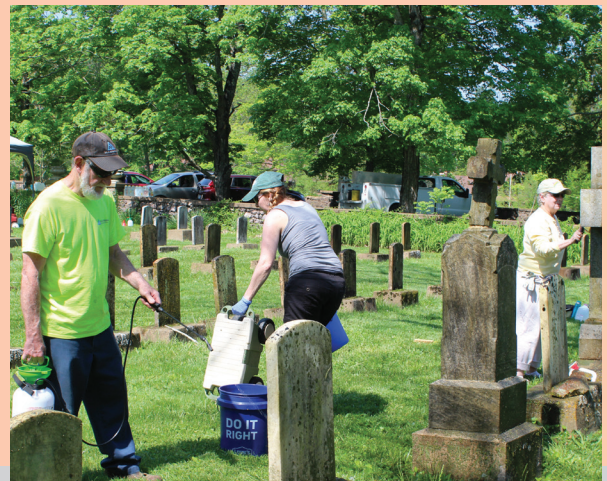


# LAURELS

Ursuline Sisters of the Central Province

Fall 2022



## Inside

Message from leadership • Mending hearts in Uvalde •  
Ursulines support refugees at borders with Ukraine •  
Jubilarians • Memories • Central Province archives  
going to Boston College • In remembrance and more



# A Message from Leadership

I've been out of school for several decades. Nevertheless, there is something about the end of summer that still tugs at my heart. I hear the child in me cry, "Wait!" Yet, the signs are all around. Here on the campus of Ursuline Academy St. Louis, young women in uniform have returned after their summer break. Here and there we begin to see the first hints of leaves turning from green to shades of yellow and red. And for us province leaders, our calendars fill with meetings, travel and other business.

Taped to the computer in my office I have a small drawing by the local St. Louis artist Mary Engelbreit. It pictures a woman lying in a hammock under the trees enjoying nature. The caption reads: "Taking time out each day to relax and renew is essential to living well." (Judith Hanson Lasater) Over the years I've come to realize the truth of that statement. Time away is essential for my body, mind and spirit. No matter the time of year or amount of time spent, getting away from one's daily routine provides a change of pace and offers new perspective. It is a restorative practice. Many of us here at the province office have a habit of going out after lunch for short walks around the neighborhood.

There's something interesting to see in every season. During the first week of school, the arrival of a large rubber ducky in the pond on the front campus was great fun and brought out that childlike spirit in all of us. More than once I caught myself humming Ernie's bath time song and smiling!

No matter our age or call in life, stepping aside each day to restore our mind and renew our spirit is a healthy, lifelong practice. In order to serve well, it is essential to live well. I think that whimsical woman in the hammock is on to something! May these Autumn days offer you frequent opportunities to relax and renew. We are grateful for your presence and support in the ongoing life and ministry of our Ursuline Central Province community. We hold you in prayer and remember you with joy.



*Jean Hopman, OSU*

Sister Jean Hopman, OSU  
Provincial Councilor





# Mending hearts in Uvalde

When Catholic Extension asked Sister Maria Teresa de Llano to accompany children returning to school in Uvalde, Texas, she wasn't sure how she would handle all the pain. She said yes anyway.

"I didn't know how I could be of help in the midst of the pain, profound loss and anger of the families who lost loved ones," she says.

In response to the May 24 massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, the Archdiocese of San Antonio offered 30 full scholarships to Sacred Heart Catholic School for children from Robb

Elementary who had been affected—either directly by the death of a family member or indirectly. Forty percent of the current Sacred Heart population came from Robb Elementary.

Catholic Extension, a nonprofit that provides resources and support to underserved Catholic communities, recruited and provided financial assistance to Sister Maria Teresa and Sister Esther Guerrero, a Missionary Catechist of Divine Providence, who were at Sacred Heart the week of Aug. 15-19. "The main purpose of our presence was to accompany, support and help out

in any way possible as the school year began," Sister Maria Teresa says.

She was impressed with the amount of security in place, she says. "It's shocking how much there is now when before there was none."

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller offered Mass the first morning at Sacred Heart, followed by a reception in a well-decorated lunchroom and noon dismissal for the students. On the second day, Sister Maria Teresa was in her place early in the second-grade classroom, where she

*continued on page 4*



Sister Esther Guerrero, MCDP, takes in the memorial for the 19 students and two adults killed in May in Uvalde, Texas.



*continued from page 3*

had been asked to assist the teacher for the week.

She helped the students with reading and writing—and to gradually adjust to their new routine and environment. The students, coming from a two-year pandemic, lack of instruction in a school setting, and dealing with the trauma of the massacre came at all levels of education, from not being able to read and write their name to those who had a strong educational base, she says.

*“Everybody in Uvalde knows everybody and they all are still reeling from the pain.”*

“Kids, parents, teachers, staff—the entire community—has been traumatized. One second-grader whose older brother had been killed was out in the hall on the day classes began, with both of his parents trying to convince him to go in.”

There were two counselors from Catholic Charities in what the children called the “fun room” because the counselors had puzzles and games for them to play with while the counselors

were working with them. Sister Maria Teresa took students there for 20-30-minute visits during her week at Sacred Heart. Support dogs also were there to help the children. “They were transformed when petting, hugging and enjoying the presence of these lovable creatures.”

She feels her biggest value was giving the children a sense of someone they could trust, “although not right away,” she admits. “I was an adult who could lend an ear. I gave them a sense of safety, accompanied them when they left the classroom, talked to them and tried to engage them in a conversation that helped them share what is important to them in their lives.”

Uvalde has a population of about 16,000 people; most are farmers and ranchers. “Everybody in Uvalde knows everybody and they all are still reeling from the pain,” Sister Maria Teresa says. “Families who were affected by the tragedy do not want outsiders coming in. It is important to be respectful of the people.”

There has been a lot of misunderstanding in communications with the families at all levels, she adds. “The community by and large is Hispanic, yet reports as to how the safety and security of Robb Elementary School was handled were only in English.”

She marvels at how the children have been coping with the tragedy. “Children are very resilient,” she says. “If I didn’t know it before, I know it now. They have been through a traumatic experience but are able to go on being children.”

*“Children are very resilient. If I didn’t know it before, I know it now.”*

As for herself, Sister Maria Teresa says she is still processing it all. “There was no preparation provided for the experience, and I was not prepared for it,” she says. “I have been praying, journaling and talking about it with the sisters since I returned to San Antonio.”

Catholic Extension has asked for Catholic sisters to again provide support to Sacred Heart students during the last three months of the year, and Sister Maria Teresa has volunteered to return in December.

“When I said goodbye to the students on my last day in Uvalde, I told them I would be back to see them, not knowing how that would happen. The opportunity presented me with a way to keep my promise to them.”



*Thank you to all of our generous donors. Your faith and support of our mission fill our hearts, and we are grateful for your presence on our journey.*



## Central Province Ursulines return to novitiate

Central Province Ursulines were delighted to be invited back during the Labor Day weekend to see their former novitiate in Crystal City, Missouri, and all the beautiful restoration and modernization work the new owners have undertaken. Undeterred by pouring rain, 17 people made the trip, including Ursulines, co-workers and family. There was time

for self-guided tours and reflection on the time spent as novices—with an intrepid few checking out every nook and cranny, from the attic to the basement. A few former neighbors joined the group for lunch and a great sharing of memories.

Sister Elisa Ryan visited with co-worker Renae Loveland and her family during lunch.



Sister Regina Marie Fronmüller admired the original architecture of the rotunda.



Sister Chabanel Mathison soaked in the view of the Mississippi River with appreciation.



A buffet lunch was served in the sisters' former reception room.





# Ursulines support refugees at borders with Ukraine

**T**he global community of Ursulines of the Roman Union has been welcoming and supporting Ukrainian refugees since Russia attacked their country in February. Fleeing Russian aggression, Ukrainian citizens, mostly women and children, began crossing the borders of neighboring countries almost immediately.

Ursuline Sisters in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic quickly geared up to support the refugees with food, clothing, shelter and whatever else they may need for the road ahead to their planned destinations. Ursulines of the Central Province, and their benefactors, are among many Ursuline congregations throughout the United States and around the world offering their prayers and financial support.

Three Ursulines on the frontlines of the relief efforts reflect here on their experiences responding to the needs of the times and circumstances as daughters of Angela.

*Sister Iwona Skorupa, an Ursuline Sister in Poland, speaks of the solidarity she experienced as the people of Poland welcomed Ukrainian refugees into their hearts and their homes:*

“First of all, I am very grateful for all the signs of solidarity with the Ukrainian people and with us. It is a very challenging situation as we don’t know how long it will last and what methods the Russian army will use in order to destroy people.

“As I come to reflect with Angela and bring this suffering people to God, I feel that we can be an instrument of

reconciliation and hope for those who are experiencing war. I try to encourage our sisters who are in Ukraine by calling them and sending a daily message to each of them.

“The words of Angela are very much present in me and help me to see a light in this dark time. With Angela, I believe that light will conquer the darkness, and truth with peace will find a place in Ukraine, too. Pray with us for peace, please. Thank you. May God find a home in our hearts.”

*Sister Marie-Anna Linhartova, an Ursuline Sister from the province of Czecho-Moravia, reflects on their experience of welcoming Ukrainian refugees:*

“St. Angela knew how to respond to the needs of the times as the Holy Spirit led her. We were led by the Holy Spirit to first ‘map’ the situation and monetarily support Caritas and other organizations that have been organizing aid to people fleeing war-torn Ukraine since the beginning of the war or other provinces that were right in the thick of it. Then we asked what we ourselves



Czecho-Moravia photo from Sister Marie-Anna Linhartova

could do specifically, and God’s answer was that we should also open our homes.

“Suddenly what had been ‘impossible for many years’ was possible, for example,



Slovakia photo from Sister Maria-Rita Ziakova



to reduce the size of the cloistered places so that one entire wing of the building could be occupied by families from Ukraine for a few months. They needed some help, but most of all they needed a sense of security, listening hearts, and great spiritual support. Suddenly our Ursuline communities became more connected, we were in contact more often (also because of the joint help), and our hearts opened more and more. We realized that we had so much that we didn't even deserve, and we were taking it for granted! We were and are looking for new ways to help.

"We are also starting to look, with different eyes, at the people on the street, our co-workers and employees and construction workers. Many of them are from Ukraine. Some have been living here for a few years but still have family there. They worry about them and help them as much as they can. And we're in it with them, not only by prayer but far more often now by talking to them and asking how they are, and what their relatives are doing. Many friendships have been formed. I think part of St. Angela's charism is a listening and open heart to all, and God is certainly teaching us more of that in these times."

*Ursuline Sisters in Slovakia also offered hospitality and resources to Ukrainian refugees. Sister Maria-Rita Ziakova shares their experience:*

"After the initial shock of the outbreak of war, we knew there was room for concrete acts of love, so characteristic of St. Angela. The next day, we welcomed a mother and her

two sons at our convent closest to the border, in Košice. From February to April, we used this home for short-term accommodations for refugees who were just passing through to other states or further west. These were mostly Ukrainian mothers with children, but there were also

foreign students who were studying in Ukraine and fleeing the war. In those days we learned what embodied grief, pain, and fear look like.

"Meanwhile, on the other side of Slovakia, we were preparing our convents in Sucha, Modra and Trnava for longer-term accommodations. Some sisters moved out of their rooms to make suitable space. We bought beds, obtained a washing machine, and felt a great deal of solidarity. Everyone tried to help as best they could. Since the outbreak of the war, we have housed approximately 90 people short term and 30 long term.

"Like Angela, we live our daily lives and serve others, whether it is shopping, cooking, laundry, cleaning and preparing rooms for the new "pilgrims," or arranging documents, transportation, longer-term accommodations. Mostly we try to create a peaceful and safe environment where they can live without the fear and horrors of war. Angela's spirit has certainly helped us as we try to comfort and encourage people who are fleeing death. Some were initially hopeful



Ukraine photo from Sister Iwona Skorupa

that it would be over quickly, and they would be back in Ukraine by summer. Sadly, it didn't happen that way. The main thing now is to show faithfulness and perseverance in providing aid.

*"Angela's spirit has certainly helped us as we try to comfort and encourage people who are fleeing death."*

"The first great wave of solidarity among the people has already gone—many have exhausted their human and financial resources. And even in this, we experience moments of sisterhood and unity when funds come to our account for the Ukrainian people from Ursulines and their friends throughout the world. Thank you for helping us to help. We don't know what lies ahead. However, we firmly believe that God's goodness will take care of us."



# Sisters offer helping hands in tough times

Since their founding by St. Angela Merici in 16th century Italy, Ursuline Sisters have been called to serve the poor and marginalized. In addition to their traditional roles as educators, Central Province sisters have a long history of volunteer service with social service agencies. Three sisters who are serving the poor now share their perspectives on what is occurring in these inflationary times, and what is being done to help alleviate the suffering.

At St. Anthony's Food Pantry in South St. Louis city, inflation has resulted in increasing need and decreasing donations, says Sister Diane Fulgenzi, who has volunteered one day a week there for most of the past seven years.

New clients are arriving every week, she says, with up to one-third of people she sees on her Monday intake shifts new to the pantry. "This is partly due to pandemic assistance ending, but rising costs are a big factor."



Sister Diane Fulgenzi does client intake Mondays at St. Anthony's food pantry in St. Louis.

The pantry, housed in St. Anthony of Padua Church, serves a clientele representative of the diversity of the St. Louis area: African Americans, Hispanics, Whites and new immigrants, especially from Afghanistan. Word spreads through social workers, Sister Diane believes, and clients come from all over, including across the river in Illinois. "Four years ago, we served people in three zip code areas, but that's not true anymore. Anyone in need can come once a month."

St. Anthony's is primarily a food pantry but also offers clothing, personal care and household items, and job and legal resources. Supplies come from the St. Louis Food Bank and area stores, although Sister Diane notes they are getting less from stores now due to supply chain issues. The pantry purchases personal care and household items from dollar stores, but costs are rising there, too. The Ursuline Sisters also provide support through a grant from their Angela Merici fund, which is intended to help poor and marginalized people.

Costs also are rising at the pantry, and donors are facing challenges of their own. "People remain generous, but often are not able to give as they did in the past," Sister Diane says.

Heading into fall and winter and the holidays, the pantry feels more need, she says. "Gardens are ending for one thing. Also fueling the need is the difficulty people are experiencing in navigating the food stamp application process."

Sister Diane considers the community of generous volunteers at the food pantry a gift to her. "They are mostly retired people who are dedicated to serving the poor. It's a real community

of sharing outreach to the poor—and of care and concern for each other." She says the food pantry has allowed her to serve in a way she had not before.



Sister Theresa Davey welcomes clients at Kumler Outreach Ministries in Springfield, Illinois.

"After serving in leadership with a predominantly internal focus on sisters and the life of the province, I felt a call to be involved with the broader world, and with the poor and marginalized."

A common misconception of people who visit food pantries, Sister Diane says, is that if they could just get a job they wouldn't need to go there. "In most instances that's not the problem. We see many grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, single moms—people who are trying to get their lives together.

"By and large people are very grateful," she says. "When I ask someone how they are, the spontaneous response is often 'blessed.' It's the kind of thing that makes you evaluate your own perspective on life."

St. Anthony's Food Pantry receives blessings of its own. "As a co-director



at the pantry often notes, when something breaks, a check comes in,” Sister Diane says. “We are very aware of the providence of God that keeps it all going.”

Sister Theresa Davey also has observed an increase in the need for food and other services from her place just inside Kumler Outreach Ministries in Springfield, Illinois, where reception is among her volunteer duties. “Sitting by the main door, I see everyone who comes in and I can tell the number of people has been increasing over the past two to three months,” she says.

Sister Theresa has been volunteering at Kumler in a variety of roles for the past five years. When she moved from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to Springfield in 2016, she was looking for a nonprofit where she could do a similar type of Christian service ministry as she did at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Cape Girardeau. She found it at Kumler. A ministry of Kumler United Methodist Church, the church and its 150-175 members are known in the Springfield community for their outreach work.

Kumler Outreach Ministries offers support in many ways for those who are struggling on the margins; almost all the volunteers are senior citizens. At age 77, Sister Theresa is nowhere near the oldest, she says, and everyone lends a hand where they can. Over the years, she worked with people needing financial assistance for their prescriptions, and used her social services background in other ways. She also has obtained a grant for prescription assistance for Kumler from the Ursulines’ Angela Merici fund.

Sister Theresa helps with recordkeeping, too, now and is a knowledgeable

source for referrals to other agencies that might provide needed help. She and Sister Brendan Jacoby also are helping to set up a free library in an empty space in the building, and the demand for books has shown people are hungry for more than one type of sustenance.

“This is a very valuable experience for me because I previously worked with people on the edge in Cape Girardeau, and it is a reminder to me how many good people can be caught in difficult circumstances—and how blessed I am.”

Since February, Sister Madonna O’Hara has been volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul’s Neighbors in Need ministry at St. Joan of Arc in St. Louis, one of several places where she has worked with the poor and marginalized since her 2019 retirement



Sister Madonna O’Hara checks the pantry for the Neighbors in Need ministry at St. Joan of Arc in St. Louis.

as an educator and administrator. She says she was surprised at the number of people in need, and that has only been growing over recent months. “More and

more people are calling,” she says, with increasing prices their utmost concern.

With Neighbors in Need, Sister Madonna is part of a home visiting team, usually comprising two people, that goes out to assess what a person really needs. “Usually during an intake interview, people ask for help only for their most immediate needs, such as their electricity being turned off in two days,” she says. “Often when we get to their home, we find out that the kids are sleeping on the floor, or the rent is due. When we learn what they need, we assess how we can help in addition to their initial request, for example, getting them beds and paying for all or part of their rent.”

To get help from Neighbors in Need, people do not have to be a member of the parish or Catholic, she says, but the ministry does try to serve people within certain boundaries. If they come from farther away, they are given food and then redirected to the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in their area, where they can get additional support.

Besides food staples from their pantry area, the ministry can provide vouchers for fresh foods at a local grocery chain, vouchers for items at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store, and gas cards. Through the archdiocesan council, they also can offer help with utilities and purchasing a used car.

“We try to get them all the things they need for a clean start, including help with budgeting and planning,” she says, all the while staying connected. “It’s amazing how responsible the people are; they’ve just had hard luck along the way, and with minimum wage there is no wiggle room.”

# Memories . . .

**L**aurels asked some of our sisters to share a favorite memory or reflection about a time in ministry—past or present. The results speak for themselves!

## Sister Rita Ann Bregenhorn

It is difficult to choose one favorite ministry when I feel so blessed to have had wonderful experiences all my religious life.

I have enjoyed teaching elementary school, especially first graders who as they learn to read see a whole new world open before their eyes.

I find myself turning to my years as a pastoral associate at St. Patrick Church of Merna in Bloomington as a great blessing time in my life. There I found such joy as I helped prepare children to receive sacraments, instructed adults who chose to join our faith, walked the journey with others as I did annulment work, and tried to be a quiet, supportive presence in the face of tragedy, illness or death.

It was a time that stretched me and helped me grow and deepen my relationship with God. It truly was a graced time in my life that still to this day nourishes my soul with wonderful memories.



## Sister Bridget Haase

Teaching with its fidelity to the daily grind and self-giving service is not a walk in the park but, every once in a while, a memory or God moment pops from behind the bushes and one realizes that all the efforts have been worthwhile. My life is chock full of these moments.

One bittersweet memory I recall: Michael B. was a sixth-grader in New Orleans at St. Angela Merici school. To say he was a “holy terror” is an understatement. He was the kind of child that kept me on my toes, and each day I would silently pray that he would be absent. I did not want him ill, but I needed a respite from his misbehavior! I do not recall but he could have been honored as having perfect attendance. Obviously, my prayer was never answered.



Mike even ruined the class Sacrament of Confirmation photo by his signature “Rabbit ears.” That could have been the proverbial LAST STRAW!

But we never know what is in the heart of a child. Some time back, I received an email from him. After asking me if I remembered him (how could I ever forget?), Mike brought me up to date on his life—wife, profession as a dry cleaner, and his children. He has so grown and matured with a great love of God and Jesus.

I think what meant the most in his thank you were the six words, “You never gave up on me.”

How true, but that is what teachers do. Then I chuckled as he asked for prayers for one of his young boys who is following in his footsteps. Hopefully, Mike will never give up on him.

Children mature and grow, and we never know the hurt inside a child.

I guess that is our call as educators, to see it and respond day after day no matter the cost—either with or without a thank you. “Hope springs eternal.” Does it not?

## Sister Peggy Moore

One of my favorite memories from my years of teaching comes not from the classroom, but from the experience of accompanying students on service trips. Ursuline Academy in St. Louis offers service trips for students in each of the four years of high school. One of several memorable trips for me was accompanying rising juniors to Joplin, Missouri, for a rebuilding project after the city had been devastated by an EF5 tornado.

Imagine being a homeowner relying on the volunteer help of 15- and 16-year-old girls to put siding on your house! Yet these young women pitched in wholeheartedly. They learned to measure and cut siding using an electric saw,





and they climbed extension ladders to nail the pieces in place. I remember one girl, in particular, who worked and worked to cut the pieces exactly right for the area at the peak. And I remember the amazing sense of accomplishment she had when she succeeded.

Through these service experiences, our students learned compassion for those less fortunate, and they also learned their own strengths. It's hard to admit it as a dedicated teacher, but sometimes the most important learning takes place outside the classroom.

### Sister Rosemary Skelley

In my elementary and secondary education ministry from 1965 to my present teacher aiding in pre-K – 4 classes, happy memories abound! Focusing on these 4-year-olds, born in the age of technology, I notice that they are observant, intelligent and sincere. Some of our conversations follow.



"Sister, why is your hair white?"

"Because I am an old lady."

"Oh, I see!"

"Sister, why are you half white and half black?" I was wearing black nylons that day. I think I clarified that situation.

On Ash Wednesday, Father came to the classroom to administer ashes. One little fellow told Father, "Sister needs more ashes. Hers are falling off her head." I had attended earlier Mass.

Father refreshed my ashes as requested. Our ceremony continued reverently as expected.

Thus my happy memories go on and on!

### Sister Magdalita Roussel

One of my most memorable and grace-filled experiences in ministry is my experience in French-speaking Cameroon. First of all, the fact that I, who have little or no facility for learning a foreign



language, felt called there and actually went there is itself a miracle. I taught English as a second language to the *sixieme* and *cinquieme* students at le College de Mazenod, comparable to our 6th and 7th grades.

The little *sixieme* students, packed in like sardines with a small book among three to four of them, were scared to death of their first year in the "High School." One day I was inspired how to get the students to relax. I said, in my elementary French, "You know, my French is not very good." Immediately a number of them said, "Oui, ma Soeur, oui." We all laughed. Then, I said, "I will teach you English and you can teach me French, okay?" They all laughed and clapped in agreement. After that everyone relaxed. I taught them English for 50 minutes and they taught me French for 10 minutes. This was a

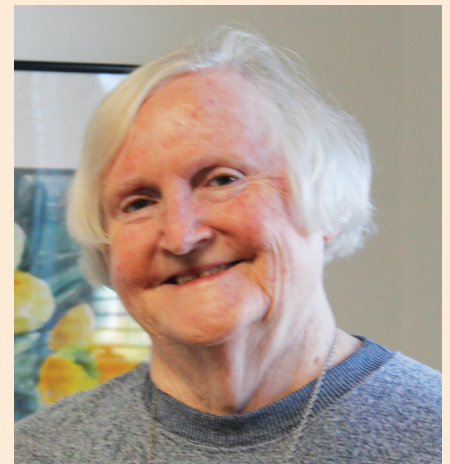
grace-filled experience as I watched one of my favorite Gospel passages play out in my life: Andrew offering his few loaves and couple of fish to Jesus and humbly watching Jesus do the rest.

### Sister Adele Brennan

My ministry has been scattered around the province in Illinois, Missouri, Louisiana and Texas. I have served as a teacher, administrator, and director of adult faith formation. Most recently I have served the province as provincial secretary.

In all my moving around the province, I have met wonderful people who are all very special to me. But, since I am not a letter writer, I have lost track of most everyone. Now in my later years, I have resorted to Facebook. Although I don't have much time to devote to Facebook, I have been able to have a little glimpse of what is happening with many of the wonderful people I have encountered throughout my years of ministry.

If I retire someday, I hope to be able to share more with all the people who have been a part of my life through these many years.

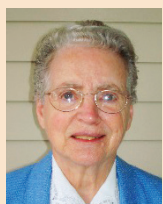




## Congratulations to our Jubilarians

*In 2022 we celebrate the jubilees of nine of our sisters who have ministered to God's people a total of 650 years. Throughout their years of commitment to Ursuline life and ministries, these daughters of Angela have made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals.*

### 75th



**Sister Laurianne Michaud**  
Waterville, Maine  
(died Oct. 11, 2022)

### 65th



**Sister Lorene Griffin**  
Coppell, Texas

### 60th



**Sister Bridget Haase**  
Waterville, Maine

### 70th



**Sister Agnes Murray**  
St. Louis, Missouri



**Sister Mary Evalyn House**  
Eureka, Missouri



**Sister Rita Joseph Mascorro**  
(died May 6, 2022)



**Sister Mary K. Milne**  
Dallas, Texas



**Sister Rosemary Skelley**  
Decatur, Illinois



**Sister Marian Pelikan**  
Alton, Illinois



## Spirit alive in Arcadia cemetery

**E**arly in May (on an unexpectedly hot and humid day!) Central Province office staff headed 80 miles south from St. Louis to Arcadia, Missouri, for a day of service scrubbing the gravestones of the Ursuline Sisters buried on the grounds of the former convent and academy there.

In 1877, Ursuline Sisters in St. Louis also traveled south to Arcadia, soon opening a boarding school that continued to serve the Arcadia Valley for nearly 100 years. When Ursuline Academy of Arcadia closed in 1971, sisters remained in the Arcadia Convent until 1991.

The cemetery remains the final resting place for many of those who served there, with the oldest gravestones dating to the 1880s, making the work of removing years of moss and dirt a delicate proposition at times. Mostly the task required rigorous scrubbing, though, with buckets, brushes and many gallon jugs of water also making the trip.

In addition to the joy of perpetuating the *serviam* spirit, the crew of Ursuline Sisters, co-workers and a few extra helpers were rewarded with lunch in the restaurant operated by the new owners of the property.



Above, the Central Province office staff have their work cut out for them at the Arcadia cemetery, where 140 Ursulines and 10 others are buried.

Left, Sister Elisa Ryan applies some extra elbow grease to a large monument.



*The cemetery remains the final resting place for many of those who served there, with the oldest gravestones dating to the 1880s.*



# Central Province archives going to Boston College

**Y**ears in the making, the first transfer of Central Province community archives to Boston College occurred in mid-August, with Sister Thomas More Daly, archivist, and Sister Sue Anne Cole, assistant archivist, directing the effort.

The Ursulines' Central Province archives had been housed in St. Louis with the Religious of the Sacred Heart's North American archives for more than 20 years, but there was no longer adequate space for storage and personnel needs, says Sister Peggy, the leadership team member working with the archivists on the project. "When Central Province communities have closed, their archives have all come here."

The idea to send off the Ursuline Central Province archives emerged at a conference for religious archivists, religious leaders and researchers hosted by Boston College in 2018. "We considered other sites, but Boston College's offer to maintain the Ursuline archives on a permanent loan basis at no cost to us was very attractive," Sister Peggy says. "We know that they recognize the importance and contributions of Catholic Sisters in the United States and will make our archives available to researchers."

Since the legal agreement between the Central Province and Boston College was signed this spring, Sisters Thomas More and Sue Anne have been finalizing preparations. Going in alphabetical order by city, the archives for the Ursuline communities in Alton, Illinois; Arcadia, Missouri; and Bryan, Texas were in the first batch to be packaged and transported via a U-Haul van. Making the more than 1,200-mile trip to Boston with them were

Sister Thomas More's sister, Buzzy McDermott, and her friend, Barbara Walz.

In all, 197 boxes—some over three feet long and four feet wide—were packed into the van. The Alton convent bell and an elegant, almost life-size tapestry of George Washington crafted by a student of Alton's Ursuline Academy in the 1800s also had to fit in the van, Sister Sue Anne says.

Upon their arrival at Boston College, the group was greeted by Michael Burns, archives special assistant for Jesuit and Catholic Collections at Boston College's John J. Burns Library, and David Horn, a retired Boston College archivist helping with the collections. The now group of six spent six hours shelving the collection in an area that had been designated specifically for the Ursulines. The head of the Boston College library system was pleased to see how well organized the Ursuline archives were, Sister Thomas More says, with the Excel accessioning system she developed receiving high praise.

"We are confident Boston College's religious collection will continue to be viable due to the commitment of the Jesuit president, Father William Leahy," Sister Peggy says. "The collection is housed in a renovated section of the theology building for now, but the university anticipates erecting a separate building that will become part of the Boston College library system."

Sisters Thomas More and Sue Anne are now busy preparing the Dallas collection for transfer, but likely will not personally deliver them. "We wanted to



Archivists Sister Thomas More Daly, Michael Burns, David Horn and Sister Sue Anne Cole are pleased to see their hard work come to fruition with the first installment of the Ursuline collection



The bell from the Alton Convent made the trip to Boston in a specially built box.

go on the first trip to see how and where our collections would be housed," Sister Thomas More says. "I'm confident they are in good hands."

The university has acquired archives from other congregations, Sister Peggy says, and it is anticipated the addition of the Ursuline archives will encourage more congregations to follow suit. "Ours is a very significant religious collection due to the long history of the Ursulines in the United States—dating back to 1727. The historical importance of the archives of religious communities in the United States cannot be overstated. The collection at Boston College will have a huge appeal to researchers."



## In Remembrance

*“For in heaven a new crown of glory and joy is prepared for all of them, one by one.”*

—St. Angela Merici

We remember with gratitude the lives of our sisters who have passed into eternal life since July 2021.



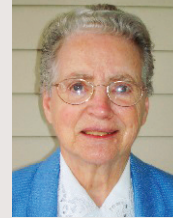
**Sister Susan Barry**  
Feb. 13, 1942 –  
May 2, 2022  
Professed 1964



**Sister Mary Lapping**  
Aug. 20, 1942 –  
July 5, 2022  
Professed 1964



**Sister Betty Carpentier**  
Dec. 21, 1930 –  
March 18, 2022  
Professed 1951



**Sister Laurianne Michaud**  
Aug. 7, 1925 –  
Oct. 11, 2022  
Professed 1947



**Sister Carla Dolce**  
Nov. 4, 1932 –  
March 21, 2022  
Professed 1956



**Sister Rita Joseph Mascorro**  
June 24, 1936 –  
May 6, 2022  
Professed 1962



**Sister Donna Hyndman**  
May 23, 1936 –  
Dec. 15, 2021  
Professed 1957

You can read the sisters' obituaries at [www.osucentral.org](http://www.osucentral.org).



**K**aren Mortillaro, director of the Central Province's Office of Mission and Identity, arrived in Italy in early October for a two-week pilgrimage as a participant in the Ursulines of the Roman Union's "Angela and Her Daughters" program. The pilgrimage was initiated by the General Council in response to the desire among Ursulines to deepen their understanding of

St. Angela's spirituality and share this understanding with colleagues and collaborators. Karen, pictured here at St. Angela's childhood home in Desenzano, and her fellow travelers followed Angela's footsteps through Desenzano, Salo and Brescia, and also visited Rome and Assisi. Forty-one pilgrims from six continents made the journey.

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Susan M. Whelan

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St. Angela by Sister Nada Furlan  
of Slovenia

As Ursulines of the Central Province, members of a worldwide community of Catholic sisters, we are women whose lives and mission are rooted in the gospel of Jesus and the spirit of our foundress, Angela Merici. Grounded and empowered by our relationship with God and with one another, in prayer and community, we seek to be a compassionate, reconciling presence of God in our world.