

Intro:

On Jan. 26, the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown celebrated two events: the Jan. 27 feast day of Ursuline Sisters' founder St. Angela Merici and the welcoming of seven new associates. We now have more than 50 Catholic Adults who are Associates – local lay people who share our values and mission. Watch this video to see the ceremony that welcomed our latest group of associates.

Text:

The Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown welcome seven new associates. A ceremony was held during Mass Jan. 26.

Sister Norma Raupple, director of the program: “It’s a great event that we’re commemorating Angela this evening by greeting each other, supporting each other, celebrating together and welcoming new Associates.

“This evening there are five women and two men – including two couples – who have responded to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and they are desiring to become associated with the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown.

“They’ve been gathering with Sisters and Associates for the past six months and they have grown in their relationship with Angela. Today they are committing themselves to the mission of the Ursuline Sisters, which is the living of the Gospel in our daily lives.

“We’re remembering Angela’s words to us tonight: Act. Move. Believe. Hope. Cry out to God with all your heart, for without a doubt, you will see marvelous things. Direct everything to the praise and glory of God’s name and the good of souls.”

The Ursuline Associates program forges a deeper relationship between the Sisters and Catholic adults who share our values and mission. In addition to a warm reflection offered by general superior Sister Nancy Dawson, available in a separate video, last year’s group of Associates and many Ursuline Sisters participated in the ceremony.

Sister Nancy Dawson, General Superior: “Dear Associates of the Ursuline Sisters, are you resolved to join the Ursuline Sisters in our mission and ministry to God’s people?”

“We are.”

Sister Nancy Dawson, General Superior: “Are you resolved to deepen your prayer life as a daughter or son of St. Angela Merici?”

Group members respond: “I am.”

Sister Nancy Dawson, General Superior: “Are you resolved to reflect on, or make choices in working or volunteering in line with the mission and ministry of the Ursuline Sisters?”

Group members respond: "I am."

Sister Nancy Dawson, General Superior: "Are you resolved to share on a regular basis with the Ursuline Sisters through community celebrations, Associate gatherings, and joining occasionally in meals with our local or Motherhouse community?"

Group members respond: "I am."

Sister Nancy Dawson, General Superior: "In the name of all who are present, I accept your commitment to live as an Ursuline Associate for one year. And we, the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, agree to share with you in prayer, hospitality, and occasions which will promote spiritual growth and ministry. Therefore, as our Ursuline community medal of St. Angela is placed around your neck, wear it always as a sign of your oneness with us and with all who call St. Angela, 'Dear Madre, Dear Mother.

"As you return to your places, you will be given Angela's words to serve as nourishment for your spiritual growth. In the words of our mother, St. Angela, we encourage you to persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work that you have begun."

The Associates program is a way for the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown to further the mission of St. Angela Merici, founder of the Ursuline Sisters whose feast day also was celebrated during the mass. These new associates join 45 others in the program, now in its eleventh year.

For more information on the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, visit us online at theursulines.org and at [Facebook.com/Ursuline.Sisters.Youngstown](https://www.facebook.com/Ursuline.Sisters.Youngstown).