



URSULINE SISTERS
OF CLEVELAND



The Ripple Effect

*How our influence and ministry
reaches beyond us to you, our
extended Ursuline family.*



2022-2023 Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“
*The Ursuline Sisters
have ministered in
Cleveland and beyond
for 173 years; we
hope our “ripples”
have touched many
through our ministries
of education, social
justice, and prayer.*

Dear Friends,

For many summers, my family rented a cottage in Vermilion, OH right near the lake. It was a glorious one-week vacation for all. We would run down to the lake to build sand castles, ride the waves, read good books, and just relax. It was here that I learned how to skip stones across the water. I was not always successful: often the stone would just plop into the lake, but then wonderful ripples would reach farther out to the water's edge.

Our theme for the Annual Report this year is “The Ripple Effect.” The thought came to us that one never knows how something we say or do has ongoing meaning, results, and blessings. The Ursuline Sisters have ministered in Cleveland and beyond for 173 years; we hope our “ripples” have touched many through our ministries of education, social justice, and prayer.

In this year's annual report for fiscal year 2022-2023, we share with you the important events and happenings in the congregation. In August 2022, we joined with other congregations in continuing our education and response to racism. In May 2023, the Sisters of Notre Dame and Ursulines jointly hosted a presentation by African American religious woman, Sister Anita Baird, DHM. This was an informative and practical morning with honest sharing and open discussions. Our own Sister Erin Zubal has taken a position as Chief of Staff at Network in Washington, DC. This organization lobbies for Catholic social justice issues. We are keeping abreast of all that is happening around important justice concerns coming before Congress. We carry on our education and efforts in responding to the call of Pope Francis to protect Earth our common home in his encyclical *Laudato Si*. As always, we have included a financial statement and links to lists of our various generous donors and volunteers. I hope you enjoy the review of the past year and all our good works, and thanks to so many who joined with us in these efforts.

In this beautiful and colorful season of Thanksgiving, please know how grateful we are to each one of you for your support, your companionship, and your prayers.

In St. Angela,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Ritamary Welsh, OSU".

Sister Ritamary Welsh, OSU
President, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland



PARTNERS IN MISSION

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

*Transforming society through
contemplation, justice and compassion*



**URSULINE SISTERS
OF CLEVELAND**

2022-2023 Annual Report

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PLEASE NOTE

Every effort has been made toward accuracy in acknowledging our donors and in the listing of donor names. We apologize for any omissions or errors and ask that you report them to Sister Elaine Berkopec at eberkopec@ursulinesisters.org or 440.229.5624.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Sister Laura Bregar
Sister Maureen Grady
Sister Diana Stano

TREASURER

Sister Maureen Doyle

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Mary Hobson Moran

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT, OFFICE COORDINATOR, EDITOR

Sister Elaine M. Berkopec

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Maggie Gibson

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Renee Boerner
Sr. Laura Bregar
Joseph Cicero
Cindy Johnson
Antoinette Kula
Diane Ruppelt

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

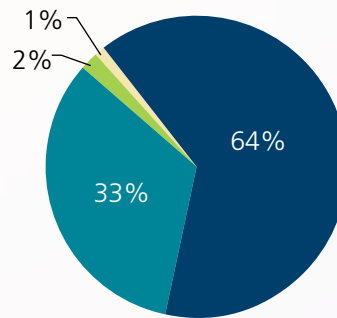
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

CONGREGATIONAL

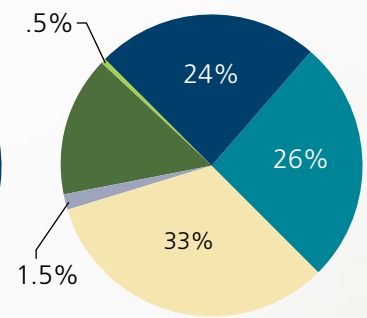
Operating Revenues

Salaries & Social Security	\$2,122,541
Donations	
Development	1,091,353
Other	67,541
Other Income	42,046
Total Operating Revenues	\$3,323,481

Operating Revenues



Operating Expenses

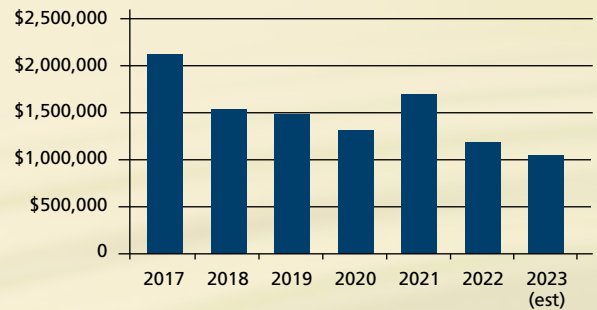


Operating Expenses

Community Operations	\$1,593,686
Plant Operations	1,700,314
Sisters' Expenses	2,222,224
Sponsored Ministries Support*	100,000
Women's Religious Archives Collaborative Pledge	1,000,000
Other Expenses	31,333
Total Operating Expenses	\$6,647,557

Operating Profit (Deficit) \$(3,324,076)

Revenue from Sisters' Salaries

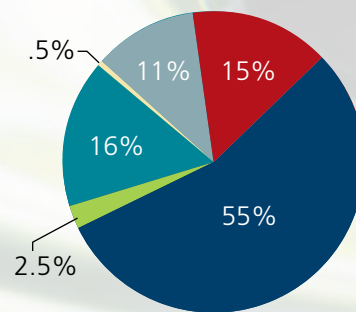


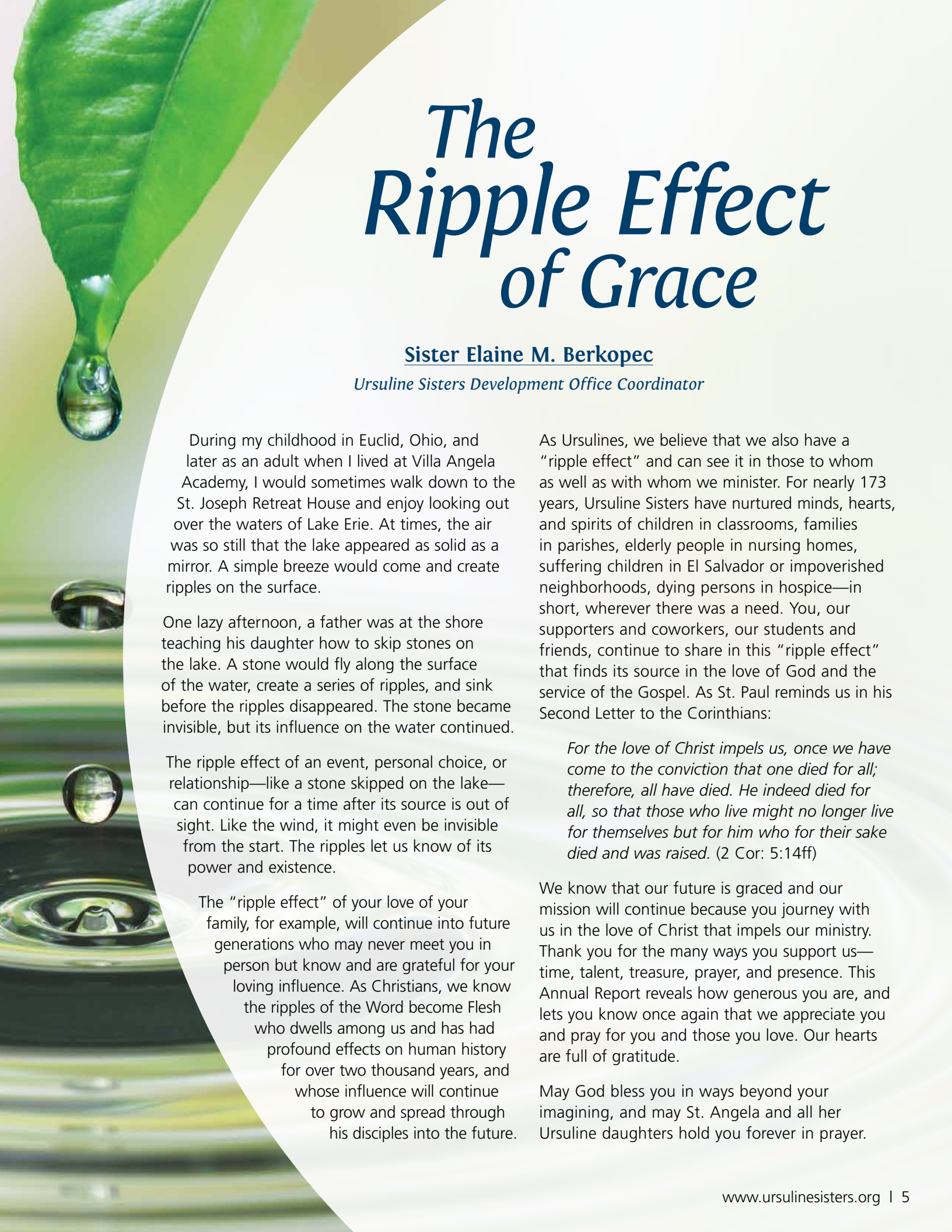
* Additional Support given to sponsored institutions through designated funds: 22-23 \$57,000 and 21-22 \$68,486

DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BY SOURCE

Derby Day Benefit	\$161,736
Donations	602,709
Grants	30,000
Memorial & Bequests	172,999
Programs	5,494
Retirement Rally	118,415
Total	\$1,091,353

Development Revenue





The Ripple Effect of Grace

Sister Elaine M. Berkopec

Ursuline Sisters Development Office Coordinator

During my childhood in Euclid, Ohio, and later as an adult when I lived at Villa Angela Academy, I would sometimes walk down to the St. Joseph Retreat House and enjoy looking out over the waters of Lake Erie. At times, the air was so still that the lake appeared as solid as a mirror. A simple breeze would come and create ripples on the surface.

One lazy afternoon, a father was at the shore teaching his daughter how to skip stones on the lake. A stone would fly along the surface of the water, create a series of ripples, and sink before the ripples disappeared. The stone became invisible, but its influence on the water continued.

The ripple effect of an event, personal choice, or relationship—like a stone skipped on the lake—can continue for a time after its source is out of sight. Like the wind, it might even be invisible from the start. The ripples let us know of its power and existence.

The “ripple effect” of your love of your family, for example, will continue into future generations who may never meet you in person but know and are grateful for your loving influence. As Christians, we know the ripples of the Word become Flesh who dwells among us and has had profound effects on human history for over two thousand years, and whose influence will continue to grow and spread through his disciples into the future.

As Ursulines, we believe that we also have a “ripple effect” and can see it in those to whom as well as with whom we minister. For nearly 173 years, Ursuline Sisters have nurtured minds, hearts, and spirits of children in classrooms, families in parishes, elderly people in nursing homes, suffering children in El Salvador or impoverished neighborhoods, dying persons in hospice—in short, wherever there was a need. You, our supporters and coworkers, our students and friends, continue to share in this “ripple effect” that finds its source in the love of God and the service of the Gospel. As St. Paul reminds us in his Second Letter to the Corinthians:

For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (2 Cor: 5:14ff)

We know that our future is graced and our mission will continue because you journey with us in the love of Christ that impels our ministry. Thank you for the many ways you support us—time, talent, treasure, prayer, and presence. This Annual Report reveals how generous you are, and lets you know once again that we appreciate you and pray for you and those you love. Our hearts are full of gratitude.

May God bless you in ways beyond your imagining, and may St. Angela and all her Ursuline daughters hold you forever in prayer.

Ursulines hear the call of *Laudato Si*

Sister Elaine Berkopce

In May of 2015, Pope Francis issued a letter to the world appealing to all of us to save our common home, our Mother Earth. The letter, or encyclical as these are more formally called, was entitled *Laudato Si*, taken from the first words of St. Francis of Assisi's canticle for all creation: "Praised be you, my Lord, with all Your creatures..." God reminds us through both Pope Francis and Saint Francis that the earth is not ours to spoil or exploit; it belongs to God our Creator who has made us, all of humanity for all of history, its stewards.

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls us to be part of the process, the Action Plan, to value and save our Earth. The Ursuline Sisters have committed themselves to this plan and its seven goals. Over the coming months, we will describe our efforts for each of these goals. We also invite you to join us in whatever way you can in responding to the call to save our Mother Earth, preserving her gifts and beauty for generations to come.

1

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

2

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

This goal is a call to protect those most vulnerable to climate change and ecological injustice. Worldwide, under-resourced communities—migrants, refugees, Indigenous Tribes, communities of color—shoulder the worst impacts of environmental degradation.

3

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.

4

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

To preserve our Earth and its resources for future generations, we must reduce waste and live in reciprocal relationship with the natural world.

6

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to "discover God in all things," both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

5

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

7

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement imagines an open, listening and aware process. Ultimately, ecological transformation begins at a local level. This goal encourages communities to take action first in their neighborhood ecosystems, through grassroots campaigns and collaboration.





Emily TeKolste, SP;
Eilis McCulloh, HM;
Erin Zubal, OSU;
Kristin Schol –
all NETWORK Staff

Rethinking the Future: Sisters Will Continue to Work in and for Community

Sister Erin Zubal, OSU

NETWORK Chief of Staff

I am often asked “what it is like to be a young sister?” I hear this question a lot, by well-intended, inquisitive people, people who seem sincerely interested in my response. I have a good friend who likes to respond to the well-intended questioner with, “She is not as young as she used to be.”

And we all laugh. Indeed, none of us are as young as we used to be.

While it is a question that is often asked of me, my age — or rather the chronological age among my community — is something I rarely think about. When I entered the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland 17 years ago, I knew with all my being that I was called to religious life

at this moment in history, and the probability was high that I would always be the youngest. You see, no one has entered the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland since me. My lifelong yes to living a life of chastity, poverty, and obedience also came with saying yes to living out the call as the youngest.

Being the youngest is an incredible gift. I have had and continue to have the best teachers — women who have paved the way in mission, ministry, justice, and advocacy, women who have modeled for me strength and a lifelong commitment to learning and formation. My sisters have taken risks, spoken out, and have advocated for the most vulnerable among us, especially women and children. And I continue to be humbled by the ways my sisters show up

“
*Our calls and our charisms
are broken open, beyond
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communities far and wide.*

for me. When I start a new ministry, when I need help in learning the ways of faithful service, and when I simply need to be reminded that we do the work together and with all of our collaborators, I am not alone.

Religious life is transitioning, changing, evolving. The truth is that all Catholic Sisters aren't as young as we used to be. The numbers of women religious actively serving in hospitals, schools, and social service agencies are declining. Many congregations are having conversations about the legacy they will leave when their communities reach completion. Our legacy, charisms, and missions are being lived out by our associates, co-members, and co-workers. And this is where the mission of NETWORK enters the picture as well.

When I arrived at NETWORK, I was no longer the youngest. Instead, I joined a multi-generational, diverse group of talented, committed, and dynamic people. I arrived at a time when NETWORK was celebrating its 50-year history and taking the long look back. And while we took the time to look back to our foundation, we have also been taking the time to look forward to the next 50 years and all the ways the organization can continue to engage in meaningful political ministry.

And this is part of the legacy that Catholic Sisters leave as well. At NETWORK I see how Catholic Sisters, even with our declining numbers, will continue to work in community in the years ahead. Our calls and our charisms are broken open, beyond the boundaries of religious life, and shared with people from different walks of life in communities far and wide. And this new and different form of community works together for changes in laws that will foster ever-deeper and more inclusive communities. This is a rethinking of the future of religious life, but one that brings the Gospel ever more fully out into the world.

Carol Coston, OP, NETWORK'S first Executive Director; Erin Zubal, OSU; Nancy Sylvester, IHM, NETWORK's third Executive Director



The same God who called the thousands of women religious before me is the same God who called me. And it's the same God who calls Catholics to live their baptismal call out in the world and who inspires people of goodwill to work for justice and build up the common good. Today and each day, I renew my "yes" filled with hopes and aspirations, limitations, and weaknesses to live this life with my sisters, colleagues, and everyone who shows up wanting to make the world a more just and inclusive place.

Sr. Erin Zubal, OSU, is NETWORK's Chief of Staff. Founded by Catholic Sisters in 1972, in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, NETWORK is an inclusive, national, Catholic advocacy organization open to all who share our values, working to achieve equity and justice for everyone.

This article originally appeared in the Quarter 3 2023 issue of Connection magazine, the member publication of NETWORK.



Pictured here is the current NETWORK leadership team: Joan Neal, Mary Novak, Sister Erin Zubal



Sisters
Margaret
Gorman,
Anita
Baird, and
Ritamary
Welsh

Sisters learn about the history of racism in American Catholic religious life

Sister Ruth Urbanski, OSU

Coordinator, Ursuline Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Ann Clark

Co-director, SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation National Office

"If we do not live the Gospel, how can we be the light of Christ in the world?"

This question was one of many that Sister Anita Baird, who is a member of the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, asked the large crowd gathered at the Notre Dame Center in Chardon, Ohio.

Earlier this year in May, over 260 people from 22 communities of women religious, parishes, and non-profit organizations came together in-person and virtually to

look more closely at racism in the Catholic Church and religious life.

Through a collaboration with the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, SND USA has embarked on a multi-year process of education, discussion, and discernment around the issue of racism and what it means to practice being antiracist. Our communities wanted to offer our sisters, partners, and collaborators an opportunity to learn about the history of racism in the Church and in religious congregations.

Sister Anita offered a presentation that was widely seen as open and challenging, inviting the sisters and others to ask hard questions such as, “How do we promote anti-racist diversity and enculturation in a church that is still confronting the sin of racism?”

Pope Francis tells us, “We cannot close our eyes to any form of racism or exclusion while pretending to defend the sacredness of every human life.” Sister Anita invited us to take a closer look at racism and our role in educating ourselves about the history of racism in our country and our church. We are called to engage in concrete actions of building relationships that lead to racial justice.

Sister Anita shared that this work is life-long and we find our strength at the Eucharistic table. Among Sister Anita’s many roles, she was Chief of Staff to the late Cardinal Francis George of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Sister Anita was then appointed as the founding director of the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office for Racial Justice in 2000, which directed the diocese’s initiatives to eradicate racism in its structures and institutions. She also served as Cardinal George’s liaison for race relations in the city of Chicago. Cardinal George said, “...In the Eucharistic assembly we share all the cultural, racial, economic and spiritual gifts given us by the Holy Spirit to enrich and transform both church and society.” Sister Anita reminded us that it is at the Table where we find the courage and understanding “to confront our cultural indoctrinations

Sister Anita challenged us to work to change racist systems and structures, stand in opposition to racism, and begin to explore what reparations are and how they can be made.

and begin to dismantle the racism that has defined who we are.” The Eucharist celebrates our diversity while embracing our unity. It is at the heart of racial justice.

Sister Anita challenged us to work to change racist systems and structures, stand in opposition to racism, and begin to explore what reparations are and how they can be made. She urged us to allow ourselves to be transformed.

In the closing prayer, we made a call to action in which we asked: What are we willing to do individually and in our communities to right the wrongs of racism? How can we act to be the loving presence of Christ in the world today and make it a world free of hate and injustice?

“How do we promote anti-racist diversity and enculturation in a church that is still confronting the sin of racism?”



Sisters Ruth Urbanski,
Anita Baird, and
Ritamary Welsh

THANK YOU to all of our supporters!

2022-2023 Fiscal Year



Honor Roll of Donors/Supporters July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

The Ursuline Sisters are exceedingly grateful to the friends and backers who are critical to our life and service – our donors, event sponsors, supporters and participants, and volunteers. Your goodness and generosity always animate our works; your friendship enriches our lives. Rest assured you are held always in our prayers and forever engraved in our hearts.

Due to the increasing costs of print and postage, and in the interest of responsible stewardship, we are not printing the pages of donor and supporter lists in the Annual Report. Complete lists can be found on our website, www.ursulinesisters.org. You can scan the QR code with your phone to get directly to those lists. Thanks for your understanding and your support.



2023 Ursuline Derby Day

Once again, the Ursuline Sisters are grateful to all who made our benefit event so successful and enjoyable. We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, businesses and corporations for their generous sponsorship of the 2023 Ursuline Derby Day benefit:



*A Kentucky Derby Party to benefit
the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland*

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Kathy and Ralph Dise

STARTING GATE SPONSOR \$5,000
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Warren Roofing

Volunteers Make a Difference

Almost every big thing begins with small moments, ideas, actions. A word of recognition, a question that sparks inspiration, a kind deed. These small things inevitably result in a continuation of the same, like ripples in a pond when a small drop of water falls from the sky. Since 1850, it has been our intention to make ripples in our communities through our work and witness of Christ. We are gratified to know that we have touched many people over the years and are grateful to also feel the ripples return from these same people and others. Scan the QR code on page 12 and you will find the names of a few of these individuals, volunteers who give their time and talents to support the lives and mission of our sisters. If you would like to join our volunteer team, send an email to volunteer@ursulinesisters.org.

Ursuline Derby
Day Attendees:

320

New Donors:

276

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME,
TALENT, AND
TREASURE...
AND THIS IS
HOW MANY!**

Total Gifts:

5,083

Volunteers
(Sisters
included):

81

Ursuline Derby
Day Sponsors:

45

Lifetime Benefactors

The Ursuline Sisters have been blessed with loyal friends and supporters whose generosity assists us in our service to advance our mission of transforming society through contemplation, justice and compassion. We gratefully recognize and celebrate our most generous donors and those who, during this past fiscal year, also gave to the Bold Faith | Building a Future Campaign by including them in our Lifetime Giving Society. Our deepest thanks to the following individuals, current donors whose accumulated lifetime giving has exceeded \$25,000, and to our foundation and organization partners whose lifetime giving has exceeded \$50,000. You are held always in our grateful prayers and forever engraved in our hearts.

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“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

(Romans 15:13)

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The Sister Petra O’Donnell Fund
F.J. O’Neill Foundation
Pelegrin Family Fund
Charles C.F. and Loretta R. Rebeta Fund
Schamadan Fund
Robert Sessions Family Fund
Albert and Celia Weatherhead Fund

NO ENVELOPE? NO PROBLEM!

You can make your donation safely and securely at www.ursulinesisters.org/support-us/donate.



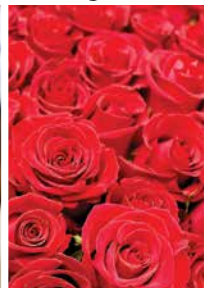
If you need assistance or have any questions, please call Sister Elaine at 440-229-5624 or email her at eberkopec@ursulinesisters.org.

For more information, please call Cindy Johnson at 440-229-5634, or email her at cjohnson@ursulinesisters.org.



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
URSULINE ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND

6085 Parkland Boulevard, Suite 175
Mayfield Heights, OH 44124



URSULINE DERBY DAY

*A Kentucky Derby Party to benefit
the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland*

◆◆◆ 15th Anniversary ◆◆◆

SAVE THE DATE!

150th Run for the Roses

Saturday, May 4, 2024 ♦ 5 p.m.

**Join us as we present the 2024
Merici Award to Mary Ellen Downs**

Cleveland Browns Stadium

Casual Attire ♦ Hats are encouraged!

*For event/registration details visit:
www.ursulinesisters.org/ursuline-derby-day*