Continuing the Legacy of Spirituality and Service

A PUBLICATION OF THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE • SPRING 2016

OPEN WIDE
the doors of mercy

CELEBRATING OUR 2016 JUBILARIANS
The window of my prayer space faces the southwest on Algonquin Parkway. Recently I almost had my breath taken away as I witnessed what looked like a full moon for a series of days during my prayer time. The sun has become for me a symbol of God’s love manifested in Jesus. As I look up the sun’s rays, I am warmed and given light. The light of the moon is a reflection of the light of the sun and its beauty is pure gift to me. My prayer was taken into its symbolism.

In his proclamation of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said: “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy.’ These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him…. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father. Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.”

As I prayed, with the moon in my view, it came to me that the moon, at least for me, can be a symbol of humankind. I thought of the creation passage in Genesis which states that we humans are made in God’s image. Just as Jesus, in his humanity, is the perfect image of God reflecting and, as Pope Francis says, revealing the mercy of God, I, too, am made in God’s image and am meant to reflect God’s love and mercy to the world. The more I grow in the likeness of Jesus, the brighter will be my reflection of his love and mercy to others.

As Ursulines of Louisville, we take a fourth vow in addition to the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The fourth vow is “to teach Christian living.” The Ursuline way of life reflects God’s love to me and to our congregation: our students, all whose lives have intersected with mine on this life’s journey. All of them share, in their unique vocations, this Angeline way of life. It is one of mutual relationship.

As part of the Ursuline family, you will read in this issue of The Dome about our sisters who are celebrating a special anniversary, a jubilee, this year. What a variety of ways they have found to share their gifts and reflect, through their lives, the love and mercy that God has shown them! They celebrate their jubilees in this very special Jubilee Year of Mercy which has been proclaimed by Pope Francis. In January, on the feast of St. Angela Merici, our congregation’s president, Sr. Janet Marie Peterworth, blessed the door of our Ursuline Chapel on Lexington Road and named it A Door of Mercy. With Pope Francis, we pray that everyone who will pass through this door will experience God’s mercy and will reflect it to all they meet along life’s way.

And so, in this issue, we celebrate the Jubilees of our sisters who have lived their lives in growing likeness to Christ’s way of love, mercy and service by living it themselves. Ministries which would automatically be carried out by the Ursulines, in Angela’s mind, would flow from who the Ursulines were.

As I ended my prayer time during those special days of the moon’s company, I thanked God for all the members of our broader Ursuline family who have reflected God’s love to me and to our congregation: our Associates, families, co-workers, benefactors, friends, students, all whose lives have intersected with mine on this life’s journey. All of them share, in their unique vocations, this Angeline way of life. It is one of mutual relationship.

The printing of The Dome is donated. All content and design by the Ursuline Sisters staff.
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and girls attending St. Peter Claver. “Lessons and education were the core curricula for boys during the afternoon opening and reception. Ruby said, “Life was enriched by the Alma mater’s commitment to history and culture, as well as its role in shaping students for leadership roles.”

Local and state dignitaries perused the exhibition during the opening and reception. Ruby said, “Life was enriched by the Alma mater’s commitment to history and culture, as well as its role in shaping students for leadership roles.”

Hyde, worked for months to put together a visual exhibit titled “A Visual History of the Ursuline Sisters.” The exhibit, which focused on the history of the Ursuline Sisters in Louisville, was on display at Wayside Expressions Gallery. Ursuline Associate Ruby Hyde, sits on the Ursulines’ Social Justice Committee and is active at St. Williams Church (Louisville).”

The Alumnae Association also recognized Ursuline Associate Theresa Butler (Class of ’57) among its Heart Award recipients in recognition of her ministry. Theresa works as Associate Call Director, sits on the Ursulines’ Social Justice Committee and is active at St. William’s Church (Louisville).”

On January 17, a photo tribute to 150 years of Louisville’s historic Smoketown neighborhood was on display at Wayside Expressions Gallery. Ursuline Associate and founder of the Pride and Heritage Committee, Ruby Hyde, worked for months to put together a visual timeline of photos and printed materials. Former residents, students, Ursuline Sisters, friends, family and local and state dignitaries perused the exhibition during the afternoon opening and reception. Ruby said, “Life lessons and education were the core curricula for boys and girls attending St. Peter Claver.”

Welcoming the Year of Mercy

Ursuline Sisters and Associates, teachers, students and co-workers participated in events across the Ursuline Campus on January 27 to honor the legacy of foundress St. Angela Merici, a woman of great faith and a pioneer of teaching Christian living. One of the day’s capstone events began at 5 p.m. when sisters and associates gathered across Lexington Road in Louisville at Whitehall for a light supper. By 6:30 p.m., they were outside of the chapel, at which time Sister Janet Marie Pettersworth, the congregation’s president, blessed newly painted red chapel doors in recognition of the color red newly painted red chapel doors in recognition of the color red.

Praising the Year of Mercy

Amid the sobering reality of terror in our present day, Ursuline Sisters, Associates and others from the Louisville community gathered on December 2 for a prayer service to remember the tragic events that unfolded 35 years ago when four church women were brutally murdered in El Salvador. Ursuline President Janet Marie Pettersworth marked the tragic day in El Salvador. Staring services and tributes ensued in El Salvador and in Louisville’s Motherhouse Chapel to remember Cleveland and Louisville.”

Student Scholars Acknowledged

Members of the Ursuline Leadership Council attended the annual Sacred Heart Academy (Louisville) Scholars Brunch where they were on hand to acknowledge the newest scholar selected in 2015 as well as past Ursuline scholars from Sacred Heart Academy. Scholars are chosen based on leadership potential, service and academic excellence. From left to right, senior Clare Blim, junior Elizabeth Vernor, Sister Janet Marie Pettersworth, Sister Paula Kleine-Kracht, Sister Agnes Coveney, freshman Rose Diffey and sophomore Megan Bishop.

Ursulines On Hand to Help St. Joseph Celebrate 150 Years

On November 15, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Franciscan Friars of Cincinnati, Sisters of Mercy and diocesan priests were honored at the Unity Mass and Brunch celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph Parish in Louisville, KY. The theme of the celebration was “Reflect, Rejoice, Renew.” Father David G. Sánchez, pastor, thanked the Ursuline Sisters for their patience as teachers and said the religious brought joy, values and traditions to the parish. Ursuline Sisters served St. Joseph school and parish from 1867 until 1984, with the exception of four years, 1872 - 1874 (the sisters of Loretto staffed the school) and 1975-1977. A display of photographs, programs and memorabilia were viewed by over 300 people.

Pausing to Remember the Religious Martyred in El Salvador

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Book sells for $21.00 + tax on Amazon.com.

Around 200 people attended the official kick-off of the book Germans in Louisville on October 18. The event was co-sponsored by the German-American Club and Sister Cities of Louisville. Book editors Bob and Vicky Ullrich spoke about the exhaustive research and contributions by other authors who made publication possible. Ursuline Archivist Sister Martha Jacob wrote chapter five on the Ursuline Sisters and Catholic Schools, which traced the Ursulins’ arrival from Strassburg, Bavaria (now Germany), to Louisville in 1858 to teach German immigrant children at St. Martin School. The book sells for $21.00 + tax on Amazon.com.

Ourselves on Hand to Help St. Joseph Celebrate 150 Years

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Sister Dorothy Frankrone
Current Ministries: Prayer and presence, Sacred Heart Home
Previous Ministries: Teacher at St. Boniface, St. George, Holy Trinity, St. Theresia, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Rita, St. Joseph (all of Louisville, KY), St. Mary (Jackson, MS), Sacred Heart School (Cameron, MS), Superior at St. Boniface (Evansville, IN), Coordinator, Ursuline Motherhouse: Speech therapist/pathologist/director at Ursuline Speech and Hearing Clinic (Louisville, KY). Volunteer at Marian Home and cafeteria cashier at Sacred Heart Model School (Louisville, KY).

Today, Sister Dorothy Frankrone resides at Sacred Heart Home in a ministry of prayer and presence following a long history of service. In 1987, she delighted many by serving stroke patients, people with voice problems and stutterers, among others: “It demands much patience and can become monotonous. But the joy of a parent whose child has made progress in speech and language and the happiness of the child who can communicate buy things seemed like “an endless cycle.” A different aspiration grew, “the desire to give my life to God.”

As a sophomore she shared this desire with her mother but waited until after graduation to tell her father. He supported her decision immediately. (For years, he carried in his pocket the poem, “I’m the Daddy of a Nun.”) She considered joining the Maryknoll Sisters but decided on the Ursulines. “I loved to study and hoped that I would love teaching, and I did.”

After her investment (1946) and first profession (1948), Sister Brendan taught at Sacred Heart Model School and St. Elizabeth in Louisville. After final profession in 1951, she went to Blessed Sacrament in Omaha, where she studied at Creighton University. In 1954 she completed a bachelor’s degree in English and was assigned to Ursuline Academy in Louisville. After one year, she returned to Creighton as a teaching fellow and earned her master’s degree in English in 1956. Then she was assigned to Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville for 11 years.

In 1967 she was assigned to St. Francis de Sales High School in Morgantown, WV, but after one year, she was called to a leadership role and served for two years as a councilor and the congregation’s director of communication, followed by a year of teaching in an experimental program at Russell Junior High in Louisville. In 1971 she took a position at Bishop Walsh High School in Cumberland, MD, to be close to her failing mother. After her mother died, she went to Gonzaga University in Spokane and decided to pursue work with the poor. She returned to Morgantown to take over the directorship of Christian Help, an emergency assistance agency, and served the St. John University...
To meet Sister Evelina Pisaneschi is to meet joy personified. Campus Services. Assistant to Formation Mentoring Community. Joy first was infused into her life by Italian parents who fostered the holiness Sister Evelina sought. Sister Helene Jones and Mary Breighner (the housekeeper for the St. Mary’s parish priests). “I remember her as being patient and kind, and she had a joyful smile.”

On walks home from school Sister Evelina would visit Mary, who would be on the rectory’s porch reading Thomas A. Kempis’ “The Imitation of Christ.” “When I left home for the convent, she gave me a copy. If holiness was what she desired, there was a sure way to obtain it, she thought. “I think forever I felt I always wanted to be holy and people who were holy were numinous.”

During her formation and teaching years, she acquired degrees and certificates from Ursuline College (Louisville, KY), Catholic University (Washington, DC), West Virginia and Pennsylvania departments of Education, Commonwealth of Kentucky and Spalding University (Louisville, KY). She admitted that she entered religious life not to teach but because she wanted to be an Ursuline. “One thing for sure is that I learned I loved children.”

She taught in elementary schools for 22 years and served as principal for 19 years in Pittsburgh, PA; Morgantown, WV and Louisville, KY. Challenges came, including assignments in impoverished areas. “I worked with very poor families and I just tried to help as much as I could.” For a short time, she took on a part-time teaching position in the Education Department at Ursuline College, and also taught full-time at Bellarmine-Ursuline College for four semesters. She eventually went back to teaching in Catholic elementary schools.

In 1991, she retired from teaching (“I thought I would get out while I was still on top.”) and for 14 years she worked as assistant to the director of Campus Services on the Ursuline Campus in Louisville. These days Sister Evelina resides at the Motherhouse. She volunteers at Sacred Heart Home and the Motherhouse, offering to do little acts of kindness for the sisters there, such as cleaning veins, polishing shoes and decorating their rooms for Christmas. “Angela, our foundress, has always been a model of holiness for me. She truly loved God and spent her life doing all she could for others.” She is thankful for her vocation with the Ursulines. “The community has been my family. I’m proud of our fourth vow, to teach Christian living, which shows how serious we are about our ministry to educate everyone to live holy and better lives by word and example.”

“Like a good student, she has completed her homework by looking up the word “jubilee” in Latin, which means “to raise a shout of joy.” “I ask everyone to shout for joy and celebrate this great gift that God has given me.”

Sister Evelina (Mary Roger) Pisaneschi
Current Ministry: Volunteer, Sacred Heart Home and the Motherhouse
Previous Ministries: Teacher at St. Elizabeth, St. Peter Claver, St. Boniface, Our Lady of Lourdes, Ursuline College, Sacred Heart Model School, St. Therese (all of Louisville, KY), St. Francis de Sales (Morgantown, WV). Principal at Holy Spirit School, St. Therese and St. John Vianney (all of Louisville, KY) and Our Lady of Mercy-Blessed Sacrament (Pittsburgh, PA). Assistant director of Ursuline Campus Services. Assistant to Formation Mentoring Community.

To meet Sister Evelina Pisaneschi is to meet joy personified. an early age, one wish was clear to Sister Evelina: “All my life, I wanted to be holy like my Mother, (Ursuline) Sister Helene Jones and Mary Breighner (the housekeeper for the St. Mary’s parish priests).” Her mother often talked to her about God, and exemplified the holiness Sister Evelina sought. Sister Helene was her first grade teacher. “I remember her as being patient and kind, and she had a joyful smile.”

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After high school she took office jobs. World War II was in high gear and often after work she would board a bus transporting girls to USO events to dance with soldiers. “They just threw us around (on the dance floor),” she remarked, smiling at the memory. Her road to religious life began after she expressed a desire to enter the Navy. “My Daddy wouldn’t let me be a WAVE (a term for women who wanted to serve in the Navy).”

Then the war ended. “Everyone—all the kids and neighbors—got in the back of their trucks and went to Fourth Street to celebrate.” The very next day, Sister Mildred entered the convent. “My Daddy said, ‘Let her go; she’ll be back in a week.’ He got fooled,” she said with a laugh. It wasn’t difficult going from dances to religious life. “It was what I chose to do. It wasn’t hard, just a change. I was fitting in where I belonged, wherever I could help.”

She progressed through religious formation and studies in early elementary education, entering the classroom in 1948 and making her final vows in 1951. While teaching in Kentucky, West Virginia, Mississippi and Nebraska, she often juggled class work with cooking for the sisters. “They would eat whatever you made.”

She shifted to counseling after receiving her master’s degree in guidance from Creighton University in Omaha, NE. (Later, she went on to receive her specialist certification in counseling psychology from Spalding College.) She became a counselor in the public schools.
Addressing diverse needs—discipline, underfed children, over-bearing parents, violence at home and busing—"I'd go back and do it all again," she admitted.

In the early 1990s, she found her way into pastoral ministry at the fledgling parish of St. Patrick's in Louisville's East End, aiding Father John ("Jack") Schindler. Sister Mildred began the religious education program and a women's Bible study. Sister Mildred also ministered at The Forum.

Somewhere along the way, Sister Mildred took up art—teaching it and showcasing her art at the Ursuline Art Fair. (In her youth, she was more apt to play football or baseball than paint or draw.)

Known for his preaching and for helping people find lost items, St. Anthony of Padua has been a special saint for Sister Mildred. (In her youth, she was more apt to play football or baseball than paint or draw.)

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"I had no desire to be a sister when in high school or in my year at college here on our Campus. Even though at that time, I wasn't tuned into it, I think God's hook (Divine DNA) was reeling me in as I saw postulants and novices in my college classes. I wondered what made them 'tick' and why. The college was staffed mostly by our sisters."

"While working for the City of North Platte those 3 years, I frequently went to daily Mass. It seemed God washed something in me as I observed the sisters file into the front rows of the church. I think the idea of being a woman where prayer and community living were important was becoming important. Also, thoughts of being a teacher had haunted me in school."

"One day when I stopped by the church after work and only God and I were there, I remember being hit with the realization that I had to test a vocation as an Ursuline. However, it was a heavy challenge: so far away from my family and the concern I had for them. Is this what God really wants?"

f. "I entered the Ursuline novitiate in 1956."

Sister Rosella expressed a deep conviction that God called her to be an Ursuline. Ursuline foundress, St. Angela Merici, has been an example of prayer, flexibility, faithfulness and "sureness of God. " The Charism of St. Angela and the Louisville Ursulines is a contemplative love of God and a resulting openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others. Sister Rosella considers all the variety of ministries she has had as expressions of the Ursuline Congregation's Mission: Teaching Christian Living.

Sister Rosella expressed gratitude for opportunities to earn her BA degree at Ursuline College, an MA degree at St. John's University in New York; and to pursue graduate studies at Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN; and at Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC.

She is thankful for the wonderful opportunities to learn, to pray, and to minister as an Ursuline. She also appreciates sisters who challenged her and for persons in the Ursuline Community and parishes who trusted and affirmed the gifts God gave her. Sister Rosella feels that life with her birth family and with her Ursuline family are truly blessings!

Sister Rosella McCormick is a native Nebraskan whose family consisted of her parents and three brothers. When young, she lived in Central Nebraska and attended a public school since there were no nearby Catholic schools. At age 13, the family moved to North Platte, NE, and she enrolled as a sophomore at St. Patrick's High School, staffed by the Ursuline Sisters. A scholarship enabled her to attend Ursuline College in Louisville, KY, until her father's poor health called her home after freshman year. For three years she was employed by Municipal Light and Power Co.

Relative to discernment of her vocation, Sister Rosella feels deeply that "God tries hard to get us where God wants us. It is more God's doing than ours. Made in God's image and likeness, we all have that Divine DNA, which is so powerful."

She says that some factors that played a significant role in her discernment include:

a. "As a child it seemed to me that the Catholic Faith was extremely important to my mother and she witnessed it faithfully and quietly. She always tried to answer my questions about being a Catholic."

b. "I met an Ursuline Sister for the first time when I was 7 years old. One of my older brothers and I stayed with an aunt and uncle for two weeks in preparation for receiving First Eucharist."

Which jubilarian…

… went to school in a one-room school house until the fifth grade?
… as a child, would run errands for Ursuline sister Marietta Schwindel, the cook at Holy Trinity in Louisville?
… was crowned the May Queen in high school?
… had a special devotion to St. Joseph?

For answers to these questions, read the jubilarians’ expanded stories at ursulinesisterslouisville.org/jubilarians.php.

Associate Call Jubilees

30 YEARS
Kathleen Bayley
Kathy Mattingly
Anna Marie Michael
Irene Mueller
Carolyn Neely
Jeanine Nix
Mel Nix
Wilma Schilz
Mary Agnes Squires

25 YEARS
Karen Wells
Melba Wilson

20 YEARS
Theresa Patterson
Virginia Plummer
Linda Ratchford
Kathleen Stafford

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Ursuline DOME: Continuing the Legacy of Spirituality and Service | SPRING 2016
Sister Rose Ann Muller was born in Evansville, IN, in her parents’ home on June 16, 1932. Her childhood was happy and many memories remain of trips to her grandparents’ farm and riding bicycles with her two brothers. She was taught by the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary’s of the Woods and the Benedictine Sisters of Ferdinand, IN. Upon graduation, she worked for three years as a secretary. As a teen and young adult, she dated, hung out with friends and spent time at the “She-He-He-She Teen Club.” She also was a member of the Legion of Mary. “It was mainly through my work in the Legion of Mary that I began to think about becoming a sister,” she said. “My experiences with different types of spiritual works made me think of religious life.” She received encouragement from her parish priest, Fr. Eugene Dewig, whose biological sister was an Ursuline whom she met. “I was impressed with Sister Cordula (Dewig) and the Ursuline Sisters but I chose the Benedictines because I knew many of them.”

Sister Rose Ann Muller was a novice in the Benedictine Order for one year, (Dewig) and the Ursuline Sisters but I chose the Benedictines because I knew many of them. She became a novice in 1956 and took her temporary vows in 1958. Her first assignment was at St. Raphael in Louisville, KY. “Those first graders taught me how people learn,” she recalled. She received support and advice after school hours from other sisters. “We were always busy but together we sisters helped each other to keep our spirits up and to have fun on a minute’s notice.”

After her final vows in 1963, Sister Rose Ann went to Omaha, NE, to teach and pursue a master’s degree in education from Creighton University. She taught at Blessed Sacrament School until her graduation from Creighton in 1967. Ursuline College in Louisville was her next stop, followed by an assignment as principal at Pope John XXIII School in Madison, IN. From there, Sister Rose Ann taught at St. Elizabeth and St. Joseph schools in Louisville.

After major surgery in 1984, Sister Rose Ann requested a sabbatical, which she used to participate in a program called “The Global Community” near Cincinnati, OH. She then accepted a position at St. Mary’s School in Jackson, MS, teaching sixth grade. “Three years later, she became the parish’s pastoral minister and assisted Christ the King Parish. “I truly enjoyed the people of Jackson, MS,” said Sister Rose Ann. She left Jackson in 1995 to be pastoral minister at St. Simon Church in Washington, IN, allowing her to make the hour-long trip to Evansville to see her 90-year-old father. “I was grateful for the opportunity to help in his caregiving,” she said. After her father died in 1999, she returned to the Ursuline Campus as co-coordinator of Marian Home. She retired in 2004 and began volunteer work. Because of failing health, in September 2015 she returned to the Ursuline Campus as co-coordinator of Marian Home. She retired in 2004 and began volunteer work. Because of failing health, in September 2015 she moved to Sacred Heart Home.

Jubilee celebrations are special to her, having celebrated past jubilees in Louisville and Evansville. “I thank God that, in my declining age and health, I have a home where my Ursuline Sisters provide care for me, as well as Sacred Heart Home where many loving caregivers take care of my needs.”

Sister Rose Ann has visited St. Angela Merici’s resting place in Brescia, Italy, and that country’s many piazzas. “I think Jesus would like for our whole world to have many piazzas. Perhaps peace and justice would come from them.”

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Sister Martha Staarman has garnered the title of “abuela” (“grandmother”) for guiding immigrant mothers through pregnancies and births of over 500 children. Her car is a taxi, she said, transporting parents and children to doctor appointments.

She traces the seeds of this ministry to Ascension Thursday in 1964 when her name was drawn, earning for her a spot as one of four missionary sisters for ministry in Peru.

Many years prior to shuttling others in her car, Sister Martha was often riding her bike in her hometown of Columbus, MD. Her father worked for the railroad and her mother managed the home front and three children. Both parents were “very religious,” recalled Sister Martha, adding that her mother sang in the choir and her family went to confession every other week.

Ursuline Sisters served as her teachers throughout her school years. The family became well acquainted with Sister Rosalie Weckman, and would drive her places. During those years, Sister Martha aspired to become an airline stewardess but that changed after a priest’s vocation talk. He left a poster about becoming a professed religious. “I remember looking at that poster and thinking, ‘Maybe it’s not a bad idea. I’ll try that.’”

Sister Martha’s own experiences in Peru allow her to meet immigrants, given their many hardships, with her skills in pastoral ministry at parishes in Reading, PA, Rock Island, IL, Cumberland, MD, and she finally settled at St. Agnes Parish in Chester, PA, beginning in 1985. Her current ministry feels similar to her work in Peru: an outreach to the Spanish-speaking community that includes many from Mexico. She emphasizes the importance of education to the immigrants. “I tell them, ‘Do you want to clean houses all of your lives? Then you have to study.’ It’s a process that takes patience, she said, recalling her acclimation to Peru and her own family history as a granddaughter of German immigrants.

The wisdom of St. Angela Merici infuses her ministry. Favorite pearls of Angeline wisdom include: “We have a greater need to serve the poor than they have of our service” and “You will find no other recourse than to take refuge at the feet of Jesus.”

Sister Martha’s own experiences in Peru allow her to meet immigrants, given their many hardships, with compassion and to join them at Jesus’ feet. Being an Ursuline has changed the course of her life. “I would not have had the opportunities and experiences if not for being part of the Ursulines.” Even though she lives away from the Motherhouse, she feels connected. “There are people there that are part of my life even though I am up here. It’s home.”
Catharine, KY. It was in Louisville where Sister Loretta went to Louisville and St. St. Catharine, KY, attended Saint Patrick’s School, Ogallala, NE, 60 miles away from home. St. Catherine, KY, attended Saint Patrick’s School, Ogallala, NE, 60 miles away from home.

She lived with a different family each of her high school years. At St. Patrick, she was introduced to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. "They were very kind, helpful and caring, I wanted to be that kind of person.”

After elementary school with the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, KY, Sister Loretta attended Saint Patrick’s High School in Sidney, NE, 60 miles away from home. She lived with a different family each of her high school years. At St. Patrick, she was introduced to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. "They were very kind, helpful and caring, I wanted to be that kind of person.”

She went on to Kearney State College in Kearney, NE, and was active in the Newman Center. Sister Loretta recalled a presentation on religious life offered through the center. “I just remember being deeply touched by what the sister was challenging us young people to think about – a life of service in the Church.”

Sister Loretta received advice from her campus minister to consider joining congregations she already knew. She had had contact with the Ursulines and the Dominicans, and so she wrote to both communities.

In the meantime, Sister Loretta was close to graduating from Louisville in August of 1975 to begin her postulancy with Sister Martha (Olga) Buser as her formation director. Having a degree in education, she was ready for the classroom, teaching first at St. Elizabeth and then at St. Joseph, St. Jerome, St. Therese, St. John Vianney and St. Simon and Jude, all in Louisville. She also taught at St. Patrick High School in North Platte and finally, in 2005, returned to Ogallala, NE, as principal and teacher at St. Luke, where she still ministers in her 11th year and 40th year in education. Principals of schools where she has worked have been instrumental to her own career. They include Sisters Alberta Neppl, Romana Selter and Evelina (Roger) Pisaneschi, along with Peggy Hurst and Michelle Duval. "Each of them helped me become a better teacher, work together as a team, improve communication skills and establish good relationships with parents.”

Guiding her, too, has been Ursuline foundress, Saint Angela Merici. One favorite saying of the saint is "when necessary, change with the times.”

"Saint Angela challenged us to persevere,” she said, adding that she identifies with the saint in her work with women, children and families. "When there are bumps along the way, I know I am being called to persevere."

Another go-to source of strength is the Blessed Mother. "In my work with families, I turn to her in prayer often to give me strength, wisdom and guidance." Psalm 63 and Matthew 9:21 are Scripture passages that inspire her. "If I could just touch the hem of his (Jesus’) cloak, I will be healed.” She thinks of this quote when ministering to children, hoping they come to know and love Jesus. "Every day I want to touch the hem of his cloak, staying very close to Jesus and God. With God, all things are possible.”

She feels privileged to be part of the Ursulines, a group of “wise and prayerful women making a difference in our world.” She aspires to continue their legacy: "They have supported me, challenged me, and helped me grow spiritually, emotionally and mentally. They are my family.”

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The love that the people of Callao and San Miguel, Peru, have for the Ursulines of Louisville was enthusiastically on display amid celebrations and gatherings during trips by a handful of sisters in late Fall 2015.

CALLAO, PERU

The milestone sparking the trip to South America was the 50th anniversary of Santa Angela Merici School in Callao. Student-teacher performances, a play and a parade were among the many encounters the sisters experienced as part of a sincere demonstration of the community’s gratitude and love.

The contingent of Ursuline Sisters from Louisville and Toledo, OH, as well as Ursuline friends Maria Scharfenberger and her daughter Fernanda, traveled to the country in October where three Louisville Ursulines and one from Toledo continue to minister.

The sisters traveling to visit with Ursuline Sisters Kathy Neely, Sue Scharfenberger and Yuli Oncihuay (all of Louisville) and Toledo Ursuline Sister Carol Reamer, included Sisters Janet Marie Peterworth, Agnes Coveney, Lee Kirchner and Martha Staarman.

They began their journey in Callao, outside of Lima, where festivities included a showcase of song and dance performed by school children, a play about St. Angela Merici and a parade followed by a picnic. Ursuline President Sister Janet Marie said of the experience, “As Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here.”

A meeting with Ursuline Associates of Callao was also a highlight. “So many said what Angela meant to them and how the Ursulines have influenced them and taught them how to be better and prayerful women leaders,” Sister Janet Marie shared in an email message. “After dinner there was ‘mucho’ dancing and laughing.”
SAN MIGUEL
While a few of the travelers to Peru returned to the States, others continued on to San Miguel where Sister Kathy directs Center Santa Angela Merici, a rehabilitation center for those with physical challenges. Sister Agnes commented on this leg of the trip. “In the days there, we met and spoke with many of the catechists, the associates, the Comunidades Angelina, as well as the priests and parishioners who helped build up the faith and life of San Miguel and other mountain towns and villages. The people expressed deep gratitude to Sister Kathy for her presence and ministry there now and for all of the Ursuline Sisters who have lived and worked in San Miguel over the years.”

Once home, Sister Lee expressed a deep appreciation for the opportunity to visit a country where she has roots, as she was one of the first Ursuline Sisters of Louisville to Peru, along with Sister Martha Staarman.

From Sister Lee: “This thank you has been in my heart since I have returned from ‘my home away from home.’ Your affirming wishes and prayers added to the peaceful, inspiring and grateful time shared with hundreds of our Peruvian families. The following is a squinting glimpse of the happiness and blessings full of gratitude.

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Did you notice? Recently the doors of the Ursuline Motherhouse were painted red. The new color symbolizes mercy, a tangible expression of the community’s celebration for the Year of Mercy. Last year the Ursuline Community was the first religious congregation in our Louisville area to be designated a Compassionate Congregation. That distinction is only achieved through much groundwork. In my mind these two events raise the question: “What is compassion and how does it relate to mercy?”

One of the definitions for mercy is “an act of kindness, compassion, or favor.” I believe that compassion put into action is mercy. That leads to the question: “Who is the face of mercy?”

So often those who are the face of mercy never consider themselves as such. Many Ursuline Call Associates are people who live their lives as faces of mercy. Some examples include associates who are caring for ill family members and friends, serving as Eucharistic ministers, visiting the homebound and those in nursing homes, volunteering at soup kitchens, reading for a visually impaired individual, ministering to those suffering from depression or dementia, teaching residents in low income neighborhoods how to raise and prepare healthy food or giving comfort to those facing difficult times.

Recently I fell and strained some muscles. The muscles have been very slow to heal and during the healing time, I have experienced many faces of mercy. One of the difficulties for those of us who have had difficult personal setbacks is to accept gracious acts of compassion and mercy. Learning to embrace and give thanks for these faces of mercy is both a challenge and a gift. Perhaps that is the other side of the mercy coin.

As we celebrate this “Year of Mercy” we are challenged to recognize how we might be faces of mercy. Angela Merici gave her followers some great advice. “My last word to you, by which I implore you even with my blood, is that you live in harmony, united together, all of one heart and one will. Be bound to one another by the bond of charity, esteeming each other, helping each other, bearing with each other in Jesus Christ.” Is that not what we are called to do as “faces of mercy?”

Sister Yuli Celebrates Her 20th Jubilee

Who is the Face of Mercy?

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Sister Yuli Oncihuay arrived in Louisville in March from the Ursuline mission in Callao, Peru. For about a year, she will be living at the Motherhouse while learning English and visiting with her sisters and their places of ministry. Her visit sparked an idea — celebrate her 20 years as an Ursuline Sister of Louisville. [Traditionally the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have celebrated jubilees of 25, 50, 60, 75 and 80.]

Sister Yuli entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1996. “I was attracted to the Ursulines by the way they lived in community, their hospitality, their service and dedication to others, and also their work for justice and peace,” she recalled. “[The Ursulines had arrived in Peru in 1964].”

After formation into the Ursulines with Sister Sue Scharfenberger and the other sisters in Callao at that time, Sister Yuli made final profession there in 2005. She came to Louisville in early spring from her ministry as a kindergarten teacher at Colegio Parroquial Santa Angela Merici, the school founded by the Sisters in 1965.

‘It gives me joy to be a part of this great community, the diversity of the Sisters and their going to Peru, leaving their footprints as ‘Angela Peregrina.’ Also the life of the children, women and youth who seek ways of knowing themselves and realizing their potential as people gives me joy.”

Sister Yuli sees her visit as a chance to deepen her relationship within the congregation and a chance to reflect an opportunity for peace and quiet, not often found while involved in her teaching ministry. Bienvenida y felicitaciones, Sister Yuli!

Cathleen Thalken of Ogallala, NE, was born December 10, 1923 and died January 1, 2016. She became an associate on December 8, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband James Joseph Thalken, and is survived by her four children and multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren. She received the Carolyn Sloan Spirit of Nebraska Award. Upon retiring as office manager at the Guiding Star Girl Scout Office, she traveled and spent her winters in Oceanside, CA. Cathleen loved music and was known for her wonderful singing voice which she passed along to her children.

Mary Jean Kempf was born August 15, 1921, and died January 15, 2016. She was an Ursuline novice in the 1950s, and became an associate on July 17, 1998. Mary Jean was the fifth child of 12 children. Mary Jean was very close to her family and served as the caregiver for her aging parents. She was educated by Ursuline Sisters beginning in the first grade at Holy Trinity School and continuing through graduation from Ursuline College. She continued her association with the Ursulines serving as the business manager for the Ursuline Campus Schools for 30 years. In retirement, she volunteered at church and nursing homes. Throughout her life she was dedicated to her family and the Ursulines.

In Memoriam
The Annals of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville tell of the decision to go West at a time when the congregation had the resources and vocations to support missionary work. Mother Angela Leininger, the former directress of Sacred Heart Academy, was elected Mother Superior in 1914. She was a well-known administrator with an enthusiasm for religious and cultural education. "Contemporaries of Mother Angela recall she couldn’t wait to place sisters in the West, so firm was her conviction that the educational ideal of St. Angela must be carried as far as possible,” wrote Sister Helen Margaret (Aquinas) Schweri in Under His Mighty Power.

### Setting the West
When Mother Angela took up the yoke of leadership, Ursuline Sisters were in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri and Pennsylvania. Call it luck or divine providence, a caption in the Prairie Echo newspaper from the mid-1900s described the connection between the Ursulines and a Nebraska priest, Father Anton Link, whose drive to share the Catholic faith paralleled Mother Angela’s. Father Anton was building a school in Sidney, NE, to teach at St. Mary. In North Platte, the Ursulines took up residence in the rectory, vacated by Fr. Patrick McDaid, pastor, who resided at a nearby home. The completed school building housed the children’s dormitories, sisters’ community room and chapel on the third floor while the kitchen, cafeteria and laundry were in the basement. Classes commenced on September 25 following a Mass “in honor of the Holy Ghost,” a tradition that would continue in later years.

Outside of teaching and for recreation, the sisters, along with Fr. McDaid, enjoyed playing Euchre (a card game). One Christmas Fr. McDaid surprised the sisters with door prizes that included candy, a cook book, a fountain pen and a Roman Missal. The priest also once purchased a $4 recording of “My Old Kentucky Home” and gave the sisters his Victrola and later, his piano, which the school eventually used. During summers, sisters took up their own studies at Creighton University in Omaha and completed teaching certification exams required in Nebraska. Although there were a few bumps along the way, a rhythm developed to life out West.

The Rushville Annals described the arrival of the first Ursulines who were met by Father (John) Nepper in his Dodge.

St. Mary’s school building included a science lab and a large library with 2400 books. After an entrance fee of $2 and a letter of recommendation, families paid $22 for board and tuition. Other program options included music lessons (piano, concert harp or violin for $5), Glee Club ($2.50), orchestra ($4.50) and a $10 science lab fee.

In 1918, Ursulines arrived to staff St. Michael Parish School in Omaha as well as St. Michael School in South Sioux City, which had been a brewery. The Annals reported: “Sisters Clarissa (Denzer), Patricia (Wheelier) and Coletta (Doerr) resided there. Finally had all twelve grades with the help of Sister Francelle (Otte) and Father Healy who was appointed pastor.”

While most of the sisters’ missionary work took place in Western Nebraska, Omaha was also a location they settled into in the early 1900s. Their presence in Omaha expanded to Blessed Sacrament School in 1920 and continued for many years. It was written in the parish history, “As has been observed through the ages, all worthwhile projects have had meager beginnings. This is undeniably true of the growth and development of Blessed Sacrament Church and School.”

Resources were scarce for this Omaha parish community, but ingenuity was in high supply. “Classes were held almost anywhere. During the fall of that year all classes were taught in the church, Sister Austin (Grø) conducted the upper grades in the gallery of the church. Sister Francelle (Otte) and Sister Patrice (Dugan) taught in the body of the church, one on the right side and the other on the left. The classes were separated by sheets strung on wires. The sheets were donated by the kind ladies of the parish.” After the cold weather set in, because of insufficient heating in the church, all classes were held in the convent, then called “the doll house” for it was even too small for the five sisters living there.

Renovation of the church building began in 1921 during which time it was placed on stilts so that five classrooms could be built beneath it. Everyone climbed ladders to attend school and Sunday Mass. Though dangerous, not one person fell or was injured. Going forward, however, the stability of the church structure was a constant worry. Beyond the daily tasks of teaching, the Ursuline Sisters also ventured into surrounding communities to teach catechism on weekends and during summer breaks. These rural missionary visits included towns such as Bridgeport, Shelton, Wellston, Wallace, Curtis, Elsie and Hay Springs, to name a few. Enrollment ranged from 20 to 100 pupils. Occasionally, the sisters enjoyed side trips but with orders that they be of educational value. "Approved locales included Buffalo Bill’s Ranch, Sioux Lookout and Fort McPherson National Cemetery.

The days of building and staffing boarding schools were beginning to fade by the late 1950s but other school and parish assignments would come, for the missionary spirit flourished within the congregation. "There are many takes of the hardships the Sisters experienced in those days," Sister Helen Margaret wrote. "The will and the spirit they manifested is a precious part of the Louisville Ursulines’ heritage.”

Mother Angela Leininger

Fr. Anton Link

Ursuline Sisters arrived in Nebraska in 1916 to the cities of Sidney, Rushville and North Platte. Other Nebraska cities followed: South Sioux City (1918), Omaha (1918), Grand Island (1919), O’Connor (1917), Spalding (1917), Ogallala (1917), Wood River (1917), Lexington (1917), Hershey (1917), Paxton (1917), Sutherland (1917) and David City (1917).
Imagine this: you are driving down a dark road with your spouse, teenage daughter and young son. It’s November and a cold rain is falling. In the headlights of your warm, dry car, you are surprised to see a large, very large, young man walking along the shoulder. Even from the rear he looks familiar. After a few seconds you recognize him as the same young man you had noticed earlier, sitting in the school gym, alone.

You tell your spouse to stop the car and you ask your children if they know him. Your young son tells you his name is “Big Mike” and he goes to school with him. You step out of the warmth of your car into the rain and call his name. He stops his slow, lumbering walk and turns to face you. Not believing what he’s just heard, Big Mike stares back at you with a shoulder. Even from the rear he looks familiar. After a few seconds you recognize him as the same young man you had noticed earlier, sitting in the school gym, alone.

Who needs mercy these days? Certainly, we do not. The word mercy carries with it a connotation of someone with power being benevolent, kind or forgiving to a subordinate. We want to believe that we are subordinate to no one and are capable, independent and responsible human beings who can deal with whatever life throws at us while balancing all the twirling plates we call life.

Besides, isn’t mercy about the forgiveness of sins? We are not that bad. We keep most of the commandments most of the time. Sure, we will protect someone’s feelings, or our pride, with a little white lie every now and then; but, we do not break any of the big ones. After all, isn’t that God’s job … to forgive our sins? God probably does not even miss the little bit of mercy we are in need of from time to time. So, why mention it?

Sometimes it helps to stand back and look at the origins of a word to get a better understanding of its full meaning; and not just what we have come to assume what it means. In the Bible the word mercy comes to us via three Hebrew words. The first is hesed, and describes “a covenanted love that is mutual and enduring, implying action on both parts.” “Think of marriage vows or vows that religious and priests make. These are vows made in response to love, are meant to last and require attention and work to fulfill. In the Hebrew Scriptures, hesed is used to describe the relationship between God and God’s people: “You are my people and I am your God.”

The second word is rahamîm. In “the plural form it is the noun, womb, implying a physical response and demonstrating that mercy is felt in the center of the body” and it moves us to action. The action might be the work of bringing something to fruition, nurturing, defending or loving. This word is also translated as compassion. It is the compassion that moved God to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and that compelled Jesus to surrender to the cross. It is what we experience when we feel the fear, grief, pain, hopelessness or anger of another and then do something about the situation.

Hänan is the third Hebrew word; it describes mercy as “grace or favor, a free gift, there is no mutuality and it occurs between unequal: one who gives and the recipient.” This is how many of us have come to perceive mercy; and it flies in the face of our American culture. We are indoctrinated to believe that we are all equals, all of the same time, that you put your pants on the same way I do… one leg at a time. The truth is we are not all equal all of the time.

There are those who have more power, resources, responsibilities, knowledge and abilities at different times in our lives and in different situations. For instance, I am at the mercy of my auto mechanic to repair my car when it breaks down. I am also in need of the help of God when life becomes too much, when I become aware of my wounds and how they are negatively affecting my life and when I do something that separates me from God, my true self and my neighbor.

This virtue is not one-dimensional, as we might assume, but is multi-faceted, just like God, whose name is MERCY. Neither is mercy passé. When we can be honest with ourselves, we know that we are in need of mercy every day of our lives. MERCY invites us to love and to be loved for no other reason than who we are who we are. MERCY extends compassion and does not leave us alone when we are in pain, enslaved by our obsessions and compulsions and blinded by our ego and culture. MERCY forgives before we can even ask, like the father who welcomed his prodigal son home before the son could offer his confession. And what does MERCY ask in return? Only to give as we have received.
Anyone who has visited our house in the last 45 years will have memories of the beautiful poinsettia tree that stood in our backyard. There were blooms all year round but especially for Easter (yes, not Christmas). Perhaps the tree felt the years of aging, but whatever the reason, she completely gave up the little life that had been there shortly after our 50th celebration, she surrendered to the universal plan of nature. Sister Yuli removed her dead branches and converted her sawdust roots to nourish-ment for new life in our garden.

There have been other changes since our 50th also. Shortly after our guests returned to their homes, Sister Carol began announcing her leave-taking from Peru after 25 years of accompaniment with women and with energy medicine. The farewells have begun as well as the process of uprooting . . . for all of us.

There is, however, a deep sense of gratitude to Sister Miguel now has a full-time and permanent therapist. This is a major step and will allow the center to grow and stand on firm ground. We are grateful for this accomplish-ment after two years of managing the center with interns coming on a one- to two-month stay. We may continue to have interns from Lima’s San Juan Clinic, but the new therapist gives the program greater stability and an added hour of attention for the patients.

Elections
Once again we are preparing for elections. As you know, we have many political parties and movements in our country. Some have joined forces changing alliances almost monthly, but in the end we have now 19 candi-dates for president. Some are renuns. Others are new with more progressive proposals. However, the level of corruption in the political system leaves all of us with certain suspicion. Elections come in April, so keep send-ing that wonderful healing and peaceful energy our way.

Your sisters,   Carol, Yuli, Kathy, Sue

DONATION NOTATIONS
From July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

How money came in...
Wills
Repeat Gifts
Memorials
Give Local Louisville
Givelify

Where money went...
Ministry Fund
Assocate Call
Care of Senior Sisters
Angela Merici Center for Spirituality
The Greatest Need
Peru

Mission Driven ~ Need Inspired ~ Donor Supported

Nominate a Deserving Woman for the 2016 Angeline Award

Since 1991, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville have recognized women for their outstanding service and dedication with the Angeline Award.

A nominee must meet the following criteria:

• Demonstrates Christian leadership as a disciple of Jesus Christ by being actively involved with challenges that face women and families today, such as illiteracy, poverty, violence, abuse or addictions.

• Reflects a contemplative love of God resulting in openness and eagerness to serve the needs of others (charism of the Ursuline Sisters).

• Currently has a personal connection to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville through ministry, professional association, education, relationship or common goals.

• Is able to receive the award in person at a ceremony to be held on October 22, 2016, at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Louisville, KY.

For more information and to download additional nomination forms, visit www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org or contact Sister Margaret Ann Hagan, OSU, at MHagan@ursulineslou.org or (502) 896-3915.

Past Recipients of the Angeline Award

1991: Donna McKinney Hanson, Spokane, WA
1992: Juanna Gil Sanchez, Callao, Peru
1994: Barbara Enrich Candy, Louisville
1996: Margo Thompson Borders, Louisville
1998: Maria Scharenberger, Louisville
2000: Jane Thibault, Louisville
2002: Mary Kwan, Houston, TX
2004: Shannon Lockhart, Guatemala City
2006: Mary Louise “Peanut” Fischer, Louisville
2008: Mary Ann Kopp Hubbs, Louisville
2010: Paula Fangman, Shelbyville, KY
2012: Patricia Ann Geier, Louisville
2014: Carolyn Nichols, Cumberland, MD
2016: Angeline Award

Nomination Deadline: June 1, 2016

Nomination forms are also available on our website: www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org
Take A Tour Down Memory Lane of Your Ursuline College Days

June 11, 2016

In coordination with Bellarmine University’s Alumni Reunion Weekend, the Ursuline Sisters invite 1966 Ursuline College alumnae for a special walking tour down memory lane on the Ursuline Campus.

When: Saturday, June 11, 2016
Where: Brescia Hall Bldg. #3
3105 Lexington Road
Ursuline Campus
Louisville, KY 40206
Time: 10 a.m. - 12 noon

To RSVP or Ask Questions about Ursuline College Tour:
CONTACT: Ellen McKnight
Director of Mission Advancement/Alumnae Relations
502.515.7526 • emcknight@ursulineslou.org

To rsvp or ask questions about Ursuline College tour:
Contact: ellen McKnight
Director of Mission Advancement/Alumnae Relations
502.515.7526 • emcknight@ursulineslou.org

For questions or information about UA Pittsburgh Reunion:
email Sr. Rita Joseph Jarrell at rjarrell@ursulineslou.org or call her at (502) 599-1668.

URSULINE ACADEMY — PITTSBURGH REUNION WEEKEND

October 14 & 15, 2016

Friday, October 14
Reception ~ Free
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Ursuline Support Services ~ Good Grief Center
2717 Murray Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Saturday, October 15
Open House ~ Free
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ursuline Academy
(now Waldorf School)
201 S. Winebiddle St.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Reception and Mass ~ $35
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Reception
4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Mass
West Penn
Wintergarden Room ~ 1st Floor
4800 Friendship Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15224