



URSULINE DOME

Continuing the
Legacy of Spirituality
and Service

A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE • SPRING 2016

OPEN WIDE
the doors of mercy

CELEBRATING OUR 2016 JUBILARIANS

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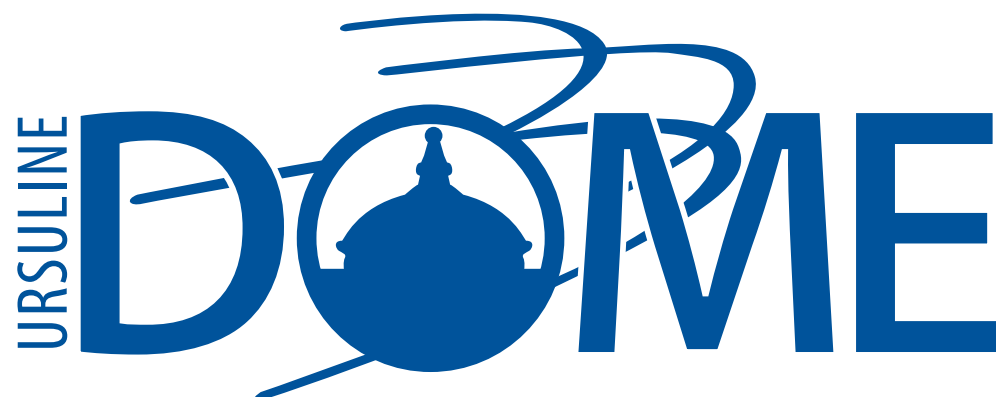
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OUR MISSION

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:

The newly painted red doors of the Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel are in recognition of the Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis.



A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE

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from the
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



The window of my prayer space faces the southwest on Algonquin Parkway. Recently I almost had my breath taken away as I witnessed what looked like a full moon for a series of days during my prayer time. The sun has become for me a symbol of God's love manifested in Jesus. As I soak up the sun's rays, I am warmed and given light. The light of the moon is a reflection of the light of the sun and its beauty is pure gift to me. My prayer was taken into its symbolism.

In his proclamation of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy.' These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him.... Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father. Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God."

As I prayed, with the moon in my view, it came to me that the moon, at least for me, can be a symbol of humankind. I thought of the creation passage in Genesis which states that we humans are made in God's image. Just as Jesus, in his humanity, is the perfect image of God reflecting and, as Pope Francis says, revealing the mercy of God, I, too, am made in God's image and am meant to reflect God's love and mercy to the world. The more I grow in the likeness of Jesus, the brighter will be my reflection of his love and mercy to others.

As Ursulines of Louisville, we take a fourth vow in addition to the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The fourth vow is "to teach Christian living." Our foundress, St. Angela Merici, did not give us a specific ministry... she gave us a way of life. Growing in the likeness of Jesus is a way of life supported through prayer and community with others having the same desire. Angela wanted her daughters to teach Christ through their example, no matter what their ministry might be. Her daughters should teach others to live

Christ's way of love, mercy and service by living it themselves. Ministries which would automatically be carried out by the Ursulines, in Angela's mind, would flow from who the Ursulines were.

As I ended my prayer time during those special days of the moon's company, I thanked God for all the members of our broader Ursuline family who have reflected God's love to me and to our congregation: our Associates, families, co-workers, benefactors, friends, students, all whose lives have intersected with mine on this life's journey. All of them share, in their unique vocations, this Angeline way of life. It is one of mutual relationship.

As part of the Ursuline family, you will read in this issue of the *Dome* about our sisters who are celebrating a special anniversary, a jubilee, this year. What a variety of ways they have found to share their gifts and reflect, through their lives, the love and mercy that God has shown them! They celebrate their jubilees in this very special Jubilee Year of Mercy which has been proclaimed by Pope Francis. In January, on the feast of St. Angela Merici, our congregation's president, Sr. Janet Marie Peterworth, blessed the door of our Ursuline Chapel on Lexington Road and named it a Door of Mercy. With Pope Francis, we pray that everyone who will pass through this door will experience God's mercy and will reflect it to all they meet along life's way.



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

Ursuline Sister, Associate Recognized at Alumnae Event

On February 4, the Alumnae Association of Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville, KY, honored Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell (Class of '62) with its highest honor, the Alumna of the Year Award, for her enriching contribution to the community. Among other services, Sister Rita Joseph has a long history of assisting cancer survivors, acts as Area and State Trainer for the Reach and Recovery Program, and is a chaplain at Hosparus.

The Alumnae Association also recognized Ursuline Associate Theresa Butler (Class of '57) among its Heart Award recipients in recognition of her ministry. Theresa works as Associate Call Director, sits on the Ursulines' Social Justice Committee and is active at St. Williams Church (Louisville).



Above: (L – R) Development Officer Tara Kremer, Sacred Heart Schools President Dr. Cynthia Crabtree, Alumna of the Year Sister Rita Joseph Jarrell (SHA '62) and Sacred Heart Academy Principal Mary Lee McCoy.



Left: Theresa Butler (SHA '57), Director of Ursuline Associate Call, receives SHA Heart Award.

Archival Exhibit Honors Smoketown Ministry



On January 17 a photo tribute to 150 years of Louisville's historic Smoketown neighborhood was on display at Wayside Expressions Gallery. Ursuline Associate and

founder of the Pride and Heritage Committee, Ruby Hyde, worked for months to put together a visual timeline of photos and printed materials. Former residents, students, Ursuline Sisters, friends, family and local and state dignitaries perused the exhibition during the afternoon opening and reception. Ruby said, "Life lessons and education were the core curricula for boys and girls attending St. Peter Claver."

Welcoming the Year of Mercy

Ursuline Sisters and Associates, teachers, students and co-workers participated in events across the Ursuline Campus on January 27 to honor the legacy of foundress St. Angela Merici, a woman of great faith and a pioneer of teaching Christian living. One of the day's capstone events began at 5 p.m. when sisters and associates gathered across Lexington Road in Louisville at Whitehall for a light supper. By 6:30 p.m., they were outside of the chapel, at which time Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, the congregation's president, blessed newly painted red chapel doors in recognition of the Year of Mercy, called for by Pope Francis. The color red symbolizes mercy. A vespers prayer service followed.



Sister Contributes to Book on German Heritage



Around 200 people attended the official kick-off of the book *Germans in Louisville* on October 18. The event was co-sponsored by the German-American Club and Sister Cities of Louisville. Book editors Bob and Vicky Ullrich spoke about the exhaustive research and contributions by other authors who made publication possible. Ursuline Archivist Sister Martha Jacob wrote chapter five on the Ursuline Sisters and Catholic Schools, which traced the Ursulines' arrival from Straubing, Bavaria (now Germany), to Louisville in 1858 to teach German immigrant children at St. Martin School. The book sells for \$21.00 + tax on Amazon.com.

Ursulines On Hand to Help St. Joseph Celebrate 150 Years

On November 15, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Franciscan Friars of Cincinnati, Sisters of Mercy and diocesan priests were honored at the Unity Mass and Brunch celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph Parish in Louisville, KY. The theme of the celebration was "Reflect, Rejoice, Renew." Father David G. Sánchez, pastor, thanked the Ursuline Sisters for their patience as teachers and said the religious brought joy, values and traditions to the parish. Ursuline Sisters served St. Joseph school and parish from 1867 until 1984, with the exception of four years, 1872 – 1874 (the Sisters of Loretto staffed the school) and 1975-1977. A display of photographs, programs and memorabilia were viewed by over 300 people.



Pausing to Remember the Religious Martyred in El Salvador

Amid the sobering reality of terror in our present day, Ursuline Sisters, Associates and others from the Louisville community gathered on December 2 for a prayer service to remember the tragic events that unfolded 35 years ago when four church women were brutally murdered in El Salvador. Ursuline President Janet Marie Peterworth



marked the tragic day in El Salvador. Stirring services and tributes ensued in El Salvador and in Louisville's Motherhouse Chapel to remember Cleveland Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, lay missionary Jean Donovan, and Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford.



Student Scholars Acknowledged



Members of the Ursuline Leadership Council attended the annual Sacred Heart Academy (Louisville) Scholars Brunch where they were on hand to acknowledge the newest scholar selected in 2015 as well as past Ursuline scholars from Sacred Heart Academy. Scholars are chosen based on leadership potential, service and academic excellence. From left to right, senior Clare Blim, junior Elizabeth Vernon, Sister Janet Marie Peterworth, Sister Paula Kleine-Kracht, Sister Agnes Coveney, freshman Rose Diffey and sophomore Megan Bishop.

2016 Jubilarians

CELEBRATING 525 YEARS OF MINISTRY



"The most direct path that leads us to God is undoubtedly the works of mercy." -St. Angela Merici, Ursuline foundress

In this Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis, we recognize the contribution the jubilarians have made to lead others to God through their presence in classrooms and parishes, in homeless and crisis centers and prisons, across the United States and in Peru. The enduring impact of 525 years of service exemplifies the charism of St. Angela, which is rooted in the works of mercy.



Sister Dorothy Frankrone

Current Ministry: Prayer and presence, Sacred Heart Home

Previous Ministries: Teacher at St. Boniface, St. George, Holy Trinity, St. Therese, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Rita, St. Joseph (all of Louisville, KY), St. Mary (Jackson, MS), Sacred Heart School (Camden, MS). Superior at St. Boniface (Evansville, IN). Coordinator, Ursuline

Motherhouse. Speech therapist/pathologist/director at Ursuline Speech and Hearing Clinic (Louisville, KY). Volunteer at Marian Home and cafeteria cashier at Sacred Heart Model School (Louisville, KY).

Today, Sister Dorothy Frankrone resides at Sacred Heart Home in a ministry of prayer and presence following a long history of service. In 1987, she delighted many by sharing thoughts about her life. Her reflection begins by recalling the day in 1940 when she left her parents and seven sisters and brothers to "Come, follow Jesus."

She was baptized at St. Martin of Tours, the same Louisville parish where the first Ursuline Sisters and many of their followers served. Early on, she "timidly marched" to St. Martin to be taught by Ursuline Sisters Julia Schuler, Pacifica Nicklas and Mary Magdalen Schmidt. Later, her family moved and she attended St. Elizabeth. During her eighth grade year, pastor Father John Knue gave instructions to her class, occasionally talking about religious life. "I would think it over in my mind and heart that I really would become a 'sister'

someday. However, I gave some thought to having a family and home of my own, also."

Sister Dorothy studied at Ursuline Academy, Louisville, and did not want to enter the Ursuline Congregation directly after high school. She was 17 and cleaned houses and took care of children in order to earn the money needed to buy the proper clothes for entering the congregation.

On September 8, 1940, her aunt took her to the Ursuline Motherhouse. She was 19. "We were kept very busy with tasks so that we had little time to get homesick. I felt very much at home and loved my newly chosen life."

She attended Ursuline College during her formation, and in her second year, she began student teaching. On July 4, 1943, Sister Dorothy professed temporary vows. "That was a very happy, grace-filled day."

She was assigned to teach third and fourth grades at St. Boniface School (Louisville). Sister Norberta Rickert guided her and soon she learned to love being in the classroom. She professed her final vows in 1946. Over the next eight years she taught at schools in Louisville and then for four years taught at St. Mary in Jackson, MS, and in the summers at Sacred Heart School in Camden, MS.

She returned to Louisville in 1956, and outside of a teaching assignment for two years in Evansville, IN, she remained in Louisville to teach at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Rita. For six summers, she studied as part of Marquette University's speech pathology program. In 1967, now a superior at St. Joseph School (Louisville),

Sister Dorothy, continued...

she attended the first delegated chapter meeting to discern how the congregation would respond to Vatican II. Sister Dorothy then became the coordinator for the Motherhouse until 1970. That same year, she completed her master's degree in speech pathology and began working full-time at the Ursuline Speech and Hearing Clinic. She had this to say about her ministry serving stroke patients, people with voice problems and stutterers, among others: "It demands much patience and can become monotonous. But the joy of a parent whose child has made progress in speech and language and the happiness of the child who can communicate

his/her needs better are more than enough reward."

Sister Dorothy was director of the Speech Clinic from 1981 until 1995. Afterward, she volunteered at Marian Home and served as the cashier for Sacred Heart Model School until 2002. She continued volunteer work and became a resident of Marian Home in 2009 and Sacred Heart Home (2010).

Sister Dorothy has never doubted her vocation. "I thank God for calling me to this Ursuline Community and for the desire to teach and the great joy I have in fulfilling this desire."



Sister Mary Brendan Conlon

Current Ministries: Volunteer at St. John's Center, Kentucky Correctional Institute for Women, Doors to Hope, Open Hand Kitchen

Previous Ministries: Teacher at Sacred Heart Model School, St. Elizabeth, Ursuline Academy, Sacred Heart Academy (all of Louisville), Blessed Sacrament School and Creighton University (Omaha, NE), St. Francis de Sales High School and St. Francis de Sales

Grade School (Morgantown, WV), Bishop Walsh High School and SS. Peter and Paul Grade School (Cumberland, MD), Russell Junior High School (Louisville). Campus minister at West Virginia University for St. John University Parish (Morgantown, WV). Director of Christian Help, Inc. (Morgantown, WV). Witness for Peace (Nicaragua, CA). Founder and director of Christian Help of Mingo County (Kermit, WV).

Sister Mary Brendan Conlon has always enjoyed climbing mountains. Whether they were those surrounding her hometown of Cumberland, MD, or the mountainous region of the West Virginia landscape where she ministered for 33 years, mountains are something of a lodestar.

She was a happy child, raised by loving parents and sandwiched between two brothers. "I owe a lot of my faith life to those years." Politics played an important role in the family as her father was a city councilman and then Cumberland's mayor. While she stocked store shelves in high school, she realized that working to

buy things seemed like "an endless cycle." A different aspiration grew, "the desire to give my life to God."

As a sophomore she shared this desire with her mother but waited until after graduation to tell her father. He supported her decision immediately. (For years, he carried in his pocket the poem, "I'm the Daddy of a Nun.") She considered joining the Maryknoll Sisters but decided on the Ursulines. "I loved to study and hoped that I would love teaching, and I did."

After her investment (1946) and first profession (1948), Sister Brendan taught at Sacred Heart Model School and St. Elizabeth in Louisville. After final profession in 1951, she went to Blessed Sacrament in Omaha, where she studied at Creighton University. In 1954 she completed a bachelor's degree in English and was assigned to Ursuline Academy in Louisville. After one year, she returned to Creighton as a teaching fellow and earned her master's degree in English in 1956. Then she was assigned to Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville for 11 years.

In 1967 she was assigned to St. Francis de Sales High School in Morgantown, WV, but after one year, she was called to a leadership role and served for two years as a councilor and the congregation's director of communication, followed by a year of teaching in an experimental program at Russell Junior High in Louisville. In 1971 she took a position at Bishop Walsh High School in Cumberland, MD, to be close to her failing mother. After her mother died, she went to Gonzaga University in Spokane and decided to pursue work with the poor. She returned to Morgantown to take over the directorship of Christian Help, an emergency assistance agency, and served the St. John University

Sister Brendan, continued...

Parish in its social concerns ministry and Newman Club. She was involved in “peace work,” too, which included protests in Washington and a year with Witness for Peace in Nicaragua, CA. In 1992, Sister Brendan received a master’s degree in Applied Theology from Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, WV.

After 12 years at Christian Help she and Sister Janet Marie Peterworth moved to Mingo County in southern West Virginia. In 1994 Sister Brendan opened another Christian Help center in Kermit, WV, and Sister Janet Marie became director of ABLE Families, which worked to combat the systemic causes of poverty. Sister Brendan

has been inspired by those in West Virginia. After 20 years in Mingo, the two returned to Louisville in 2014.

Sister Brendan now volunteers at St. John Center for homeless men, works with adults learning English, and visits with incarcerated women. She reflected on her own vocation. “I’m grateful I joined the Ursulines. I’ve loved the life and the things I was able to do.”

She values St. Angela’s charism that binds together contemplation with service. “The one has founded and grounded the other,” she said. “It’s the way I’ve wanted life to be.”

an early age, one wish was clear to Sister Evelina: “All my life, I wanted to be holy like my Mother, (Ursuline) Sister Helene Jones and Mary Breighner (the housekeeper for the St. Mary’s parish priests).”

Her mother often talked to her about God, and exemplified the holiness Sister Evelina sought. Sister Helene was her first grade teacher. “I remember her as being patient and kind, and she had a joyful smile.”

On walks home from school Sister Evelina would visit Mary, who would be on the rectory’s porch reading Thomas A. Kempis’ “The Imitation of Christ.” “When I left home for the convent, she gave me a copy.

If holiness was what she desired, there was a sure way to obtain it, she thought. “I think forever I felt I always wanted to be holy and people who were holy were nuns.”

During her formation and teaching years, she acquired degrees and certificates from Ursuline College (Louisville, KY), Catholic University (Washington, DC), West Virginia and Pennsylvania departments of Education, Commonwealth of Kentucky and Spalding University (Louisville, KY).

She admits that she entered religious life not to teach but because she wanted to be an Ursuline. “One thing for sure is that I learned I loved children.”

She taught in elementary schools for 22 years and served as principal for 19 years in Pittsburgh, PA; Morgantown, WV and Louisville, KY. Challenges came, including assignments in impoverished areas. “I worked with very poor families and I just tried to help as much as I could.”

For a short time, she took on a part-time teaching position in the Education Department at Ursuline College,

Sister Evelina, continued...

and also taught full-time at Bellarmine-Ursuline College for four semesters. She eventually went back to teaching in Catholic elementary schools.

In 1991, she retired from teaching (“I thought I would get out while I was still on top.”) and for 14 years she worked as assistant to the director of Campus Services on the Ursuline Campus in Louisville.

These days Sister Evelina resides at the Motherhouse. She volunteers at Sacred Heart Home and the Motherhouse, offering to do little acts of kindness for the sisters there, such as cleaning veils, polishing shoes and decorating their rooms for Christmas. “Angela, our foundress,

has always been a model of holiness for me. She truly loved God and spent her life doing all she could for others.”

She is thankful for her vocation with the Ursulines. “The community has been my family. I’m proud of our fourth vow, to teach Christian living, which shows how serious we are about our ministry to educate everyone to live holy and better lives by word and example.”

Like a good student, she has completed her homework by looking up the word “jubilee” in Latin, which means “to raise a shout of joy.” “I ask everyone to shout for joy and celebrate this great gift that God has given me.”



Sister Evelina (Mary Roger) Pisaneschi

Current Ministry: Volunteer, Sacred Heart Home and the Motherhouse

Previous Ministries: Teacher at St. Elizabeth, St. Peter Claver, St. Boniface, Our Lady of Lourdes, Ursuline College, Sacred Heart Model School, St. Therese (all of Louisville, KY), St. Francis de Sales (Morgantown, WV). Principal at Holy Spirit School,

St. Therese and St. John Vianney (all of Louisville, KY) and Our Lady of Mercy-Blessed Sacrament (Pittsburgh, PA). Assistant director of Ursuline Campus Services. Assistant to Formation Mentoring Community.

To meet Sister Evelina Pisaneschi is to meet joy personified.

Joy first was infused into her life by Italian parents who raised four children in Cumberland, MD. “My childhood and school years were full of happiness. I had many friends and my life centered around St. Mary’s parish.”

She was active at weekly bingos, card parties and enjoyed playing the violin in the parish orchestra. “We had weekly dances and I loved to jitterbug.”

The Blessed Mother has always been important to her. In high school, she became involved in the Sodality of Our Lady. Attached to her rosary to this day is a large miraculous medal she received from that organization. From



Sister Mildred Mae (Anselm) Rueff

Current Ministry: Ministry of prayer, Sacred Heart Home

Previous Ministries: Teacher at St. Boniface, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Rita, Holy Trinity (all of Louisville, KY), St. Francis de Sales (Morgantown, WV), St. Mary (Jackson, MS), Sacred Heart Mission (Camden, MS) and Blessed Sacrament

(Omaha, NE). Counselor at West End Program, Louisville Independent Schools, John F. Kennedy Public School, Indian Trail and Medora Public School, Churchill Public School, Hite Elementary, Jefferson County Public Schools, Sacred Heart Schools (all of Louisville, KY). Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick and The Forum (both of Louisville, KY).

Sister Mildred Mae Rueff has fond memories of her youth growing up not far from the Ursuline Motherhouse. The oldest of five children born in Louisville to Ida and Irvin Rueff, she attended Holy Trinity School and Ursuline Academy where she was taught by Ursuline Sisters. While at the Academy on Chestnut Street, she would stay after school to help teachers. “I’d walk down to the corner by the saloon on Shelby Street and wait for a bus. My mother would always tell me, ‘You be careful.’”

After high school she took office jobs. World War II was in high gear and often after work she would board a bus transporting girls to USO events to dance with soldiers. “They just threw us around (on the dance floor),” she remarked, smiling at the memory.

Her road to religious life began after she expressed a desire to enter the Navy. “My Daddy wouldn’t let me be a WAVE (a term for women who wanted to serve in the Navy).”

Then the war ended. “Everyone—all the kids and neighbors--got in the back of their trucks and went to Fourth Street to celebrate.”

The very next day, Sister Mildred entered the convent. “My Daddy said, ‘Let her go; she’ll be back in a week.’ He got fooled,” she said with a laugh.

It wasn’t difficult going from dances to religious life. “It was what I chose to do. It wasn’t hard, just a change. I was fitting in where I belonged, wherever I could help.”

She progressed through religious formation and studies in early elementary education, entering the classroom in 1948 and making her final vows in 1951. While teaching in Kentucky, West Virginia, Mississippi and Nebraska, she often juggled class work with cooking for the sisters. “They would eat whatever you made.”

She shifted to counseling after receiving her master’s degree in guidance from Creighton University in Omaha, NE. (Later, she went on to receive her specialist certification in counseling psychology from Spalding College.) She became a counselor in the public schools

Sister Mildred Mae, continued...

addressing diverse needs--discipline, underfed children, over-bearing parents, violence at home and busing. "I'd go back and do it all again," she admitted.

In the early 1990s, she found her way into pastoral ministry at the fledging parish of St. Patrick's in Louisville's East End, aiding Father John ("Jack") Schindler. Sister Mildred began the religious education program and a women's Bible study. Sister Mildred also helped to found the Leprechauns, a ministry for senior citizens that continues to offer spiritual and social events. Her ministry expanded to include Catholic seniors living at The Forum.

Somewhere along the way, Sister Mildred took up art—teaching it and showcasing her art at the Ursuline Art Fair. (In her youth, she was more apt to play football or baseball than paint or draw.)

Known for his preaching and for helping people find lost items, St. Anthony of Padua has been a special saint to her, stemming from her younger years when she would stop at St. Boniface Church after leaving work at Reynolds Metals.

These days the 93-year-old sister stays busy at Sacred Heart Home, attending activities and crafting her way through each holiday. As she reflects on her years as an Ursuline, the 93-year-old sister said with a smile, "I go with the flow. ... I don't know anything else."

Which jubilarian...

- ... went to school in a one-room school house until the fifth grade?
- ... as a child, would run errands for Ursuline Sister Marietta Schwindel, the cook at Holy Trinity in Louisville?
- ... was crowned the May Queen in high school?
- ... had a special devotion to St. Joseph?

For answers to these questions, **read the jubilarians' expanded stories at ursulinesisterslouisville.org/jubilarians.php.**

Share a memory about these jubilarians with us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/UrsulinesLouisville!

Associate Call Jubilees

30 YEARS

Kathleen Bayley
Kathy Mattingly
Anna Marie Michael
Irene Mueller
Carolyn Neely
Jeannine Nix
Mel Nix
Wilma Schilz
Mary Agnes Squires

25 YEARS

Karen Wells
Melba Wilson

20 YEARS

Theresa Patterson
Virginia Plummer
Linda Ratchford
Kathleen Stafford



Sister Rosella McCormick

Current Ministry: Facilitate RCIA, retreat opportunities, days of prayer. Teach classes for the Archdiocesan Faith Formation Office

Previous Ministries: Teacher at St. Raphael, Angela Merici High School and St. Patrick High School (North Platte, NE); part-time professor at Bellarmine University, Jefferson Community College and Indiana University Southeast. Adult

Education director at St. Jerome, (Fairdale, KY). Congregation's director of novices. Vocation Director. President of the Ursuline Sisters. Pastoral Associate at Holy Spirit (Jamestown KY), Christ the King (McFarland, WI), St. Gabriel and St. Leonard (both Louisville, KY).

Sister Rosella McCormick is a native Nebraskan whose family consisted of her parents and three brothers. When young, she lived in Central Nebraska and attended a public school since there were no nearby Catholic schools. At age 13, the family moved to North Platte, NE, and she enrolled as a sophomore at St. Patrick's High School, staffed by the Ursuline Sisters. A scholarship enabled her to attend Ursuline College in Louisville, KY, until her father's poor health called her home after freshman year. For three years she was employed by Municipal Light and Power Co.

Relative to discernment of her vocation, Sister Rosella feels deeply that "God tries hard to get us where God wants us. It is more God's doing than ours. Made in God's image and likeness, we all have that Divine DNA, which is so powerful."

She says that some factors that played a significant role in her discernment include:

- a. "As a child it seemed to me that the Catholic Faith was extremely important to my mother and she witnessed it faithfully and quietly. She always tried to answer my questions about being a Catholic."
- b. "I met an Ursuline Sister for the first time when I was 7 years old. One of my older brothers and I stayed with an aunt and uncle for two weeks in preparation for receiving First Eucharist."

c. "I had no desire to be a sister when in high school or in my year at college here on our Campus. Even though at that time, I wasn't tuned into it, I think God's hook (Divine DNA) was reeling me in as I saw postulants and novices in my college classes. I wondered what made them 'tick' and why. The college was staffed mostly by our sisters."

d. "While working for the City of North Platte those 3 years, I frequently went to daily Mass. It seemed God nudged something in me as I observed the sisters file into the front rows of the church. I think the idea of being a woman where prayer and community living were important was becoming important. Also, thoughts of being a teacher had haunted me in school."

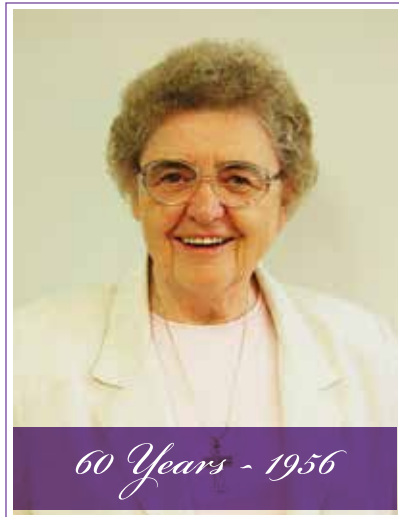
e. "One day when I stopped by the church after work and only 'God and I' were there, I remember being hit with the realization that I had to test a vocation as an Ursuline. However, it was a heavy challenge: so far away from my family and the concern I had for them. Is this what God really wants?"

f. "I entered the Ursuline novitiate in 1956."

Sister Rosella expressed a deep conviction that God called her to be an Ursuline. Ursuline foundress, St. Angela Merici, has been an example of prayer, flexibility, faithfulness and "sureness of God." The Charism of St. Angela and the Louisville Ursulines is a contemplative love of God and a resulting openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others. Sister Rosella considers all the variety of ministries she has had as expressions of the Ursuline Congregation's Mission: Teaching Christian Living.

Sister Rosella expressed gratitude for opportunities to earn her BA degree at Ursuline College; an MA degree at St. John's University in New York; and to pursue graduate studies at Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN; and at Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC.

She is thankful for the wonderful opportunities to learn, to pray, and to minister as an Ursuline. She also appreciates sisters who challenged her and for persons in the Ursuline Community and parishes who trusted and affirmed the gifts God gave her. Sister Rosella feels that life with her birth family and with her Ursuline family are truly blessings!



**Sister Rose Ann
(Mary Luke)
Muller**

*Current Ministry: Prayer
and presence at Sacred
Heart Home*

*Previous Ministries:
Teacher at St. Raphael,
Ursuline College, St. Eliza-
beth, St. Joseph (all of Lou-
isville), Blessed Sacrament
(Omaha, NE), St. Mary
(Jackson, MS). Principal at
Pope John XIII (Madison,
IN). Pastoral minister at
St. Mary (Jackson, MS)*

and St. Simon (Washington, IN). Co-coordinator at Marian Home.

Sister Rose Ann Muller was born in Evansville, IN, in her parents' home on June 16, 1932. Her childhood was happy and many memories remain of trips to her grandparents' farm and riding bicycles with her two brothers. She was taught by the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary's of the Woods and the Benedictine Sisters of Ferdinand, IN. Upon graduation, she worked for three years as a secretary. As a teen and young adult, she dated, hung out with friends and spent time at the "She-He-He-She Teen Club." She also was a member of the Legion of Mary. "It was mainly through my work in the Legion of Mary that I began to think about becoming a sister," she said. "My experiences with different types of spiritual works made me think of religious life."

She received encouragement from her parish priest, Fr. Eugene Dewig, whose biological sister was an Ursuline whom she met. "I was impressed with Sister Cordula (Dewig) and the Ursuline Sisters but I chose the Benedictines because I knew many of them."

She was a novice in the Benedictine Order for one year, but her health was not strong enough to allow her to stay. "This was very traumatic for me because I thought that I had failed God in some way."

She took a secretarial job with St. Mary's Hospital, in Evansville near St. Anthony's Church. "I made many visits to the Blessed Sacrament on my lunch hour. Jesus and I had many a talk together. I felt like Jesus was telling me to try again."

One November day she visited to the Ursulines at St. Boniface and asked the Superior if they would accept her. A few phone calls later, the answer came back: "Yes."

She became a novice in 1956 and took her temporary vows in 1958. Her first assignment was at St. Raphael in Louisville, KY. "Those first graders taught me how people learn," she recalled. She received support and advice after school hours from other sisters. "We were always busy but together we sisters helped each other to keep our spirits up and to have fun on a minute's notice."

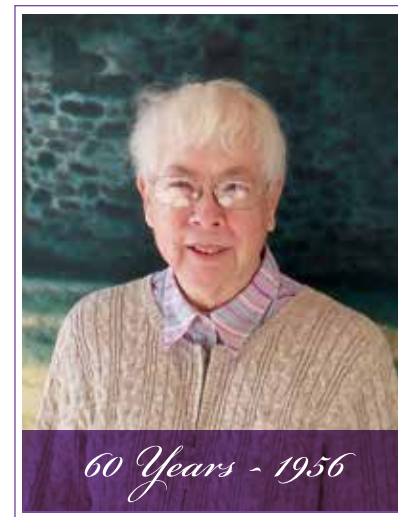
After her final vows in 1963, Sister Rose Ann went to Omaha, NE, to teach and pursue a master's degree in education from Creighton University. She taught at Blessed Sacrament School until her graduation from Creighton in 1967. Ursuline College in Louisville was her next stop, followed by an assignment as principal at Pope John XXIII School in Madison, IN. From there, Sister Rose Ann taught at St. Elizabeth and St. Joseph schools in Louisville.

After major surgery in 1984, Sister Rose Ann requested a sabbatical, which she used to participate in a program called "The Global Community" near Cincinnati, OH. She then accepted a position at St. Mary's School in Jackson, MS, teaching sixth grade. Three years later, she became the parish's pastoral minister and assisted Christ the King Parish. "I truly enjoyed the people of Jackson, MS," said Sister Rose Ann.

She left Jackson in 1995 to be pastoral minister at St. Simon Church in Washington, IN, allowing her to make the hour-long trip to Evansville to see her 90-year-old father. "I was grateful for the opportunity to help in his caregiving," she said. After her father died in 1999, she returned to the Ursuline Campus as co-coordinator of Marian Home. She retired in 2004 and began volunteer work. Because of failing health, in September 2015 she moved to Sacred Heart Home.

Jubilee celebrations are special to her, having celebrated past jubilees in Louisville and Evansville. "I thank God that, in my declining age and health, I have a home where my Ursuline Sisters provide care for me, as well as Sacred Heart Home where many loving caregivers take care of my needs."

Sister Rose Ann has visited St. Angela Merici's resting place in Brescia, Italy, and that country's many piazzas. "I think Jesus would like for our whole world to have many piazzas. Perhaps peace and justice would come from them."



**Sister Mary
Martha (Joseph
Marie) Staarman**

*Current Ministry: Hispan-
ic Parish Services, St. Agnes
Parish (West Chester, PA)*

*Previous Ministries:
Teacher at St. George
(Louisville, KY), St. Joseph
(Columbia, SC), St. Angela
Merici (Callao, Peru), St.
Mary (Cumberland, MD).
Pastoral Minister at St. Pe-
ter (Reading, PA), Sacred
Heart and St. Joseph (Rock
Island, IL).*

Sister Martha Staarman has garnered the title of "abuela" ("grandmother") for guiding immigrant mothers through pregnancies and births of over 500 children. Her car is a taxi, she said, transporting parents and children to doctor appointments.

She traces the seeds of this ministry to Ascension Thursday in 1964 when her name was drawn, earning for her a spot as one of four missionary sisters for ministry in Peru.

Many years prior to shuttling others in her car, Sister Martha was often riding her bike in her hometown of Cumberland, MD. Her father worked for the railroad and her mother managed the home front and three children. Both parents were "very religious," recalled Sister Martha, adding that her mother sang in the choir and her family went to confession every other week.

Ursuline Sisters served as her teachers throughout her school years. The family became well acquainted with Sister Rosalie Weckman, and would drive her places. During those years, Sister Martha aspired to become an airline stewardess but that changed after a priest's vocation talk. He left a poster about becoming a professed religious. "I remember looking at that poster and thinking, 'Maybe it's not a bad idea. I'll try that.'"

After graduation, Sister Martha was on a train to Louisville, KY. It was a difficult transition but she progressed in her formation and took her final vows in 1963. During the latter part of her formation, she taught at St. Joseph School in Columbia, SC. The following year she completed her college degree. Then, her name was drawn for ministry in Peru.

"Going to Peru was pivotal to my whole life," she surmised, explaining that she had volunteered on a whim. She was shocked when her name was drawn and even tried to back out of the assignment. "It was going against everything in me." Now, she sees Peru as the place where "I found my vocation within my vocation."

They had a place to stay in Peru and then set upon the task of establishing a school. "It was up to us to get a school started knowing no Spanish."

Nevertheless, school was started and initially she taught younger grades in Callao. Later, she pursued community work, relying on skills she learned at the Latin-American Pastoral Institute in Quito, Ecuador. She also studied Liberation Theology in Lima, Peru, and took her knowledge into the community.

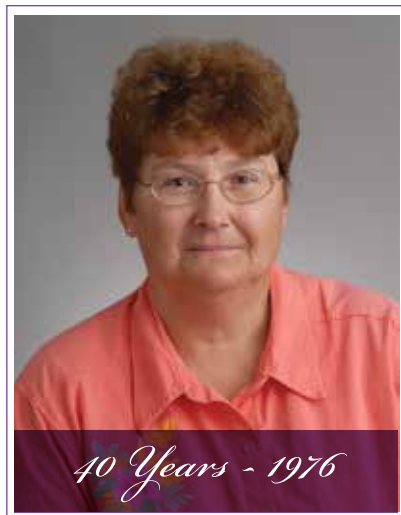
She returned to the United States in 1978 and employed her skills in pastoral ministry at parishes in Reading, PA, Rock Island, IL, Cumberland, MD, and she finally settled at St. Agnes Parish in West Chester, PA, beginning in 1985. Her current ministry feels similar to her work in Peru: an outreach to the Spanish-speaking community that includes many from Mexico. She emphasizes the importance of education to the immigrants. "I tell them, 'Do you want to clean houses all of your lives? Then you have to study.'" It's a process that takes patience, she said, recalling her acclimation to Peru and her own family history as a granddaughter of German immigrants.

The wisdom of St. Angela Merici infuses her ministry. Favorite pearls of Angeline wisdom include: "We have a greater need to serve the poor than they have of our service" and "You will find no other recourse than to take refuge at the feet of Jesus."

Sister Martha's own experiences in Peru allow her to meet immigrants, given their many hardships, with compassion and to join them at Jesus' feet.

Being an Ursuline has changed the course of her life. "I would not have had the opportunities and experiences if not for being part of the Ursulines."

Even though she lives away from the Motherhouse, she feels connected. "There are people there that are part of my life even though I am up here. It's home."



Sister Loretta Krajewski

Current Ministry: Principal/Teacher at St. Luke School, Ogallala, NE

Previous Ministries: Teacher at St. Elizabeth, St. Joseph, St. Jerome, St. Therese, St. John Vianney and St. Simon and Jude (all of Louisville) and St. Patrick (North Platte, NE).

Sister Loretta was raised on a farm 10 miles southwest of

Ogallala, NE. “Growing up on the farm meant that you did everything that you were needed to do – drive a tractor, move irrigation pipe, help with wheat harvest, mow, feed cattle, horses, pigs, and chickens, and there were always ‘big weeds’ to be pulled in a field in the middle of nowhere.”

After elementary school with the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, KY, Sister Loretta attended Saint Patrick’s High School in Sidney, NE, 60 miles away from home. She lived with a different family each of her high school years. At St. Patrick, she was introduced to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. “They were very kind, helpful and caring. I wanted to be that kind of person.”

She went on to Kearney State College in Kearney, NE, and was active in the Newman Center. Sister Loretta recalled a presentation on religious life offered through the center. “I just remember being deeply touched by what the sister was challenging us young people to think about – a life of service in the Church.”

Sister Loretta received advice from her campus minister to consider joining congregations she already knew. She had had contact with the Ursulines and the Dominicans, and so she wrote to both communities.

In the meantime, Sister Loretta was close to graduating with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a minor in physical science. On a visit to her family in North Platte, NE, Sister Rosella McCormick, the Ursulines’ vocations director, paid the college senior a visit in Ogallala. After that, Sister Loretta, along with her father and youngest sister, went to Louisville and St. Catharine, KY. It was in Louisville where Sister Loretta felt “like this could be my ‘home.’”

She moved to Louisville in August of 1975 to begin her postulancy with Sister Martha (Olga) Buser as her formation director. Having a degree in education, she was ready for the classroom, teaching first at St. Elizabeth and then at St. Joseph, St. Jerome, St. Therese, St. John Vianney and St. Simon and Jude, all in Louisville. She also taught at St. Patrick High School in North Platte and finally, in 2005, returned to Ogallala, NE, as principal and teacher at St. Luke, where she still ministers in her 11th year and 40th year in education. Principals of schools where she has worked have been instrumental to her own career. They include Sisters Alberta Neppel, Romana Selter and Evelina (Roger) Pisaneschi, along with Peggy Hurst and Michelle Duvall. “Each of them helped me become a better teacher, work together as a team, improve communication skills and establish good relationships with parents.”

Guiding her, too, has been Ursuline foundress, Saint Angela Merici. One favorite saying of the saint is “when necessary, change with the times.”

“Saint Angela challenged us to persevere,” she said, adding that she identifies with the saint in her work with women, children and families. “When there are bumps along the way, I know I am being called to persevere.”

Another go-to source of strength is the Blessed Mother. “In my work with families, I turn to her in prayer often to give me strength, wisdom and guidance.”

Psalms 63 and Matthew 9:21 are Scripture passages that inspire her. “If I could just touch the hem of his (Jesus’) cloak, I will be healed.” She thinks of this quote when ministering to children, hoping they come to know and love Jesus. “Every day I want to touch the hem of his cloak, staying very close to Jesus and God. With God, all things are possible.”

She feels privileged to be part of the Ursulines, a group of “wise and prayerful women making a difference in our world.” She aspires to continue their legacy. “They have supported me, challenged me, and helped me grow spiritually, emotionally and mentally. They are my family.”

URSULINES’ 50 YEARS IN PERU REAPS GRATEFUL HEARTS

The love that the people of Callao and San Miguel, Peru, have for the Ursulines of Louisville was enthusiastically on display amid celebrations and gatherings during trips by a handful of sisters in late Fall 2015.



1- Ursuline Sisters and Associates in Callao. 2-Students from Santa Angela Merici School. 3-Sister Kathy Neely. 4-Sister Martha Staarman meets school children. 5-Festive dancers Sister Yuli Onchiuay (far left) and Sister Sue Scharfenberger (far right). 6-Sister Lee Kirchner (center) and Sister Janet Marie Peterworth (right) with a friend of the Ursulines.

CALLAO, PERU

The milestone sparking the trip to South America was the 50th anniversary of Santa Angela Merici School in Callao. Student-teacher performances, a play and a parade were among the many encounters the sisters experienced as part of a sincere demonstration of the community’s gratitude and love.

The contingent of Ursuline Sisters from Louisville and Toledo, OH, as well as Ursuline friends Maria Scharfenberger and her daughter Fernanda, traveled to the country in October where three Louisville Ursulines and one from Toledo continue to minister.

The sisters traveling to visit with Ursuline Sisters Kathy Neely, Sue Scharfenberger and Yuli Onchiuay (all of Louisville) and Toledo Ursuline Sister Carol Reamer,

included Sisters Janet Marie Peterworth, Agnes Coveney, Lee Kirchner and Martha Staarman.

They began their journey in Callao, outside of Lima, where festivities included a showcase of song and dance performed by school children, a play about St. Angela Merici and a parade followed by a picnic. Ursuline President Sister Janet Marie said of the experience, “As Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here.’”

A meeting with Ursuline Associates of Callao was also a highlight. “So many said what Angela meant to them and how the Ursulines have influenced them and taught them how to be better and prayerful women leaders,” Sister Janet Marie shared in an email message. “After dinner there was ‘mucho’ dancing and laughing.”

SAN MIGUEL

While a few of the travelers to Peru returned to the States, others continued on to San Miguel where Sister Kathy directs Center Santa Angela Merici, a rehabilitation center for those with physical challenges. Sister Agnes commented on this leg of the trip. "In the days there, we met and spoke with many of the catechists, the associates, the Comunidad Angelina, as well as the priests and parishioners who helped build up the faith and life of San Miguel and other mountain towns and villages. The people expressed deep gratitude to Sister Kathy for her presence and ministry there now and for all of the Ursuline Sisters who have lived and worked in San Miguel over the years."

Once home, Sister Lee expressed a deep appreciation for the opportunity to visit a country where she has roots, as she was one of the first Ursuline Sisters of Louisville to Peru, along with Sister Martha Staarman.

From Sister Lee: "This thank you has been in my heart since I have returned from 'my home away from home.' Your affirming wishes and prayers added to the peaceful, inspiring and grateful time shared with hundreds of our Peruvian families. The following is a squinting glimpse of the happiness and blessings full of gratitude.



1 - Sister Lee Kirchner reunites with former youth group members.
2 - Sisters Kathy Neely, Lee Kirchner, Agnes Coveney and others in San Miguel.

Sister Yuli Celebrates Her 20th Jubilee



Sister Yuli Onchihuay arrived in Louisville in March from the Ursuline mission in Callao, Peru. For about a year, she will be living at the Motherhouse while learning English and visiting with her sisters and their places of ministry. Her visit sparked an idea – celebrate her 20 years as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. [Traditionally the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have celebrated jubilees of 25, 50, 60, 75 and 80.]

Sister Yuli entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1996. "I was attracted to the Ursulines by the way they lived in community, their hospitality, their service and dedication to others, and also their work for justice and peace," she recalled. [The Ursulines had arrived in Peru in 1964.]

After formation into the Ursulines with Sister Sue Scharf-berger and the other Sisters in Callao at that time, Sister Yuli made final profession there in 2005. She came to Louisville in early spring from her ministry as a kindergarten teacher at Colegio Parroquial Santa Angela Merici, the school founded by the Sisters in 1965.

"It gives me joy to be a part of this great community, the diversity of the Sisters and their going to Peru, leaving their footprints as 'Angela Peregrina.' Also the life of the children, women and youth who seek ways of knowing themselves and realizing their potential as people gives me joy."

Sister Yuli sees her visit as a chance to deepen her relationships in the congregation and a chance to reflect- an opportunity for peace and quiet, not often found while involved in her teaching ministry. *Bienvenida y felicitades, Sister Yuli!*

ASSOCIATES

By Theresa Butler, Director, Associate Call

Who is the Face of Mercy?

Did you notice? Recently the doors of the Ursuline Motherhouse were painted red. The new color symbolizes mercy, a tangible expression of the community's celebration for the Year of Mercy. Last year the Ursuline Community was the first religious congregation in our Louisville area to be designated a Compassionate Congregation. That distinction is only achieved through much groundwork. In my mind these two events raise the question: "What is compassion and how does it relate to mercy?"

One of the definitions for mercy is "an act of kindness, compassion, or favor." I believe that compassion put into action is mercy. That leads to the question: "Who is the face of mercy?"

So often those who are the face of mercy never consider themselves as such. Many Ursuline Call Associates are people who live their lives as faces of mercy. Some examples include associates who are caring for ill family members and friends, serving as Eucharistic ministers, visiting the homebound and those in nursing homes, volunteering at soup kitchens, reading for a visually im-

paired individual, ministering to those suffering from depression or dementia, teaching residents in low income neighborhoods how to raise and prepare healthy food or giving comfort to those facing difficult times.

Recently I fell and strained some muscles. The muscles have been very slow to heal and during the healing time I have experienced many faces of mercy. One of the difficulties for those of us who have had difficult personal setbacks is to accept gracious acts of compassion and mercy. Learning to embrace and give thanks for these faces of mercy is both a challenge and a gift. Perhaps that is the other side of the mercy coin.

As we celebrate this "Year of Mercy" we are challenged to recognize how we might be faces of mercy. Angela Merici gave her followers some great advice. "My last word to you, by which I implore you even with my blood, is that you live in harmony, united together, all of one heart and one will. Be bound to one another by the bond of charity, esteeming each other, helping each other, bearing with each other in Jesus Christ." Is that not what we are called to do as "faces of mercy?"

In Memoriam

Cathleen Thalken of Ogallala, NE, was born December 10, 1923 and died January 1, 2016. She became an associate on December 8, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband James Joseph Thalken, and is survived by her four children and multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren. She received the Carolyn Sloan Spirit of Nebraska Award. Upon retiring as office manager at the Guiding Star Girl Scout Office, she traveled and spent her winters in Oceanside, CA. Cathleen loved music and was known for her wonderful singing voice which she passed along to her children.

Mary Jean Kempf was born August 15, 1921, and died January 15, 2016. She was an Ursuline novice in the 1950s, and became an associate on July 17, 1998. Mary Jean was the fifth child of 12 children. Mary Jean was very close to her family and served as the caregiver for her aging parents. She was educated by Ursuline Sisters beginning in the first grade at Holy Trinity School and continuing through graduation from Ursuline College. She continued her association with the Ursulines serving as the business manager for the Ursuline Campus Schools for 30 years. In retirement, she volunteered at church and nursing homes. Throughout her life she was dedicated to her family and the Ursulines.

THE CALL FROM THE WEST

EARLY MISSION DAYS 100 Years of Ministry in Nebraska (1916-2016)

First Story in a Three-Part Series

The Annals of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville tell of the decision to go West at a time when the congregation had the resources and vocations to support missionary work. Mother Angela Leininger, the former directress of Sacred Heart Academy, was elected Mother Superior in 1914. She was a well-known administrator with an enthusiasm for religious and cultural education. "Contemporaries of Mother Angela recall she couldn't wait to place sisters in the West, so firm was her conviction that the educational ideal of St. Angela must be carried as far as possible," wrote Sister Helen Margaret (Aquinas) Schweri in *Under His Mighty Power*.



Mother Angela Leininger

Angela received Father Anton's invitation to take charge of St. Patrick School, she responded "yes" immediately. The assigned Ursulines left the more established Motherhouse at Shelby and Chestnut only to arrive in Nebraska to a wind chill of 40 degrees below zero and with little infrastructure for educating children. Sister Helen Margaret reported in *Under His Mighty Power*: "Immediately, the Sisters began a boarding school and a day school for boys and girls. They lived at first in a two-story frame house that was called the St. Charles building; they had no fuel, no furniture, nothing that could be called a convent home. Because the convent and school were not to be ready until September 1916, when school began on January 10, 1916, there were no blackboards; there were, however, 48 pupils, 28 of whom were boarders."

Having traveled with the initial group of sisters, Mother Angela was aware of the scarcity of resources and provided \$6,000 for construction of a boarding school building and, in August 1916, sent five more sisters to help staff it. Simultaneously, another boarding school in North Platte received a handful of Ursuline Sisters in August 1916 to staff the school also named St. Patrick. Additionally, six sisters were sent further west to Rushville, NE, to teach at St. Mary.

In North Platte, the Ursulines took up residence in the rectory, vacated by Fr. Patrick McDaid, pastor, who resided at a nearby home. The completed school building housed the children's dormitories, sisters' community room and chapel on the third floor while the kitchen, cafeteria and laundry were in the basement. Classes commenced on September 25 following a Mass "in honor of the Holy Ghost," a tradition that would continue in later years.

Outside of teaching and for recreation, the sisters, along with Fr. McDaid, enjoyed playing Euchre (a card game). One Christmas Fr. McDaid surprised the sisters with



Fr. Anton Link

Settling the West

When Mother Angela took up the yoke of leadership, Ursuline Sisters were in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri and Pennsylvania. Call it luck or divine providence, a caption in the *Prairie Echo* newspaper from the mid-1900s described the connection between the Ursulines and a Nebraska priest, Father Anton Link, whose drive to share the Catholic faith paralleled Mother Angela's. Father Anton was building a school in Sidney but did not have teachers to staff it. The caption reads: "Father Link, a man of faith, together with his assistant Father Lawler, offered Mass that morning so the Holy Spirit would direct him to a choice of a community to staff his school. After breakfast Father Link took the *Catholic Directory* and stuck a pin between its pages. The point fell on the Ursulines of Kentucky."

Father Anton then applied for the sisters. When Mother



door prizes that included candy, a cook book, a fountain pen and a Roman Missal. The priest also once purchased a \$4 recording of "My Old Kentucky Home" and gave the sisters his Victrola and later, his piano, which the school eventually used. During summers, sisters took up their own studies at Creighton University in Omaha and completed teaching certification exams required in Nebraska. Although there were a few bumps along the way, a rhythm developed to life out West.

The Rushville Annals described the arrival of the first Ursulines who were met by Father (John) Nepper in his Dodge.

St. Mary's school building included a science lab and a large library with 2400 books. After an entrance fee of \$2 and a letter of recommendation, families paid \$22 for board and tuition. Other program options included music lessons (piano, concert harp or violin for \$5), Glee Club (\$2.50), orchestra (\$4.50) and a \$10 science lab fee.

In 1918, Ursulines arrived to staff St. Michael Parish School in Omaha as well as St. Michael School in South Sioux City, which had been a brewery. The Annals reported: "Sisters Clarissa (Denzer), Patricia (Wheeler) and Coletta (Doerr) resided there. Finally had all twelve grades with the help of Sister Francelle (Otte) and Father Healy who was appointed pastor."

While most of the sisters' missionary work took place in Western Nebraska, Omaha was also a location they settled into in the early 1900s. Their presence in Omaha expanded to Blessed Sacrament School in 1920 and continued for many years. It was written in the parish history,

"As has been observed through the ages, all worthwhile projects have had meager beginnings. This is undeniably true of the growth and development of Blessed Sacrament Church and School."

Resources were scarce for this Omaha parish community, but ingenuity was in high supply. "Classes were held almost anywhere. During the fall of that year all classes were taught in the church. Sister Austin (Graf) conducted the upper grades in the gallery of the church. Sister Francelle (Otte) and Sister Patrice (Dugan) taught in the body of the church, one on the right side and the other on the left. The classes were separated by sheets strung on wires. The sheets were donated by the kind ladies of the parish." After the cold weather set in, because of insufficient heating in the church, all classes were held in the convent, then called "the doll house" for it was even too small for the five sisters living there.

Renovation of the church building began in 1921 during which time it was placed on stilts so that five classrooms could be built beneath it. Everyone climbed ladders to attend school and Sunday Mass. Though dangerous, not one person fell or was injured. Going forward, however, the stability of the church structure was a constant worry.

Beyond the daily tasks of teaching, the Ursuline Sisters also ventured into surrounding communities to teach catechism on weekends and during summer breaks. These rural missionary visits included towns such as Bridgeport, Shelton, Wellfest, Wallace, Curtis, Elsie and Hay Springs, to name a few. Enrollment ranged from 20 to 100 pupils. Occasionally, the sisters enjoyed side trips but with orders that they be of "educational value." Approved locales included Buffalo Bill's Ranch, Sioux Lookout and Fort McPherson National Cemetery.

The days of building and staffing boarding schools were beginning to fade by the late 1950s but other school and parish assignments would come, for the missionary spirit flourished within the congregation.

"There are many takes of the hardships the Sisters experienced in those days," Sister Helen Margaret wrote. "The will and the spirit they manifested is a precious part of the Louisville Ursulines' heritage."

Ursuline Sisters arrived in Nebraska in 1916 in the cities of Sidney, Rushville and North Platte. Other Nebraska cities followed: South Sioux City (1918), Omaha (1918), Grand Island (1920), O'Connor (1937), Spalding (1971), Ogallala (1972), Wood River (1975), Lexington (1975), Hersey (1977), Paxton (1977), Sutherland (1977) and David City (1979).



“Lawwwd, Have Mercy”

Imagine this: you are driving down a dark road with your spouse, teenage daughter and young son. It's November and a cold rain is falling. In the headlights of your warm, dry car you are surprised to see a large, very large, young man walking along the shoulder. Even from the rear he looks familiar. After a few seconds you recognize him as the same young man you had noticed earlier, sitting in the school gym, alone.

You tell your spouse to stop the car and you ask your children if they know him. Your young son tells you his name is “Big Mike” and he goes to school with him. You step out of the warmth of your car into the rain and call his name. He stops his slow, lumbering walk and turns to face you. “Where're you going, Big Mike?” He avoids eye contact and gives a vague answer. You ask him if he has any place to stay tonight. He gives another vague answer. You realize this gargantuan teenager has nowhere to go; and, without consulting your spouse or giving it a second thought, you tell Big Mike to get into the car, that he's going to spend the night at your home, with your family.

Not believing what he's just heard, Big Mike stares back at you, perhaps wondering if you can be trusted or if he's going to be disappointed one more time. In your no-nonsense way you command, “Go on. Get in.” and he does.

Sound familiar? If so, it's because you watched this scene in the Oscar-nominated movie, *The Blind Side*, when Leigh Ann Touhey meets Michael Oher, the same Michael Oher who just played in Super Bowl 50.

Perhaps you recognize this scene for another reason. Perhaps it seems familiar because you recognize mercy when you see it.

In this edition of the *Dome*, you will notice a lot of attention being given to mercy as expressed in and through the lives of the Ursuline Sisters, Associates and friends. This is

I've taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people...

I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them.

-God (Exodus, 3: 7-8a)

Any time that love, true love, meets human misery, the result is mercy.

-Archbishop Joseph Kurtz

no coincidence. It is one of the ways the Ursuline Sisters hope to observe the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis.

In case you have not noticed, mercy is the primary theme of Francis' papacy: God's mercy for us, our need for mercy and our call to be instruments of mercy to everyone we meet.

But, isn't mercy passé? When was the last time you heard or spoke of mercy outside of a church service? It is hardly mentioned anymore except by older Southern ladies who, upon hearing bad news, will lower their heads, slowly shake them back and forth and whisper, “Lawwwd, have mercy.”

Who needs mercy these days? Certainly, we do not. The word mercy carries with it a connotation of someone with power being benevolent, kind or forgiving to a subordinate. We want to believe that we are subordinate to no one and are capable, independent and responsible human beings who can deal with whatever life throws at us while balancing all the twirling plates we call life.

Besides, isn't mercy about the forgiveness of sins? We are not *that* bad. We keep most of the commandments most of the time. Sure, we will protect someone's feelings, or our pride, with a little white lie every now and then; but, we do not break any of the big ones. After all, isn't that God's job ... to forgive our sins? God probably does not even miss the little bit of mercy we are in need of from time to time. So, why mention it?

Sometimes it helps to stand back and look at the origins of a word to get a better understanding of its full meaning; and not just what we have come to assume what it means.

In the Bible the word *mercy* comes to us via three Hebrew words. The first is *hesed*, and describes “a covenanted love that is mutual and enduring, implying action on both parts.”ⁱ Think of marriage vows or vows that religious and priests make. These are vows made in response to love,

are meant to last and require attention and work to fulfill. In the Hebrew Scriptures, *hesed* is used to describe the relationship between God and God's people: “You are my people and I am your God.”

The second word is *rāhamîm*. In “the plural form it is the noun, *womb*, implying a physical response and demonstrating that mercy is felt in the center of the body”ⁱⁱ and it moves us to action. The action might be the work of bringing something to fruition, nurturing, defending or loving. This word is also translated as *compassion*. It is the compassion that moved God to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and that compelled Jesus to surrender to the cross. It is what we experience when we feel the fear, grief, pain, hopelessness or anger of another and then do something about the situation.

Hēn/Hānan is the third Hebrew word; it describes mercy as “grace or favor, a free gift, there is no mutuality and it occurs between unequals: one who gives and the recipient.”ⁱⁱⁱ This is how many of us have come to perceive mercy; and it flies in the face of our American culture. We are indoctrinated to believe that we are all equals, all of the time, that you put your pants on the same way I do... one leg at a time. The truth is we are not all equal all of the time. There are those who have more power, resources, responsibilities, knowledge and abilities at different times in our lives and in different situations. For instance, I am at the mercy of my auto mechanic to repair my car when it breaks down. I am also in need of the *hēn* of God when life becomes too much, when I become aware of my wounds and how they are negatively affecting my life and when I do something that separates me from God, my true self and my neighbor.

This virtue is not one-dimensional, as we might assume, but is multi-faceted, just like God, whose name is MERCY. Neither is mercy passé. When we can be honest with ourselves, we know that we are in need of mercy every day of our lives. MERCY invites us to love and to be loved for no other reason than we are who we are. MERCY extends compassion and does not leave us alone when we are in pain, enslaved by our obsessions and compulsions and blinded by our ego and culture. MERCY forgives before we can even ask, like the father who welcomed his prodigal son home before the son could offer his confession. And what does MERCY ask in return? Only to give as we have received.

ⁱ Michael Downey, ed., *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality* (Collegeville, MN, The Liturgical Press, 1993), pp. 653-654.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

ANGELA MERICI CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM & RETREAT SCHEDULE www.amcspirituality.org

Sabbath Moments

Dates: The second Saturday of the month (May, 14, June 11 and September 10)
(Please note: Sabbath Moments does not meet in July and 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 9, June 13, July 11, August 14 and September 12)

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Ursuline Motherhouse Chapel,
3115 Lexington Road

Cost: Free-will offering

Listening to the Heart of the Matter

Dates: Wednesdays, June 8, 15, 22, and 29

Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Brescia Hall, Building #3
3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY

Cost: \$60

A Silent Retreat

Dates & Times: Friday, August 19, at 7 p.m. to Sunday, August 21, at 3 p.m.

Location: Ursuline Motherhouse
3115 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY

Cost: \$185

Writing for Your Life:

A One Day Retreat on Writing Mindfully

Date: Saturday, September 24

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Brescia Hall, Building #3
3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY

Cost: \$60

Peruvian Journal

Spring 2016

Anyone who has visited our house in the last 45 years will have memories of the beautiful poinsettia tree that stood in our backyard. There were blooms all year round but especially for Easter (yes, not Christmas). Perhaps the tree felt the years of aging, but whatever the reason she completely gave up the little life that had been there and shortly after our 50th celebration, she surrendered to the universal plan of nature. Sister Yuli removed her dead branches and converted her sawdust roots to nourishment for new life in our garden.

There have been other changes since our 50th also. Shortly after our guests returned to their homes, Sister Carol began announcing her leave-taking from Peru after 25 years of accompaniment with women and with energy medicine. The farewells have begun as well as the process of uprooting . . . for all of us.

There is, however, a deep sense of gratitude to Sister Carol (and the Ursulines of Toledo) for her years with us.

And there is good news. The rehabilitation center in San

Miguel now has a full-time and permanent therapist. This is a major step and will allow the center to grow and stand on firm ground. We are grateful for this accomplishment after two years of managing the center with interns coming on a one- to two-month stay. We may continue to have interns from Lima's San Juan Clinic, but the new therapist gives the program greater stability and an added hour of attention for the patients.

Elections

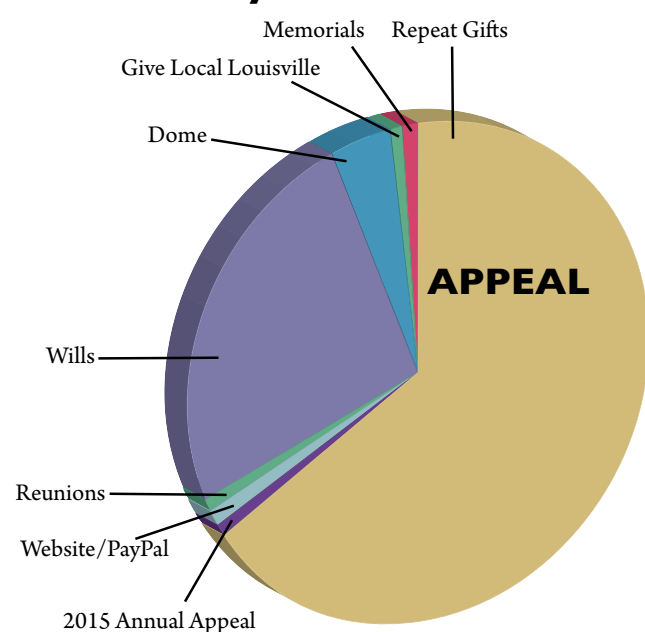
Once again we are preparing for elections. As you know, we have many political parties and movements in our country. Some have joined forces changing alliances almost monthly, but in the end we have now 19 candidates for president. Some are reruns. Others are new with more progressive proposals. However, the level of corruption in the political system leaves all of us with certain suspicion. Elections come in April, so keep sending that wonderful healing and peaceful energy our way.

Your sisters, Carol, Yuli, Kathy, Sue

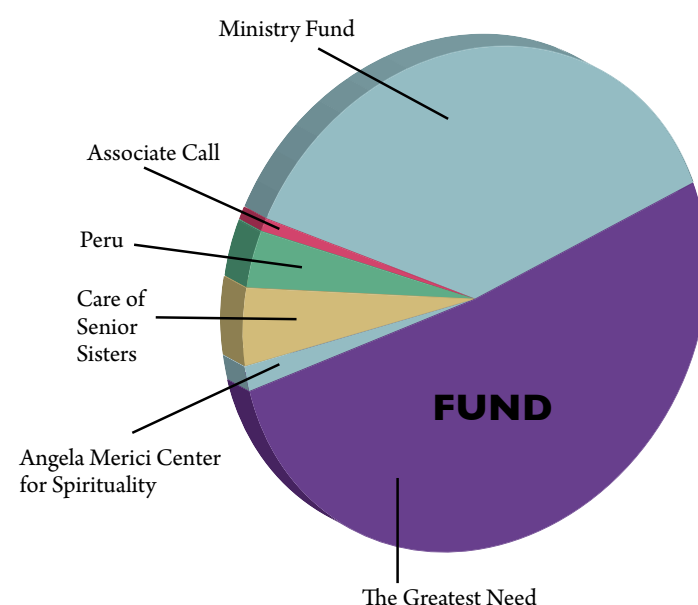
DONATION NOTATIONS

From July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

How money came in...



Where money went...



Nominate a Deserving Woman for the

2016 Angeline Award



Since 1991, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have recognized women for their outstanding service and dedication with the Angeline Award.

A nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrates Christian leadership as a disciple of Jesus Christ by being actively involved with challenges that face women and families today, such as illiteracy, poverty, violence, abuse or addictions.
- Reflects a contemplative love of God resulting in an openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others (charism of the Ursuline Sisters).
- Currently has a personal connection to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville through ministry, professional association, education, relationship or common goals.
- Is able to receive the award in person at a ceremony to be held on October 22, 2016, at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Louisville, KY.

For more information and to download additional nomination forms, visit www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org or contact Sister Margaret Ann Hagan, OSU, at MHagan@ursulineslou.org or (502) 896-3915.

Past Recipients of the Angeline Award

1991: Donna McKinney Hanson, Spokane, WA†
1992: Juanna Gil Sanchez, Callao, Peru†
1994: Barbara Emrich Cassidy, Louisville†
1996: Margo Thompson Borders, Louisville
1998: Maria Scharfenberger, Louisville
2000: Jane Thibault, Louisville
2002: Mary Kwan, Houston, TX
2004: Shannon Lockhart, Guatemala City
2006: Mary Louise "Peasie" Fischer, Louisville
2008: Mary Ann Kopp Hubbs, Louisville
2010: Paula Fangman, Shelbyville, KY
2012: Patricia Ann Geier, Louisville
2014: Carolyn Neely, Cumberland, MD

†deceased

Angeline Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Attach a written narrative that describes how the nominee meets or exhibits the criteria listed above. Also, include 3 additional letters of recommendation from individuals who can further explain how the nominee meets the required criteria of living out the Christian calling to reflect the love of God by serving others.

Nominated by (your name): _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone: _____ Your Email: _____

Submit Nominations to:

Sister Margaret Ann Hagan, OSU
 Angeline Award
 3105 Lexington Road • Louisville, KY 40206
MHagan@ursulineslou.org

**Nomination
Deadline:
June 1, 2016**



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OF LOUISVILLE

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www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org

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REUNION NEWS



URSULINE COLLEGE

*Take A Tour Down Memory Lane of
Your Ursuline College Days*

June 11, 2016

In coordination with Bellarmine University's Alumni Reunion Weekend, the Ursuline Sisters invite 1966 Ursuline College alumnae for a special walking tour down memory lane on the Ursuline Campus.

When: Saturday, June 11, 2016

Where: Brescia Hall Bldg. #3
3105 Lexington Road
Ursuline Campus
Louisville, KY 40206

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 noon

To RSVP or Ask Questions about Ursuline College Tour:

CONTACT: Ellen McKnight

Director of Mission Advancement/Alumnae Relations
502.515.7526 • emcknight@ursulineslou.org



Coeur d'Ursuline

URSULINE ACADEMY — PITTSBURGH REUNION WEEKEND

October 14 & 15, 2016

Friday, October 14

Reception ~ Free

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Ursuline Support Services ~
Good Grief Center

2717 Murray Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Saturday, October 15

Open House ~ Free

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ursuline Academy
(now Waldorf School)

201 S. Winebiddle St.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Reception and Mass - \$35

1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Reception
4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Mass

West Penn
Wintergarden Room ~ 1st Floor

4800 Friendship Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

**For questions or
information about UA
Pittsburgh Reunion:**

email Sr. Rita Joseph Jarrell at
rjarrell@ursulineslou.org or
call her at (502) 599-1668.