

LAURELS

Ursuline Sisters of the Central Province

Summer 2024



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Transforming Grace promotes openness, understanding

Sister Mary Ann Dooling, OSU

Today it seems that everything we are called to or invited to will be transformative – it appears to be the buzz word of this time. To me, often it implies that change will come immediately and, again, often, with little or no work on the receiver’s part. This pill, this exercise, this course, this book will be transformative! The process actually is much more involved if it is to take root and really be transformative.

Members of most of the communities of women religious responded to the challenge from the Leadership Conference of Religious Women (LCWR) to confront the polarization so visible in our country today. LCWR launched an initiative in November of 2023 to face the challenge of this polarization throughout the year preceding the election in November of 2024. The challenge was issued to all the members of the religious communities and their associates and collaborators. The initiative is called “transforming grace” and through prayer, reflection, practices and various input invites participants to seek ways of bridging the gap that exists in our social conversation. It challenges us to recognize and consider our own biases as well as those of others.

In April some 250 plus leaders, justice promoters and communicators met in Pittsburgh for a conference designed to help facilitate the work of transforming grace. Those attending were invited into discussion of how their roles helped form their responses to issues that we are faced with. There was an emphasis on the responsibility of each person to respond in openness—just as

we would expect the “other” to be open to our position.

One of the most impactful experiences was an exercise in responding to a critical event—not as one might in their usual role—but in the shoes of a person with a different responsibility. Thus a “justice promoter” might be called to respond as a “leader,” and the leader might be asked to look at the scenario from the perspective of a communicator. That might seem like a “no brainer,” but it was interesting and powerful as we were called to view an incident from a perspective other than our own. The push-pull that took place was strong—given that all three people were in general agreement on major issues. If we had challenges, given our general agreement, how much more challenging is it to be in conversation with those we have such disagreement with? The tendency to question the motives or understanding of those we disagree with comes so easily.

Many present-day polls indicate that there is far more agreement and commonality within the U.S. population than is generally reflected in our politics. When you begin a discussion with our differences and question the motives of others, there is little room for agreement, for achieving goals. One presenter

reminded us of listening, of finding common ground, of considering the “why” before looking at the “who” and the “how.” It was a reminder of a book, Start with Why, and the importance of understanding the goals and principles underlying an issue.

There were no grand solutions or roadmaps to success hammered out at the meeting. Instead, participants shared ideas and support with each other, and most

When you begin a discussion with our differences and question the motives of others, there is little room for agreement, for achieving goals.

came away with a renewed energy to continue the task at hand of being people of joy and determination in our world.

To date we have received about 30 prayer service/reflection pages from LCWR. Each includes a scripture reading or poem, a short YouTube video of practices that are helpful, music and questions for reflection. They provide wonderful online resources for use for anyone or group. They are available to anyone who wishes to use them at the website: <https://www.lcwr.org/transforming-grace>.



A Message from Leadership

We've had some pretty amazing reasons to celebrate this year.

Ursuline Academy of St. Louis celebrated 175 years, Ursuline Academy of Dallas 150, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in New Orleans had its centennial. Those three institutions alone add up to 425 years of Ursuline service and mission.

In just a few years, there will be even bigger milestones: 300 years for Ursuline Academy, New Orleans; 400 years since the Ursulines came to North America (Quebec); and 500 years since the foundation of the Ursulines by St. Angela Merici in northern Italy.

Ursuline history is rich with milestones and meaning. My experience, and that of many Ursuline sisters as well as alums, is that almost anywhere we go in this world, we run into someone who has some connection. "I am a graduate of San Antonio, or Frontenac, or Dedham." Or we suddenly discover a street named "Ursuline"—in New Orleans or Rome, in France or Canada.

While the Ursuline story is a long one that spans many generations, its enduring spirit is what has touched and influenced so many lives. St. Angela Merici, our foundress, was drawn by the

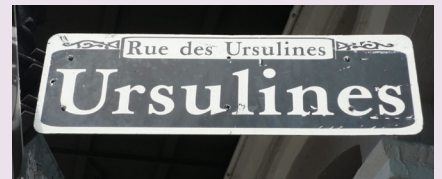
person of Jesus Christ and his message. As she gathered her first companions for prayer, conversation, and mutual support, Jesus was always central. "Jesus Christ will be in your midst," she said with confidence. Through the centuries, the light of Jesus shining in the unique gifts of Angela Merici has been passed on to us.

Most likely everyone reading this has some connection to Ursuline. What is it that you hold onto from that relationship? Does the school motto "Serviam" still urge you to serve the most needy? Or maybe you remember Angela's advice to "listen to the Holy Spirit speaking in your heart." Did you have an encounter somewhere along the way of kindness or deep respect for you as an individual?

In these trying times of chaos and disruptions, we can always dig deep to the foundations of meaning and peace we have received. And with gratitude, we can choose again to celebrate and pass on to others the gifts we cherish.

Elisa Ryan, OSU

Sister Elisa Ryan, OSU
Provincial



Thank you to all of our generous donors. Your faith and support of our mission fill our hearts, and we are grateful for your presence on our journey.

Sisters 'insieme' at province conferences

Following the COVID-19 years of isolation and virtual meetings, the Ursulines were delighted to gather in person for conferences in 2023.

In April, many Central Province sisters gathered at Mercy Center in St. Louis for the first province conference since November 2019. With the theme "Continuing the Journey in Unfolding Light," the purpose was twofold: to reconnect with one another face to face and to further the province planning process begun in 2021. Of this much anticipated gathering, one sister said, "The joy in the room was palpable."

In November, the province was "insieme," or together, again as 32 sisters met at Mercy Center for a provincial conference and chapter to elect delegates to the Extraordinary General Chapter in Rome in September 2024. The purpose of the General Chapter is to approve the new Constitutions for the Ursulines of the Roman Union. Attending will be Sisters Elisa Ryan, Susan Kienzler and Julie Hickey.

It is always a joy to be together from various parts of the province, and especially to pray and play together, deepen old friendships and strengthen new ones. As St. Angela wrote so beautifully, "See, then, how important is this union and concord. So, long for it, pursue, embrace it, hold on to it with all your strength."



Sisters Diane Fulgenzi and Ann Barrett continue a discussion during break time.



A meeting at Mercy Center provides the perfect opportunity for a group photo.



Sisters Jean Hopman, Rose Marie Moran, Julie Hickey, Karen Schwane and Peggy Moore get competitive during evening games.



Sisters Regina Marie Fronmüller and Mary Beisiegel visit during a break.



Three members of the General Council in Rome attended the April conference: Sister Sue Flood, prioress general; Sister Ann-Marie Gardiner, councilor; and Sister Benigna Kania, councilor.



Sisters Jean Hopman and Peggy Moore are all smiles leaving Mass.



Sisters Magdalita Roussel and Lois Castillion humor the photographer.



Sisters Theresa Davey and Elizabeth Susan Hatzenbuehler enjoyed being table partners.



Evening Mass is a highlight of the conferences.



Ursuline History Center opens in Laredo

After many years of planning, fundraising, collecting artifacts, creative development and production, on February 24 the Friends of Angela Committee in Laredo, Texas, opened the doors of the Ursuline History Center.

Housed in St. Augustine Catholic School, the exhibit celebrates the heritage of the Ursuline Sisters, who arrived in 1868 and served in Laredo through 2017, and the lasting impact they had on the community. St. Augustine is the site of the Ursulines' former academy where the sisters educated children and young women for more than 100 years.

A collaboration among the Ursulines of the Central Province, the Webb County Heritage Foundation, St. Augustine Catholic School and the Ursuline Alumnae Committee, the mini museum is dedicated to educating audiences about the history of the first women educators in the region.

Sister Maria Teresa and Sister Karen worked closely with Ursuline alumnae Margaret Araiza and Cynthia Saldaña, who originated the idea for the history center more than eight years ago and were instrumental in developing the museum and launching it with the February celebration.

"The Ursuline History Center grew out of a very real discernment among the Friends of Angela—a group led by Sister Maria Teresa de Llano and Sister Karen Schwane that began gathering monthly to study the writings of St. Angela," says Margaret, an alumna and recently retired executive director of the Webb County Heritage Foundation.



"After engaging in lively discussion, we always ended up with everyone reflecting on what a great impact our Ursuline education has had in all our lives. For those in the group who were not alumnae, the feel was always one of great admiration for the work of the Ursuline Sisters in this community," she says.

"Even though Ursuline Academy had closed down and a lot of the teachers were gone, whenever our classmates got together, we remembered teachers, not methods and techniques," Cynthia says. "So, through the years, the idea of honoring the history of the Ursuline ideas became a personal goal."

"Slowly, the idea of creating a lasting tribute to the women came into focus and the Ursuline Center began to take shape," Margaret adds.

More than 150 invited guests, including alumnae, friends old and new, and sisters attended the opening day event, which included time to

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony are, from left, alumna Margaret Araiza; Sisters Peggy Moore, Karen Schwane, Ginger Cirone, Maria Teresa de Llano and Regina Marie Fronmüller; and alumna Cynthia Saldaña.

peruse the exhibits, exchange stories and laughs with old friends, a special Mass and a reception.

Sisters Maria Teresa, Karen, Julie Hickey, Peggy Moore, Ginger Cirone and Regina Marie Fronmüller traveled to the event from San Antonio, St. Louis and New Orleans.

Displays run the gamut from panels about the history of Ursuline Academy of Laredo and the Ursulines who served there to school lockers from the 1950s and a school uniform. Numerous items were placed on loan by the Ursulines to the Webb County Heritage Foundation's historical archives when the academy closed in 1973, and alumnae have contributed many artifacts.

A special attraction is a statue of St. Angela Merici that was commissioned

and gifted by the Francisco J. and Ernestina S. Flores family, with artistic guidance by Sister Regina.

Of the eight-year journey from a dream to the grand opening, there were many ups and downs, Cynthia says.

“With each passing year, even during the pandemic, our resolve became stronger. I’m sure St. Ursula and St. Angela guided us through our journey.”

“Whenever I met an Ursuline Academy Laredo alumna, I always heard

how proud they were of the wonderful education they had received from their Ursuline Sisters, how it prepared them for college, future careers, faith life, for everything,” Sister Karen says. “This history center proves the truth of these testimonies and the pride they have felt and shared.”

The Ursuline History Center currently is open by appointment, but plans are being made to have the exhibit open on regularly scheduled days.



Sister Peggy Moore and Cynthia Saldaña inspect a set of lockers from the 1950s.



Sister Regina Marie Frommüller consulted with the sculptor of the new statue of St. Angela.



The museum has many engaging displays with informational panels and memorabilia.

Sponsored ministries celebrate major milestones

Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor

Sponsored ministries throughout the Central Province celebrated milestone anniversaries of 100, 150 and 175 years this past year!

In New Orleans, the National Votive Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor marked the 100th anniversary of its founding on Jan. 6. On this day in 1924, New Orleans Archbishop John Shaw dedicated the landmark as the National Votive Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.



The shrine chapel is packed for the Jan. 8 concert kicking off the centennial year. (Caroline E Smith Photography)

A massive gothic structure rising on the State Street side of the Ursuline Academy of New Orleans campus, it has since its dedication been a sacred place where people come from all over to pray before the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, often to ask for quick relief in times of distress.

The shrine's statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor arrived from France in 1810, a gift in gratitude for the "quick help" given the Ursuline Sister who petitioned Our Lady for help in getting approval to come to New Orleans and that sister's promise to honor her with a statue.

Over the ensuing years, many people have petitioned Our Lady for quick help. She has been credited with many

interventions, most famously in 1788 when a sweeping fire threatening the city of New Orleans suddenly changed direction and burned itself out, and during the Battle of New Orleans in 1814 when Andrew Jackson's small and ill-equipped band of soldiers defeated the mighty force of the British army.

The shrine originally was cared for by the Ursuline Sister who was prioress of the New Orleans community at the time. In 2002, Sister Ann Barrett became the shrine's first director, followed by Sisters Damian Aycock, Carla Dolce and Carolyn Marie Brockland. Since Sister Carolyn's retirement in 2023, the shrine now is overseen by Ursuline alumna Catharine Pittman Smith.

Kicking off the years' worth of celebratory events on Jan. 6 was a free concert in the shrine featuring well-known musicians hailing from New Orleans. Another highlight was a documentary on the shrine produced by PBS station WYES, which premiered

in April and is available for viewing on the station's YouTube channel. More special Masses, concerts and other events will be held throughout the year.

Ursuline Academy of Dallas

Ursuline Academy of Dallas celebrated its sesquicentennial during the 2023-24 school year in a variety of ways that offered the Ursuline community at large opportunities to join in the festivities and reflect on its legacy as the oldest continuously operating school in Dallas.

Ursuline Academy of Dallas traces its roots to 1874, when the Ursuline community in Galveston sent six sisters from Galveston to Dallas at the behest of Bishop Claude Dubuis. Those six opened a school in a four-room wooden building that also served as living quarters for their sisters and the seven boarder students who enrolled the first day.

In 1880, the sisters bought nine acres of cotton fields in an area bound by Bryan, Haskell, Live Oak and St. Joseph streets, breaking ground for what became known as "Old Ursuline"



Enjoying the festivities in Dallas are, from left, Sisters Karen Schwane, Louis Marie Carter and Helenice de Souza; Elizabeth Bourgeois; Karen Mortillaro; and Sisters Elisa Ryan, Glenda Bourgeois, Mary Troy and Lois Castillon.

in 1882. The Ursulines opened the first kindergarten in Dallas there in 1915.

In 1942 the Ursulines purchased 28 acres on Walnut Hill Lane, including an estate that housed Merici High School for the next eight years while the grade school remained on Bryan Street. In 1950, the entire academy moved to a new building on Walnut Hill. Over the ensuing decades, through centennial and silver centennial celebrations, the academy has continued to grow, with new buildings being dedicated during the sesquicentennial year.

Ursuline Dallas kicked off the 150th year festivities on Sept. 9 with a ceremony and luncheon for donors celebrating the success of its largest ever fundraising and capital improvement campaign, followed by a community party on campus.

On Jan. 27, the Ursuline community gathered for a sesquicentennial Mass on the Feast of St. Angela, kicking off Founders Week. Founders Day on Feb. 2—the exact day when the first six Ursulines in Dallas began teaching in 1874—was celebrated with a host of activities including the screening of the “Celebrating 150 Years” video, a “Uniform Through the Years” fashion show, and “Pizza in the Piazza” and 150 photo-topped birthday cakes for lunch.

Also on Founders Day, students unveiled the time capsule assembled by students during the 1974 centennial. Its contents included the student handbook, uniform items and a newspaper. A 2024 time capsule of similar items is being assembled for the Ursuline Dallas students who will be there in 2074 to mark the school’s bicentennial.

An alumna who was commissioned to create a book for the sesquicentennial created a 172-page pictorial history that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

Ursuline Academy of St. Louis

Ursuline Academy of St. Louis celebrated a milestone anniversary during the 2023-24 school year with a full calendar of 175th anniversary events.

The St. Louis academy was founded in 1848 by three sisters from Austria-Hungary and a young woman from Bavaria who was preparing to become an Ursuline Sister. Less than two months after their arrival, on Nov. 2, they opened the school that would be known as Ursuline Academy on 5th



Banners celebrating the 175th anniversary adorn the lamp posts at Ursuline Academy of St. Louis. (Photo by Leah Folk)

Street in St. Louis. The school flourished, necessitating construction of a larger building on 12th and Russell streets that welcomed its first students in 1850.

In 1914, with the 12th street building needing repairs and the sisters no longer feeling it was adequate, the Ursulines moved west, purchasing an old colonial-style mansion on 28 wooded acres outside the city in the suburb of Oakland. The convent and school relocated there in 1915. In 1925, the Ursulines broke ground for a new convent and academy on the property. The 1926-27 school year opened in what is still the main structure on an expanded campus, Merici Hall.

In celebration of its 175-year history, a full calendar of special events that included alumnae, family and friends took place throughout the 2023-24 school year, kicking off in August with a special Ursuline Night at the Muny to see a production of “Sister Act” and concluding with the introduction of the Ursuline Academy Athletics Hall of Fame in May.

The main event of the school year, themed “175 Years Together with Confidence and Courage,” was an all-day celebration on Oct. 7 that began with a morning brunch honoring “golden girls” alumnae. Afterward, all members of the Ursuline community were invited to a special Mass, and Ursuline Sisters took part in a special blessing over those gathered. The celebration culminated with an evening party that found the campus filled with joy, laughter, and shared memories and stories of hundreds of people.

Other highlights included an alumnae Sip and Share, hosted jointly by the Ursuline Sisters and the alumnae association on Nov. 2, the anniversary of the school’s founding, at the Central Province offices; and an all-school Mass in honor of the 175th anniversary, followed by an Italian feast on the piazza on Nov. 10.

On Jan. 27, the Feast of St. Angela and International Serviam Day, Ursuline Sisters, students, faculty and alumnae came together in service at the province offices, making sandwiches for St. Vincent De Paul parish, valentines for residents of Francis Place skilled care facility, and cheerful blankets for patients at St. Louis Children’s Hospital.

Throughout the year, all school events and occasions took on a special air of celebration and gratitude for all that had come before.

Congratulations to our Jubilarians

We have had many milestone jubilees to celebrate in the past two years! In 2023 we celebrated the jubilees of 11 of our sisters whose years in ministry totaled 705. In 2024 we celebrate the jubilees of seven of our sisters whose years in ministry total 455.

Throughout their decades of commitment to Ursuline life and ministries, these daughters of Angela have made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals. We congratulate them all.

2023

70th



Sister Mary Margaret
Cain
Alton, Illinois



Sister Theresa Pelletier
Waterville, Maine

65th



Sister Glenda Bourgeois
Dallas, Texas



Sister Julia Genetti
Alton, Illinois



Sister Mary Frances
Judge
Alton, Illinois



Sister Pauline Lorch
St. Louis, Missouri



Sister Madonna O'Hara
St. Louis, Missouri

2024

60th



Sister Lois Castillon
Dallas, Texas



Sister Jill Jaeb
St. Louis, Missouri



Sister Angela Krippendorf
Lewiston, Maine



Sister Karen Schwane
San Antonio, Texas

70th



Sister Mary Denis Lessard
Eureka, Missouri

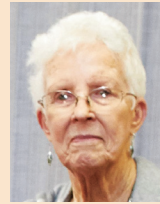


Sister Mary Troy
Dallas, Texas

65th



Sister Regina Marie Fronmüller
New Orleans, Louisiana



Sister Ann Mangelsdorf
Dallas, Texas



Sister Ann Marie Owen
Eureka, Missouri

60th



Sister Elizabeth Susan Hatzenbuehler
San Antonio, Texas



Sister Mary Jacqueline Pratt
St. Louis, Missouri



Central Province staff embrace serviam

The Central Province held its staff service day on Oct. 9, this time closing the office to volunteer



Michelle Malawey and Sister Diane Fulgenzi stop off to add some potatoes and onions to their shopping cart.

at Food Outreach, a St. Louis nonprofit whose mission is to provide nutritional support and enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV or cancer.

Some staff members donned hairnets and got to work in the kitchen, prepping and cooking food and scrubbing pots and pans. Others picked up the client grocery order sheets and filled carts with fresh produce, in-house prepared entrees, and the canned and dry goods clients had requested. They also restocked the shelves from the warehouse and sanitized the carts.

It felt good to be out serving others in a hands-on way, meeting new people and appreciating how well the community we have built at the province office works together no matter the task.



Linda Borchardt and Sister Elisa Ryan get chopped broccoli seasoned and ready for the oven.

Sisters featured in special video series

For Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, the Ursulines of the Central Province joined with 11 other congregations of Catholic sisters in the St. Louis area to launch a special video series titled “Ask a Nun Anything.” The series comprises short videos featuring sisters answering a range of questions about their lives, their faith, their experiences serving the church and the community, and fun questions about their likes and dislikes. The “Ask a Nun Anything” series, inspired by the popular “Ask Me Anything” series on Reddit, provides a lighthearted yet insightful look into the world of Catholic sisters.

Sister Jean Hopman and Sister Chabanel Mathison each tackled one of the more serious questions. Sister Jean answered the question, “What’s it like becoming a sister at a young age and sticking with it your whole life?” and Sister Chabanel responded to “How do you remain faithful to the Church when it is viewed as having caused real harm?”

The series premiered on the St. Louis Catholic Sisters Facebook and Instagram pages throughout Catholic Sisters Week. The entire series can be viewed on the St. Louis Catholic Sisters YouTube channel.

Ask a
Nun
Anything



Finding New Life Again

Sister Chabanel Mathison, OSU

When I entered the Ursuline community in 1962, one of the most significant aspects of that new life for me was the commitment to community, which was enhanced by my membership in various Catholic parish communities as I moved about the country. The most recent of those has been 10 years with St. Cronan, a small community-centered parish in the Central West End of St. Louis that was a match made in heaven for me. To my surprise, as I moved into my eighties and retired from assigned ministries, two more experiences have blessed me and added to my understanding of the gifts of community in ways that I had not expected.

The first was my decision to learn to play the cello in my retirement, something I had wanted to do since fourth grade. I knew I would never be an accomplished cellist, but I thought I might have some time now to see if I could learn to play and enjoy it. Little did I know how hard the cello would be to play and how much scratch practice it would take, but I found myself with a teacher who was a founding member of the St. Louis String Collective.

The collective is a group of string teachers and players in various settings in the St. Louis area who provide string activities from lessons to concerts, workshops to jam sessions, and even a string camp for all levels and ages. They create a string community around these things and are animated by a kind of mission just as we are. I have been privileged to play in their annual fundraiser for the last two years. I had protested, and was told, "But Sister, we don't have any 80-year-old beginners to feature. They'll love it."

Every cello lesson is filled with laughter and fun as well as skill and discipline, and I feel that I am part of something bigger that gives meaning to my very limited efforts and ability. I'm not sure how much progress I've made, but one day as I was loading my cello for the bi-weekly lesson, my neighbor, who reminded me a little of Grizzly Adams, called out, "Sister, you've got one big geetar there!" When I was taking my cello in for service, crossing the street, pulling the cello on wheels with one hand and using my cane in the other, a driver pulled up and rolled down the car window shouting, "Ma'am, you've got guts!" It's been a happy addition to my life and finding time for regular practice each day has become important.

The second experience has come as a result of the difficult decision earlier this year that the three of us living together in a rented house would move to individual apartments in a senior living residence, Concordia House. For me this has meant a diverse and lovely community of 70 plus senior adults to come to know. They all have modest lifestyles; they represent a number of cultures and ethnic groups; they include both men and women; and we are the first sisters they have had here.

I was the first called to move in, and the residents were so excited to have a sister in the building! They couldn't wait for the other two to get to the top of the waiting list! There may have been a little novelty at first, but very quickly we became just welcome neighbors in the same building. They have been generously warm and inclusive, and they are truly a community enjoying life together.

There are no activity staff. Events happen spontaneously as someone organizes one and invites anyone who wishes to come, from a tea to raise money for St. Jude Hospital to hot dogs prepared by a resident who is a former chef and an opportunity to watch the Cardinals' game together in the common room on a big screen TV.

It is the first time I have lived outside a community of Ursulines for



Sister Chabanel practices playing her cello daily.

over 60 years, and I miss it, but we are still part of the Missouri Cluster Ursuline Community. The three of us are beginning to plan regular evenings when one of us can cook for the others, someone can prepare prayer, and we can also share being Ursulines together here among these new friends. It is a different experience for each of us, but it is certainly an opportunity to be graced by community now in a new way in this new place.

Ursulines provide support in war-torn Ukraine

During the month of January, the Central Province invited donations for Ukraine relief in honor of the Feast of St. Angela on Jan. 27. Gratefully, we were able to send a sizeable gift to the Ursulines in Ukraine and bordering countries who are serving refugees and those who have remained in the war-torn land.

Since the war began, we have occasionally received a letter from a sister serving in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or the Czech Republic. Excerpted below is one we received from an Ursuline in Ukraine toward the end of 2023.

Dear Sisters! Dear Benefactors, all of you!
On behalf of my Sisters, and on my own behalf, I would like to

thank you sincerely for your constant prayers for us, for your financial support, and also for your interest in us and all that is happening in Ukraine.

Time flies, it is almost two years now that the war in our land has been going on. Everyone in this country is tired of living in uncertainty and stress. Many people have also lost their loved ones. To some extent, each of us (everyone) experiences here a life of getting used to and adjusting to the realities. It has been tiring and difficult for a long time because it is a life of constant stress (more or less) and uncertainty. We help people in various ways. Where we can, we bring material help (thanks to the support you give us) or we buy things that people need to keep alive. We talk to people, we listen to their stories, and there are many stories, and we keep on praying, believing that

God in his goodness will enable an end to this war and a just peace.

For the last two weeks, there have been prolonged air raid warnings all over Ukraine, and with these come difficulties: city transport stops running, shops are closed, and, if there are lessons in the schools, then the children with the teachers and kindergarten children with supervisors (like our sisters in Kolomyia) run to shelters and sit until the warning ends (from 2 to 5 hours)...

Despite all these difficulties and fears (for example: being without light and heat) we try to live in inner peace, plan for the future and be grateful to God for every day we live.

With our gratitude for every gesture of love,

A Ukrainian Ursuline Sister



If you would like to make a gift to help the victims and refugees of the war in Ukraine, go to www.osucentral.org., click on "Donate Now" and select "Ukrainian Relief" from the dropdown box. Or write Ukraine Relief on the enclosed envelope.

In Remembrance

“For in heaven a new crown of glory and joy is prepared for all of them, one by one.”

—St. Angela Merici

We remember with gratitude the lives of our sisters who have passed into eternal life since January 2023.



Sister Pauline Belanger,
June 7, 1925 –
April 10, 2024
Professed 1946



Sister Mary Evalyn
House
May 24, 1935 –
May 20, 2023
Professed 1957



Sister Paulette Anne
Ducharme
June 8, 1947 –
May 25, 2024
Professed 1970



Sister Madeline Kelly
Aug. 14, 1946 –
July 22, 2024
Professed 1968



Sister Mary Anne
Holmes
Dec. 17, 1939 –
March 16, 2024
Professed 1961

You can read the sisters' obituaries at
www.osucentral.org.



Montana Heritage Trip

In late July, Sister Lois Castillon, director of mission and heritage at Ursuline Academy in Dallas, led four coworkers on a mission and heritage trip to Great Falls, Montana. Thomas Trunkle, director of Ursuline Centre in Great Falls, helped coordinate the trip. Shown visiting the St. Ignatius parish cemetery and gravesite of Sister Amadeus Dunn, OSU, foundress of the Ursuline Montana missions, are, from left, UA Dallas coworkers Brenda Rasco, Sean Stewart, Sister Lois and Jim Koehler; Mary Sommerfeld, Ursuline Center board member; Leah Schlieff-Freese, also from UA Dallas; and Thomas Trunkle.

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***Laurels* Editor**

Susan M. Whelan



Saint Angela by Lisa Graves,
Dedham, Massachusetts

As Ursulines of the Central Province, members of a worldwide community of Catholic sisters, we are women whose lives and mission are rooted in the gospel of Jesus and the spirit of our foundress, Angela Merici. Grounded and empowered by our relationship with God and with one another, in prayer and community, we seek to be a compassionate, reconciling presence of God in our world.