Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary

Dear Friends of the Ursulines,

Happy March to all of you! According to the liturgical calendar of the Church, we are taking a break from “Ordinary Time” to begin the season of Lent.

Most of our lives are lived in ordinary time. The day-to-dayness of work schedules, regular daily activities, and routine matters of life occupy our time and reflection (though events like Feast Days and Retreat activities provide color to the ordinary).

Spiritual writer Kathleen Norris refers to this aspect of our lives as Quotidian Mysteries. She reminds us of the holiness of everyday activities.

Because we are creatures who are embodied souls, our spiritual lives are inherently connected to our bodily lives. All of the activities that encompass our daily lives – work, play, eating, and cleaning up – are part of the fabric of our lives through which we live out our holiness.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will read about some of the things we do regularly in our “ordinary time” to be faithful to God’s call. You will also read about some activities we have planned for Lent.

Know that we keep the friends and benefactors of the Ursulines in our prayer each day. We trust that you find the holy in the midst of your own “quotidien” life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Mary McCormick, O SU
General Superior
Are YOU Being Called?

Did you know there are many ways you can connect with us?

If you’d like to experience Ursuline prayer, ministry and community, consider the following:

* Adult women and men can become Associates, like Jeannie Moran, center above, volunteer in one or more of our ministries, and take part in programs at The Ursuline Center.

* Adult women have the option of becoming Ursuline Companions in Mission and Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, such as Sister Dorothy Kudracik, above left, and Sister Mary Ann Diersing, right.

* If you want to contribute to our mission and ministries but don’t have much time, you can become a donor.

Visit our websites to learn more about our ministries and volunteer programs, or call Sister Norma Raupple at 330-261-4729.

We hope to hear from you!

Sharing Our Ursuline Spirituality

Ursulines — both our Sisters and Associates — share the spirituality and mission of our founder, St. Angela Merici, with the world through a variety of ministries.

Sister Janice Kusick, at right in red, recently helped organize the Women’s Renewal at Youngstown’s St. Angela Merici Parish, where she’s a Pastoral Associate.

We have an active Prison Ministry. Left you see Sisters Therese Ann Rich (left) and Nancy Dawson, who with Sisters Mary McCormick and Darla Vogelsang, and many of our Ursuline Associates, minister to prisoners who want to become Catholic (RCIA) and those who already are. Sisters Mary Dunn and Jerome Corcoran minister in the justice system through education.

Sister Kathleen McCarragher, far right, is not only the Director of Religious Education for St. Rose Parish in Girard, she’s also part of the team of religious educators who planned and hosted a Confirmation retreat at our Center recently. The 8th grade students came from three diocese parishes that have small groups of students.

Eileen W. Novotny, whom you see at left, is both an Ursuline Associate and Director of Program Development for The Ursuline Center. Throughout the year she offers personalized Spiritual Direction, classes and retreats through the Center, and oversees our guided labyrinth walks offered April through October.
Motherhouse Makeover

Our Motherhouse front parlors, used for counseling, spiritual direction, video production and more, recently received a facelift. They’ve looked basically the same since built in 1962, except for the change in wallpaper almost 30 years ago.

Now the parlors are not only updated in appearance, they’ve undergone necessary electrical and insulation upgrades. Transformed from shades of purple and green, respectively, to shades of tan and grey, the parlors are now outfitted to host meetings and entertain family and friends, and still meet all the previous needs.

Mat Sweely, Director of Motherhouse Maintenance, and skilled carpenter Darrell Shobel transformed the parlors. Peggy Eicher, Director of Personnel and Operations, decorated the parlors with the help of Ursuline Associate Joan Sonnett.

2017 Guided Labyrinth Walks Set

You’re invited to our guided walks:

Sun., April 23, 2 p.m.
Thurs., May 25, 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., June 22, 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 27, 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., Aug. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 22, 2 p.m.

This year’s themes will focus on deepening your friendship with God and will be based on the life of St. Ursula, for whom we are named. Our labyrinth is open year-round from dawn-to-dusk to all people of faith.

Pathways of Spiritual Living

Experience our spirituality series offered Wed., March 8 and Thurs., April 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. or 6:30-8 p.m.

Presenter Eileen W. Novotny will explore human spirituality and examine different paths of prayer. You can earn 1½ Religious Ed credits per class. Please call The Ursuline Center to register. The donation is $10 for each class.

For more on The Ursuline Center’s events, ministries, and upcoming programs, call 330-799-4941 or visit www.theursulinecenter.org.

“And above all, be on your guard not to want to get anything by force, because God has given free will to everyone and wants to force no one, but only proposes, invites and counsels.”

St. Angela Merici
Our Founder

Send us your prayer requests

UrsulineSisters@theursulines.org

We’ll include them in our daily prayer

Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown
4250 Shields Road
Canfield, Ohio, 44406
330-792-7636
www.theursulines.org

The Ursuline Center
4280 Shields Road
Canfield, Ohio, 44406
330-799-4941
www.theursulinecenter.org

Newsletter Editor
Michele Ristich Gatts
Women in Ministry
Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown Winter 2017 Newsletter

Meet Our Newest Ursuline Associates

Each January we celebrate the feast day of our founder, St. Angela Merici, and welcome adult women and men who want to join us in ministry as Ursuline Associates.

This year we’re joined by nine such adults, bringing our number of Ursuline Associates to 74. From left in the left photo are Bonnie Arditi, William Wainio, Lisa Devlin, Kelly Dahman and Stephanie Zapka. In the right photo are, from left, married couples Nicky and Mark Uerling, and Karen and Mark Curtis. Soli Deo Gloria! For the Glory of God Alone!