



CONTEMPLATION

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URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

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

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Normal business day hours are
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Normally CLOSED on Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New
Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day,
Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving
Day and Friday after Thanksgiving.

We may be closed during holidays, but our
WEB DONATION PAGE is always OPEN and
SECURE! [https://secure.ursulinesisters.org/
Donation.php](https://secure.ursulinesisters.org/Donation.php)

*Please remember the Ursuline Sisters in
your will.*

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Change – the word alone can frighten or threaten our peace of mind yet it is a common theme throughout our lives. Often there are changes over which we have no control. But we do have control over our response, whether the change is expected or unexpected. Angela Merici is a reliable guide for us on how to move through change. She adapted, she prayed, she sought advice, and I am sure at times was frustrated over changes occurring during her life whether personally or in the social climate of the time.



Sister Kathleen Flanagan

Angela tells us, "If, according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice." Throughout history Ursulines have followed that sound advice. Sometimes it was

As our community faces aging and the changes that accompany it, we are faced with the need to change – to change our residence, to change our ministry, to change our activities, and the list goes on.

an easy process; but then there were those difficult times. As our community faces aging and the changes that accompany it, we are faced with the need to change – to change our residence, to change our ministry, to change our activities, and the list goes on. Yet Angela also tells us to not lose heart, to trust that God will reach out a hand and help us when the need arises. We have followed good advice, made difficult decisions both personally and

communally, prayed long and hard and God held out a hand and helped us. What changes have we been dealing with these past months? We have Merici Crossings, our new residence rising out of what had been an empty field; sisters preparing to move whether to Merici Crossings or to another residence; sisters making decisions about their ministries, about retirement, about how to stay involved in the mission of the community. God's hand is in all of these changes.

In this issue we will learn about sisters who have followed a call to new ministries, to new paths in life. They continue to stay involved in the mission of the community, a goal toward which we all strive. As Angela directs us, "You have more need to serve others than they have need to be served."

We will also read about Derby Day 2018, our annual event filled with good times and with family and friends. As we move into the future with hope and joy, we are forever grateful for your kindness to us and always remember you in our prayers.

In Saint Angela,

Sister Kathleen Flanagan



Derby Day 2018: Just may be best one yet!

There was a new view this year! The City View Room at First Energy Stadium provided its unique views of the Cleveland cityscape for sisters and guests of the Ninth Annual Ursuline Derby Day. It was a fun-filled evening highlighting the 144th "run for the roses" and generating financial support for the Ursuline Sisters.

The evening featured the presentation of the Merici Award to Ursuline friends and supporters Susanne Schroer and the late Gerald Schroer by Sister Susan Durkin, congregational president. This award was created in 2009 to recognize those who live and act in the spirit of Ursuline foundress Saint Angela Merici. The Schroers are long-time supporters and friends of the Ursuline Sisters and we were so pleased to honor them in this way.

Derby guests again enjoyed the excitement of the horse race raffle, 50/50 drawing, basket raffle, live auction, and wine pull. This year's spontaneous "raise your paddle" appeal, *Moving the Mission*, generated donations for necessary household appliances and items the sisters will need to keep them safe and comfortable in their new home.

Thanks to our sponsors, underwriters, horse owners, in-kind service providers, basket and wine donors, volunteers and

guests. Special thanks to Andrew Grover, our faithful friend and Derby emcee and auctioneer. We couldn't have done it without him.

**Mark your calendar for next year's milestone:
our TENTH Annual Ursuline Derby Day,
Saturday, May 4, 2019.
We hope to see you there.**

Even as we closeout the 2018 Derby Day Event, we are already looking ahead to next year. We already have a good supply of small and medium sized baskets. We could really use EXTRA LARGE baskets, at least 25" or more in length.

In addition, we would welcome donations of wine, gift cards, or airline miles.

PLEASE CONTACT COLLEEN SLATTERY at 440-449-1200 ext. 197 to make arrangements for delivery. And thank you for your generosity.

Guided by the beacon of Angela Merici, Ursuline Sisters follow winding paths of service.



Sister Peggy Duffy



Sister Gretchen Rodenfels



Sister Lois Buck



Sister Diana Stano



Sister Margaret O'Brien



Sister Susan Zion

Angela Merici, born in northern Italy during the late 15th century, understood what was typically expected of a Renaissance woman, but from her youth she never surrendered mindlessly to society's norms. Instead this faith-filled Christian grew up consistently guided by two beacons: what she felt the Spirit was calling her to be and to do, and what she saw around her as immediate needs that somehow she could address. These two beacons led her into situations, places and commitments previously unheard of for a woman. Her choices were creative and her influence was magnetic; over the years she attracted followers from every strata of society who not only sought her counsel but were willing to join her efforts. But it was not until 1535 when Angela was 61 years old and advanced in wisdom and virtue that she was able to fulfill her lifelong dream: the establishment of a new entity, an innovative form of consecration for women distinct from monasticism. It would be a company of women who committed themselves to Christ alone, who were united under a Rule developed by Angela herself, who lived in their own homes or with the families for whom they worked, and who devoted themselves to being a positive influence in the lives of others by their spirituality, example, beliefs and good deeds. Thus the Company of St. Ursula was born. Angela realized the foundational importance of prayer but also the

Like our foundress we Ursulines try to be a countercultural presence that never surrenders mindlessly to society's norms, but instead are guided by two beacons: what we feel the Spirit is calling us to be and to do and what immediate needs we could somehow address.

necessity of immersing oneself in society in order to be aware of its needs. She realized that the most urgent needs will vary according to time, place and situation; therefore, she did not direct her company to a specific ministry. Rather they were to remain open to the Spirit's promptings and make adjustments as needed. She wrote the following directive into her original rule: "If according to time and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice."

Dynamic adaptability has been a hallmark of Ursuline life throughout its long history. Cleveland Ursulines follow this wise directive even today both as a congregation and as individuals. The current expression of our mission, "To transform society through contemplation, justice and compassion," provides the elasticity and the focus that is inherent in Saint Angela's charism. Like

our foundress we Ursulines try to be a countercultural presence that never surrenders mindlessly to society's norms, but instead are guided by two beacons: what we feel the Spirit is calling us to be and to do and what immediate needs we could somehow address. This requires us to be flexible. Several examples follow of sisters who began as classroom teachers and then heard the Spirit call them to meet a different need.

Sister Peggy Duffy

Sister Peggy Duffy began her ministry, as most Ursuline Sisters did, committed to the education of children. Then after 27 years as an elementary school teacher she felt called to start down a different path to minister to adults. When Sister Peggy reflects back on her ministerial journey, she can see how each ministry experience prepared her for the next and for something new.

Preparing children for liturgy and for sacraments led to wider aspects of parish ministry that included working with adults in liturgy planning, parish renewals, and small faith-sharing groups. In one of the parishes she was asked to assist individual adults in personal spiritual growth. After a period of preparation she was led to consider a new ministry – adult spiritual direction. Now she continues to give spiritual direction, and to direct retreats at the Jesuit Retreat House, Villa Maria and other centers, as well as assist with parish RCIA groups.

As Sister Peggy reflects on her present ministry, she relates that: “In Angela Merici’s time countless individuals were drawn to her for spiritual insight and guidance in their



Sister Peggy Duffy

quest for holiness. It is an awesome privilege for me to help someone deepen their experience of God’s personal love for him or her.”

Sister Gretchen Rodenfels

Sister Gretchen Rodenfels dedicated over forty years of her Ursuline life to education, including the last ten years as president of Beaumont School. But, during that same



Sister Gretchen Rodenfels

decade, in addition to her administrative duties, Sister had also practiced quietly a far different type of ministry. A few years prior to becoming president of Beaumont, Sister Gretchen had completed a program of study to become a massage therapist caring for clients seeking relaxation massage. Last year, her retirement from Beaumont freed her to broaden the time and focus of that second ministry and allowed her to bring it to the forefront. So Sister Gretchen set about learning to adapt the techniques of Swedish massage with which she was already familiar to meet the needs of a new set of clients, patients who were receiving hospice care. Because hospice care is available to those who have months to live, Sister is keenly aware that “the therapist must adapt the massage skills to those who are in end-of-life care. It is the therapeutic touch that weaves together the physical, psychological and spiritual aspects of care at the last stage of life.” Hospice philosophy celebrates the individual worth of each life, strives to relieve suffering, enhances comfort, promotes quality of life and supports grieving. Angela’s charism respects each individual and strives to meet needs wherever they are found. Sister Gretchen is gifted and able to blend both philosophy and charism in her skilled and compassionate hands.

Sister Lois Buck

The life ministry of **Sister Lois Buck** has always been teaching, but she too has been open to redirecting her abilities wherever the needs are most apparent to her. She began her teaching career as a special education teacher, and eventually used her skills with children by starting the Cardinal's Nest, a respite ministry for families with special needs children.

Until recently, she taught and guided teachers in Ursuline College's Master Apprenticeship Program about the requirements and regulations needed for accreditation. She intended to stay in this position only five years and move onto something else before her knowledge and skills in the field of special education became outdated. So by 2016 she was ready to move on, and God offered a plan!

At Ursuline College, her experience opened her eyes to the need for special education at the pre-school level and earlier. The sooner children started, the better success they would have. In 2016, she was invited to become director of the pre-school at St. Agatha-St. Aloysius School in Cleveland.



Sister Lois Buck

She now works with 3-5 year-olds, exposing them to language and math skills, and introducing them to the wonders of reading books. Sister Lois shares with St. Angela the faith that "I have always felt God points my direction, not always where I expect, but where I'm needed."

Sister Diana Stano

Sister Diana Stano has been involved in education since 1968. This includes years of teaching followed by 18 years as the President of Ursuline College. After her retirement from the college, she felt the call of the Holy Spirit to serve in a completely different ministry and entered a two



Sister Diana Stano

year formation program to become a certified chaplain. Currently she serves as Chaplain at Altercare St. Joseph, a nursing home, and also volunteers at the Matt Talbot Center for Women, a residential treatment facility for recovering female addicts.

Sister Diana is a deeply religious woman with a mission of giving direct service to some of the most vulnerable populations: the addicted and the elderly. She says, "I see myself responding to this great need in our society by bringing a heartfelt presence of a loving God into peoples' lives. I listen, pray with them, and assist them in their spiritual growth and development."

Sister Diana meets weekly with the women in group settings at both sites. Prayer, conversation, song and varied activities offer solace and serenity to the women's somewhat broken lives. "The more I get to know the women, the more I can encourage them in their healing. I love my ministry! I find it most fulfilling and yet challenging because it has caused me to deepen my own relationship with God."

From the classroom, to an executive academic position, and then to an outreach program with female addicts, Sister Diana's mission of compassion continues as she chooses to be with others and for others as a beacon of hope.

Sister Margaret O'Brien

Sister Margaret O'Brien, formerly known as Sister Ann Matthew, was dedicated to her students as a teacher for 25 years, served in the schools as a principal for 28 years, and mentored teachers for five years. There was no doubt in her mind that education was an important and viable ministry that had a positive impact on the lives of her students as well as on their families and on society.

Since education was an integral part of her life for many years, she naturally was concerned about her qualifications for serving in a different ministry when asked, but her "need to serve" and her prayerful reflection on her experience of the Holy Spirit's manner of guiding her throughout her life – often through the encouragement of other people – has led her to say "yes" again and again. She now ministers at Altercare St. Joseph where she follows Angela's example of serving others in a joyful manner and respecting the uniqueness of each individual. Sister Margaret comments, "Bringing the Eucharist to the elderly at Altercare and



Sister Margaret O'Brien

starting faith-sharing groups with them has been a very meaningful new experience where I can continue to meet the needs of others and enrich their faith life."



Sister Susan Zion

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Sister Susan Zion began her ministry as a primary grade teacher. After a number of years of teaching and then helping parents learn to raise pre-school children in their faith, Sister responded to a request from the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown for volunteers to help in their AIDS ministry. She soon became director of their AIDS clinic, which she built up from one desk and one phone into an agency that served more than 60 clients with a staff of medical professionals as well as a social worker and a counselor.

Eventually Sister Susan returned to the Cleveland area and ministered at St. Augustine Manor, the only facility at that time that accepted people with HIV. This ministry grew by 2007 into Ursuline Piazza, an organization focusing on helping people with HIV and their families to find practical support in order to live healthy, normal and productive lives. Her ministry reminds Sister Susan that St. Angela ministered with the *Divino Amore*, a charitable society in her time that helped people suffering from syphilis, a deadly and shameful scourge found commonly in Renaissance Italy. Sister Susan reflects, "I see this as a need in our time. People with HIV, especially those who may no longer have family, or who have mental illness, need a presence in their lives. 'Be a piazza,' a space where people can come. This is not just a job!"

Saint Angela Merici was indeed a wise woman to direct her sisters to be relevant in their own time and place situation and to be willing to change as needed. "If according to time and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice." She also encouraged

them – and us – "Act, believe, do your best, have hope, cry out to Him with all your heart and without a doubt, you will see wonderful things." Those words spoken hundreds of years ago are every bit as valid today as the day on which they were first uttered, and every day we gratefully experience the power of their truth.

AT HOME IN CLEVELAND

MERICI CROSSINGS, A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE URSULINE SISTERS



*First home of the Ursuline Sisters.
Euclid Avenue, 1850-1893*



*Second home of the Ursuline Sisters.
55th Street and Scovill Avenue, 1893-1941*



*Merici Crossings, new home of the Ursuline Sisters.
Fairmount Boulevard, opening Fall 2018*

American author Eudora Welty wrote that “One place comprehended can make us understand other places better.” Being at home somewhere allows us to find home wherever God calls us.

The Ursuline Sisters have made Cleveland our home since arriving in 1850. Home is always more than a place or a house. It is where we belong. It is where we share our lives with those closest to us. It is where we know God wants us to be.

While we have made our home among the people of Northeast Ohio, it has always been your welcome and support that has allowed us to send down deep roots here. The support of family and friends for the **Bold Faith | Building a Future** Campaign that is helping fund the construction of Merici Crossings is again an expression of this welcome. Thank you.

Merici Crossings is more than a house or a place of shelter. This will be home for 70 Ursuline Sisters. Anchored here, we will be free to continue our ministries or explore new ones. Knowing that Cleveland is where God calls us to be, we are free to go where we are needed most.

BOLD FAITH

Building a Future

Campaign for the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

We are delighted to share that we have surpassed our Celebration Goal of \$8 million and we have confidently set our sights on the Challenge Goal of \$9 million. We are more than halfway to the \$1 million that our Challenge Goal represents.

Help us realize this goal by responding to the personalized request you received in the mail. You can save a stamp by making your gift or pledge today (and see live building progress!) at www.ursulinesisterscampaign.org!

We continue to be grateful for your support!

Remembering Sister Anne Clare

Teacher, administrator and parish minister

Sister Anne Clare was happiest when she was giving to others. As teacher, congregational leader and member, parish minister, and family member, she freely gave of her time, energy and service to make life happier and easier for all within her circle of care. The gentle and faith-filled Ursuline died Monday, February 19, at Regina Health Center in Richfield, where she had been in residence since 2013. She was 88.



leadership, and as local superior of the motherhouse community.

She returned to teaching with assignments at St. Jerome School (Cleveland) and at St. Mary School (Mentor), and concluded her formal ministry career as pastoral minister at the Mentor parish. She served in the congregation's gift shop and in the ministries of prayer and presence. She continued to minister to her infirm sisters and other Regina Health Center residents until her own health declined.

Sister Anne Clare began her ministry career as a primary classroom teacher with assignments at St. Joseph (Collinwood), Christ the King (East Cleveland), Holy Cross (Euclid), St. Therese (Garfield Heights), and St. Clare (Lyndhurst) schools. Sister Anne Clare left the classroom to serve in administration as treasurer at Ursuline Academy of the Sacred Heart, congregational

Sister Anne Clare will be remembered for her dedicated service and her great care of others. She was a committed religious, a generous and compassionate minister, and a loving sister, aunt and friend.

She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Remembering Sister M. Sheila Kearns

Choir Director, Teacher, Community Minister

Grade school students of the 50s and 60s experienced the rigors of singing in a choir under the tutelage of Sister M. Sheila. Gifted with a beautiful voice, and following in the steps of her namesake Saint Cecilia, patron saint of music, Sister Sheila sought to share her love of music while cultivating it in her charges. The former choir director, elementary school teacher, library assistant and community minister died peacefully and unexpectedly April 12 at Regina Health Center where she had been in residence five years. The 93-year-old was to have marked her 75th jubilee April 15.



Her 23-year education career included tenures at St. Philomena and Christ the King schools in East Cleveland, St. Joseph schools in Collinwood and Avon Lake and, finally, St. Timothy School, Garfield Heights. After leaving the classroom, Sister Sheila served five years in the library at Ursuline College.

Her final formal ministry – and her longest – was in community service, assisting the congregational treasurer for 37 years.

Sister Sheila retired in 2004 and continued to engage in the ministry of prayer, service and presence.

Aileen Mary Kearns entered the Ursulines in 1942. She professed final vows August 25, 1948.

Sister Sheila is survived by sisters-in-law Helen Kearns and Eileen Kearns, nieces and nephews. Her parents and brothers Martin, James, John, William, Edward and Gerald preceded her in death.

Sister Sheila, like many of her contemporaries, earned her undergraduate degree attending Saturday and summer classes at St. John College, while also engaging in full-time teaching during the week. She was awarded her degree in 1959.

She will be remembered as a hard-working and faith-filled religious, a loyal friend, and devoted family member.

Remembering Sister Johna Lincoln

Dedicated teacher and lab technician

Many Ursulines credit Sister Johna Lincoln (formerly Sister M. Anselm) for their passing college science courses as young sisters, recalling her patience in teaching botany, zoology, chemistry and physics, and her ability to break down complex ideas into more readily understood concepts. Countless others benefitted from Sister Johna's skill as a lab technician. Still others found in her a quiet, somewhat enigmatic woman who loved to read. The skilled science teacher, dedicated lab technician and avid reader died Easter Sunday at Regina Health Center in Richfield where she had been in residence five months. She was 85.



College's Overlook Road campus. She also taught one year at Ursuline Academy of the Sacred Heart in East Cleveland.

After a 15-year career in science education, Sister Johna was granted permission to study medical technology at University Hospitals. After completing studies in 1971, she served 28 happy and fulfilling years in the hospital's lab.

In retirement Sister Johna served in respite ministry to caregivers and in a letter and card ministry of outreach and support to community members and others. Her final service was a ministry of prayer and presence.

Johna Lincoln entered the Ursuline community from St. Aloysius Parish in September, 1954 and professed final vows August 12, 1960. She earned her master's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1966.

Sister Johna is survived by a niece and cousins. She was preceded in death by her brother and sister, Randolph Lincoln and Cora Ann Lincoln.

Sister Johna began her ministry career teaching science to postulants and novices at the motherhouse before extending her teaching efforts to students at the

She will be remembered for her quiet demeanor, clever quips, love of reading and fondness for cats. She was a faith-filled woman, a committed religious, and a devoted sister and aunt.

Remembering Sister Pat McCaffrey

Nurse, educator and mentor

Sister Patricia McCaffrey (formerly Sister Ann Martin) lovingly cared for elderly and infirm Ursuline sisters 15 years in the community's infirmary before moving on to serve 30 years at Ursuline College. To each of her ministries she brought professionalism, dedication, wisdom, and compassion. The capable, soft-spoken woman with the kind and gentle heart died April 30, her 69th birthday, at Hospice of the Western Reserve's Hospice House after having been diagnosed with cancer in March. Sister Pat was anticipating her 50th anniversary as an Ursuline in August.



Patricia Ann McCaffrey was born April 30, 1949, in Cleveland, the eldest of four children of Martin and

Mary Ann (Ceccardi) Mc Caffrey. The Villa Angela Academy graduate joined the Ursulines from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Wickliffe, in September 1967 and, given the religious name Ann Martin, professed final vows August 12, 1973. She earned bachelor's degrees in biology and nursing from Ursuline College and St. John College-Ursuline College, respectively, a Master's in Nursing from Kent State University, and a doctorate in education from Teachers College of Columbia University in New York.

Sister Patricia began her ministry career serving in the Ursulines' infirmary while pursuing nursing studies.

Continued >

She assumed responsibility as the facility's head nurse in 1982, was later named administrator and served in that capacity until 1988, when she joined the nursing faculty at Ursuline College. In 2004 she was appointed the College's Vice President for Enrollment Management, a position she held until 2009, when she assumed responsibilities as Director of Academic Services and Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Infirmiry residents found in Sister Pat a gentle and kind-hearted nurse dedicated to their care and comfort; likewise her students, who learned from their teacher and mentor both the art and the heart of nursing.

Colleagues, too, found in her a dedicated and friendly partner in mission, eager to give her all for the success of any enterprise.

Sister Patricia is survived by three brothers: Thomas (Elizabeth), Michael (Catherine Nahas), and Daniel (Mary Lynn). She was preceded in death by her parents.

She will be remembered for her quiet and gentle demeanor and her dedication to family, community and service. She was a faith-filled woman, a committed religious, and a devoted sister, aunt and friend.

Remembering Sister John Vianney

Sister John Vianney had a knack for bringing order to clutter and beautifying it in the process! It was a talent she readily shared throughout her religious life. The creative and faith-filled Ursuline sister died March 21 at Regina Health Center in Richfield, surrounded by Ursuline sisters and friends singing and praying her home. Sister John Vianney, a two-year Regina resident, was to have celebrated her 70th jubilee in April. She was 88.



Sister John Vianney began her ministry career as a kindergarten teacher at St. Jerome School, and continued shaping minds and fostering faith with tenures at St. Mary (Mentor), St. Therese (Garfield Heights), St. Ann (Cleveland Heights), St. Mary Magdalene (Willowick), Immaculate Conception (Willoughby) and St. William (Euclid) schools. She concluded her service in education at St. Robert School as assistant to the principal and at Beaumont School where she worked in the library.

She moved to the motherhouse in 1985 and engaged in community service roles, including supervisor of housekeeping services, coordinator of transportation and curator for the Ursuline community. In the latter role she developed and maintained a detailed inventory of the congregation's antiques and artifacts, information proving invaluable as the sisters prepare for their move to a new residence.

Sister John Vianney cherished her family and friends and found great delight in classical music. She will be remembered as a faith-filled religious, a dedicated teacher and tireless and generous worker. She was a loving sister, aunt and friend.

She is survived by sisters-in-law Elaine Marria and Tina Marria, and nieces and nephews. Brothers John, Harold, Edward and Philip and a sister Ruth Elizabeth preceded her in death.

“Believe it for certain at death’s last moment you will receive the greatest gift of God’s own person. Take it for a fact also that then especially you will recognize me as your faithful friend.”

– 9th Counsel of St. Angela

Memorial donations may be made to the Ursuline Sisters at www.ursulinesisters.org.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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www.ursulinesisters.org



**Have a new address?
Email? Phone number?**

Please help us update your
personal information.

Call Sr. Elaine at
440.449.1200 ext. 199
or email

eberkopec@ursulinesisters.org.

Thank you!

Visit www.UrsulineSisters.org to submit prayer requests.



Annual Fund supports care of retired, infirm sisters

Please consider making a donation to this year's Annual Fund Appeal which ends on June 30, 2018. We are most grateful for the support we receive to assist our sisters who are retired or infirm.

As you know, health care costs continue to escalate, and the success of this appeal is more critical than ever. Remember: we receive no assistance from the Diocese of Cleveland. We rely on our working sisters and on our fundraising efforts.

Please consider making a contribution to this year's Annual Fund Appeal before the fiscal year ends on June 30. For more information, please call Cindy Johnson at 440.449.1200 ext. 105.