



URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

SPRING 2023
NEWS

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COMPASSION



Derby Day 2023: The best one yet! PAGE 3



URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

WOULD YOU RATHER RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTERS ELECTRONICALLY?

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DEVELOPMENT OFFICE SCHEDULE

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, Martin Luther King Jr. 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!***

www.ursulinesisters.org/support-us/donate
**WE NEVER SELL OR GIVE YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS TO ANYONE. PERIOD.**

*Please remember the Ursuline Sisters in
your will.*

LEAVE A LEGACY. Remember the
Ursuline Sisters in your will. For more
information about planned giving,
contact Development Director Cindy
Johnson at cjohnson@ursulinesisters.org
or 440-229-5634.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

"It's breeding and it's training/ And it's something
unknown/ That drives you/ And carries you home."
Dan Fogelberg's lyrics from *Run for the Roses* are
so appropriate for our Derby Day news in this issue;
even more, they are fitting for our shared mission as
companions of St. Angela and people of the gospel. Yes,
we are nurtured and educated, yet there is that sacred
something within that always impels us to the Divine,
our true home.



Sister Laura Bregar

*These connections keep
us faithful to one another
and to St. Angela who
encouraged us to act,
strive, believe and hope.*

How do we seek that Great Mystery in
our everyday lives? We make choices,
moment by moment, day by day, breath
by breath. We do that in community,
for none of us runs this race alone. For
example, many of us are reading Pope
Francis's letter *Laudato Si* about care for
Earth, our common home, and asking
how to make care for God's creation

real in personal ways and in our cities. We attend events that stretch our vision to
include all of God's people, whether they are anti-racism talks that challenge us to
take action or synodality Zoom sessions that seek to create a more inclusive church.
Our goal is not a shining trophy. It is union with the Divine and all that God loves.

Fogelberg's song further invites us with these words: "It's high time you joined
in the dance." No matter our age or physical ability, we continue to stay on the
racetrack of life and love. As sisters, we invite you to pray with us at daily mass, in
a ministry or, perhaps, in "something unknown" that is just over the horizon. These
connections keep us faithful to one another and to St. Angela who encouraged us
to act, strive, believe and hope. Until the moment of our death, we witness with
our presence to the True Presence wherever we may be.

Finally, with Sister Helen Marie and all of our loved ones we have surrendered into
God's spacious heart, we also hear echoes of Paul's words to Timothy: "I have
fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith." (2
Timothy 4:7) What examples of fidelity they have been to us! What examples of
dedication each of you has been to us as well. Our race is not to a finish line of
roses but to love – more deeply, more broadly, more fully. Isn't that what drives us
and carries us every day of our lives?

In St. Angela,

Laura Bregar OSU
Sister Laura Bregar

PLEASE HELP US keep our records current with your new or changed email address.

You can call Sister Elaine at 440-229-5624 or EMAIL her at eberkopec@ursulinesisters.org.

Derby Day 2023: THE BEST ONE YET!

The view from the City View Room at Cleveland Browns Stadium once again provided its unique views of the Cleveland cityscape on a gorgeous Saturday evening. It was a fun-filled Kentucky Derby themed party generating financial support for the Ursuline Sisters.



Sister Ritamary and the Olivers



VASJ Student tech buddies and Chaperones enjoy the photo booth

The evening featured the presentation of the Merici Award to Ursuline friends and supporters Pat and Jim Oliver by Sister Ritamary Welsh, congregational president. This award was created in 2009 to recognize those who live and act in the spirit of Ursuline foundress Saint Angela Merici.

Derby guests of all ages enjoyed the excitement of the horse race raffle, 50/50 drawing, HUGE basket raffle, live auction, and gift card pull. A new feature this year, as a "thank you" from the sisters, guests were offered a free spin of a wheel for the chance to receive a great prize. (Of course, the sisters being the educators they are, guests had to get a 100% on a 4-question test in order to spin.)

Thanks to our sponsors, horse owners, in-kind service providers, basket and gift card donors, volunteers and guests. Special thanks to Andrew Grover, our faithful friend and Derby emcee and auctioneer. He outdid himself this year!



We have already begun planning for next year!
If you would like to donate a gift card for the gift card pull, or a prize for the prize wheel, please contact Sue Angel at sangell@usrulinesisters.org



Mark your calendar for next year's Ursuline Derby Day,
Saturday, May 4, 2024
We hope to see you there!



Sister Margaret Link hobnobs with Altercare residents.

Sister Margaret Link serves the elderly in many ways

“The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.”

Sister Margaret Link’s life may seem to be written with crooked lines, but that has made her path all the more interesting. Sister Margaret would be the first to agree that God’s Spirit has worked in her life to bring her to her current ministry: Director of Spiritual Care Services for Altercare Integrated Health Services, which owns 25 long-term care and rehabilitation nursing facilities in Ohio and Michigan.

Sister Margaret came to the Ursulines from the Daughters of Saint Paul because she wanted to teach and did just that for 22 years. She was a middle school science teacher in several Diocesan schools. When she was at St. Anthony of Padua her health concerns took her out of the classroom in 2015.

Sister wisely took some time to discern her future ministry and energy. She certainly had other skills

besides those of a classroom teacher and desired to continue in some kind of educational work. Sisters Mercia and Maureen McCarthy contacted her with the suggestion to apply for an opening as Director of Spiritual Care Services for Altercare nursing homes. She would be succeeding a sister who was retiring soon.

Sisters Mercia and Maureen encouraged Sister Margaret to pursue this ministry. Sr. Margaret took the risk

of calling the sister who was in the director position at the time and spoke with her about the skills needed.

At the time, Altercare had 21 nursing homes. Sister Margaret talked to the president of the company about the need and role of spiritual care in nursing homes. The founder of Altercare, Gerald Schroer, Sr., believed that spiritual care is a major component of the quality of life for residents. Sr. Margaret subsequently

“The heart’s desire of Altercare’s founder was to foster spiritual care making it a part of their mission: to promote the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the residents.”

met with the company president at the North Canton corporate offices. Once the President and Executive VP interviewed Sr. Margaret, they were eager to have her on board.

Sr. Margaret started on January 25, 2016. Altercare had three regions in Ohio and one facility in Michigan. Her first task was to introduce herself to the activity coordinators in each of the regions. For many, this was the first time they had met an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland. She then worked on spiritual care programming for the activities director to use with residents, including non-denominational prayer services, Bible study, art, and music activities – anything that lifts the human spirit.

Sister also hired Pastoral Care ministers for each facility and provided them with some education about Altercare culture and servicing the spiritual needs of the elderly, to whom Sr. Margaret likes to refer as “our elder angels”.

Sister explains, “What we wanted them to do was to visit the residents in their rooms, especially those who could not get out of their rooms for any kind of spiritual care activity; to check in with them, build relationships and pray with them.” Spiritual care is relational.

Sr. Margaret is often called upon to help build and repair relationships. This ministry was to be totally adaptable (which is a characteristic of St. Angela’s charism) to the needs of each facility with its own culture and demographic. “I could not come in

with my own expectations but I had to have an open mind to see what their needs were and what I could do to help build relationships and offer support,” she says. “I love to be in the facilities and bring the Good News and build up rapport with the residents and staff.”

A serious turning point was the COVID 19 Pandemic. The state of Ohio prohibited visitation in nursing homes. Pastoral Care ministers could not enter the facilities at a time when they were needed most by the residents. Some facilities did not have a pastoral minister for three years. Fortunately, each facility now has a Pastoral Minister. “I love dealing with my Ministers. They are wonderful people to work with and they belong to various denominations.”

Sr. Margaret is a servant of the servants, a liaison between operations and the clinical culture of Altercare. “I deal a lot with the executive directors

and nursing staff and do spiritual care training with new hires. The heart’s desire of Altercare’s founder was to foster spiritual care making it a part of their mission: to promote the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the residents.” Sr. Margaret is an advocate for holistic care of the elderly. She stresses the resident’s God-given right to be treated with dignity and sensitivity due to their unique relationship with God.

Sister also offers grief support when necessary for employees, associates, and residents and their families. She offers comfort to those who mourn, and solace to those in need of spiritual care.

Sister Margaret has written a spiritual care training manual for activity coordinators and also provides activities and resources to bolster employees’ self-care. During the pandemic, she posted prayers and reflections to help them and support them during those difficult days. Keeping people aware of the needs of these essential workers and frontline heroes was a priority. “The need to provide care of the elderly is essential to my mission. I am blessed to be able to advocate on their behalf. I am even more blessed to be able to be a spiritual companion to many. Soli Deo Gloria!”

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Education for Justice is part of the Ursuline legacy

By Sister Beverly Anne LoGrasso

When the Ursuline Sisters came to Cleveland from France in 1850 and settled into the first Ursuline motherhouse on Scovill Avenue, they brought with them the Ursuline Coat of Arms that contains the inscription from the Book of Daniel: "Those who instruct others unto justice shall shine like stars for all eternity." (Daniel 12:3)



True to the Scriptural maxim from the Book of Daniel, the Ursuline Sisters have served at several Catholic schools in the City of Cleveland. Ursuline Sisters continue this service to the present day at Urban Community School, located at 4909 Lorain Avenue, and St. Aloysius at 10932 St. Clair Ave.

In 2020, when George Floyd was arrested and murdered in Minnesota by a police officer, the Ursuline Sisters joined with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in the United States and several Catholic religious communities to adopt a *Statement against Racism*.

Ursuline racial justice efforts continue as Ursuline Sisters work to "level the playing field" for those persons of color who suffer discrimination:

- The Merici Crossings sisters' residence library offers several books for the sisters to understand racism in our day.
- Ursuline Sisters continue to serve in the City of Cleveland:
 - Mary Jean Raymond, Mary Jane Jones and Ruth Ann Auckley at St. Aloysius Church and St. Aloysius-St. Agatha School, "providing a strong academic faith-based education to the Glenville community for over 120 years";
 - Susan Zion at Ursuline Piazza HIV/AIDS Services;
 - Rose Elizabeth, Mary Kay Conkey, Karen Bohan, Ruth Urbanski, Carol Pelegrin and Etienne at Urban Community School, which "strives to break social and economic barriers to success for Cleveland's near west side children by providing an individualized, innovative, and challenging education";
- Sheila Marie Tobbe, a volunteer for COAR, "The Community of St. Oscar Romero sheltering, educating, and healing children for El Salvador's future since 1980";
- Beverly Anne LoGrasso at University Hospitals Center for Mothers and Children;
- Juliana Beck at Akron Catholic Worker Community;
- Mary Eileen Boyle at Esperanza Threads, committed to "train unemployed and underemployed people with the skills needed to get jobs in the thriving Cleveland garment industry."



Sister Mary Jean Raymond

On May 20, the Ursuline Sisters continued the process of education and conversion of heart by joining many other religious women in the Diocese of Cleveland to hear "Racism in the Church and Religious Life," a presentation by Sr. Donna Baird at Sisters of Notre Dame Regional Center.

For as long as they are able, the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland will seek to work for justice for all.

Remembering

Sister Helen Marie Davidson, OSU

Educator for Over 61 Years

From 1951 until 2012, hundreds of children passed through the classes of Sister Helen Marie—learning to read, write, and learn “math facts” that would serve them for the rest of their lives.

Sister Helen Marie’s gift for teaching graced the classrooms of 10 different schools in Northeast Ohio.

Sister Helen Marie (Lois Ann Davidson) was born on September 10, 1931, to Archibald and Mae (Ryan) Davidson. Four sisters and four brothers would follow her as younger siblings. (Three of them survive her: Mary Cozens of Sacramento, California; Helen Uzl of Columbus, Ohio; and David Davidson of Okemos, Michigan. Sister Helen Marie attended St. Philomena and Holy Cross Elementary Schools, and Villa Angela Academy before entering the Ursuline Sisters in 1949, professing her perpetual vows in 1955. While teaching full time, Sister attended St. John College, earning in Bachelor of Science in Education. Sister Helen Marie did additional college work at Ursuline College, as well



as numerous summer school and Saturday sessions.

Looking at Sister Helen Marie’s academic record easily reveals where her real talent in teaching lay. Here are examples of extra courses that Sister studied: Teaching of Reading, Children’s Literature (Primary Grades), Elementary School Reading, Clinical Problems in Reading, Reading in Content Areas, Diagnostic and Corrective Measures in Reading, and Organization and Supervision of Reading Programs. One can imagine

what her former students have achieved in life—all with the start in reading that Sister gave them.

Even when Sister Helen Marie could no longer serve as a full-time classroom instructor, she spent three years tutoring girls and boys at St. Jerome School. When she eventually needed to retire from a lifetime of teaching, Sister moved to Light of Hearts Villa in Bedford. There, with her Ursuline Sister friend, Irene Charette, she spent her final years still “teaching” the staff and fellow residents what it means to look back on a life with joy.

“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 of Cleveland at www.ursulinesisters.org.



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
URSULINE ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND

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Have a new address?
Email? Phone number?

Please help us update your
personal information.

Call Sister Elaine at

440.229.5624 or

440.449.1200 ext. 5624

or email

eberkopec@ursulinesisters.org.

Thank you!



Save a Stamp! Save Ink! No Muss! No Fuss!
And Lots Of Gratitude!

JUST CLICK ON the secure donation on our website at
<https://www.ursulinesisters.org/support-us/donate>.

Visit www.UrsulineSisters.org to submit prayer requests.

THANK YOU

to all who participated in Ursuline Derby Day 2023
either online, in person, or both!



*Special thanks to our
Derby Day 2023 committee!*

Antoinette Kula (Chair)

Christine Riley

Anne E. Gettens

Sister Ann Letitia

Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec

Donna Michals

Tina Tamburro

Cindy Johnson

Sue Angell

Sister Elaine Berkopec

Maggie Gibson

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Mary Moran

Sister Laura Bregar