up two slices of the day’s favorite side dish: watermelon.



Amréé with her favorite food

Sr. Ruth Ann has ministered at Francis Center since March 2015. As she recalled the year-long journey to add Kid’s Café and the completion of its first year in action, she counted her blessings. “There are a brother and sister who make me a card every day that says I LOVE YOU. I feel personally blessed by the volunteers here and by the children who respond.”

Nourishing both Body and Soul

Just across the parking lot from Kid’s Café sits the Francis Center community garden. On a Sunday afternoon this spring, youngsters and their parents from Sacred Heart Model School (SHMS) arrived with shovels, rakes and garden gloves to clear 70 plots covered in weeds and remnants of last season’s harvest.

“This is year three for the gardens. The neighborhood uses these plots, with two-thirds being planted by immigrants and refugees,” said Donna Kenney, executive director of Francis Center. “We tell them to first feed their families, extended families and friends. Any surplus is shared with Southeast Associative Ministries twice each week.”

The transformation from weed patches to vegetable-laden gardens includes the journey of growing young hearts in the ways of stewardship. “My hope is it teaches them to serve others and to care for the earth,” said Kenney. “It will mean the world to the gardeners who don’t have the tools for this work.”



SHMS students and parents prepare plots at St. Francis community garden.

Caring for the earth is the service outreach focus of SHMS second-graders. They and their parents dug deep, tilled tirelessly and, in the end, raked in the rewards of hard work. “I want them to learn that we can have fun while we’re helping the community,” said Fleurette Hutcherson, who worked alongside her two children. “I feel happy and helpful,” said Julia Hutcherson as she carried away an armload of dried corn stalks.

Peruvian Journal

"I am with you on the journey."

PART I

The words of the song ring in my ears as I write this issue of the Peruvian Journal. It has felt like a journey these past months as we watched daily the news of the next town or village to be flooded. Tragic was the journey of the overflowing waters rushing down from the Andes and into the unprepared settlements along the rivers, Rimac and Huayocoloro. The flooding was one thing when people had to leave their homes or move to a second floor. But worse still was seeing people trying to save their children and their elderly as the waters swept everything away.



Volunteers offering aid to flood victims

Cars, trucks, animals, stoves, refrigerators were carried away by the force of the water. People who were stranded were assisted by the police and civil defense workers. Heavy ropes were strewn across the heavy flow of water to assist people trying to get to drier land. It was a very moving scene to watch volunteers carrying children and even adults on their backs. The elderly were saved in a similar fashion.

The television cameras projected before our eyes bridges collapsing and politicians making excuses for what was evidently poor construction, poor planning, and careless permissions given to people to build their homes or simply to settle in places that were obviously at risk.

PART II

Once again the Peruvian people showed their resilience, their solidarity, their invincible spirit—believing that life is stronger than death. Immediately communities that were not directly affected began organizing to help gather water, food and clothing for those areas that had suffered devastation. Churches, community organizations and just plain good neighbors joined in on the second part of the journey: organizing points of collection of donations or preparing breakfasts or dinners and taking them in huge pots to the areas where people had no water and nothing to cook with, much less access to markets.

PART III

Our school in Carmen de la Legua was closed for two and a half weeks by order of the local government because, even though the water level was not high in our area, there were predictions of rising flood levels in the river Rimac in front of the school.

But once we returned to school we began organizing our own projects of solidarity. Yuli had made a previous connection through the Conference of Religious with a



Remains of plywood homes buried in mud and sand by flooding

community in Cajamarquilla. So our first busload of water bottles, milk, packages of rice, tuna and other dry goods, along with bags of clothing for children and adults, was taken to Cajamarquilla. It was an hour and a half journey making our way through makeshift roads replacing those that had disappeared in the floods!

We were students, parents and teachers visiting three small areas. But it was the community of Ayllu that had lost everything, their homes and their source of income, where we found the greatest need. They were 40 families living in small tents, but organized and committed to helping one another. While the list of families was called and the students handed the packages of food and water to each one, some of us listened to the stories their leaders shared about the days of the flooding and all that had been lost. They took us through the area where they had lived and we could see the remains of plywood homes more than half buried in the mud and sand. There were stoves and refrigerators, tables and chairs emerging from the buried homes. It was a picture of loss, an unkempt cemetery marking some previous period of history.



Along with the items that we packaged to share, Sr. Yuli brought a bag of balloons. Needless to say, the children found a friend, and Sr. Yuli was like the Pied Piper!

PART IV

We have planned other activities within the course of the year to share what we can with Cajamarquilla and have made other visits to the community of Ayllu. They are our brothers and sisters, and we hope this journey of friendship will continue.



The women prepared oatmeal and biscuits to share with the community of Ayllu.

This story of Carmen de la Legua and Cajamarquilla is repeated across the country. Similarly in San Miguel, the town has organized activities of solidarity for those whose adobe homes have become inhabitable by the heavy rains. Kathy has been busy supporting those efforts with the groups of associates and the support group for the Rehab center.

And the journey continues, as it will be a long while before these communities will recover from the loss, the infirmities that resulted from the mosquito invasions, and the terrible trauma that comes from barely surviving the ravage of the rivers and the enormity of the effects of climate change. (Yes, the latter, is a reality!!!)



The team of parents and teachers packing water containers with food and clothing along with Sr. Yuli and Sr. Sue on the left

Sister Yuli, Sister Sue and Sister Kathy

Choices at the

Life's journeys often lead us down unexpected paths with unpredictable outcomes. Being willing to navigate the fork in the road has led three women to the Ursuline Motherhouse.

*A*mong them is Sr. Katherine Corbett. In her words, "Ten years since I first started on this journey of religious life, and of fully living the charism of St. Angela, it now amazes me when I look back at all the challenges and blessings involved in it. Going on daily with the



Sr. Katherine

experiences and responsibilities of that journey, I hardly had time to reflect on what was happening. Now, as I look back, I feel very blessed and honored to be walking with my older Sisters as they face health challenges, and to be in a calling in which I am there to help them with those challenges. The challenge is also mine in the need always to be learning more: professionally as a nurse, personally with the other Sisters, and spiritually with God, knowing that all three of these are woven together in my calling."

Today, Sr. Katherine plays the vital role of nurse and healthcare director at the Ursuline Motherhouse and is also available for emergencies that might arise with sisters who reside elsewhere.

*T*he call to religious life for two other motherhouse residents initially led them to a Carmelite monastery.

"I know a lot of Catholic girls go through a phase where they want to be a nun but mine never wore off," laughs Sr. Mary Teresa Burns.

One of five girls, Sr. Mary Teresa was born in Germany. Her father, a convert, was a career army sergeant. Her mother faithfully followed him from one military base to the next, and eventually they landed back in her hometown of Louisville where Sr. Mary Teresa completed grade school at St. Francis of Assisi, before attending Assumption High School and enrolling at Bellarmine University.

"When I was 29, I had a conversion experience during Holy Week at St. Martin of Tours Church. It clarified for me that I actually wanted to devote my life to serving God." Because her parents lived near the Ursuline Campus, her mother had hoped she would join the Ursuline Sisters and be able to walk home occasionally. Instead a book about Saint Theresa of Lisieux, gifted to her during childhood, led her to the Carmelite tradition. She joined the Monastery of Mary Immaculate and St. Joseph, for the first time, in October 1990.

"I left after four months because I couldn't handle how unhappy it made my mother," she recalled. "As soon as I went home, I thought it was a mistake. It took me about a year to go back. I returned in 1992 and after that, I was happier than I had ever been in my entire life. I could not explain that to others because they didn't have my vocation."

Crossroads



Sr. Carol and Sr. Mary Teresa

For 24 years, she lived a cloistered life on Newburg Road in Louisville. “People talk about religious life being a sacrifice: How much we give up. I was happy. I was doing what I wanted to do. The sacrifices were all being

made by my family who could only see me once a month, who didn’t have me at home for Christmas and Thanksgiving, who didn’t have me at home for baptisms, weddings and funerals. So, as far as I could see, THEY were the ones making the sacrifice. For me, it was easy.”

Alongside her at the monastery was Mother John-Baptist, the gentle-voiced prioress now known as Sr. Carol Curtis. Born in Illinois and raised in a faith-filled Protestant family, Sr. Carol entered the Catholic Church at age 20 while in Taiwan as a Dartmouth University student. After serving in the Peace Corps in Africa, she worked to pay off student loans then entered the monastery on her 26th birthday.

“It is a life where you pray together; a very close life because it’s cloistered,” she explained. “For 25 years it was my life: working in the garden, working in the house, and a great deal of care-giving which is a beautiful experience.”

With a dwindling and aging population, the Carmelite Monastery in Louisville closed its doors in August 2015. As prioress, Sr. Carol led the way for each of the eight Carmelites to find a new home. Three of them, including Sr. Carol and Sr. Mary

Teresa, settled into the Ursuline Motherhouse on Lexington Road. Now, both Sr. Carol and Sr. Mary Teresa are in the midst of a three-year transition to become Ursuline Sisters.

“Because of the coincidence of my 25th anniversary coming right at the time of the move, there was a sense of this being a special time from God of reconsecrating in a different way,” Sr. Carol explained.

Exposure to the Angela Merici Center for Spirituality and the shared contemplative ministries of the Ursulines prompted Sr. Carol to consider her vocation as evolving—not as repudiating of what was there before, but as a new ministry unfolding.

“There is a lot of common ground,” said Sr. Carol. “It’s not just common ground between religious Sisters, but basically we are all in this together and God is with us all. Participating in the Angela Merici Center was the first part of it. And exploring the active social justice ministries has been important to me in reaching out to the poor.” She has worked with Shively Area Ministries and at the St. John’s Center for Homeless Men.

For Sr. Mary Teresa, the painful loss of cloistered life has unveiled an unexpected journey to become a chaplain. “I NEVER would have thought of being a chaplain until I was introduced to it through the Ursulines,” she explained with a smile. “I am seeing the contribution these fabulous women have made to the Archdiocese. It has made me feel more enriched as a woman, more involved, and more appreciative of what women can offer, what ministries we can undertake. I was just so charmed by the way the Ursuline Sisters welcomed us, included us in everything and how good they have been to us. If I had had expectations, they would have been exceeded.”

As she anticipates her 25th year of religious life in October, Sr. Mary Teresa has a message for the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville: “Thank you! Thank you!”

Migrating to Immigrants

When Sr. Mary Martha Staarman traveled from Cumberland, Maryland, to join the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, she never envisioned the journey God had planned for her. Sixty-three years later, she wouldn't change a thing.

"When I entered the Ursuline Sisters, it was because I didn't want to work in any mission lands and the Ursulines didn't do missions," she recalled with a laugh, "So you know the Lord put me on this path!"

In her 20s, Sr. Mary Martha was sent to help establish the Ursuline mission in Peru without knowing a single word of Spanish. She was overwhelmed and scared. She took an intense language course and carried her Spanish/English dictionary everywhere. Colleagues and the local people kept her going. "I guess I was afraid and thought mission lands meant bugs and different food and that I couldn't handle it," she explained. "But somehow I handled it very well. The food was terrific, the bugs we handled, and going through it with the other Sisters, we only had one another, so I think that it was a brand new journey that, even though I was scared when I went, the people changed my outlook."

"They were so poor but they gave everything they had to us," she recalled. "No one ever laughed at our poor language skills. They gave us a lot of courage and encouraged us to keep going and keep trying." Initially, she anticipated leaving South America after her five-year assignment. Never could she have predicted she would sign up for two more five-year terms. "Once I got the language down, that made a whole world of difference."



Volunteer Sr. Mary Martha holding an infant in her ministry with Hispanic families in West Chester, PA

After 15 years in Peru, a new path opened for Sr. Mary Martha: Hispanic ministry in the United States. Outreach to immigrants in Reading, Pennsylvania, was followed by similar work in Rock Island, Illinois, and, for the past 32 years, in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

"I thought I'd be here a couple of years," she laughed. "At one time I tried to leave and it was thwarted. I have been so blessed by the people here and have loved being the adopted grandmother of many of the Hispanic children whose mothers I have helped." She recalled being hospitalized with hepatitis in Peru when she could speak no Spanish and was unable to understand anything the doctors said to her.

"So when I got here, I saw the Spanish-speaking ladies going into the sterile rooms to give birth and imagined how they must feel. Bright lights, people talking and not knowing a word they were saying."

Sr. Mary Martha became their lifeline, helping to set up doctor appointments, provide transportation

to those appointments and even stepping into the delivery room.

"I've gone in about 600 times, if not more. That became my principle work, helping pregnant women and their children up to two years of age get their immunizations."

More than three decades of nurturing Hispanic mothers and mothers-to-be in West Chester is coming to an end. Soon Sr. Mary Martha will return to Louisville where it all began.

"I am 80 and they tell me it is time," she said. "It is bittersweet but I know that my ministry to the Hispanic population will continue in Louisville. I keep thinking of that scene in the movie, *The Sound of Music*, where the mother superior says to Maria that when the Lord closes one door, He opens another. That is what is happening to me now."



"I only know Louisville from my formation years when we couldn't leave the convent, so it will be a brand new adventure in that respect. I will get my GPS and run around for the next couple of years," she laughed. "I hope to keep contact with the Hispanic population. That's where I belong."

Hospital has human GPS—thanks to an Ursuline



Sr. Julia Davis stands ready to greet and direct people entering hospital.

Less than an hour into her volunteer shift at Norton Audubon Hospital, Sr. Julia Davis' smartphone showed she had walked more than 3,300 steps already that day. Then she greeted another incoming patient at the Louisville hospital as he was lowered from a shuttle bus. Sr. Julia helped shift him to a wheelchair, then navigated hallways and elevators as she wheeled him to his doctor appointment.

"Thank you very much and God bless you!" said patient George Landon as she bade him goodbye. She pushed the chair back to the main entrance and picked up where she left off, greeting each person on arrival, "May I help you?" on departure, "Have a nice day!"

"It is always a joy to be here and I always feel better when I get here," she said with a smile. Her name tag reads: Sr. Julia/Wayfinder and Greeter. Her four-hour shifts run two, sometimes three, afternoons every week. On this particular day, it was her nine-year anniversary at the door and passers by were quick to offer a celebratory hug.

"She is a blessing to us all," said hospital employee Lisa Crenshaw. "I am so thankful that God brought her here." In her 63rd year of religious life,

Sr. Julia has journeyed as teacher, music minister, director of religious education, youth minister and pastoral associate.

"Youth ministry was my love," said Sr. Julia, whose reputation for dressing up for events like Vacation Bible School has transitioned to her latest role, too. The traditional habit was traded in for colors long ago. "I only own one piece of black clothing," she chuckled. "When it is basketball season, I wear red for the University of Louisville. During lent, I wear purple. In spring and summer, it's lots of color!" Today, her green skirt, multi-colored vest, and blue Norton Hospital jacket were topped with the Ursuline cross around her neck. Something else she wears daily makes a lasting impression. "She makes all the strangers very welcome," said hospital chaplain, Father Conrad Sutter. "She knows the hospital well and is very cheerful and interested in helping people. And she always wears a smile!" Not a soul passes by her without being offered help and a smile. She knows every corner of the expansive hospital, which comes in handy when offering directions, and traverses its thoroughfares with ease.

"Sr. Julia is everyone's friend. She's our favorite person," said Reverend Amy McClain as she gave her a hug. A Presbyterian minister and hospital chaplain, Rev. McClain says Sr. Julia keeps the pastoral care staff in-the-know. "She knows everyone's story and is a resource for us about classes and retreats."

Catholics and non-Catholics cherish her presence.

"She was my first interaction with a nun. It wasn't what I expected," said Danielle Jewellson, patient access director and Baptist by faith. "She is a good ambassador for Catholicism. She is a bright light here and such an asset to this building. And it is fun to see her dress up and support U of L!"

Tagging along with Sr. Julia included a stop at the hospital gift shop to greet its volunteer staff that includes Elaine, one of her classmates from grade school. Then, through the maze of corridors and elevators, came a visit to an Ursuline Sisters Associate recovering from a heart procedure. Along the way, she stepped inside the music therapy department and the surgery family waiting room to chat with friends on staff.

"There is power in kindness, and that is what Sr. Julia is," said Lucille Cunningham, on duty in the family waiting room. "Everyone knows her and she calls everyone by name. They will remember Sr. Julia and her kindness more than the services rendered here."

"I get a lot of joy from helping others and making new friends," said Sr. Julia. "I run into many people who had crossed my path at another time. This volunteer ministry is living the Ursuline Charism, 'Contemplative love of God resulting in the openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others.' The Eucharistic presence and liturgy in the chapel bring prayers of healing to the sick and stressed."

The hospital chapel, complete with its stained glass window from the former St. Joseph Infirmary, is open to all. Sr. Julia is a regular there, be it for mass or for quiet time in the outdoor reflection space which overlooks a wooded hillside and includes stunning Stations of the Cross. Each glass station features handprints of hospital doctors and nurses who offer their healing touch.

"There is a sense of community and friendships that has evolved over my nine years that has helped me to grow as a person." It was another typical day when Sr. Julia tracked as many as 8,000 steps, and walked her way into the hearts of many. She said, "It's been a perfect fit. I have met wonderful people and I love it here."

We had been hiking for most of the day along one of the lesser traveled paths in the Smokies, up and down ridges all day long. It had been a good hike, we had seen deer along a creek bed and the back end of a bear running through the brush to get away from us (as if we were any kind of danger to it). There had been the silence of the deep woods and bird song that played with our ears; but my friend and I were not as young as we once were and we were both getting tired and hungry. We were looking forward to coming to a junction with two other trails, one of which would take us back to the parking lot, our car, then a restaurant, a shower and soft beds to rest our weary bodies.

We finally arrived at the intersection of the three trails and were flabbergasted to find the post firmly planted in the ground, right where it was supposed to be; but the sign, with names of trails, direction arrows and mileage lay off to the side. Our anxiety erupted in anger, "What jerk thought it would be funny to kick off the sign!" You see, if we chose the wrong path we would be stranded in the woods the rest of the night; and, we were not prepared for such a possibility.

Fortunately, my hiking buddy is not as directionally challenged as I am; and, therefore, can read a map with some confidence. After catching our breath and calming ourselves down we took out the trail map, oriented ourselves and decided on a path. Thank goodness, it was the one that would take us back to table and hearth.

Throughout our lives we seek paths to follow. We look for ways to live our lives to their fullest, to be happy and of service to others. We choose a vocational path, whether to marry and have children or not. We look for a spiritual path in hopes of quenching a thirst for that which we sometimes cannot name. Often our options are multiple and we have to choose. Other times, there doesn't seem to be a path at all.

This reminds me of another story:

It was the 1960s and Father Thomas Keating, one of the developers of Centering Prayer, was the abbot of St. Joseph Abbey in Massachusetts. Just up the road from

the Benedictine Monastery was a closed-down Catholic retreat center that had recently been sold to a Buddhist group who reopened it as the Insight Meditation Center. Shortly thereafter the monks noticed a marked increase of knocks at their door from individuals who were asking for directions to the Buddhist retreat center.

"Dismayed but intrigued, Keating began to engage some of these young pilgrims in dialogue. What was it they were seeking? To which the response nearly always came in the vernacular of the Sixties, 'A path, man! We're seeking a path.'"¹

A path, man! We're seeking a path. —Anonymous

During these conversations, Keating discovered that the vast majority of these seekers had grown up within the Christian tradition. "He asked the sixty-four-thousand-dollar question, 'So, why don't you search for a path within your own tradition?' To which he received the genuinely astonished answer, 'You mean Christianity has a path?'"²

This is one of Christianity's well-kept secrets: there is a spiritual path for those who seek unity with God, the recovery of one's true self and a way to live in the world that is compassionate, healing and inclusive. We do not have to look outside of our faith tradition, only look deeply within it. Christian spiritual leaders like Father Thomas Keating, Sr. Joan Chittister, Father Richard Rohr, Margaret Silf, Thomas Merton, James Finley and many others have led the way and encouraged and challenged us to follow them. We call this spiritual path contemplation.

Now, before you write this path off as too demanding, only for priests, nuns, monks, hermits or the really spiritual, let me invite you to take a breath and stay open to the possibility that living and praying contemplatively is also for the rest of us.

There is nothing other-worldly about the path of contemplation. Quite the contrary, living contemplatively invites us to "take a long, loving look at the real."³ If you are anything like the rest of us, you have experienced moments of contemplation but didn't know what to call them. Have you ever spent time looking down at your sleeping infant, just to take it all in? When was the last time you pulled your car over to watch a sunset or rainbow? Have you ever slowed down to take in the suffering of another

¹Cynthia Bourgeault, *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening* (Lanham, MD: Cowley Publications, 2004), p.56 ²Ibid ³Walter Burghardt

until it moved you to act? Perhaps it was a work of art, a piece of music or a savory meal that drew your attention fully into the moment. This is contemplation. It is a natural human experience that can be developed and nurtured. It simply requires practice.

Within the Christian contemplative tradition there are spiritual practices that help us to wake up to our lives. None requires great knowledge, but all of them require practice and an open mind and heart. Centering Prayer or Christian Meditation teaches us awareness, the skill of letting go and leads us to union with God and our true selves. Lectio Divina lays out a path to experience Scripture, integrate it into our hearts and minds and allow it to reveal God and a way of living that is abundant. The Examen invites us to look back over our day in hopes of catching a glimpse of God and of what separates us from God. Keeping a Sabbath-time allows us to rest our minds and bodies so that we can remember the gifts of God we have experienced and witnessed and to reconnect with the Divine. Journaling slows us down so that we can hear ourselves think, reflect upon our experiences, uncover the gold and the smelt within our hearts and listen for the voice of our true selves. Mindfulness is the practice of bringing our attention into the moment, rather than the past or future where we like to hang out, of bringing our focus to whatever we are doing, whether setting a table, washing dishes, praying or being with a friend.

By the way, did you know that Jesus was a contemplative? By paying attention to even the smallest of things, a mustard seed or a pinch of yeast, and the life-altering, such as losing a fortune that was a gold coin or the trauma of weeds growing up among the wheat, Jesus saw the ultimate reality of God in everyday life. And this is the purpose of living and praying contemplatively: to know God, not just intellectually but experientially as well; to live our one, best, true life to its fullest; and, to love well.

If you are seeking a path to follow on the journey that is your life, I invite you to investigate and experiment with the Christian contemplative path. It is a path that has served the great ones of our faith and it can do the same for you.

Happy trails!

ANGELA MERICI CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM & RETREAT SCHEDULE

Meet at the Ursuline Motherhouse (please enter at rear of building at the handicap entrance)
www.amcspirituality.org

Taizé Prayer

Dates: Second Monday of the month
August 14, September 11, October 16,
November 13
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel
Cost: Free-will offering

Sabbath Moments

Dates: Second Saturday of the month
September 9, October 14, November 11
Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Cost: \$10 (Bring your lunch and join us for a time of fellowship afterwards)

Compassion's Circle

Date: Monday, August 21
Time: 7 p.m.
Facilitator: Vanessa Hurst
Suggested Donation: \$10

A Silent Retreat

Dates & Times: Friday, August 25, at 7 p.m. through
Sunday, August 27, at 3 p.m.
Facilitators: Retreat Team
Cost: \$185

Connecting Soul to Role

Date: Saturday, September 23
Time: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Facilitators: Ginny Schaeffer
Cost: \$60

Contemplative Awareness Group

Dates & Times: Tuesdays, October 17, 24, & 31 and
November 7, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Facilitators: Karl Ruttan and Ginny Schaeffer
Cost: \$60

Soul Collage

Date: Saturday, November 4
Time: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Facilitator: Joan Zehnder, M.A., A.T.R.
Cost: \$75 (includes lunch and materials)

Are You Waiting for Christ, or is Christ Waiting for You? A Reflection on Advent and Christmas Scriptures

Date: Saturday, December 2
Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Facilitator: Sr. Jean Anne Zappa, OSU
Suggested Donation: \$25

As we mark the 100th anniversary of the United States declaring war on Germany in 1917, have you read or heard stories of World War I? One story that is not circulated, but important in the history of the Ursuline Sisters, is that of the aid given by women religious at Camp Zachary Taylor (adjacent to Louisville) in October 1918. See that story below.



Many of the Ursuline Sisters who volunteered as nurses at Camp Taylor are shown with sisters from other communities. Ursulines are those with black veils in the second row.



Sr. Boniface Lenz (1893-1959) kept an account of the sisters' time at Camp Taylor.



Sr. Cosma Coponi (1893-1983) contracted the flu while serving as a nurse at Camp Taylor.

100 Years Ago, Nuns Answered the Call!

The Brigadier General turned to Army Chaplain Father Regis Barrett, OSB, on October 1, 1918, and said, "Get your G__D__ nuns! They can't do more damage than what we have to contend with now." And 24 hours later, 15 Ursuline Sisters were among the 80 women religious from seven congregations who arrived at Camp Zachary Taylor outside Louisville to nurse the soldiers dying of Influenza!

Before he gave up in desperation with the command above, the Brigadier General had responded to Father Barrett's offer to get women religious to help: "No nuns are to be tolerated in the Camp. Rather let the men die." Prejudice against the Sisters was extreme, indeed, and continued among the doctors until they witnessed the good the Sisters were able to do!

In her account of the experience, Sr. Boniface Lenz wrote, "Fortunately the Franciscan and Charity Nuns had trained nurses who took the rest of us under their wings. Two or three Sisters were assigned to a specific barrack and then three or four barracks were the responsibility of a trained nurse. The Sisters had to learn fast!"

A tough assignment: a typical barracks was segregated with 105 beds for white men on one floor and 89 beds for "colored" soldiers on another floor, plus some patients on the floor until a bed could be found; orderlies were in short supply, and Sisters took on their duties; both smallpox and measles also broke out.

Since the Ursulines were in their black habits, and no white ones worn by Sisters in other orders, such as the Dominicans,

were available, they improvised by taking men's nightshirts, split them all the way down, and put them on backwards over their habits to make what Sr. Cosma called "lovely white aprons!"

Srs. Marcelline Bloom, Ignatius Brinker, Louise Budden, Gregory Clemens, Charles Convery, Cosma Coponi, Gertrude Fromhold, Charlotte Heitz, Johanna Hollenkamp, Generose Holtman, Boniface Lenz, Mary Louis Morgan, Camilla Sommer, Sienna Spaeth, and Joseph Winters were the Ursulines who volunteered. Four Sisters contracted the flu and had to return home; Sr. Cosma developed double pneumonia and was brought "home to die." She lived, however, to age 90 and served 18 years in Ursuline Community leadership, including six as Mother Superior!

By early November the epidemic finally began to weaken. Fifteen hundred people had died at Camp Taylor in the 15 barracks that were converted to hospital wards since the first case was diagnosed on September 16, 1918. Worldwide, the disease was estimated to have killed 20 to 40 million people.

On Friday, November 9, 1918, the Sisters were told to complete all reports and to leave the camp not later than noon on Sunday, November 11. Arriving back at their convents, the Sisters [immediately] "cleaned and straightened our classrooms to start school on Monday morning." Shortly after recess that morning the Sisters and their pupils heard the message: The armistice had been signed. World War I was over!

In Memoriam



Sister Odilia Gadlage, 93, died on April 11, 2017, at Nazareth Home–Clifton in Louisville. A member of Holy Trinity Parish, Louisville, she entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1949. Sr. Odilia graduated from Ursuline Academy in 1941 and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Ursuline College (both of Louisville) and a master's degree in special education from Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee.

Sr. Odilia spent her entire 43 years in Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Louisville. She began at St. Vincent DePaul School in 1951 and then taught at Holy Trinity School and St. Joseph School before joining the Ursuline Special Education Learning Center (a department of Ursuline College) in 1966. She then taught from 1980 to 1984 at the Ursuline-Pitt School, served as a teacher's aide at Holy Spirit School from 1985 to 1992 and assisted at the Ursuline Child Development Center on the Ursuline Campus until she retired in 1994. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her community of Ursuline Sisters and Associates.



Sister Georgine Grabenstein, 99, died on Friday, June 2, 2017, at Nazareth Home–Clifton in Louisville. A native of Cumberland, Maryland, she entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1938. Sr. Georgine was principal at St. Francis of Assisi School. She taught at St. Elizabeth, St. George, Holy Spirit, St. Rita, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John Vianney parish schools, Angela Merici High School and Sacred Heart Model School in Louisville, as well as schools in Omaha, Pittsburgh and Cumberland. She also served as principal of St. Francis de Sales School in Morgantown, West Virginia in the late 1960s, and St. Joseph the Worker School in Weirton, West Virginia, from 1970 to 1975.

She was a pastoral associate at St. Leonard Parish from 1984 to 1990 and at St. Martin of Tours Parish from 1996 to 2005; was on the staff of the Ursuline Child Development Center (now Sacred Heart Pre-School) from 1990 to 1992, and then served five years as a teacher-aide at St. Joseph School, all in Louisville. From 2005 until 2011, she volunteered at St. Matthews Area Ministries and Respect Life Office.

Sr. Georgine earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Ursuline College of Louisville and a Master of Arts in Elementary Administration from Creighton University, Omaha. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her community of Ursuline Sisters and Associates.



Sister Louise Marie Willenbrink (Rita), 82, died at Baptist Health on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, in Louisville. Daughter of the late J. Lawrence and Mary Louise Higgins Willenbrink, she entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1954. She was appointed assistant principal and dean of studies at Sacred Heart Academy in 1970. Sr. Louise Marie was principal of Angela Merici High School from 1971 to 1978 and principal of Sacred Heart Academy from 1978 to 1988. She then served as a student counselor and faculty mentor at Sacred Heart Academy until her retirement in 2012. Sr. Louise Marie began her teaching career at St. Francis of Assisi School in Louisville in 1957 and then taught consecutively in schools in Pittsburgh; Columbia, South Carolina; Jackson, Mississippi, and Morgantown, West Virginia.

Sacred Heart Academy named her "Distinguished Alumna of the Year" in 1984, and in 2003 she was the first recipient of Sacred Heart Schools' "Francesconi Award for Integrity." She graduated from St. Francis of Assisi School, Sacred Heart Academy and Ursuline College in Louisville. She earned a MA degree in English from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh in 1964 and also studied at Spalding University, Louisville, and Trinity Washington University (formerly Trinity College) in Washington, DC.

Sr. Louise Marie is survived by her brother, Dick Willenbrink (Dottie) and sister, Ruth Gonzalez, both of Louisville, and her sister, Jean Perrone of Charlotte, North Carolina, 33 nieces and nephews, 35 great nieces and nephews, a couple of great-greats, as well as her community of Ursuline Sisters and Associates.

Mail Memorial Donations to:

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

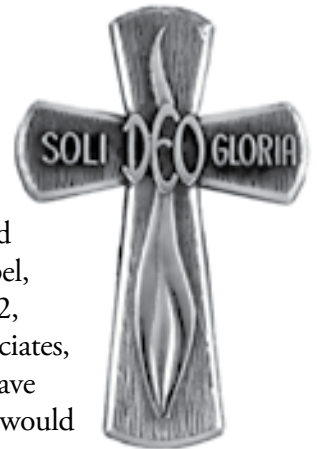
Sister Recognized for 50 Years of Teaching

Sr. Lorna Weiler was recognized for completing 50 years of teaching at Sacred Heart Academy (SHA) at the school's annual awards ceremony last spring. Sister's primary areas were chemistry and physics, but she was a sub for many classes as needed! She also introduced a class in forensic science in the early 2000s. Although now 'retired,' she remains "Queen of the Cafeteria" as she is there for the young women each day and also offers tutoring upon request!



Science class at Sacred Heart Academy

Recently Deceased To Be Remembered at Special Mass



A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel, Louisville on Sunday, November 12, 2017, for loved ones of sisters, associates, co-workers and benefactors who have died since November 2016. If you would like to have the name of a loved one included in this Mass intention, please send the name to Karen Heilers by e-mail (kheilers@ursulineslou.org) or phone her at (502) 896-3924 no later than November 1.

Stay in Touch!



As the communication pace continues to quicken, we want to stay on top of changes to your contact info. We don't want you to miss out on Ursuline news, events and updates. Please keep us informed, so we can keep you informed!

- Fill-in the contact information on the remittance envelope, and mail it back to us.
- Email us at kbradley@ursulineslou.org
- Visit the "Contact Us" tab on our website at ursulinesisterslouisville.org