



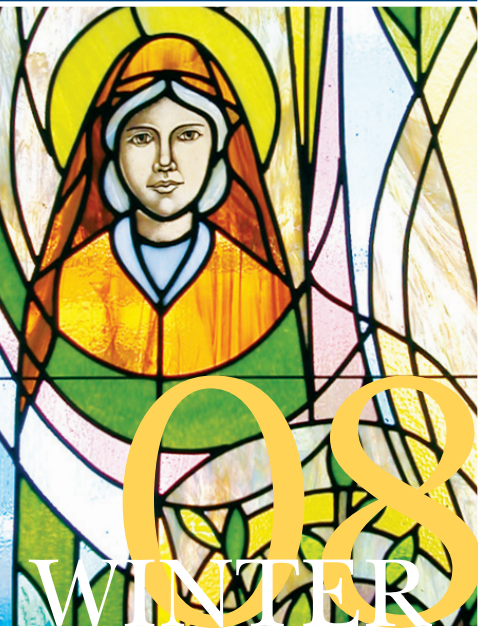
URSULINE SISTERS News

CONTEMPLATION ✦ JUSTICE ✦ COMPASSION



Anniversary of Sister Dorothy Kazel's death lends witness to seek justice





The *Ursuline Sisters News* is published four times a year for friends and supporters of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland.

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MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

“I give thanks to my God every time I think of you, which is constantly in every prayer

I utter — rejoicing ... at the way you have constantly helped to promote the Gospel.” (Philippians 1; 3-5)

St. Paul’s words to the Philippians express perfectly how the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland regard each of you. We do give thanks for you every day in our prayers, rejoicing that we can count you among our friends. In so many ways your generosity to us reflects St. Paul’s words, “You have helped to promote the Gospel.”

This season of Thanksgiving reminds us to be grateful. However, I find that as Ursuline Sisters we have abundant blessings for which to be grateful all year round. In this issue you will read about our gratitude to a very generous family who donated a beautiful new organ for our Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity in memory of a loved one. As the strains of beautiful music fill our chapel, we pray in thanksgiving for those who made this possible.

Each time one of our sisters ministers to others, we give thanks

for all of you, who, through your friendship and support, walk side by side with our sisters as they...

- Teach from preschool through the graduate level of college;
- Comfort the sick and dying;
- Work with the poor and disenfranchised of our society;
- Prepare children and adults for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist;
- Teach the young to read and the older students to assume their responsibilities in our global culture; and
- Proclaim the Gospel message in many other pastoral settings in keeping with our Ursuline mission to “transform society through contemplation, justice and compassion.”

We are told *gratitude unlocks the fullness of life ... makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow* (Melody Beattie). Thank you for being with us in the past, for your support of our present ministries and for the help and encouragement you give as we move into the future.

With gratitude,

Sister Angelita Zawada, OSU
President

Anniversary of Sister Dorothy Kazel's death lends witness to seek justice

Each year, as Advent nears, we remember a December some 28 years ago, and receiving the shocking news that our Sister Dorothy Kazel and three missionary companions had been brutally raped and murdered in El Salvador. The memory of that tragic event still inspires grief and ... anger. Perhaps most devastating of all was learning that three of the Salvadoran National Guardsmen responsible for the rapes and murders of Sister Dorothy, lay missionary Jean Donovan and Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford had been trained at the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia.

That is why each year since 1996 one or more Ursuline Sisters have made the trip to Fort Benning for the annual SOA vigil, in peaceful protest of the facility that continues to train foreign troops in the ways of war and torture. Ursulines unite with students and religious, labor, veterans, human rights and social/global justice groups to engage in nonviolent direct action to raise awareness of the school's activities, influence legislators to vote to close the school and to support and memorialize the thousands of people who have

suffered and died at the hands of SOA-trained military personnel.

Involvement in the annual SOA vigil also flows from the Ursuline Sisters' 1999 corporate stand to support efforts to close the SOA. While the murders of Sister Dorothy and her companions provided the primary impetus for the action, other atrocities fueled the effort, including the following:

- Two of the three officers responsible for the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero were SOA graduates.
- Nineteen of the 26 officers responsible for killing six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were graduates of the SOA.
- Other SOA graduates were identified in the 1993 United Nations Truth Commission Report as having been responsible for the torture and murders of religious men and women, human rights workers and indigenous people within Latin America.
- Hispanic Ursulines serving in Chiapas, Mexico, called for the closing of the SOA because they had witnessed the violence of the Mexican military, which received training at the SOA, against unarmed indigenous people.



Twenty-eight years after the murders of the Churchwomen, El Salvadorans continue to remember their faithful service. This is just one mural throughout the country that commemorates the lives of Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke (clockwise from lower left), Ita Ford, lay missionary Jean Donovan and Cleveland Ursuline Dorothy Kazel.

The annual demonstration at Fort Benning was born out of the efforts of SOA Watch, a grassroots organization established in 1990 and led by Father Roy Bourgeois. The goal of SOA Watch is to close the school and to change U.S. foreign policy in Latin America by educating the public, lobbying Congress and participating in creative, nonviolent resistance.

The Pentagon responded to the growing movement by closing the SOA in 1999 and reopening it under the name of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) in January of 2001. Chartered by the U. S. Congress and supported by taxpayers, WHINSEC states its purpose as providing professional education and training for civilian, military and law enforcement students from nations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Ursulines support HR 1707

HR 1707, titled the Latin American Military Training Review Act of 2007, is a bill that would suspend operations at WHINSEC and call for an independent report on the authorization and use of torture manuals that advocated tactics that violated United States and international law. The legislation would also carry out an assessment of U.S. foreign military training in Latin America. The U.S. House of representatives has already voted in favor of passing the bill, which now awaits a Senate vote, anticipated sometime after the first of the New Year in 2009. Please contact your senator and request that he or she cosponsor or otherwise support the passage of HR 1707.

New organ sounds in tribute to Niall B. Collins, gifted m



Niall B. Collins

In the months following the death of Niall B. Collins, his sisters and brother-in-law—Ursuline Sister

Eileen Mary Collins and Akron residents Maureen and Jim Kovach—reflected on how best to memorialize him. “We knew we were going to do something by way of a donation,” Maureen notes, “and we were certain that we would know it when we saw it.”

Niall, who died last December 15 at the age of 77, after an extended battle with cancer, was an accomplished artist who won numerous awards for his work. His first love, however, was music, and he was a gifted pianist. So naturally, given the choice, Niall’s family would opt

for a tribute consistent with his passion for music.

Then, Maureen recalls with a chuckle, they learned about the “impending death” of the Ursuline Sisters’ 40-year-old Allen organ and received a brochure outlining the fundraising effort to finance its replacement. They knew immediately they had found the perfect tribute to Niall.

As if that were not enough to convince them, Maureen says, the community’s fund-raising effort had been named in honor of Saint Cecilia, the patron of music. St. Cecilia, she added with a hint of a smile in her voice, was also the name of the church in which her parents, Patrick J. Collins and Eileen McInerney Collins, were married in 1927. The decision, it seemed, was confirmed on all fronts.

The new organ, a Rodgers Trillium Masterpiece, was installed in August and dedicated earlier this month. (See accompanying article for a detailed description.)

When asked what Niall’s reaction might be to the organ given in his memory, Maureen laughs and says he would probably draw upon one of his favorite exclamations and say, “For goodness sake, you should have saved the money.” Sister Eileen Mary agrees, saying he would likely be “fairly amazed” at all the fuss on his account. Still, the sisters agree, the gift of the organ is the ideal tribute to Niall.

They also agree Niall was an interesting individual, and “a more private and colorful character than any of us ever knew.” For instance, in Niall’s belongings they

found a card certifying his 39th parachute jump. “We had no idea that he had ever parachuted,” Maureen says, “let alone that he had jumped 39 times.”

In describing her brother and reflecting on what she would like others to know about him, Sister Eileen Mary reiterates, “music defined Niall. He created joy in every venue in which he played.” And the venues were numerous, starting in his early years as a student at St. Philomena School, as accompanist for the musical revues at Shaw High School, and at the Miami University of Ohio. Even during his four-year stint (1951-55) in the U.S. Navy where he served as an assistant to the chaplain on the USS Roosevelt, Niall routinely entertained at parties. And throughout his 31-year tenure with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad System until his retirement in 1988, Niall was regularly invited to share his gift at company parties.

Even in declining health Niall continued to play; he insisted on playing. Sister Eileen Mary recalls when it was necessary for Niall to move to an assisted living facility, his only request was that his beloved piano accompany him. Fairways Assisted Living Facility in Wickliffe agreed. Niall entertained residents with impromptu concerts until two weeks before his death. Wherever Niall went, music followed.

And now, thanks to the generosity of Niall’s sisters and brother-in-law, the music will continue to ring out in the Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity, in praise of God and in a lasting, loving tribute to Niall Collins.



musician, artist



The new RODGERS Trillium Masterpiece organ, purchased from the T.S. Good Church Organ Company in Akron, is a custom designed instrument utilizing the latest computer and audio technologies to produce an incredibly lifelike pipe organ sound. The totally digital organ console is placed on a movable platform allowing it to be positioned in any number of configurations.

The organ's stop controls and pistons are lighted providing reliable, silent operation with instantly recognizable registrations for the organists. The custom speaker and amplification system is designed to project the organ's complete range of tone into the furthest reaches of the chapel without distortion.

A digital music transposer is built into the organ console allowing the organist to play in virtually any key signature while still sounding in a comfortable singing range. A registration memory card is also available allowing each organist to save her personal organ settings without disturbing or erasing those of the other musicians. A MIDI sequencer/sound module is also installed on the new organ. It provides orchestral instruments (Trumpet, Strings, Flute, etc.) which can be combined with traditional organ stops for added flexibility. In addition, the organist can record a complete song or library of songs which can be easily retrieved for future playback or editing purposes.

The new RODGERS Trillium organ is a wonderful addition to the worship experience for each of the Ursuline Sisters. It will serve us well for many, many years.

Sister Ritamary, Stacy Picard establish SDG Advisors

Sister Ritamary Welsh and Stacey Picard have launched **SDG Advisors, LLC**, a consulting firm that works with small to midsize nonprofit organizations, primarily Catholic K-12 schools, to help them strengthen their infrastructures to better fulfill their missions.

Based in Cleveland Heights, SDG Advisors provides professional guidance in all areas of administration, including board governance, planning, resource development, financial management and marketing. The firm is a unique partnership of forward-thinking women

president of Beaumont School, Sister Ritamary grew the school's enrollment, increased annual giving, doubled the size of the endowment, and successfully completed a number of capital fundraising initiatives that resulted from her comprehensive planning with the school's board. She has served Cleveland Diocesan schools as the superintendent of the Urban Region and as a teacher and principal at various schools. Sister Ritamary earned a bachelor's degree in education from St. John College and master's degree

“We are committed to creative, inspired responses...so our children are best served.”

with complementary strengths. Serving as co-founders and partners, Sister Ritamary and Ms. Picard have more than 50 years of combined experience in these areas.

Sister Ritamary says, “Catholic schools have long been the most effective source of quality education in our communities. Today, Catholic education is in transition. Demographics are changing and schools are reorganizing. We are committed to creative, inspired responses to these changes so our children are best served.”

Sister Ritamary brings more than 40 years of experience to Catholic education. As past

from the University of Akron.

Ms. Picard brings more than 15 years of senior level management experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. Most recently, she served as the finance director at Beaumont School. She has served on the boards of numerous schools and other organizations throughout the Cleveland Diocese in the areas of strategic planning, fund advisory and board governance. Ms. Picard earned a bachelor of arts degree from Notre Dame College, an MBA from John Carroll University and a CNM from Case Western Reserve University.

News Notes

Sister Joanne Gross will coordinate Cuyahoga County's commitment to upgrade the Community Women's Shelter. She will work with the City of Cleveland, Mental Health Services, EDEN, Inc., and other community stakeholders to plan for needed improvements.

Sisters Denise Marie Vlna and Miriam Fidelis accompanied students from the St. Charles Youth Group and the University of Brownsville, respectively, to World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia.

Sisters Joanne Buckman and Mary Ellen Brinovec presented a program on ecology and Catholic social teaching to Bishop Ready High School faculty at the Columbus Zoo.

Sister Beverly Ann LoGrasso presented *Incarcerated Women: The Invisible Church* at a Justice and Peace program hosted by the Sisters of Humility of Mary.

Sisters Noel Marra, Erin Zubal, Mary Ellen Brinovec and Elaine Berkopec traveled to Washington D.C. for a prayer vigil in support of torture survivor Sister Diana Ortiz and the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition.

Former Ursuline Educators Called to Fullness of Life



Sister Joyce Marie Kryslar

Sister Joyce Marie was a gifted teacher and a skilled crafter. When illness

signaled the end of her 29-year teaching career, she drew upon her interest and talents in the creative arena, making crafts for the Ursuline Sisters' Laurel Tree Gift Shop, and serving for a time as the shop's manager.

Sister Joyce Marie died October 2 in the Saint Angela Center after a 12-year battle with cancer. She was 66. Rev. John Loya, a long-time friend, presided at her funeral Mass October 7 in the Ursulines' Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity.

The former Nancy Kryslar graduated from West Geauga High School and worked for a number of years before entering the Ursuline congregation from St. Clare Parish in 1966. She professed final vows in 1973. Sister Joyce Marie earned a bachelor's degree from St. John College and a master's degree from John Carroll University.

More than half of her teaching career was spent at St. Charles School. Sister Joyce Marie also taught at St. Ann, St. Catharine, St. Mary (Mentor) and St. John Bosco schools. Since retiring from classroom education, Sister Joyce Marie served in the Laurel Tree Gift Shop and as a tutor in the Ursuline Institute of Learning. She moved to the motherhouse in 2006.

Sister Joyce Marie is survived by her step-mother Lois Kryslar; sister, Janice Ezolt; brother, Mark Kryslar; and many nieces and nephews.



Sister M. Winifred Burke

Sister Winifred Burke was a gracious and gentle woman who found joy and satisfaction extending kindness to others. Beneficiaries of her kindness included her Ursuline sisters, family members, students, and friends.

Sister Winifred died October 5 in the Ursuline Saint Angela Center where she had resided for seven years. She was 89. Her funeral Mass was celebrated October 9 in the Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity at the motherhouse.

The former Catherine Burke, a graduate of Ursuline Academy of the Sacred Heart, joined the Ursuline community from St. Ann Parish February 2, 1939, and professed final vows August 23, 1944. Sister Winifred earned a bachelor's degree from St. John's College and enjoyed a 43-year career in education, including 36 years in diocesan elementary schools as a classroom teacher and music teacher. Her teaching assignments included St. Timothy, St. Patrick (Bridge Ave.), St. Francis de Sales, St. Charles, and St. Jerome schools and Christ the King School where she spent 19 years. Sister Winifred also served seven years at Beaumont School before retiring to the motherhouse in 1990.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to the Ursuline Sisters' Ministry Fund.

Annual Fund donations help improve lives, support elderly sisters

Thanks to all who have responded so quickly and generously to our Annual Fund appeal. As of our newsletter deadline, just four months into the campaign, we have raised \$75,320, representing 26 percent of our goal.

Your support is critical to our life-changing service. It will assist Sister Eugene's after-school program in the inner city and Sister Susan's compassionate outreach to men and women afflicted with HIV/AIDS and so much more. In short, your financial support assists us in all that we do for God's people and in caring for the needs of our retired sisters, no easy feat given escalating costs of daily living.

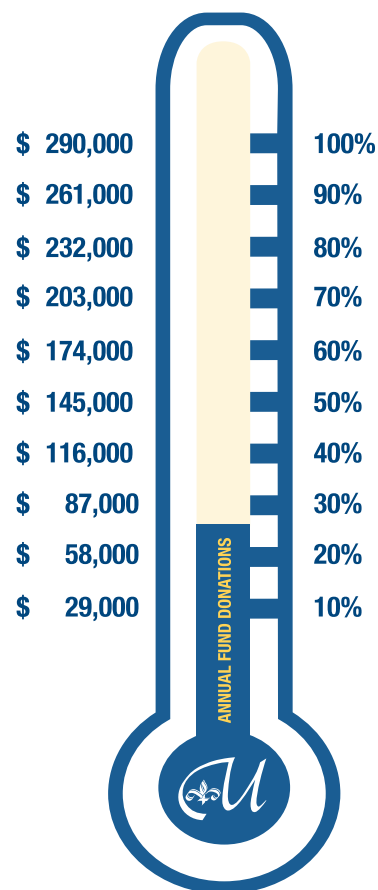
Annual Fund donations received during the most recently completed fiscal year:

- Subsidized 10 sisters working in unfunded or under-funded ministries providing direct service to the poor in the amount of \$354,473;
- Financed a new security system for the motherhouse at a cost of \$74,178, including new doors and a keyless entry system;

- Contributed \$241,345 toward the living expenses of five retired Sisters residing in the Saint Angela Center, at an average cost of \$48,269 per person.

We count on your partnership in the 2008-09 Annual Fund campaign. Each gift is appreciated. And even a small increase will help offset escalating gasoline costs for a sister in ministry, or provide supplies for sisters offering tutoring assistance in a city parish. All contributions will ensure the continuity of our efforts, and the care of our sisters. Remember, each gift is important and holds the potential for improving a life.

Correction: In the last issue of Ursuline Sisters News the ending date for the 2007-08 Annual Fund appeal was incorrectly noted as June 30, and as such suggested that we fell short of our goal by seven percent. The appeal's actual closing date was August 21. With a final total of \$283,596, we reached 99% of the targeted goal. Thanks to all who contributed to the successful appeal.



Minibus on sisters' wish list

Our congregation hopes to acquire a minibus equipped with a wheelchair lift to transport groups of sisters. The number of Ursulines who no longer drive continues to grow and in many cases, large numbers of sisters

often find themselves going to the same places. The minibus would be used to take sisters to events, local retail stores, funerals and on regional excursions. The minibus would be especially helpful to the Saint Angela Center, where

our sisters who need daily living or nursing assistance live. We've received estimates in the \$45,000 to \$55,000 range. To learn more or to donate to this cause, please call Development Director Sister Susan Durkin at 440-449-1200, Ext. 105.

Government bailout bill extends tax benefits to those who transfer IRA dollars to non-profits

Donors age 70 1/2 or older may transfer up to \$100,000 to charity from their individual retirement accounts without paying income taxes on the money if it is transferred in 2008 or 2009. This provision, which has been offered in recent years, was extended when Congress passed the "bailout" bill to help the nation's troubled financial institutions. This IRA tax-relief provision was written into the bill.

Ursuline Academy of Cleveland



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08 WINTER

Visit www.ursulinesisters.org to submit prayer requests.

Inscribed brick pavers half-price for Christmas!

Gift of honor perfect for 'person who has everything'

The most meaningful gifts come from the heart and create special memories. So if you're looking for the perfect gift for someone special, consider purchasing a brick paver inscribed with the name of the recipient. The pavers form the walkway in our beautiful Saint Angela Garden at the front entrance of the Ursuline Educational Center/Motherhouse. And for a limited time through Dec. 12, 2008 — for Christmas giving — the Ursuline Sisters' Development Office is offering the pavers at the sisters' price of \$75, for a savings of 50 percent off the regular price of \$150.

Boulders and benches are also available for purchase and will likewise honor your loved one with a lasting tribute in a sacred and serene space. The item will bear a plaque inscribed with the name of your honoree. And, of course, your designated recipient will also be remembered in the prayers of the sisters.

Proceeds help cover costs associated with maintaining the Saint Angela Garden. For more information or to make a purchase, contact Sister Alice Brickman at 440-449-1200, Ext. 199, or abrickman@ursulinesisters.org.

