



News



Summer 2026

URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

Transforming lives through contemplation, justice and compassion



A Lifetime of Joyful Service



Celebrating 18 Ursuline Jubilarians

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URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

SUMMER 2026 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.

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What a joyous year of celebration!

From the opening picnic to the closing Liturgy, we have had a wonderful year remembering, reconnecting, and rejoicing.

Did you miss the anniversary video or commemorative book?

Visit our website to view the video and order your keepsake today!



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

Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

If you are reading this issue of *Ursuline News*, most likely you joined us for at least one of the festivities of the 175th year of the Ursuline Sisters in Cleveland. From the opening party in the tent on that hot Sunday afternoon last August to the luncheon at the Intercontinental Hotel, to the Dorothy Kazel Mass at St. Dominic's, to the Gala at St. Noel's, and finally to the closing Mass at Gesu in June, you showed up in tremendous numbers so that together we could give thanks for God's gracious love to all of us.

To celebrate 175 years is to honor people who are or were the face of our founder, Angela Merici, to the world in their time. This issue is dedicated to 18 Ursuline sisters who did just that and who celebrated milestone jubilees during this Anniversary year. May you be inspired, as we are every day, as we witness their dedication to God and to God's people. Their stories are as different as they are, but underneath it all is a faithfulness that shines from the center of each of them.

Even if you didn't celebrate a major anniversary this year as we did, you most certainly did (or will) mark the annual observance of the beginning of your life – commonly called a BIRTHDAY! Perhaps now is a good time to ask: What is coming to "birth" in you at this moment? How is God calling you to recommit your life to the Reign of Christ in this world?

That's a question we Ursuline Sisters regularly ask ourselves. In fact, we met for this very reason at the end of July during our annual assembly. At that gathering we spoke and listened to each other about how God is calling us to care for the community that we are and to continue to minister to God's world. We do all of this with family and friends like you.

Thank you for being part of this enterprise—God's enterprise—now and into the future.

Lovingly in St. Angela Merici,

Maureen Brady OSU
Sister Maureen Grady OSU



Sister Maureen Grady

**To celebrate 175 years is
to honor people who are
or were the face of our
founder, Angela Merici, to
the world in their time.**

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.

Ursuline Jubilarians

Celebrate Lives of Joyous Service

By Sue Angell, Philanthropy Associate and Grants Manager

This year, 18 Ursuline Sisters celebrated their Diamond and Golden Jubilees. The celebrants commemorated their year of reception into the community and looked back on long lives of faith and ministry with family and friends.

DIAMOND ★ 75 YEARS Sister Lucia Vasko



Joined from:

Immaculate Conception Parish (Willoughby)



First Ministry:

Teaching elementary school



Most joyful ministry: Sharing my artistic talents with my sisters! So many of the sisters were talented artists in their own right and I enjoyed working with them to bring out their artistic gifts.



What are you doing now?

Ministering in the apostolate of prayer and service



“

Among the many blessings of my life was my 12 years of Ursuline education. The sisters not only expanded my intellect but nurtured my blossoming talent and vocation. Then, during my teaching ministry, I was privileged to guide young women in the development of their artistic gifts, too.

DIAMOND ★ 75 YEARS Sister Therese Martin Turocy



“

As I reflect on being called to the religious life as an Ursuline, I am filled with gratitude. Answering this call has enabled me to engage in a variety of ministries, each of them broadening my ability to respond to a present need. Knowing that I am never alone, and that my Loving God joins me on my journey, I move forward with love and confidence.



Joined from:

St. Therese Parish



First ministry: Teaching 1st and 2nd grade at St. Mary School (Collinwood)



Most joyful ministry: My years in education were very important to me, but today I find myself treasuring the years serving the congregation at the motherhouse and especially at the St. Angela Center. Being able to have personal contact with all the sisters, walking with them through their journeys, doing what some might call “little things” – baking, creating beautiful places and moments – made these years my happiest!



What are you doing now? Ministering in the apostolate of prayer and service

★ MILESTONE JUBILEES ★

DIAMOND ★ 70 YEARS Sister Maureen McCarthy (Sister Mary Madeline)



Joined from:

St. Margaret Mary Parish



First ministry: Teaching 6th grade at Immaculate Conception School (Cleveland)



Most joyful ministry: Teaching religious studies classes and helping establish the Master of Arts in Ministry program at Ursuline College



What are you doing now? Writing a weekly blog for the Ursuline Sisters website



The amazing sisters I have lived and served with, the co-workers, and innumerable students and other people who have been a part of my ministry have been blessings beyond description. God is very generous and I am grateful.



DIAMOND ★ 70 YEARS Sister Therese Horan (Sister Mary Zita)



Joined from:

St. Therese Parish



First ministry: Teaching 2nd grade at St. Mary of the Assumption School



Most joyful ministry:

Serving as a pastoral minister



What are you doing now?

Ministering in the apostolate of prayer and service



I was happy and enjoyed my 30 years in education. However, the next 20 years as a pastoral minister were just as fulfilling. Lucky me!

DIAMOND ★ 70 YEARS Sister Adelaide Landoll



I am most grateful for all the students I've worked with over the years. I have so enjoyed working with them all! There were many challenges along with lots of laughs. The highlight of my years as an Ursuline, though, is that I am still active in ministry even at 89 years old.



Joined from:

St. Philomena Parish



First ministry: Teaching 5th grade at Immaculate Conception School (Willoughby)



Most joyful ministry: I loved every place where I ministered, whether as a teacher or as a principal. Every school, every parish, filled my life with special blessings and events that truly touched my life!



What are you doing now? Managing TV Communications for Merici Crossings

★ MILESTONE JUBILEES ★

DIAMOND ★ 70 YEARS Sister Mary McNulty (Sister Conleth)

 **Joined from:**
St. Philomena Parish

 **First ministry:** Teaching 1st grade at St. Joseph School (Avon Lake)

 **Most joyful ministry:**
Each ministry was special, and each was a privilege

 **What are you doing now?**
Volunteering with the Congregation's Development Department



“

At one time, I thought teaching 1st grade was the most rewarding vocation because I could see the children grow and learn so much. But later, when I accompanied my sisters to the hospital, I saw the many faces of Angela. The gratitude, graciousness, humbleness, nervousness, and even humor showed me that I had joined a wonderful group of women who ministered for the Glory of God Alone and for God's people.



DIAMOND ★ 70 YEARS Sister Rosemary Hocevar (Sister Robert Bellamine)

 **Joined from:** Immaculate Conception Parish (Cleveland)

 **First ministry:** Teaching elementary school at St. Mary School in Mentor

 **What are you doing now?**
Ministering in the apostolate of prayer and service

DIAMOND ★ 70 YEARS Sister Ann Whitely (Sister Honora)

 **Joined from:**
St. Philomena Parish

 **First ministry:**
Teaching at St. Clare School

 **Most joyful ministry:** My years in education, both as a teacher and a principal

 **What are you doing now?** Ministering in the apostolate of prayer and service



DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS Sister Ellen Themes (Sister Maureen David)

 **Joined from:**
St. Mel Parish

 **First Ministry:** Teaching math at Newton D. Baker Junior High School

 **Most joyful ministry:** Leading art therapy sessions at the Ursuline Sisters' Sophia Center

 **What are you doing now?** Ministering in the apostolate of prayer and service



“

I am most grateful to have lived with such a wonderful group of women, to have helped women overcome math anxiety, and to have guided people in expressing themselves through art therapy.

★ MILESTONE JUBILEES ★

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS

Sister Joan Marie Russ (Sister Marielle)



Joined from:

St. Mary Magdalene Parish



First ministry: Teaching math at Beaumont School



Most joyful ministry: God has been very good to me. I have loved all my ministries and cannot rank them in any way.



What are you doing now?

Volunteering with the Ursuline Finance Department



As we all have, I've had a life with ups and downs. But no matter what, I have been blessed with knowing God loves me deeply and I have had wonderful, kind, and loving companions on my journey.

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS

Sister Carol Pelegin



I thank God for all the blessings I have received. As an Ursuline Sister, I have a strong sense of belonging to a community of dedicated women who are inspired by the charism of St. Angela Merici and who are called to serve others as Jesus did.



Joined from:

St. Louis Parish



First ministry: Teaching 1st and 2nd grade at St. Clare School



Most joyful ministry: Teaching at St. Catharine's School, where my eyes were opened to urban ministry. My career as a social worker grew out of my experiences teaching under-resourced populations in the inner city.



What are you doing now? Volunteering at Joseph and Mary's Home, Inc. and at Urban Community School

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS

Sister Gretchen Rodenfels



Joined from:

St. Dominic Parish



First Ministry:

Teaching at St. Ann School



Most joyful ministry:

The smiles, words of encouragement, support, and love from those I have been privileged to serve.



What are you doing now?

Serving on the Ursuline Sisters Congregational Leadership Team



The highlights of my years as an Ursuline are products of our dedication to education. This dedication has made the Ursuline motto, Soli Deo Gloria, vital and alive in my ministry.

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS
Sister Noel Marra
 (Sister Mary Olivia)

-  **Joined from:**
St. Jerome Parish
-  **First Ministry:** Teaching 5th Grade at
Immaculate Conception School (Willoughby)
-  **Most joyful ministry:** My urban and city
ministries, which evolved over time into social
justice work and community organizing
-  **What are you doing now?** Volunteering
with a new community initiative at
St. Philomena's Bishop Pilla Family Ed Center



“

I am grateful for having been called by God to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and our foundress, Saint Angela Merici. I have learned much from my companions and have enjoyed my years in religious education and peace and justice ministries as well. There were challenging times, but I always knew God was with me and still is. Amen!

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS
Sister Donna Mikula

-  **Joined from:**
St. Patrick Parish
-  **First ministry:**
Teaching at St. Catherine School
-  **Most joyful ministry:** Serving as a pastoral
minister at Regina Health Center for 13 years
-  **What are you doing now?** Ministering to the
congregation and sisters at Merici Crossings



“

I have periodic moments of enlightenment when I am overwhelmed with gratitude for my faith and the many opportunities I've had and have for education, relationships, prayers, religious experiences, and a lifestyle that has allowed all the opportunities to grow and develop.

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS
Sister Rosemarie Carfagna



-  **Joined from:**
St. Dominic Parish
-  **First ministry:**
Teaching at St. Timothy School
-  **Most joyful ministry:** Cooking at the
West Side Catholic Center and holding
high-risk newborns at Rainbow Babies
and Children's Hospital
-  **What are you doing now?**
Eucharistic minister and spiritual
companion at Ahuja Hospital

★ MILESTONE JUBILEES ★

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS

Sister Beverly Ann LoGrasso (Sister Ann Veronica)



Joined from:

Christ the King Parish



First ministry:

Teaching at St. Ann School



Most joyful ministry: Teaching junior high at St. Ann School and serving as the school's director of religious education



What are you doing now? Ministering in the apostolate of prayer and service

“

I had always wanted to be a teacher. My own teachers were an inspiration to me. I enjoyed my students at St. Ann and Beaumont and am grateful for the experiences I had with them.

DIAMOND ★ 60 YEARS

Sister Kathleen Flanagan



Joined from:

St. Joseph Parish (Collinwood)



First ministry:

Teaching 8th grade at St. Francis de Sales School



Most joyful ministry: Teaching in the nursing program at Ursuline College! Most of my years were spent with sophomore nursing students. It was so rewarding to watch them grow into nurses.



What are you doing now?

Volunteering with the St. Noel Music Ministry and as the parish's music librarian

“

I would not have been able to become the woman I have become without my family, friends, colleagues, and the Ursuline Community. With their support I have developed leadership skills in nursing, nursing education, congregational leadership, and volunteer service. And necessary through all these years is my anchor, my steadfast God.



GOLDEN ★ 50 YEARS

Sister Erin O'Brien



Joined from:

Church of the Gesu



First ministry:

Teaching at St. Ann School



Most joyful ministry: St. Angela

instructed us to "Reflect that, in reality, you have a greater need to serve the poor than they have of your service." With that in mind, I've always tried to simply go where I am most needed.



What are you doing now? Volunteering

as a receptionist at Regina Health Center and reading to blind residents

A JOYFUL YEAR CONCLUDES

with Hearts Full of Gratitude

By Mary Moran



With grateful hearts and joyful spirits, the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland concluded their yearlong celebration of 175 years of joyful service with a beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving on June 28 at the Church of the Gesu.



Sisters, family members, friends, associates, benefactors, and members of the community gathered to give thanks for the countless ways God has blessed the congregation since its arrival in Cleveland 175 years ago. The liturgy, celebrated by Bishop Michael Woost, Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, was a fitting culmination of a year dedicated to honoring the Ursuline Sisters' enduring legacy of prayer, education, service, and love.

At the beginning of the Mass, Sister Laura Bregar, President of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, warmly welcomed

those gathered and reflected on the many blessings shared throughout the congregation's history.

"Those of us who have come together in faith today know that God has done so much through and with our congregation. You are signs of all that God has done for us... Each one of you a gift, a sanctification, and outward sign of God's love."

Her words reminded everyone that the story of the Ursuline Sisters has always been a shared one—written not only by

Continued >



"You are signs of all that God has done for us... Each one of you a gift, a sanctification, and outward sign of God's love."

Laura Bregar, OSU

the Sisters themselves, but also by the countless people whose lives have been intertwined with their mission over the past 175 years.

In his inspiring homily, Bishop Woost expressed the gratitude of the Diocese of Cleveland for the remarkable witness of the Ursuline Sisters.

"It is humbling and daunting, a privilege and a pleasure, to be standing before you representing Bishop Malesic and the entire Diocese of Cleveland in order to say to God and you today, 'Thank you, thank you.'"

He went on to reflect on the profound impact the Sisters have had on generations throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond.

"Your lives, your witness, your ministry, and your mission reveal to us God's goodness and love. Your faithfulness invites us to contemplation, justice and compassion. Your Ursuline charism and spirit—lived so fiery, powerful, and

gentle, and embraced with such new vigor of grace—inspires us to say, 'Here is God.' Thank you for touching and transforming our lives. Thank you. For through, with, and in you, 'Here is God.'"

Following the liturgy, guests gathered for a reception filled with joyful conversation, laughter, and fellowship.

While this Mass marked the conclusion of a year of anniversary celebrations, it also served as a reminder that the mission of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland continues. Inspired by the vision of Saint Angela Merici and strengthened by 175 years of God's faithful presence, the Sisters remain committed to responding to the needs of the times with courage, compassion, and unwavering faith.

With deep gratitude for all who have walked this journey alongside them, the Ursuline Sisters look ahead with hope, trusting that God will continue to bless and guide their mission into the future.

Congratulations and Thank You!

We are pleased to announce that **House of Champions** was recently awarded an **\$11,000 grant** from the Women's Giving Circle of the Catholic Community Foundation.

Congratulations to House of Champions' Executive Director, Sister Mary Kay Conkey, and heartfelt thanks for your dedication to this important ministry. Our prayers and best wishes remain with you as you continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those you serve.



Question: How does the life and spirit of St. Angela inspire you?



The life of St. Angela inspires me to be a woman of deep prayer who adapts to all circumstances in life. St. Angela also inspires me to be a person who is compassionate, kind to all people, and who works toward justice for all.

– **Sr. Jane Morgan**

When one thinks of St. Angela what I see is a woman of simplicity, love, concern for others and how she can offer help. She is a guiding light for the many activities I have been involved in. She was a pilgrim to many places; similarly, I enjoyed traveling across the U.S. which gave me the opportunity to meet many people as she did. Working with young people and their families was a blessing and an education for me. As a follower of Angela, I continue to be inspired to go that extra mile.

– **Sr. Adelaide**



Not only did St. Angela's teachings help prepare me to be a teacher, but her counsels have taught me how to live, for example, "achieve more by kindness and gentleness than by harsh words." She reminds me that God could have chosen and inspired anyone to do good works, but – imagine, God chose me! Angela also guides me to lead, teach, and inspire others by example, not always easy to do but very worthwhile. Last, know that Jesus Christ longs to be your "only treasure."

– **Sr. Colette Livingston**



From my earliest days in the Ursuline community, the soul of Saint Angela drew me into herself. As a young Sister, I experienced the lasting effect of her soul upon the many Sisters whom I was coming to know. What struck me was their humility and deep sense of prayer. As I matured in my vocation, I became more deeply aware that the soul of Angela was the driving force of her Company throughout its long history. I saw that her companions had been tireless, with utter humility, in their service to the vulnerable, especially girls and young women. For me, I realized my best chance at being a Sister was to draw strength from Angela's soul, as did the great women of our past and present day. All you holy Daughters of Angela, pray for us, pray for me.

– **Sr. Irene Charette**



Is there a question you have always wanted to ask a Sister?

About her life? About her commitment? About how religious life has changed since Vatican II? About ... ?

If so, please send your question to Mary Moran at mmoran@ursulinesisters.org and we will do our best to answer it in an upcoming issue. **We welcome your participation!**



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
URSULINE ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND

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Have a new address? Email? Phone number?

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personal information.

Call Mary Moran at 440.229.5607

or

440.449.1200 ext. 5607

or email

mmoran@ursulinesisters.org.

Thank you!



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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.

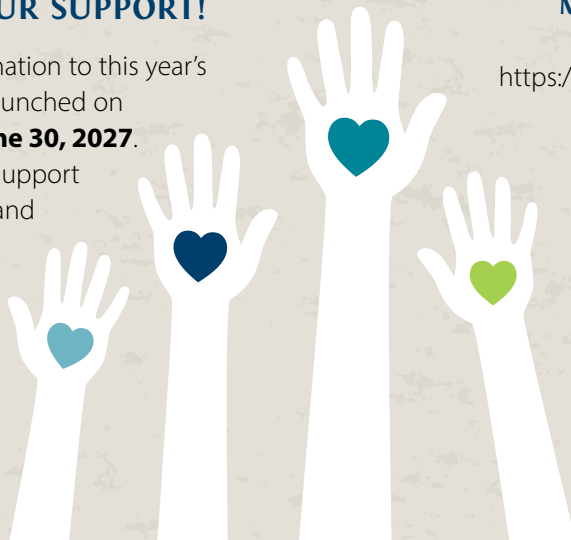
Annual Fund supports ministries and care of retired, infirm sisters

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please consider making a donation to this year's
Annual Fund Appeal which launched on
July 1, 2026 and ends on **June 30, 2027**.

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.



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JUST CLICK ON the secure donation page on our
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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.**