

Sister Erin celebrates first profession of vows



Sister Erin Zubal celebrated her first profession of vows as a Cleveland Ursuline Jan. 18 in the congregation's Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity, promising to live a life of poverty, chastity and obedience and to serve in Christian education for the Catholic Church.

"My sisters in community have welcomed me and shared their deep passion for prayer and service with me. It's been a privilege to pray with and give witness to the amazing Ursulines who have blazed the trail before me," says Sister Erin.

The Sunday ceremony followed more than three years of preparation, which included canonical study, ministry, service to the congregation and living in the Ursuline community.

"Preparing for first profession has been a blessed time for me," says Sister Erin, who first inquired about joining the congregation when she was a senior at Ursuline College. "It is an exciting time—to stand with the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland and take my place with them as I make my public commitment to share in the life of the Congregation," she adds.

Sister Erin first became familiar with Cleveland Ursulines Susan Durkin and Susan Zion while they served in the Youngstown Ursulines' HIV/AIDS ministry, where Sister Erin volunteered when she was a student at Ursuline High School. They later introduced

her to Ursuline College and fellow members of the congregation.

The Cleveland Ursulines' strong faith and prayer life, "which leads them to action on behalf of the poor and marginalized of our world," attracted Sister Erin to the congregation.

A peace and justice teacher at Beaumont School, Sister Erin holds bachelor's and master's degrees in social work, respectively, from Ursuline College and Case Western Reserve University. Before joining the Beaumont staff she served as a social worker at the Cuyahoga County Jail.

Sister Erin says she is grateful and honored to count herself among the Cleveland Ursulines, adding, "I walk in the footsteps of faithful and dedicated women who have strived to live the Gospel and serve people in need ... may I be graced to live the life faithfully as a daughter of Saint Angela."