

URSULINE

# DOME

Continuing  
the Legacy  
of Spirituality  
and Service

A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE • SPRING 2017



*Milestones—*  
WALKING WITH  
ST. ANGELA

CELEBRATING OUR 2017 JUBILARIANS



MISSION ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

ELLEN MCKNIGHT  
Director  
Alumnae Relations/Planned Giving

KIM BRADLEY  
Coordinator  
Database Management/Donation Processing

DOMÉ CONTRIBUTORS

BAY BALTES  
ANNE BLIM  
KIM BRADLEY  
SISTER MARTHA JACOB  
SISTER PAULA KLEINE-KRACHT  
ELLEN MCKNIGHT  
SISTER MARILYN MUELLER  
SISTER KATHY NEELY  
SISTER YULI ONCHUAY  
SISTER JANET MARIE PETERWORTH  
GINNY SCHAEFFER  
SISTER SUE SCHARFENBERGER  
ANNE WALKER  
SISTER JEAN ANNE ZAPPA

CONTACT US

**Send corrections, changes of address and story ideas to:**  
Mission Advancement Office  
3105 Lexington Road • Louisville, KY 40206  
(502) 896-3938 • fax (502) 896-3913  
missionadvancement@ursulineslou.org

**Web address:**  
www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org

 Like us on Facebook!  
facebook.com/UrsulinesLouisville

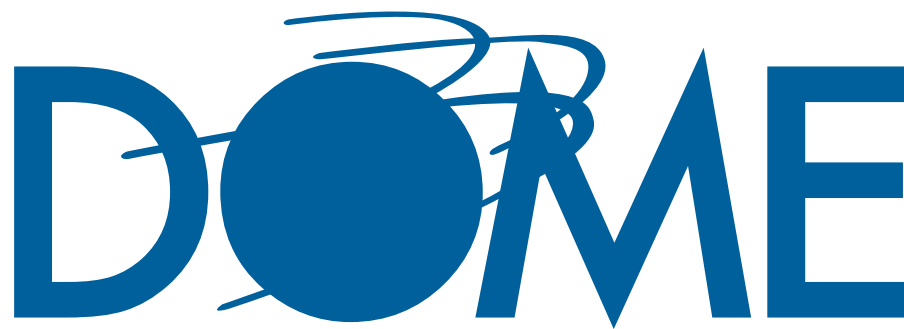
The printing of The Dome is a partial, in-kind donation.  
All content and design by the Ursuline Sisters staff.

*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:

The flame etched into the window of a door into the chapel symbolizes a life of prayer, one-half of the dual commitment of the Ursuline Sisters since 1535. This specific flame was designed by the late Sister Benedicta O'Connor, O.S.U. It is also part of the official symbol worn by the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. It is one of the six etchings in the interior doors of the chapel.



A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE

CONTENTS

3	From the Leadership Circle
4	Sister News
5-15	2017 Jubilarians
15	In Memoriam
16	Peruvian Journal
17-18	From the Archives Chapel Reflects Ursuline History
18-19	Chapel Centennial Celebrations
20	Chapel Preservation
21	Associate Community Prison Ministry
22-23	Angela Merici Center for Spirituality Surviving Storms Program & Retreat Schedule
Back Cover	Associate Jubilarians Sister Georgine Grabenstein's 99th Birthday Stay in Touch

DONATION INFORMATION

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville appreciate the support of those who share their financial resources with us.

We make every effort to ensure that you receive the maximum tax credit allowed by law. When making a donation, please be certain to address the envelope containing your check to the following: Mission Advancement Office, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206.

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.

Ursuline Society and Academy of Education (USAE) is the corporate title under which the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville do business. USAE does not include gifts received for the other corporation, Sacred Heart Schools (SHS), Inc. Gifts for Sacred Heart Academy and other campus schools are received by the SHS Office of Development and used exclusively for the schools and their programs.

*Dear Friends,*

Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of *The DOME*. Most likely you are reading this sometime in early April. I make this observation because due to *The DOME* production deadlines, I am actually writing this "Leadership Circle" in late January. This past weekend, I attended the liturgy marking the opening of the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel Centennial Year. It was a glorious event—a liturgy with two guest musical groups; the performance of a responsorial psalm commissioned by the Ursuline Sisters especially for the opening Mass; a delicious lunch and time for viewing an archival display of the chapel and its one-hundred-year history. I know that some of you attended this Liturgy. In this issue of THE DOME, all of you will read about this opening event and the other Centennial events planned throughout 2017.

For me, this year marks a milestone in our Ursuline history. I realize describing the Ursuline Centennial Year as a milestone may seem overly dramatic. We have come to use the word to describe world-changing historical events. Current world events seem to bring more than a few of this type of milestone. However, if we use the first definition of the word "milestone" (a stone on a roadside marking a one-mile distance from a given place) my description and reference become quite appropriate.

I can easily envision people, including our three sisters coming from Straubing, Bavaria, in 1858, marking their way into unknown areas. Milestones provided the assurances and hope that people would always find their way back to the familiar path when moving forward proved too risky or too rough. This original meaning of milestone is quite descriptive of the corporate Ursuline Sisters' life experiences. As our president, Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, said at the opening celebration, the chapel has served as a sacred place, a milestone which we used throughout our community journey—professing vows for life, choosing women for congregational leadership, and being sent forth to serve God's people, often to new ministries in unfamiliar places.

As I look over the articles featured in this Spring issue, I realize we feature other milestones of our Ursuline Community. In particular we feature the eleven women who are celebrating their jubilees in 2017. Their life stories are wonderful examples of congregational milestones. As you read about each sister, I feel sure you will be inspired by her achievements, her service, her perseverance in living as a follower of St. Angela Merici, and her personal account of the many blessings God has given her. Each sister's years of service and your personal experiences of them serve as proof of the milestones they are for many of you, as well as for the Ursuline Community. We celebrate each of them.

Considering the milestones of our Jubilarians reminds me of another source of milestones—our (meaning you and me) personal milestone life experiences. We all have people and events

who have served as markers on our life path. These are the people and the situations that have given us assurance and hope when we have moved into the unknown. These are the experiences that taught us life-changing lessons. These events may be seen as milestones only by ourselves or a close friend or family member. However, these milestones are ones which each of us remembers in very exact, moment-by-moment detail. We all have such milestones: weddings, the birth of a child, beginning a new career, illnesses and deaths of loved ones. These events prove to be milestones because of what they teach us about living and about relationships.

I find that these personal, more private milestones have taught me to be more alert to the messages of seemingly insignificant events of life. So I realize that attending the St. Angela Merici feast day Mass (January 27) with the Sacred Heart Academy student body presents a milestone. Why? Because I experience immediate and visible assurance that the values of the Ursuline Sisters and the life of St. Angela Merici continue to spread and speak in our world today. Meeting a former student from my early teaching career is a milestone when she tells me about a book I recommended she read (an event I have long-forgotten) was a milestone for her. Her milestone becomes a revelation to me that small actions can leave long-lasting, unexpected impressions.

Reflecting on personal milestones, my own or those shared by others, I often find they reveal deep truths. Milestones often bring a deep sense of God's presence, a concrete revelation that God is present in every person and every event. They bring experiences of God's providential actions in our lives and prove that nothing happens by chance during our life journey. This sense of presence and these revelations are very tangible proof that an event is truly a milestone—a marker of movement on our life-path. These day-to-day life experiences serve as assurances that we can move forward without fear into the unknown and the new. Somehow God's presence which we experience during personal milestones helps us to remain hope-filled and confident when we face those world-changing milestones.

I close with the hope that you will be able to attend many of the events planned for celebrating our Centennial year. And my wish for each of you is that you find many milestones along your life journey and that you are blessed in sharing their meaning with others.

*Blessings to each of you.*



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



## Discalced Carmelites Transferring to the Louisville Ursulines

Mother John Baptist of the Lamb of God and Mother Mary Teresa of the Lamb of God, both Discalced Carmelites, are now in the process of transferring to the Louisville Ursulines. The Carmelite Monastery in Louisville closed its doors in August 2015, and three sisters went to Sacred Heart Home with the Ursulines who live there while three came to live at the Motherhouse of the Louisville Ursulines. Over the time these sisters have lived at the Motherhouse, two have entered into the process of transferring to the Ursulines. The transfer process gives a woman three years to discern if the new congregation is a fit for her. During this process both sisters have an Ursuline who relates to her as a kind of “formator” and guide. Each one also has a small group of Ursulines who act as mentors during this time. Sr. John Baptist is now known as Sr. Carol Curtis and Sr. Mary Teresa is retaining her religious name. Her family name is Burns. The third sister still remains a Carmelite while continuing to live at the Ursuline Motherhouse. The Louisville Ursulines are delighted to welcome these new discerners.



Sister Mary Teresa Burns and Sister Carol Curtis

## Sisters and Preschoolers Make Memories

Multi-generational art and music classes called “Memory Makers” took place at Sacred Heart Preschool in February. The pairing of sisters from Sacred Heart Home with children at the preschool was underwritten by a grant secured by Amy Olson, Sacred Heart Schools’ Mission Effectiveness Director. The last program will take place in March during National Catholic Sisters Week.



Lisa Houglin, director of Sacred Heart Preschool, and Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, president of the Ursuline Sisters, hold a clay heart with the fingerprints of the children who participated in this collaborative art project.



Sister Bernadine Nash observes a child doing a hands-on art project.



Young students and Sister Raymunda Orth wave with happiness after sharing time together.



### Sister Shirley Ann Simmons



**Current Ministry:** Prayer and presence at Sacred Heart Home  
**Previous Ministries:** Principal at St. Patrick (Sidney, NE), St. Luke (Ogallala, NE). Teacher at McDaid Elementary (North Platte, NE), St. Luke (Ogallala, NE). Teacher at St. Boniface, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Elizabeth (Louisville, KY); SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary (Cumberland, MD); Blessed Sacrament (Omaha, NE); Pastoral Minister at St. Luke Parish (Ogallala, NE).

It was 1942. A first class stamp cost three cents. “Casablanca” hit movie theaters. Bing Crosby released his version of “White Christmas.” And

Sister Shirley Ann Simmons joined the Ursuline Community.

Seventy-five years later, Sister Shirley Ann says she doesn’t recall seeing “Casablanca”, but she sure knows “White Christmas,” and she still loves listening to music.

Born in Hartwell, Nebraska, Sister Shirley Ann was the oldest of four; she had two brothers and a sister. Her father was a farmer and her mother taught school. Education was important in their household, so the oldest daughter was sent to board with a Catholic family in North Platte in order to attend a Catholic high school. Sister Shirley Ann helped with the host family’s two children, getting them to and from school.

Sister was 17 when she decided to join the convent. Then she received a four-year scholarship to attend Ursuline College in Louisville, Kentucky. Sister Shirley Ann said she never would have ventured so far from home without that scholarship. She missed her parents and siblings, but soon gained a new family in the Ursuline community. “I guess God just put the wish there,” she said. “I admired all the nuns; all the ones I had as teachers.” When Shirley Ann entered the Novitiate, she was given the name, Sister Joanela; she returned to her baptismal name when this was a choice in the 1960s.

Over the years, Sister Shirley Ann has travelled through many classrooms

and served as principal at two Nebraska schools: St. Patrick in Sidney, and St. Luke in Ogallala. In 1999, she left teaching behind and began work as pastoral minister at St. Luke Parish in Ogallala, Nebraska, serving the Catholic community there until 2005.

Her own education included a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ursuline College in 1957; Master of Arts, Creighton University, 1962; and summer classes at University of Notre Dame, College of St. Mary (Leavenworth, KS), and University of Montana (Missoula).

“I liked every place I was,” she said. “I taught most of the grades. I really preferred teaching middle grades, but I taught whatever they gave me! I really enjoyed my classes and I had some big classes. I enjoyed my teaching career.”

Today Sister Shirley Ann lives at Sacred Heart Home in Louisville. Her tidy room contains a book shelf with her favorite books, many of them Ursuline prayer books.

“I read and I pray,” she said. “I like the Ursuline prayers. I like music, too. I just don’t like the wild stuff!” she said with a laugh.

When asked about being an Ursuline for 75 years, she paused.

“It sounds like a long time, but when I stop and think of it, it doesn’t seem like it’s that long,” she said. “I’ve basically had good years all along.”



## Sister Antonine Biven



**Current Ministry:** Apostolate of Prayer

**Previous Ministries:** Music Teacher at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Helen, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Therese, Sacred Heart Model School, St. Raphael (all of Louisville, KY), Ursuline Academy (Columbia, SC), St. Mary (Jackson, MS). Music Director/Organist at St. Raphael, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Helen, Ursuline Motherhouse (all of Louisville). Director of Religious Education at St. Mary Parish (Maryville, KY). Councilor for Ursuline Sisters, Volunteer at Project Women and Marian Home (both of Louisville).

There is no calculating hours at the keyboard or how often she struck up the band; Sister Antonine Biven has spent her life making music. She chuckled about almost joining a jazz band before she went to the convent and how she learned to play everything from violin to saxophone. The time she wore a full habit while practicing trombone—whose slide knocked off her bonnet—made her laugh aloud.

“I always wanted to be a nun,” she said, smiling. “I used to go to early mass with my mother and we would pass the convent, and I wondered what those people did up there. I thought they took off that habit and stacked it in the corner. I didn’t know they were in parts! I think my time with my mother and our going to mass every morning kept that vocation alive in me.”

Childhood memories include the 1937 flood, when her family lost everything. “We moved in with my oldest brother who had been married only 12 days. He said his marriage was never the same!” she laughed. “My sister and I slept in a broom closet.”

They recovered from the flood, and she started piano lessons. “Lessons cost a quarter each. Eventually, mom saved enough for me to take lessons from the sisters for fifty cents!”

When was her music career truly born?

- When her father bought a \$15 piano on payments.
- When high school classmates pooled money to rent the Memorial Auditorium so she could have a senior recital there.
- When the Ursulines provided an education that led her to teach.

“It was very difficult for my dad when I went to the convent. I remember him picking me up off the ground when I was put into the habit, to tell me goodbye. He hugged me SO tight.”

After her undergraduate degree in music from Ursuline College came a Master’s Degree from Notre Dame. She put her education to work in Kentucky, South Carolina and Mississippi for 24 years as a private instructor, band leader, parish music director, and church organist.

She hit a couple of sour notes along the way: a period when she was not permitted to teach secular music, and the day a priest who did not want a school band at his parish told her to “keep the noise down.” She can laugh about it now.

When she heard another calling, she earned a Master’s from Loyola University in New Orleans and spent 11 years as Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Associate and Music Minister at St. Mary’s parish in Bullitt County, Kentucky. “St. Mary’s was wonderful. They taught me more than I taught them. In addition to religious education, we visited the sick, and people came to us for advice on all sorts of things.”

She served in Leadership three times and twice accepted music ministries at parishes that underwent church renovation. “It was very difficult because we had to fix up the gym at St. Helen’s for weekend mass. Then I was honored to be invited to Our Lady of Lourdes and was very involved in that renovation.”

Sister Antonine sat at the keyboard for mass until health issues slowed her down. She began volunteer ministry at Marian Home. Today, friends call her a prayer warrior.

“I would like to thank the Ursuline Community for giving me an excellent education.” She is delighted to know her music plays on. “I met a former student on the street and he hummed the warm-up exercise we used to do in class.”

## Sister Lorraine Maginot



**Current Ministry:** Prayer and presence at Ursuline Motherhouse

**Previous Ministries:** Teacher at St. Joseph, St. Rita, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart Model School, St. Clement, Most Blessed Sacrament (all of Louisville, KY), St. Patrick (Sydney, NE), St. Mary (Cumberland, MD), Sacred Heart (Camden, MS), St. Agatha (Columbus, OH). Principal at St. Mary (Cumberland). Secretary at Office of Communication. Volunteer ministry at Ursuline Motherhouse and craft shop (Louisville) and Ursuline Convent (Iowa City, IA). Sacristan for Sacred Heart Model School. Ministry to family member. Tutor.

Born on Christmas, Sister Lorraine Maginot was pitied by many for not having her “own” day, but she considers it a privilege to celebrate Christ’s birth on her special day each year.

Her reverent outlook and happy disposition seem innate. Born in Calumet City, Illinois, Sister Lorraine had plenty of playmates with six brothers and three sisters. There

was love, joy, and heartache. The household was quarantined with diphtheria, forcing her father to stay with neighbors so he could continue to work. Her younger sister did not recover, and died at age 20 months. “Little Alma lay in a coffin in the sun room,” she recalled. “My father could not even come in.”

A deep-seated spiritual life carried the family through those dark days. Sister Lorraine explained being first inspired to religious life. “My older sister took me to school when I was real little to meet the Sisters. That was it! I always enjoyed the Sisters.”

“We went to St. Victor’s School. It was a mile away and we had to walk,” she said. “In the winter, there was a lot of snow. Dad would lead us by making a path, and then he went off to work. Sometimes, when the weather was good, we’d come home for lunch and I would stop by the church to make a little visit.”

Taught by Sisters of Notre Dame in grade school then Sisters of the Holy Cross in high school, Sister Lorraine had a family connection that brought her to the Ursulines.

“I was in sixth grade when we got a car,” she recalled. “Mom had two sisters in the Ursuline Community, so we visited. We were sitting in the yard outside the Motherhouse and mom told them that I was thinking of going to the convent. Sister Josephine said, ‘She should come to us!’ God was guiding me. My aunts were happy that I came!” She was given the name, Sr. Juanita when she entered the Novitiate, then returned to her baptismal name in the 1960s.

Her happiest years were spent teaching, even if her first assignment came as a shock. “I got my obedience for St. Joseph’s and it said fifth grade and I almost died!” she laughed. “I

was scared that first year because I did all my student teaching with the little ones. I made it through okay; the kids were nice.”

She believes she was born to be a teacher. “Even when I was growing up with three younger brothers, we would play school and I was the teacher,” she said. “I loved teaching, especially the little ones.”

Sister Lorraine’s teacher career zig-zagged cross-country: Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Iowa, and by slow-moving train to a boarding school in Nebraska.

Her least-favorite obedience: one year as a principal. Through it all, she kept her sense of humor and a deep well of compassion, even volunteering to take on seventh grade from a Sister who was in tears over that assignment. “I just felt so sorry for her!”

Sister Lorraine was excused from teaching temporarily in the 1990s to care for her older sister who was ill. She felt blessed to help. Her ministries also have included sacristan, tutor, housekeeper, secretary, craft shop contributor, and assistant with chapel renovation at Sacred Heart Academy.

“Religious life was my life. From first grade on, I always wanted to be a Sister. You know life; you have your ups and downs,” she said with a smile. “It’s not going to be perfect, but that’s anybody. My community helped me through and I am very grateful and thankful for each day and each Mass at the Motherhouse.”



## Sister Bernadine Nash



70  
Years

**Current Ministry:** Prayer and presence at Sacred Heart Home  
**Previous Ministries:** Principal at St. George, St. Vincent de Paul, Our Mother of Sorrows (Louisville, KY), Blessed Sacrament (Omaha, NE), St. Philip (Mt. Vernon, IN). Teacher at St. George, Holy Spirit, St. Peter, St. Boniface, St. Raphael, St. Clement, Sacred Heart Model School (Louisville), St. Patrick (North Platte, NE). Coordinator at Ursuline Motherhouse, Volunteer ministry at Jewish Hospital, Marian Home, Suburban Medical Center, Red Cross, Pine Tree Villa, Elderserve (Louisville).

Sister Bernadine Nash has a quick smile, a sparkle in her eye, and a penchant for storytelling. Perhaps it is her Irish roots, as her parents were born in Ireland.

"I had a priest ask me why I joined this German community of Ursulines," she laughed. "They were the ones who taught me, so I never considered joining any order BUT the Ursulines!" When she made her vows, she took her father's name, Emmett. Today, she uses her baptismal name, Bernadine.

Born in 1925 in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Sister Bernadine was the oldest of 11 children, including eight brothers. Her parents valued Catholic

education. Her own education was once interrupted by the birth of a sibling. She returned home to help and eventually earned her degree, combining credits from Creighton University with those from Ursuline College.

Let us back up a bit! Sister Bernadine's first calling was not to the convent. She worked as a nurse's aide at St. Joseph Infirmary in Louisville starting in 1942. Later, she was a long distance operator and supervisor for American Telephone & Telegraph in Louisville. While working for the phone company, she heard the "real" call and came to join the Ursulines.

"I was older when I entered. I went to my parish priest with a check to have a Mass said for me because I was going to the convent. He told me he would take the money for a Mass and that he would offer a second Mass for my perseverance. Well, here I am, at 92!"

Sister Bernadine's roles as teacher and principal spanned more than thirty years and touched countless lives. She traversed schools in Kentucky, Indiana and Nebraska. Those seven years in Nebraska are dear to her, as seen in photos on display in her room at Sacred Heart Home. One black and white image shows four young boys she trained to be altar servers at St. Patrick's. Alongside is Sister Bernadine, wearing a small smile and her traditional habit. "That serge was 100% wool and sometimes I would roast," she laughed. "Of course, the kids obeyed us because we had all that gear on!"

"When I got in the convent and was with the children all the time, they kept me young. I really loved the children. I also liked math. One time another nun and I traded so that I took her math classes and she took my English classes."

"Recently, I was at a funeral for a priest and a gentleman came up to me and asked, 'Are you Sister Emmett?'" she recalled. After she explained her name change, he continued, "Oh, Sister," he said, "You were the best teacher I ever

had. May I hug you?" "Sure, go ahead!" she replied with a laugh. This student was from her very first year in the classroom at Holy Spirit, 67 years earlier.

Sister Bernadine continued her education with graduate courses and workshops on a wide range of topics, from psychology and pastoral ministry to social ethics and data processing. Closing the books on teaching was the birth of a new string of ministries, including coordinator at the Motherhouse, volunteer chaplain at Jewish Hospital, volunteer work at the Marian Home, and Elderserve, where she made welfare calls to shut-ins.

Today Sister Bernadine enjoys the daily newspaper, puzzles, and time for prayer. Asked what she thinks Saint Angela would tell her on this 70th Jubilee, she replied, "She'll be waiting there for us. She will say, 'Come on, girl!'"

## Sister Raymunda Orth



70  
Years

**Current Ministry:** Prayer and presence at Sacred Heart Home  
**Previous Ministries:** Teacher at St. George, St. Ann, St. Raphael, St. Elizabeth, St. Leo, St. Peter Claver, Ursuline Special Education Center (all of Louisville, KY), St. Mary (Madison, IN), West Side

*Continued*

Catholic Consolidated Schools (Evansville, IN), St. Clement School and Ursuline-Pitt School (both of Louisville). Principal at St. Boniface Junior High School (Evansville, IN). Assistant Director of Finance for Ursuline Sisters, Assistant Principal/Dean of Students at Pitt Academy. Substitute Teacher at UCDC/Montessori, Administrative Assistant at Angela Merici Center for Spirituality, Ursuline Campus Mail Room. Organist at Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel and Sacred Heart Home (all of Louisville)

"Music is praying TWICE," Sister Raymunda Orth exclaimed. "I like to pray and I like to play!"

One look at the thick binder of organ music atop her desk and you take note.

Sister Raymunda started at the keyboard in third grade, after she raised her hand when asked if she would like to take music lessons. A moment later she regretted that move, as there was no piano at home and no money for lessons. "We were poor, but we had what we needed and we were loved," she said. "Daddy was a milkman for 45 years. They had six children and loved every one." Her mother went to meet the nun who taught piano to explain there would be no lessons. God had other plans. Lessons soon began and the youngster was invited to practice at the Sisters' home. Clarinet was added in fifth grade; organ in seventh. Organ stuck for good.

Sister Raymunda remembers fondly growing up in Evansville, Indiana, where she attended Catholic school. She and her older sister had perfect attendance through grade school and high school. She credits drinking milk for her good health and for fueling the mile-long walk to school. "I didn't drink coffee until I got here, to Sacred Heart Home!" she laughed.

She said her call to religious life came through her music teacher, whose lessons included long chats afterwards. "It was through those talks. I was a junior in high school when I asked my mother what I would have to do to be a Sister. She told me that she didn't know but that we could find out." Two months shy of her eighteenth birthday, she moved exactly 100 miles from her childhood home to the Ursuline Motherhouse in Louisville.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Ursuline College, Louisville; a Master of Arts in special education from Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee; and took graduate courses at Catherine Spalding College (now Spalding University).

"I loved all kinds of teaching. I shook with nerves while awaiting each assignment, not knowing where I would be next, but I accepted with joy every one of them." Her teaching career began at St. George in Louisville. Over the course of 30 years, she found herself in music rooms across Louisville as well as in Madison and Evansville, Indiana.

Special education still holds a dear spot in her heart. "With special education, you can be freer. We had almost as many groups as we had children because it was very individualized."

"This one girl was so cute. Patricia could make you laugh and smile for nothing. She was never absent. One day she came in late, stood in the doorway of the classroom with arms outstretched, and called out, 'I'm here!' I will never forget it," she sat back and laughed.

After retirement came substitute teaching, plus work in the Angela Merici Center for Spirituality and the campus mail room. Her organ music prevailed at the Motherhouse Chapel and continued after her move to Sacred Heart Home. There, spread across her bed, is a quilt covered with signatures of people who love her.

"My older sister, Clara, made that quilt to celebrate my 60th Jubilee. I can hardly believe that it is 70 years now. I have been happy all these years." Life has slowed down. Sister Raymunda still plays music, cards and likes to read, but prayer is front and center. "I have tried to be a good religious person. My prayers are mostly for the poor souls because that's my birthday. I can't say a prayer without saying it for the poor souls. I love my vocation."

## Sister Mary Lee Hansen



60  
Years

**Current Ministry:** Prayer and presence at Sacred Heart Home  
**Previous Ministries:** Teacher at Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Raphael, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart Model School (Louisville, KY), Blessed Sacrament (Omaha, NE), Cardinal Newman High School (Columbia, SC), Ursuline Academy (Pittsburgh, PA). Director of Communication and secretary for Ursuline Montessori School and Ursuline Administration Offices. Mail Room, Marian Home, Ursuline Motherhouse, Sacred Heart Village (Louisville). Artwork for various causes.

*Continued*



Sister Mary Lee Hansen is an artist who admires God’s handiwork in nature.

In her room at Sacred Heart Home an electric candle flickers at the foot of the Blessed Virgin, watercolor brushes stand at attention on her desk, and violets sun themselves on the windowsill.

Sister Mary Lee grew up with one brother outside the Omaha, Nebraska, city limits. Too far from the Catholic elementary school, she began her education in public schools, including a one-room schoolhouse. In fifth grade she took the bus to Holy Cross; then, she was off to a public high school.

“I’m glad for the experience of both parochial and public schools,” she said. “It helped me understand the systems that our children are in.”

Her close-knit family lost her father when she was young. Then just after graduating from high school, she was diagnosed with polio.

“I don’t see any of these things that have happened to me as something to mourn or to ask why God did that to me. That was not part of the way I thought. You look at God and look at what HE had to go through, and the Blessed Mother what SHE had to go through.”

“Polio put me back a little bit,” she said. But it did not stop her.

“Sociology was a new field at the time and Creighton University was offering it. When I got well enough, I went to Creighton and the Jesuits were WONDERFUL.”

They offered her a modified class schedule as she continued to recover, and she worked to pay her way through college. During her junior year, a priest told her it was time to enter the convent. She was 23.

“Being older and having worked was definitely an advantage for me. Those were good maturing years and I could look back and say I hadn’t MISSED anything because I had dated, I had gone to college,” she smiled.

Sister Mary Lee travelled to Louisville to join the Ursulines. “The Ursulines were a combination of contemplative love and service of neighbor, which I see as extremely important in answering the call.”

“Having had polio actually helped my ministry, because you know the struggle that others are going through. It makes you slow down and take a look at the people who seemingly just can’t keep up.”

Post-polio issues eventually forced her to give up something she loved. “I was only able to teach for a short while. After my second knee surgery, the doctor told me I could not teach anymore. That was difficult.”

“A friend told me that when the Lord closes one door, He opens another. I looked at the door and all I could see was darkness. But it worked out,” she smiled.

The door opened to a new ministry: working for the Ursuline Leadership for more than 30 years. She found support to pursue things she enjoyed, like calligraphy, drawing, watercolor, and photography. She still pens calligraphy by request, takes photographs, and paints.

“When I get finished, I look at it and say: ‘That must be how God feels. It may not be perfect, but it’s mine.’ God wouldn’t do this but, once in a while, I do pitch something,” she laughed.

“I am grateful to the Ursuline Community for these 60 years. Sometimes it was easy. Sometimes it was hard. But that is actually life,” said the artist.

“I see all the sisters, and we’re like a mosaic. We all fit together. And when you look at the mosaic, you see the hand of God.”

Continued

Sister Dolores Hudson



**Current Ministry:** Prayer and presence at Ursuline Motherhouse  
**Previous Ministries:** Teacher at St. Elizabeth, St. Helen (both of Louisville, KY), St. Peter (Columbia, SC), SS Peter & Paul (Cumberland, MD). Principal at St. Francis de Sales (Morgantown, WV), St. Vincent de Paul (Louisville, KY), St. John Neumann (Cumberland, MD). Coordinator of Retirement Success for Ursuline Sisters. Coordinator at Marian Home and Ursuline Motherhouse.

“We don’t retire. We are recycled!” Sister Dolores Hudson said with a laugh.

Sister Dolores was born in Cumberland, Maryland, the middle child with six brothers and two sisters. She was taught by Ursulines at St. Mary’s School. “I came from an average family. My father was a railroader and my mother never worked outside the home with nine of us kids. We had a good education and we always had good food on our table.”

“In high school I worked in the hospital in the dietary kitchen. I was there with the nuns and I had a lot of dealings with nurses. I really thought I would like to be a nurse but, in

discerning, I thought I would rather be a nun. I thought God was calling me, so here I am.”

Sister Dolores majored in elementary education at Ursuline College. Her teaching career began in Louisville and eventually led her back home. “I was sent to Maryland, which I felt was lucky. While there, I earned my Master’s Degree.”

She taught first grade for 17 years and has funny stories to prove it. “One day little Danny said, ‘Hey, S’ter.’ He didn’t call me Sister, he called me S’ter. He said, ‘Do you think you’re training an army?’ I asked why. He said, ‘You say do this, do that. Get in line. Just like they do in the army!’ I said, ‘Well, I guess an army for Christ.’ He asked, ‘You can’t use guns, so what’s your ammunition?’ I said, ‘Prayers.’ He paused, then said, ‘Hmm. Pretty good.’ And that was the end of it.”

When assigned to be a principal, “I told Sister Assumpta that I couldn’t do it because I didn’t have the background.” Ever-obedient, she accepted, learned on-the-job, and earned another Master’s Degree. “Being a principal is not easy. One of the best things you have to do is give a lot of credit to your teachers and let them do their job without interfering. I had a great faculty and staff in all three schools.”

While in Morgantown, Sister Dolores marked her 25th Jubilee.

“My parents would be very happy about this Jubilee,” she smiled. “If they were here, I would thank them for the religious education they gave me and for their example of living a good, Catholic life.”

Parents there gifted her with a trip to Rome. Her eight siblings pooled their money and bought a ticket for their mother to go along. “It was a trip of a lifetime,” she smiled.

Eventually she requested a move to the inner city of Louisville. “Those students at St. Vincent de Paul were so loving and I felt very close to them.” Sister arranged field trips for the children: a picnic at Hogan’s Fountain, a tour of a horse farm, and a visit to the state capitol.

Sister believes it was divine intervention that sent her back to Cumberland. “The first nine years I was there, my father died,” she explained. “When I returned, my mother died. I think it was part of God’s plan.”

Sister also had a plan: boost enrollment. Parents were quick to donate. “It was only a K-5 school, but we added three bell choirs. It really sold the school. We went from 233 to 333 children.” A similar success story followed her idea to add a computer lab.

Eventually she left the principal’s office but she never retired. “I really enjoyed going to Open Hand Kitchen (in Louisville) because that’s a meditation in itself, the homeless people coming in to eat. How blessed we have been, both in my home and in my community.”

Sister Jo Ann Jansing



**Current Ministry:** Ursuline Leadership  
**Previous Ministries:** Teacher at St. Ann and Angela Merici High School (both Louisville, KY). Professor at Mount St. Agnes College (Baltimore, MD). Professor at Indiana University Southeast (New Albany, IN). Ursuline Leadership. Volunteer at Nativity Academy and at Shively Area Ministries (Louisville).

Her Ursuline Leadership office is at Brescia Hall, where she is called Sister Jo Ann. Former students still address her as Dr. Jansing. She answers to both.

Born the only girl of four children, she grew up as ‘Daddy’s girl.’ “When I was a kid, they had a holy hour every Thursday at St. George Church,” Sister Jo Ann smiled. “I just wanted to go to that holy hour with my dad.”

Taught by Ursulines, she had two cousins who were priests and three aunts who were nuns. She felt an expectation to follow suit. “In high school I started resisting it, wanting to do what everybody else was doing. Then I went to a Catholic Student Mission Crusade event. I can’t even tell you what

Continued



the man said but one of the speakers really hit my heart. I knew that I would never forgive myself if I didn't try."

Her decision thrilled her father but made her mother cry.

"She asked if I was joining the convent because she was not Catholic. I said, 'NO, Mom.' From then on, she never said anything to discourage me. She wanted me to be happy." Soon after Jo Ann entered the convent her mother became a Catholic.

Earning her undergraduate degree took nine years, as it was done through classes on Saturday while she taught through the week. Her focus was chemistry, inspired by a young nun at Ursuline Academy in Louisville. "I loved it because Sister Assumpta taught it!"

After several years of teaching, Sister Jo Ann was asked to pursue a doctorate to teach physical chemistry at Ursuline College. When cooperative talks between Ursuline College and Bellarmine meant the merged college needed analytical chemistry, she switched her major at Fordham University.

"Living in New York City made me look upon people differently. I would come home and my dad would see a kid with long hair and call him a hippie. I didn't see that anymore because I saw LOADS of different kinds of people that didn't look like me. It was a broadening experience to be there in the midst of that diversity."

As graduation approached, Bellarmine had no job opening. The community told her to find one.

She spent one year at Mount St. Agnes College in Baltimore before moving to a rather new Indiana University Southeast campus just across the river from Louisville.

"IUS was hard for me at first, as I never thought I would not teach at a Catholic institution. It was two to three years before it dawned on me that ministry didn't have to be in the Church,

that my relationship with my students was a ministry. When (students) came into my office in the fall, they would say, 'Can I ask you a question? Are you really a nun?'" She laughed. "I can't tell you how many heart-to-heart conversations we shared in my office. It was clear to me that I was where I was supposed to be."

Still, doubt crept in. "There was a time when I wondered whether I was going to leave the community. So I made a retreat by myself for a week. I went to St. Michael's Cemetery and I started out at Sister Salesia's [foundress of the Ursulines of Louisville] grave. I walked from one grave to the next and I said their name and 'pray for me.' Every single grave of our community! When I finished, I stood in the middle of that cemetery and I sobbed because I knew that this was where I belonged, this was for real, this was for life."

She taught for 36 years, 31 of them at Indiana University Southeast where she was head of the chemistry department and later chair of the natural sciences. Now, she marks 60 years of religious life.

"The biggest part of it is community and sisterhood. God has shown me where I belong."

### Sister Barbara Bir



**Current Ministry:** Tutor for Doors to Hope. Spiritual Director. Retreat Director. Board Member at Pitt Academy.

**Previous Ministries:** Teacher at St. Elizabeth and St. Jerome (Louisville). Teacher/Assistant Principal at St. Francis de Sales (Morgantown, WV). Principal at Our Mother of Sorrows and St. Martha, Personnel Services for Schools of the Archdiocese, Assistant Director & Education Director at Community Catholic Center and Formation Director for Ursuline Sisters (all in Louisville).

The Bir Family—There were six girls, each had a boy nickname. Not until she started school did the second-born recognize her name in writing. It was there on her desk: Barbara.

She was quiet and shy, and took refuge in reading. She acted as caretaker of her older sister who was deaf. When her mother got sick, she cared for the younger girls, too. "We walked to story hour at the library, me with my four younger sisters in tow. Sometimes we stopped to get penny candy on the way home."

There were happy summers spent in the park, and painful days in overcrowded classrooms.

"My first grade teacher shamed me in front of the class," she said. "I resolved then to never shame my sisters or my cousins that I babysat."

In seventh grade, Barbara was invited to help in the sacristy at St. James Church. "We went to Latin mass daily. We didn't understand anything, so I read my missal which had prayers and stories about the saints. I would feel really close to God there. I think that was the beginning of my vocation."

"I came to the Motherhouse, all of 17, just out of high school. I graduated cum laude from Bellarmine-Ursuline

*Continued*

College. My way of discerning where I was going to teach was to accept the first invitation extended by a Sister," she laughed. Sister Alberta called and asked her to teach fourth grade at St. Elizabeth. "I just LOVED it. It was so much work but I loved teaching." One year, she had five students who could not read a word come into fourth grade. She devised differentiated lessons. No one would be shamed in her classroom.

The shy girl of her childhood gave way to a teacher known over the years as Sister Barbara Anne, Sister Barbara, Sister B, and Sister Mom.

"Some sisters were really encouraging me to be a principal. I decided to go to Morgantown to be assistant principal. I had this rapport with the kids and I learned a lot about myself."

Before she felt ready, she was named principal at Our Mother of Sorrows in Louisville and was told to close the school. "I'm not closing it," I said, "I kept it open and, little by little, it grew. My years there were sometimes tough and a blessing."

Then she made a change. She worked as personnel director for the Archdiocese of Louisville Schools. She studied to be a spiritual director. Later she was Formation Director for the Ursuline Sisters and a spiritual director before spending ten years at Community Catholic Center in West Louisville.

"My goal was to educate the parents and get a Catholic education for the children because the culture (there) was drop out of school, girls get pregnant, boys join a gang. I learned about poverty and the hopelessness it brings."

She started family meetings and worked with donors to help fund students' Catholic education.

"We've had children graduate from Catholic and public high schools," she said with a smile. "Not long ago, one of the boys I had there came up to me and said, 'Sister Barbara, I haven't seen you in ages' and gave me a bear hug. I just

loved those kids and they knew it. The ultimate is seeing these young people have a new lease on life."

Multiple spinal surgeries now limit Sr. Barbara's activities, but not her appreciation for those around her. "I am so blessed to have been in community. I've grown closer to God in this community. Sharing the love of Jesus is what it is all about."

### Sister Lynn Jarrell



**Current Ministry:** Canonical Consultant

**Previous Ministries:** : Teacher at Sacred Heart Academy (Louisville, KY), Gymnasium der Ursulinen (Straubing, Germany), SS. Peter and Paul, Bishop Walsh High School (both of Cumberland, MD). Diocesan Tribunal (Evansville, IN). Kendrick Seminary/Aquinas Institute of Theology (St. Louis, MO). Vice-President, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. President, Canon Law Society of America. San Francisco Tribunal/Consultant and Teacher in Canon Law. St. Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park/Jesuit School of Theology (Berkeley, CA). Resource Center for Religious Institute (Washington, D.C.). President, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. Working with Religious Congregations.

"Consecrated Life is a BEAUTIFUL way of life. In one sense it doesn't make any sense at all. You can't explain it, but it's a beautiful way of life if you are called to it."

Sister Lynn Jarrell said her call came in the fourth grade. She entered the convent two months after graduating from high school and could hardly wait to stand at the front of the classroom. "It's always what I wanted to do, teach," she said with a smile. "I went to Ursuline and Bellarmine. It was great from the moment go."

She was named "Star Teacher" at Sacred Heart Academy, where she was also speech and debate coach and even swim coach. "I knew high school was my calling. I loved the students. Speech and debate developed self-confidence, teamwork, critical thinking. Mostly, teaching was just supporting them in their life journey. That's why it is such a privilege to teach."

After teaching five years at Sacred Heart, she eagerly accepted an invitation extended by the Ursuline Sisters in Straubing, Germany.

"I had to leave Sacred Heart, which was hard, but I am grateful that I was able to live there [in Straubing] with our founding community for a year. I taught English as a foreign language, and I worked with the basketball team. I lived their life totally, even speaking German. I am still very connected with those Sisters and have great respect for them."

Upon her return home, she was sent to teach in Cumberland, Maryland. "That was a real gift. I got immersed in that experience, especially the parish life and the local community, and I treasure that greatly. I enjoyed being in and out of Washington, D.C., too."

Then, Sister Lynn was asked by the community to further her own studies beyond her Masters Degree in Communication by pursuing a Doctorate in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America.

*Continued*



“It meant I left the classroom, which was a bit sad, and that I would most likely live some distance from Louisville for much of my professional life because of the nature of a canon law degree. Those were big decisions, especially at my age at that time.”

Since completing her doctorate in 1984, Sister Lynn has continued to serve religious institutes and other individuals as a canonical consultant on a wide-range of topics and concerns.

“I have about 10 to 12 active cases right now with a few of them involving issues at the Vatican, waiting for answers. I have done work with religious in parts of Europe, Africa, South America, Canada and the USA. Plus I have worked in the national office of the Resource Center for Religious. All of it has given me a broad perspective for the various conversations which arise. I have friends in different parts of the world.”

She is increasingly immersed in helping religious institutes plan for their future in light of some difficult realities. She sees the impending decline in the number of religious institutes as part of the cycle of creation and of the human condition in which nothing is permanent.

“The great news, this is absolutely positive to me, is that the decline in the number of religious institutes will open the door for some other movement of grace and gifts in the Church or in the world. I believe this is the way God’s grace works.”

It is with grace that she summed up her 50 years of consecrated life. “Deep gratitude is what I most feel as I celebrate this year. How richly blessed I have been all these years, with companions in our common faith journey and in my development as a person, living community in a simple lifestyle and available in service in whatever way I can.”

## Sister Shannon Maguire



50  
Years

**Current Ministry:** Assistant to Finance Director, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

**Previous Ministries:** Teacher Ursuline Academy (Pittsburgh), Angela Merici High School (Louisville), and St. Francis de Sales High School (Morgantown, WV); teacher, assistant principal / dean of students at Sacred Heart Academy (Louisville). Ministry to elderly parents. House Councilor and Co-Coordinator at Ursuline Motherhouse.

The gold wedding band she wears on her left hand was her grandmother’s. It symbolizes a 130-year connection to the Ursuline Sisters. “My grandparents met at an Ursuline boarding school (a different branch of Ursulines) in the early 1890s,” explained Sister Shannon Maguire.

“My grandmother was the daughter of Quakers. Because they valued education, they sent her from Wyoming to York, Nebraska, to be educated by the Ursulines beginning in fourth grade. She remained there until she graduated from high school.” Later, Sister Shannon’s mother and aunt briefly attended the same Ursuline boarding school.

In the late 40s, the Maguire family moved to Blessed Sacrament Parish in Omaha and met the Ursulines

from Louisville. All five Maguire children attended Blessed Sacrament Grade School.

“My grade school teachers influenced me greatly. As I celebrate my 50th, it’s amazing that four of those teachers are still alive—Sisters Isabel, Bernadine, Shirley Ann, and Georgine. Sister Andrea Callahan, who passed away two years ago, was my eighth grade teacher and was most influential in my life.”

Sister Shannon thought a bit about the convent in high school. After spending two years in college, she decided it was time to take a closer look. “There it was, August of 1966; I entered the community having never been to Louisville. There wasn’t a need to come and check it out. I had seen the dedication and kindness of the Ursuline Sisters.” A treasured photograph shows Sister Shannon in her white veil on investment day. Sister Andrea is at her side, wearing a broad smile.

“Years later, when my mother needed a nursing home—I had been caring for my parents and my father had already passed away—I was fortunate to bring my mother to Marian Home. She joined Sister Pat Lowman’s Marian bridge group. Sister Pat had taught my older sibs at Blessed Sacrament. That is full circle!”

Sister Shannon recalled with fondness her varied ministries, especially as a teacher who sometimes also wore the hat of Dean of Students. “I had one student request that I give her a wake-up call each morning because she had so many tardies and didn’t like reporting to detention. I called her regularly at 6:45 a.m.”

“I remember the first Earth Day in April of 1970. A group of Ursulines and SHA students joined the march through the city. We stopped at our different convents for water breaks.”

“I have seen former students in many places, from Colorado to Florida. It is evident that they are living the Ursuline core values.”

There were many years when she was co-coordinator at the Motherhouse. “I remember the

*Continued*

renovation of the west and middle wings at the motherhouse, done in phases. Every three months a group of 15 sisters had to be re-located. Janet Sauer and I got so adept at helping sisters move that we were later dubbed ‘Two Ladies and a Van’ as we were asked to move sisters to or from different convents.”

“You never knew what to expect at birthday parties at the Motherhouse. We once had Wheel of Fortune with Sister Isabel as Vanna.”

Today, Sister Shannon ministers in the Finance Office of the Ursuline Sisters. The Charism of Angela Merici—a contemplative love of God—resulting in an eagerness to serve others—has been a constant. “I have been blessed to have made two pilgrimages to Italy, where Angela Merici had been. We know she was a woman of compassion, inner strength, peace, a pilgrim woman, a reconciler. Just to walk in her footsteps there, it was quite an experience.”



Sr. Shannon and Sr. Andrea Callahan

## In Memoriam

**South Carolina Associate Anne Guy Sullivan** died December 17, 2016, at the age of 93.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John, her son, Edward and daughters, Joanie and Peggy. She is survived by five children as well as her sister, Sr. Julianne Guy of Louisville and numerous grandchildren. She became an Associate in May 1999 in Columbia, SC, and was active in the local Ursuline Associate community there. Anne also was a volunteer for many years at Providence Hospital in Columbia.

**Illinois Associate Maurice Schultz** died February 1, 2017. He was 78. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy (also an Ursuline Associate), son, John, and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives. Maurice became an Associate in 1990 and signed a life Covenant agreement in 1994. He was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in West Alton, IL, and was the church organist there at one time. He was also a 4th degree Knight of Columbus.

**Sister Mary Terence Schmitt** died November 16, 2016, at Sacred Heart Home at the age of 96. A native of Dalton, NE, she joined the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1938. In Louisville, Sister Terence taught at Our Mother of Sorrows and St. George parish schools in the 1940s and at Ursuline Academy from 1947 to 1961. She also was on the faculties of high schools in North Platte and Sidney, NE; Cumberland, MD; Morgantown, WV; and Pittsburgh, PA. She then ministered at Ursuline Center and Friendship House in Pittsburgh and from 1997 to 2001 was a pastoral assistant at St. Luke Mission Center in Salyersville, KY. Sister Schmitt was passionate about working to protect the environment and in the early 2000s took part in protests in Frankfort regarding problems with strip mining in Kentucky. She was a graduate of Ursuline College, Louisville, and held a MS degree from Saint Louis University. She is survived by her sisters, Lucille Cuminiskey of Worthington, OH, and Clara Collet of Lafayette, LA, her brother Vincent and sister-in-law Marge Schmitt of Sidney, NE, numerous nieces and nephews and her Ursuline Community.

**Sister Rose Ann Born** (formerly known as Sister Judith), 90, died on November 28, 2016, at Sacred Heart Home. A native of Madison, IN, she joined the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1944. In her 42 years as an elementary school teacher, Sister Rose Ann taught consecutively in Louisville at St. Elizabeth, St. Anthony, St. Raphael, St. Therese, St. Helen, Most Blessed Sacrament, and St. Timothy parish schools. She was also on the faculties of schools in Evansville, Indiana; Cumberland, Maryland; Jackson, Mississippi; Pittsburgh, PA, and Columbia, SC. After retiring from teaching, Sister Rose Ann ministered in Louisville as a nurse assistant at Marian Home, at the Sister Visitor Center, as assistant to the secretary of Nativity Academy at St. Boniface and in the Office of Finance of the Ursuline Sisters. She held a BA from Ursuline College, Louisville; and a MA from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. Sister Rose Ann is survived by her nieces, Sandi Miller, Emmy Gray and Ann Henson of Greendale, IN, as well as numerous other nieces, nephews and their families and her Ursuline Community.

## Mail Memorial Donations to:

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





## CULTURAL IMMERSION OFFERED A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE



Sister Yuli watches as a student works on his writing project.

Music is a universal language and Sister Yuli (pronounced Julie) Oncihuay is proof. She is one of three Ursuline Sisters serving in Peru. Her home is Callao, just outside Lima. She arrived at the Motherhouse in Louisville during the summer of 2016 and for the next eleven months shared her bright smile, effusive personality, and a quest to learn English all while gaining a growing circle of friends. During her stateside stay she had two goals: to learn English and to grow in her relationships.

"I came here to know my religious community better. I was very emotional the first days because English was a struggle," she said. "But the sisters said, 'You can do it!' And it got better."

"Sister Yuli brought us many blessings in her sojourn here," said Sister Agnes Coveney. "She showed great courage, when she first came, to engage in mealtime conversations in her beginner's English. She has a lively spirit and shared this in her laughter, her love of song and of dance."

She especially liked working with children and had many opportunities to interact with them. "She taught our class several Christmas songs in Spanish," said Sacred Heart Preschool teacher Marisa Badgett. "She had children form a line and dance around the room while singing. She is so filled with compassion and love!"

"Teaching is my passion," Sister Yuli said with a smile. "Children are a reflection of God." During a typical day in a Montessori classroom at Sacred Heart, Sister Yuli could be found encouraging a child who was doing perforation work or a counting job, or sitting with a group of youngsters in a circle as she showed and explained small Peruvian items. She insisted that the children acted as teachers, too. "I watched a child get a book out of a basket, look at the pictures, and proceed to do yoga with great concentration," she recalled. "Children are full of surprises. They absorb everything. This was an opportunity for me to share and to take it all back to my country."

Sister Yuli cherished her visits to numerous places in Louisville, including La Casita Center, Sacred Heart Preschool, St. Mary's Center, and St. Francis of Assisi School, which has a sister-relationship with Santa Angela Merici School where Sister Yuli teaches in Callao. Her biggest dream is to open more Montessori schools in Peru, where demand outpaces classroom space. "Sister Yuli was a delight to have in Louisville for almost a year," said Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, president of the Ursuline Sisters. "She has come to visit from time-to-time, but the extended period gave us a chance to know her joy and energy, her love of song and dance, and her dedication to young children. I think it helped all the Ursulines here better understand how hard it is to learn English as a second language, how difficult it is to get used to another culture's food and customs, and what a struggle it is to overcome homesickness.

We were sad to see her return to Peru in January, but we know she is carrying Angela's charism to the people there, and that is a calling we rejoice in."

As her departure from Louisville drew near, Sister Yuli said, "I carry these children with me in my heart and the sisters in the Motherhouse, too. I'm very grateful for the happy companionship here in the Motherhouse and their continued winning attitude for life. I love everybody!"

## RENEWAL OF COVENANT FOR SAN MIGUEL AND CALLO ASSOCIATE

The San Miguel Associates celebrated their Covenant Renewal on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2016, in the chapel in Chuad, one of the smaller towns of the province. In Carmen de la Legua, the Associates renewed their Covenants on the Feast of Saint Angela Merici, January 27, 2017, with the added blessing of a new Associate, Delia Cabrejos.

## CALLO ASSOCIATES VISIT LA CASA DE LA MUJER

One of the activities that the Callao Associates desired to fulfill this year was to visit La Casa de la Mujer, a home for adolescent and abused women who are mothers and expectant mothers. The Associates visited 30 young women, mutually sharing with them joyful and reflective moments through songs, dynamics and a reading from Sacred Scripture. As they ended their time together the Associates shared gifts of personal items for the women and toys for the children. "Friendship Day" was truly celebrated that day in February.



# Chapel Reflects Ursuline History

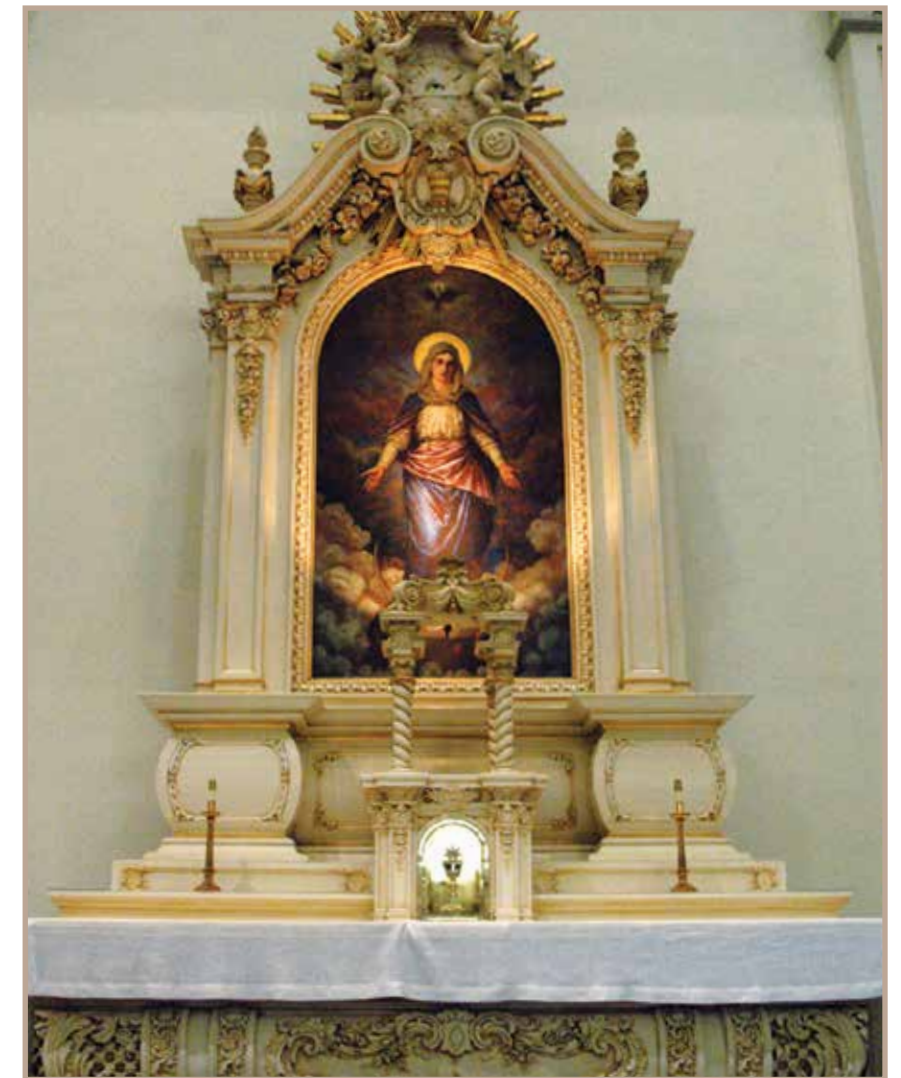
One hundred years ago the Ursuline Motherhouse was nearing completion; the first Mass was celebrated in the Chapel on December 8, 1917. What were those who chose the symbols and statues for the Chapel saying to their brothers and sisters at that ceremony in 1917 and to us today? It is obvious these forebearers wanted all to know that this Chapel is "Ursuline."

## The Name

The formal title is the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. It is named after the 1741 chapel of the Ursuline Motherhouse, in Straubing, Germany, founding house of the Louisville Ursulines. The three sisters from Straubing who came to Louisville in 1858 chose to name their chapel after the one in Straubing. Completed in 1868, it stands today on the corner of East Chestnut and Shelby streets in Louisville. In 1917, the sisters again chose the same name. Another influence may have been Pope Pius IX's declaration of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary an article of faith in 1854, just four years before the sisters' arrival in Louisville.

## The Symbols

Over the altar is the painting of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception, the work of Bruno Alberts (1888-1970). Bas-relief figures give Ursuline history. On the left at the base of the dome is Saint Angela Merici, who founded the Ursulines in 1535 in Northern Italy and was canonized on May 24, 1807, by Pope Pius VII. [Note: If you stand facing the main altar in St. Peter Basilica in Rome and look up left, you will see the statute of Saint Angela by Galli,



placed in 1866 in the same position as in the Ursuline Chapel!] The third statue in that set is Saint Ursula, a martyr for whom Angela named her Company. The image between the side window and the choir loft on that side of the Chapel is that of Saint Catherine of Alexandria. Angela chose her feast day, November 25, for the founding of the Company of Saint Ursula in 1535.

Saint Augustine of Hippo also figures in Ursuline history. His image is on the right at the base of the dome. This doctor of the church wrote a Rule to be observed by those in monastic life. This Rule influenced the first Ursuline Constitutions written in 1610, replaced that first Constitutions, then was adopted by the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and was read each Friday during breakfast until the Louisville Ursulines adopted their present Constitutions in the 1960s.

During the chapel renovation in the 1990s, the Sisters added other symbols expressing the Ursuline charism. These are etched into the windows of the side doors into the chapel.

*Continued*



The flame, work of the late Sister Benedicta O'Connor (1920-1970), is the symbol of a life of prayer; the Bible represents participation in the teaching ministry of the Church. The cross with a flame and the words, "Soli Deo Gloria" (Be Glory to the Only God), designed by Sister Brigid Kirn (1925-1993), is worn by the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. The Chi-Rho monogram and olive branch figure is a reminder to the Sisters to strive to be 'women of peace.'

Many other symbols identify the edifice as a place of worship of the Roman Catholic Church, including 78 bas reliefs of angels (two of which are pictured at right) found throughout the interior. Perhaps these are there because the Straubing chapel also has many figures of angels!



**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)

Bellarmino University Choral Groups

**Friday, December 8, 2017**

**7 p.m.**

Closing Liturgy

(Feast of the Immaculate Conception)

Archbishop Kurtz and

Our Lady of Lourdes Choir



Join us on Facebook as we Livestream each of our Centennial Celebrations!  
[www.facebook.com/UrsulinesLouisville](http://www.facebook.com/UrsulinesLouisville)

## Chapel Celebrations and Preservation Projects



The year-long Centennial celebration of the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel in Louisville, Kentucky, opened with the sounds of a trumpet, hand bells and songs at the liturgy on January 29. The Louisville Chorus Ensemble and the Bells of St. Mary's Hand Bell Choir filled the worship space with music. The chilly Sunday morning weather, with

200 people in attendance, was slightly reminiscent of the wintry day on which the first Mass was celebrated in the chapel on December 8, 1917.

Presider Fr. William Fichteman said, "For 159 years now, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have been instruments of God's mercy. We stand on holy ground because of the prayer and song that have filled this space; also the devotion of homebound Catholics who have watched Mass of the Air originate from this space for the past 20 years; and also the voices of the many children from the Ursuline sponsored schools who pray here."

President Sister Janet Marie Peterworth told those gathered, "A hundred years ago about this time finishing touches were being put on this chapel. I can only imagine the excitement the sisters were experiencing. Now, a hundred years later, we are honoring their courage to undertake building such a structure. I would like to think that those sisters dreamed of what this chapel would be and how it would touch

the lives of so many." She continued by saying, "This is where since 1917 more than 600 young women have knelt to commit themselves publicly to a consecrated life of poverty, celibacy, obedience, and teaching Christian Living. This is where the community has gathered countless times to say a final farewell to sisters who have died. Over the years this chapel has been the place where we have come to elect our leadership, celebrate jubilees, and to be sent forth to carry St. Angela's charism to others."

A responsorial—*How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*—was commissioned by Sister Janet Marie and created by Dr. Timothy Glasscock, Choral Director and Department Chair for the Bellarmine University Music Department. It will be sung at Motherhouse liturgies during this Centennial year.

Those gathered were invited to contribute to the Chapel Preservation Fund to assure the chapel gets immediate upgrades and that it continues to be a source of ministry. In closing, Father Fichteman said, "We are blessed to be able to give thanks for all that has made this ground sacred over the last 100 years. May it continue so for years to come."



### PRESENTING

ZeeFam Trust—Zoeller Family

### LEGACY

Anonymous  
ClearArc Capital  
Phyllis and Guy Conces

### HERITAGE

Janet Pisaneschi

### LEADERSHIP

Duplicator Sales & Service  
FLIK Independent School Dining  
Dr. Paul D. Kelty  
Leonard Brush & Chemical  
Honorable Romano Mazzoli  
Whitehouse Residential & Commercial Painting Company

## Centennial Celebration Sponsors

### COMMUNITY

Joe and Carolyn Besendorf  
Class Act Federal Credit Union  
Patsy and Paul DeBorde  
Anna Jo and Barry Paul

### FRIEND

Bob and Mary Sue Stratton Becker  
Colleen Freeman  
Anne Klapheke  
Louise and Bruce Miller

### DONOR

Suzanne and Ronald Bona-Hatem

and  
2016 Give Local Louisville  
Celebration Supporters

### To learn about Chapel Centennial Celebration Sponsorship Opportunities:

Ellen McKnight  
Director of Mission Advancement  
(502) 515-7526 or  
[emcknight@ursulineslou.org](mailto:emcknight@ursulineslou.org)

### To learn more about Chapel Preservation Opportunities:

Sister Jean Anne Zappa  
Chapel Preservation  
(502) 896-3999 or  
[jzappa@ursulineslou.org](mailto:jzappa@ursulineslou.org)



# Prison Ministry

The Ursuline Associate Community added a new member in July 2016 who is currently incarcerated at the KY Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) in Pewee Valley, KY. Anne Reardon became aware of the Associate Community from talking with Sr. Brendan Conlon who was engaged in prison ministry at KCIW. Sr. Brendan familiarized Anne with the Associate Community and explained the Associates' relationship to the Ursuline Sisters.

When Anne asked if she might undergo formation to become an Associate, Sr. Brendan consulted with the former director of the Associate Community, Theresa Butler, and with Sr. Janet Marie Peterworth, president of the Louisville Ursulines. Both were very enthusiastic about Anne becoming a member so long as she engaged in a rigorous formation process.

Sr. Brendan first approached the Chaplain at KCIW who approved of Sr. Brendan's going ahead with working with Anne, and then she began to design a formation program that could be completed via correspondence. This consisted of Sr. Brendan sending Anne books (about the Louisville Ursulines, St. Angela of Merici and other spiritual topics) and asking her to write reflection papers on each as she finished it. She continued this reflection and writing for a number of months prior to signing her initial Covenant with the Associate Community.

During the course of the formation process Anne repeatedly expressed interest in ministering to the other inmates with whom she lives. Sr. Brendan encouraged her in this because these are women that cannot be reached by the larger Associate Community due to restrictions the Department of Corrections places on inmate visitation.

In order for me as the current director of the Associate Community to visit Anne at Pewee Valley, she would have to remove one of her family members from her approved visitors list. So instead of visiting, she and I correspond regularly. I've also sent her copies of the new Associates' handbook as well as the On-Going Formation booklet that Sr. Isabel Lehmenkuler assembled years ago which was just re-issued and sent to all Associates.

We are in solidarity with Anne and pray that she will one day be able to meet with us in person.

*"You are to rebuild my Temple and care for it." (Ezra 1:2-3)*

## Chapel Preservation Campaign Continues Legacy of Spirituality

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Chapel of the Immaculate Conception for a century has been a sacred space where many and varied groups have come to encounter the holy, experience the presence of God and celebrate community with family, friends, sisters, associates, alumnae and alumni.

It is our hope and desire that this sacred space will be sustained for a long time to come where people of faith will gather and be nourished by their loving God and supported by the faith community gathered.

A Preservation Fund has been set up to finance needed repairs and sustain this important structure, symbol of the presence of God among us. Our goal is \$3.5 million to be completed by 2020. Presently we are half-way to our goal. You are invited to share in this wonderful opportunity to assist with a sacred place where the presence of God and communities of faith meet to be nurtured for themselves and the greater good of others.

The following is a list of needed repairs and upgrades with their projected costs:

### **\$1 million for repairs and upgrades**

- ADA accessibility
- Plaster repairs and painting of the Chapel Court and Chapel
- New carpet
- Tile repairs and cleaning of chapel court tile
- Outside window chapel court screens replaced
- Water heater (also for living quarters for sisters)
- Boiler (also for living quarters for sisters)

### **\$2.5 million**

- Preservation Fund

### **Ways to donate**

Return the enclosed remittance envelope or visit our website, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville and click on Partner With Us/ Areas Currently in Need of Support.



# Surviving Storms

*Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed on the rock. —Jesus*

As the story goes, there were two houses, one built on sand and the other built on rock. A horrific storm blew up and slammed the houses with hurricane force winds, torrential rains and hail. The house built on sand lasted only a short time against the power of the great storm before it began to fall apart and eventually slid into the abyss. The house built on rock withstood the howling winds and pounding rain. It was battered and lost some shingles and window panes; but when the storm ended and the sun shone, it was still standing.

Throughout our lives we experience many storms. Some of them are nothing to really fear, small disturbances that cause a bit of inconvenience as we wait for them to blow themselves out. Others give us more pause, they stop us in our tracks, make us pull over because we are blinded by the wind and rain. We seek shelter; and afterwards, go out to inspect for any damage, pick up limbs blown out of trees and put lawn furniture aright. Then there are the tornadic storms that make us run for our lives. We know we are in danger. We hunker down in our basement or safe place and listen (praying not to hear) the sound of the freight train that will descend and take away all that we love and have worked so hard to gain. If we survive, we go out and stand in awe-full wonder at the power that just passed over.

You know the storms you have experienced or witnessed: the stress of everyday life that builds until something gives, a car that doesn't start one morning and requires expensive and unexpected repairs, a friend who

disappoints, a child who pushes against the rules of the family over and over again, a parent's illness, your illness, the loss of a job, bankruptcy and foreclosure, spousal betrayal, the death of a loved one.

These are some of the personal storms we might face. As I write this reflection, we are also experiencing a national storm that threatens our stability and unity as a nation. Families, friendships and communities are being torn apart. We are hurt, fearful and angry. We no longer talk with one another to understand each other, but scream and howl, blaming and ridiculing. I recently heard a political commentator pronounce that, "...the country is unraveling."

### *What is a follower of Jesus to do during a storm?*

Whether the storm we face is personal or communal, only a passing disturbance or life-threatening, we must stay connected and rooted. Do not bury your head in the sand (Remember what happened to the first house!). Do what you need to do to stay fixed onto the Foundation on which you have built your life.

Contemplative spiritual practices can be that anchor that keeps our lives firmly fixed into the Rock. Such practices as meditation, Centering Prayer, journaling, keeping Sabbath, observing periods of silence, Lectio Divina, walking a labyrinth, spiritual direction, chanting, living contemplatively, Eucharistic Adoration, praying the rosary and, of course, liturgy can open our hearts, minds and lives to God.

These practices have come down to us, through the centuries, from Jesus and such notable Church figures as the Desert Fathers and Mothers, St. Benedict, Brother

Guigo II, Meister Eckhart, St. Ignatius of Loyola, Brother Lawrence, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and many others.

First a disclaimer about spiritual practices: there is nothing magical or instantaneous about them. There are no magical formulas that will immediately change your life. There are no secrets here that will empower you to persuade others to your point of view, to prove you are right. There are no enchanted words that will whisk you off to some eternal bliss. These are practices that need to be, well, practiced.

What happens is that over time these spiritual practices, and our desire to be united with the Ground of our being, will change us. We will see ourselves and others in ways we never have before. We will hear with the ears of our hearts and minds. We will discern that life is full of paradox and dichotomy and not be disturbed by this awareness. We will experience the transformation of being loved and accepted just as we are for no other reason than that we exist. We will find ourselves offering love and acceptance to people and in situations that we never dreamt possible before. We will accept that God's reality is different from that of our culture and society and strive to do what we can to bring it to fruition. We will experience a peace that surpasses understanding even when life is painful, dark and hard. The storms that would destroy us will no longer have that power. We will be able to sing with Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

Therefore, if you meditate, meditate. If you journal, journal. If you practice Lectio Divina, practice Lectio. If you chant, attend daily liturgy, pray the rosary, sit in Eucharistic adoration, continue to do these things. If you have a contemplative practice of any sort, do not abandon it.

Those around you may be baffled by your behavior and accuse you of, indeed, burying your head in the sand. Nothing could be further from the truth. Staying grounded and rooted will keep you from being blown around like a scrap of paper. Staying tuned into God's frequency will lead you on the path of compassion, justice and peace. Then, when it is time for you to act—and that time will come—being in the flow of Spirit will indeed empower you to act rather than react.

## ANGELA MERICI CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM & RETREAT SCHEDULE

[www.amcspirituality.org](http://www.amcspirituality.org)

*All programs and retreats are held on the  
Ursuline Campus in Louisville, Kentucky*

### Sabbath Moments

**Dates:** The second Saturday of the month  
May 13 and June 10. (Sabbath Moments  
does not meet in July or August)  
**Time:** 10 a.m.-12 Noon (Bring your lunch and join  
us for a time of fellowship afterwards.)  
**Location:** Brescia Hall, Building #3,  
3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY  
**Cost:** \$10

### Taizé Prayer

**Dates:** The second Monday of the month  
May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel  
3115 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY  
**Cost:** Free Will Offering

### Compassion's Circle

**Dates:** The third Monday of the month  
May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Brescia Hall, Building #3,  
3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY  
**Facilitator:** Vanessa Hurst  
**Suggested Donation:** \$10

### Exploring, Exercising Contemplative Power Retreat

**Dates & Times:** Saturday, June 3, at 9 a.m. to Sunday,  
June 4, at 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Ursuline Motherhouse, 3115 Lexington Road  
**Facilitators:** Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM, and Sister  
Margaret Galiardi, OP  
**Cost:** Overnight guest: \$275. Commuter: \$240  
(\$50 non-refundable deposit included)

To register or for more details, please visit  
[ursulinesisterslouisville.org/amc](http://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/amc) or call **(502) 896-3945**



Sister Georgine Grabenstein celebrated her 99th birthday at Sacred Heart Home surrounded by sisters. In this milestone year, she is the oldest member of the Louisville congregation.



## 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.

OR

email us at  
[missionadvancement@ursulineslou.org](mailto:missionadvancement@ursulineslou.org)

OR

visit the "Contact Us" tab on our website at  
[www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org](http://www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org)

### ASSOCIATE *Jubilarians* 30 YEARS

Kathryn Mattingly, Cumberland, MD  
Anna Michael, Cumberland, MD  
Carolyn Neely, Cumberland, MD  
Mary Louise Fischer, Louisville  
Irene Mueller, Louisville  
Wilma Schilz, Grant, NE  
Mary Agnes Squires, LaVale, MD

### 25 YEARS

Karen Wells, Bethel Park, PA

### 20 YEARS

Theresa Patterson, Louisville  
Josephine Manthiey, Cresaptown, MD  
Virginia Plummer, Cumberland, MD  
Linda Ratchford, Cresaptown, MD