



News



Summer 2025

URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

Congratulations
Jubilarians!
Pages 6-9

*Our pilgrimage to Italy followed
the footsteps of St. Angela.*



Transforming lives through contemplation, justice and compassion



URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

SUMMER 2025 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?

Contact Mary Moran at the number or email below.

Michele Fusco Scoccola

Director of Philanthropy and Engagement
mscoccola@ursulinesisters.org
(440) 229-5634

Mary Moran

Editor/Director of Marketing and Communications
mmoran@ursulinesisters.org
(440) 229-5607

Sue Angell

Philanthropy Associate and Grants Manager
sangell@ursulinesisters.org
(440) 229-5603

Kathy Pestotnik

Fundraising Operations and Database Administrator
kpestotnik@ursulinesisters.org
(440) 229-5624

Celebrate our 175th Anniversary all year long!

Visit our website to read testimonials and find the latest updates on events and gatherings throughout the year!



[www.ursulinesisters.org/
175th-anniversary](http://www.ursulinesisters.org/175th-anniversary)

LEAVE A LEGACY. Remember the Ursuline Sisters in your will. For more information about planned giving, contact Michele Fusco Scoccola, Director of Philanthropy and Engagement at mscoccola@ursulinesisters.org.

Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

Come and celebrate with the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland!

Over the next twelve months, we will be celebrating the long history of the Ursulines in Cleveland. During this time, we invite you to join us as we remember the joys and miracles of our 175 years of service with gratitude for you, our friends!

It all began in 1850, when five faith-filled young women from France embarked on a journey across the Atlantic. Invited by Bishop Amadeus Rappe of Cleveland, they left their cloistered life in Boulogne-Sur-Mer to respond to God's call in the new world. Can you imagine how deep their faith and trust in God was that they were willing to heed His call?

This year, eight sisters celebrate milestone jubilees. You can read about them in the pages of this newsletter and learn how they have answered and continue to answer "yes" to God's call in their lives.

We have come a long way since the first Ursulines arrived on the shores of Lake Erie on August 8, 1850. Together, we have shared the Gospel with you and with one another. For that we are continuously grateful, for it means we are never alone.

Following God's prompts, we have worked alongside you, responding to the needs of people in our neighboring communities. We have opened and closed ministries, we have walked with people as they rejoiced during times of happiness, and we have wept with one another at times of grief and loss. We have tried to be God's presence to those in need. You accompanied us during these years, and we are grateful for your ministry among us.

Please join us during this special time of celebration and gratitude, as we give thanks for our lives of service together. You will find the events of the coming year listed in this newsletter. Come celebrate our rich legacy – the legacy that you've helped us build!

'For all that has been, Thank you, for all that is yet to be, Yes.'

Dag Hammarskjöld

Maureen Doyle, OSU



Sister Maureen Doyle

Please join us during this special time of celebration and gratitude, as we give thanks for our lives of service together.

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

Call Mary Moran at 440-229-5607 or email her at mmoran@ursulinesisters.org.



Commemorating 175 Years: **Ursuline Sisters Honored with Tree Dedication**

In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, a special tribute was made to honor the legacy and spirit of the sisters who have gone before. Three dogwood trees were generously donated and planted in cemeteries where Ursuline Sisters are laid to rest—Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland (two sections) and All Souls Cemetery in Chardon.



Private prayer services were held at each site to dedicate the trees, offering a quiet yet powerful moment of reflection and remembrance. Organized in part by Sister Diane Therese Pinchot, the gatherings served as both a spiritual blessing and a symbolic gesture of gratitude.

"The Dogwood tree planted is blessing us, and we in turn are blessing this beautiful sapling," said Sister Diane. "The tree will be a reminder of all those sisters who have come before us leading the way and gratitude for all those after us, fulfilling and completing and continuing the legacy of Saint Angela Merici."

The newly planted trees stand not only as living memorials, but also as enduring symbols of faith, service, and the ongoing mission of the Ursuline community.



Ursuline Sisters Celebrate 175 Years

URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND



The Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland launched their milestone 175th Anniversary year with an outdoor celebration on the campus of Ursuline College on Sunday, August 10. More than 400 friends and supporters came together to reminisce with the sisters, enjoy good food — including specially designed cookies from Beaumont alumna and Luna Bakery & Café owner Bridget Thibeault — and share in the joyful spirit of the day.

Sister Laura Bregar, President of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, welcomed the crowd with an affirmation of “175 years of joyful service!” Event Co-Chairs Mary Jo Toumert and Vicki Sanelli presented a proclamation from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb honoring the sisters’ lasting impact on the community.

In closing, Sister Laura expressed heartfelt gratitude: “We are grateful that you have walked the path with us. We could not celebrate this anniversary without you, because we haven’t done a single bit of this alone.” She invited everyone to continue the journey “into the next 175 minutes, months, or years — whatever time God in her infinite wisdom grants us.”

The day was a vibrant testament to the enduring spirit of St. Angela Merici, whose vision continues to inspire the mission and ministry of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland.



Sister Laura Bregar holds up Mayor Bibb's Proclamation for all to see.



Sister Linda Martin and Event Co-chair, Mary Jo Toumert, greet guests.

Greeting
Guests!



Beautiful and tasty cookies by Luna Bakery!



Sisters Ann Wojnar, Ritamary Welsh, Diana Stano, Cheryl Mentkowski and Lois Buck proudly pose.



Sisters Donna Bradesca and Maureen Dolye with Pat Golish.



Sisters Maureen McCarthy and Joan Tomchey are looking "cool" in their shades.



A wonderful turnout!

Catching up with friends!



Sister Linda Martin, right, poses with a few former Ursulines.



Sister Maureen Grady, center, enjoys the company.



Murphy's Irish Dancers!



"Pick a card any card."



Sisters Chris and Virginia Devinne.



Angela and Tina Tamburro with event Co-chair Vicki Sanelli.



Sisters Rose Elizabeth, Noel Marra and Mary Ellen Brinovec pose with the photo of the late, great Sister Naomi.

Ursuline Jubilarians

Celebrate Lives of Joyous Service

By Sue Angell, Philanthropy Associate and Grants Manager

Eight Ursuline Sisters celebrated Diamond and Golden Jubilees this summer with family and friends, reaffirming lives of faith and ministry to those they have been called to serve.

DIAMOND JUBILARIANS – CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

Sister Marilyn Scott

Sister Marilyn Scott joined the Ursulines in 1954 from St. Therese Parish. She spent her entire ministry career in education, including 30 years at the elementary level, teaching at St. Clare (Lyndhurst), Holy Cross (Euclid), St. Timothy (Garfield Heights), Immaculate Conception and St. Mary, both in Cleveland, St. Mary (Mentor), St. Therese (Garfield Heights) and St. John Bosco (Parma Heights), and serving as principal at St. Joseph School (Cleveland). In 1989 she began a 23-year tenure at Ursuline College as an instructor in the Education Department.

Following her retirement from formal ministry in 2013, Sister Marilyn turned her time and talents to service within the Ursuline community, assisting in the Development Office, directing the Merici transportation office, and tutoring in the Ursuline Institute of Learning.

“My greatest joy as an Ursuline has been to share the charism of Angela through teaching children to read and teachers to teach,” Sister Marilyn says. “And to celebrate with them as they scatter those seeds of knowledge to the church and to the world.”



Sister Joan Tomchey

Sister Joan Tomchey, formerly Sister Mary Clotilde, entered the Ursuline Community from Christ the King Parish in East Cleveland. She served as an educator for many years, at St. Therese (Garfield Heights), St. Jerome (Cleveland), Christ the King (East Cleveland), St. Ann (Cleveland Heights), and St. Francis de Sales (Parma). In 1983, Sister Joan became a minister of pastoral care at Elyria Memorial Hospital, a position she held for 35 years.



“It is always with a spirit of surprise that I watch God’s plan unfold. Never would I have imagined that this plan would continue to emerge for 70 years, with me as an Ursuline sister,” says Sister Joan. “It is with joy that I celebrate, with God’s favor, that I am what I am.”



Sister Charlotte Trenkamp

Sister Charlotte Trenkamp, formerly Sister Marie Rosaire, joined the Ursulines from Gesu Parish in University Heights. For 25 years, she taught at the secondary level, first at Villa Angela Academy, then at Beaumont School, and finally at Sacred Heart Academy. She then joined the staff at Ursuline College, teaching for 32 years in the Design Department. Currently, Sister Charlotte engages in volunteer service at Judson Park, Regina Health Care Center, Light of Hearts Villa, and L’Arche.

Sister Nina Vitale

Sister Nina Vitale, formerly Sister St. Pius, entered the Ursuline congregation from St. William’s Parish in Euclid. She will celebrate 70 years as an Ursuline Sister this year! During those 70 years, Sister Nina has ministered to people of all ages, from the very young to the elderly, with teens and adults in between. She has been open to each call, accepting each one enthusiastically, while heeding St. Angela’s counsel to adaptability.

Sister Nina began her career in elementary education in 1957, teaching second grade at St. Charles Borromeo School in Parma. Her ministry career took her to many different schools, including St. Joseph (Collinwood), St. Mary Magdalene (Willowick), St. Therese (Garfield Heights), and Immaculate Conception (Cleveland). She also served in the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office as director of junior high and high school retreats.

“I’ve always been proud to be a part of the Ursuline community,” Sister Nina says. “Our legacy is strong. I have no doubt that it will carry on.”



Continued >

DIAMOND JUBILARIANS – CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec

Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec,

formerly Sister Alice Ann, joined the Ursulines from Cleveland's St. Vitus Parish. For many years, she taught junior high science, first at Immaculate Conception in Willoughby and then at St. Jerome School in Cleveland. She spent several years teaching high school biology at Villa Angela Academy and served as principal of St. Mary School in Collinwood. Sister Mary Ellen was active in parish ministry at St. Ann Parish (Cleveland Heights), St. Thomas Aquinas Parish (in St. Cloud, Florida), and St. Patrick Parish (West Park). She served as the director of Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries before becoming a member of the Ursuline Community Leadership team.

Today, Sister Mary Ellen remains an active member of the Ursuline Mission Office, facilitating Angela pilgrimages. She also volunteers with the International Archive Project, at the Bishop Pilla Center for Health and Education, and directs OCIA programs at two local parishes.

"My relationships with my sisters have brought so much joy and support to me in these past 60 years. The deep Ursuline ties of family and friends are gifts, and I cannot imagine my life without these relationships. Angela founded a familial community, and the greatest joy of my life is that I do not ever move or teach or minister or suffer alone – but I do all with the love, companionship, and support of my sisters," Sister Mary Ellen says. **"I always feel that as I minister, the community is with me supporting me in prayer and helping me to be the best I can be."**



Sister Maureen Grady

Sister Maureen Grady, formerly

Sister Marie Noel, entered the Ursuline Congregation from St. Felicitas Parish in Euclid. She began her ministry career teaching junior high at St. Jerome School (Cleveland), and soon after transitioned to Beaumont School for 11 years. During her years of service, Sister Maureen has been a pastoral associate at St. Basil Parish (Brecksville), Holy Spirit Parish (Avon Lake), and St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Gates Mills). She also served in Initial Formation Ministry with the women entering the Ursuline Congregation.

Sister Maureen has been a member of the Congregational Leadership Team several times and is currently serving in that role today. **"I am most grateful for the call to praise God and to serve God's people as an Ursuline Sister,"** says Sister Maureen. **"The support of community, family, friends, and colleagues has accompanied me during these 60 years. It has nurtured my gifts and made up for my weaknesses."**



GOLDEN JUBILARIANS – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Sister Joanne Gross

Sister Joanne Gross joined the Ursuline Sisters in 1975. She began her ministry in education, teaching at St. Charles Borromeo in Parma and then at Beaumont High School. She attended Cleveland State's law school and after graduation served as legal counsel with the Ursulines and at Ursuline College. After that, she worked at the law firm of Kelley, McCann & Livingstone (now Taft), which staffed Case Western Reserve University's legal office. Sister Joanne then moved to John Carroll University, where she took on a new challenge by starting the university's first in-house legal office.

From the halls of higher education, Sister Joanne moved to Cuyahoga County, where she held several positions: managing the county's domestic violence programming and funding; coordinating legal services for a children's



mental health initiative, and as a special projects' coordinator. She also was a key part of the transition team that moved the county government to a new county-executive council structure in 2009. She then served as senior policy advisor to the initial Cuyahoga County Council.

Sister Joanne has served on the boards of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and Ursuline College. She currently serves on the boards of Beaumont School and the Sisters of Charity Health System.

She was president of Catholic Community Connection; and has been a member of the Ursuline leadership team. She also served as the incorporating attorney for the Women's Religious Archive Collaborative. **"I am eternally grateful for my Ursuline vocation," she says, "It has made me a far, far better woman than I would otherwise be!"**

Sister Mary Ann Murphy

Sister Mary Ann Murphy came to the Ursulines from Christ the King Parish in East Cleveland. She spent much of her career in education, serving as an elementary school teacher at St. Mary's (Mentor), St. Clare's (Lyndhurst), and Christ the King (East Cleveland). After 7 years in the classroom, Sister Mary Ann moved into administration, serving as the principal of St. Mary's (Cleveland), Christ the King (East Cleveland), Mount Pleasant Catholic School (Cleveland), St. Charles Borromeo (Parma), St. Margaret Mary (South Euclid), and Immaculate Conceptions School (Cleveland).

Sister Mary Ann's ministries have also included tutoring children through the Ursuline Institute of Learning, directing religious education classes at St. Francis de Sales Parish (Parma), coordinating faith formation at Divine Word Parish (Kirtland), serving as bookkeeper at Archbishop Lyke School (Cleveland), and volunteering in the Ursuline Congregation's Finance Office, a role she currently holds.



Walking with Angela Merici

on a Pilgrimage to Italy

By Sister Elaine Berkopec

A good friend told me the difference between a tour and a pilgrimage: On a tour, we move through places; on a pilgrimage, the places move through us. I was a pilgrim to Italy, the land of Saint Angela Merici, and the places where she walked have moved through me as touches of grace. I hope some of what I have to share will resonate with you.



S. Angela Merici, Patrona, Della Citta Dal 1962



Pilgrims to Italy, 2025

Our pilgrimage in the footsteps of Angela began in Varallo, a holy site off the beaten path, a place of quiet and far from the busy city sounds that usually surround us. There pilgrims visit the life-size dioramas built there that depict the life of Christ. This was a place that St. Angela visited and where she prayed. To climb the steps that Angela climbed, to see the images of Christ's life and especially of his Passion, were experiences that brought me to sense Angela beside me, in our midst (as she promised to be), and praying with us as we ventured about the hillside from scene to scene.

Another place where I especially sensed Angela in our midst was in the church at Salo, the island town where she moved to be with her uncle after losing most of her family. We prayed at Mass just as she did. We prayed at the foot of the crucifix, at the feet of Christ where she told us to seek our first refuge. It was here in Salo, too, that her journey to Brescia and all that unfolded there began. It was the encouragement of her

Franciscan spiritual director that prompted her move to Brescia and to care for the grief-stricken widow Caterina Patengola. Angela's ministry and life in Brescia eventually led to her founding the Company of St. Ursula in 1535 with the women who gathered with her and shared life, ministry, and spirituality with each other. Here we pilgrims were, 490 years later, her daughters in union with all those past and present who claim the name Ursuline.

Our visit to Assisi offered a unique experience of Francis. We made our way to his hermitage and prayed where he offered praise to the God of creation. We visited his little church, Saint Mary of the Angels, and prayed there with dozens of pilgrims from around the world. To touch the stones he touched, to pray where he prayed, to be with strangers who are not really strangers but brothers and sisters is more than a memory; it is a grace that will stay with me for a long time.

*We Remember with
Prayers and Love*

Remembering Sister Patricia Dippel

**Formerly known as
Sister Joseph Francis**

Teacher, Principal, Parish Staff Member

Sister Patricia, a native of East Cleveland, hailed from St. Philomena Parish. After graduating from Ursuline Academy of the Sacred Heart, she entered the Ursuline Sisters in 1947. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from St. John College and a Master's Degree from John Carroll University.



Sister Patricia Dippel

The ministry of Sister Patricia Dippel (or of Sister Joseph Francis as she was formerly known) spanned 69 years. From 1949 to 1968 Sister taught in eight different schools in the Cleveland area: St. Columbkille, St. Therese, Christ the King, St. Jerome, St. Joseph (Collinwood), St. Francis de Sales, St. Clare, and St. Charles. Sister served as principal at St. Francis de Sales and St. Charles Schools. Sister Patricia also spent six years as Director of Vocations and Initial Formation in the Ursuline Community.

Upon leaving ministries in schools, Sister served as Office Secretary and Minister to the Elderly at St. Charles Parish. Altogether, Sister Patricia spent a total of 28 years serving St. Charles Parish in some ministry. She retired in 2016, living first at the Ursuline Motherhouse and then at Regina Health Care. Sister died on July 22, 2025.

In all of her ministries and community life, Sister Patricia exemplified the utmost kindness to all.

Sister Patricia is survived by brothers, Charles Dippel and Alan Dippel; and by many nieces and nephews, and the Ursuline Sisters with whom she shared her life for 78 years.

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

The final reflection is on my experience in Rome, at Saint Peter's basilica. We arrived there in time to attend Mass, which was held in the back of the basilica behind the grand altar. There were hundreds of other pilgrims and tourists in the basilica, and as we prayed at Mass I could hear the voices of those crowds of people behind us, blended together and sounding like the voice of a flowing river. It seemed like one voice praying with us as we offered all the joys and sorrows of God's people in prayer.



Angels Unawares

There is a bronze sculpture in St. Peter's Square that was inaugurated by Pope Francis on September 29, 2019, the 105th World Migrant and Refugee Day. There on a raft is a crowd of different people, migrants and refugees from all over the world and from different eras,

with various expressions on their faces from joy to fear to tears of pain. If you look closely, you will also see a pair of wings in the midst of the figures. The title of the sculpture is "Angels Unawares." The term is taken from the letter to the Hebrews: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

I hope and pray we can hear the voice of Christ in the voices of those around us, and perhaps entertain angels when we do whatever good we do for those we encounter. I believe that is also Angela's prayer for all of us. I hope we always remember that she is always in our midst, offering her prayers with ours.



*Let your first refuge be at the
feet of Christ-Salvo crucifix*



Scene from Varallo



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
URSULINE ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND

6085 Parkland Boulevard, Suite 175
Mayfield Heights, OH 44124



Have a new address? Email? Phone number?

Please help us update your
personal information.

Call Mary Moran at 440.229.5607

or

440.449.1200 ext. 5607

or email

mmoran@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.

Annual Fund supports ministries and care of retired, infirm sisters

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please consider making a donation to this year's Annual Fund Appeal which launched on **July 1, 2025** and ends on **June 30, 2026**. We are most grateful for the support we receive for our ministries and to assist our sisters who are retired or infirm.

Remember: we rely on our working sisters and on our fundraising efforts for financial support.



MAKING YOUR DONATION ONLINE IS SAFE AND EASY AT
<https://www.ursulinesisters.org/support-us/donate>.

JUST CLICK ON the secure donation page on our website at www.ursulinesisters.org. Click on the DONATE NOW button and complete the form. You will receive an automatic email confirmation of your gift. AND THANK YOU!

**For more information, please call Michele Fusco Scoccola at 440-229-5634,
or email her at MScoccola@ursulinesisters.org.**

SAVE THE DATE!

**175th ANNIVERSARY
BOOK LAUNCH**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
1:00 p.m.**

**Loganberry Books
13015 Larchmere Blvd.**

Refreshments will be served

Celebrate the debut of the 175th Commemorative Book, written by Richard Osborne with Sister Cynthia Glavac, OSU — Editor and Archivist.

Enjoy a special afternoon with the Ursuline Sisters, and be among the first to purchase this beautiful keepsake. Books will be available for purchase —perfect for gifting or sharing the Ursuline story with others.

An RSVP invitation will follow soon –we look forward to celebrating with you!