Dear Friends of the Ursulines,

Usually at this time of the year we are looking forward to cooler temperatures, autumn colors, the return to school, and all the other things that Fall brings us. But 2020 has been anything but ordinary.

By now you have heard or read the words “unprecedented, strange, unusual, difficult, and trying” to describe our times so often that they have nearly lost their meaning. Still, these days are different. When I read the scriptural accounts of the apocryphal events at the end of the world, I wonder if we are almost there.

The real challenge is to find a place of peace and calm in the midst of this tumult.

In August, one of the Sunday gospel readings was the story of Jesus walking on the water in the midst of the storm. Jesus calls Peter to join him. At first, Peter is successful at walking on the water, but when he begins to focus on the storm and on the enormity of the task, he begins to sink.

I keep thinking of that gospel story. No doubt we are in the storm: the pandemic, racial injustice, civic unrest, political turmoil and economic uncertainty. No doubt the presence of the Lord is with us. The question is this: where do we find our calm, our center, our peace in this storm? How can we, at the call of Jesus, be successful at walking on water?

The Ursulines and our ministries have been working at ways of maintaining our peace and calm while maintaining the vital services we provide. In this newsletter, you will find some examples of each of those in the stories of Sisters and the ministries in which they work. It isn’t exactly walking on water, but the constant service of the Ursuline Sisters and Ursuline Ministries does provide calm in the storm.

Through all of this we have remained steadfast in prayer. Know that each day we pray for our world and its troubles and for all those we know and love.

In the meantime, keep looking for the place of peace and calm.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Sister Mary McCormick, OSU
General Superior
Sisters on the Frontlines

Catholic Sisters are always on the frontlines helping the disadvantaged. Especially so in times of crisis.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation, Cleveland, seven of our Sisters received $1,000 each to directly help the women, men and children served by our ministries who are most affected by the COVID crisis.

The foundation gave grants to 61 Sisters in 10 northeast Ohio communities as part of the national Sisters on the Frontlines initiative.

We’re grateful for how many people these grants helped us serve. Most of the funds were spent for personal care items, cleaning and paper products — things that are hard to come by for everyone, especially those who lack transportation and whose hours have been cut or eliminated at already low-income jobs.

The items also cannot be purchased with Ohio EBT.

Some funds helped families with emergency expenses. Together, our Sisters helped more than 100 people.

Sisters Mary Alyce Koval, Martha Reed and Regina Rogers bought supplies for pantries operated by the parishes where they minister.

All three Sisters report a sharp increase in the amount of people needing their pantries’ help since COVID struck.

Sister Kathleen McCarragher aided a woman caring for her grand and great-grandchildren with food and other expenses.

Sister Kathleen Minchin’s grant purchased supplies for our HIV/AIDS Ministry pantry.

For families in its Immigrant Outreach Program, Sister Norma Raupple bought such necessities as laundry and cleaning supplies.

Sister Kathleen Minchin’s grant purchased supplies for our HIV/AIDS Ministry pantry.

For more on this project, visit our website and social media pages.

Pray with Us!

For the month of June, Sister Martha prayed the Rosary live on Facebook every night at 9 p.m.

We received wonderful response, so we picked one video for each of the four Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous, and created a playlist on our YouTube channel.

Now you can pray the Rosary with an Ursuline Sister every day!

Sister Martha will be back with another live prayer series on Facebook during Advent and Lent.

#NextGenSisters

Is God calling you to become a Next Generation Catholic Sister?

Vowed Religious Life is a valid, valued and vibrant option for women in the 21st century!

Call Sister Norma at 330-261-4729.

Sister Kathleen Minchin, right, Director Emeritus of our HIV/AIDS Ministry

Sister Mary Alyce Koval, in pale green, Parish Leader at St. Luke Parish, Bdmn.

Sister Kathleen McCarragher ministers at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Yo.

Sister Kathleen Minchin, in pale green, Parish Leader at St. Luke Parish, Bdmn.

Sister Regina Rogers, Pastoral Associate for St. Edward Parish, Youngstown

Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown: Ministering in the Mahoning Valley since 1874
**Different Can Be Good, & Temporary**

The pandemic may be changing the way our ministries serve those in need, but rest assured, the service continues.

Unfortunately, such in-person events as exercise classes are on hold indefinitely. We’re committed to the wellbeing of our visitors, as well as that of our Sisters and residents living on the Motherhouse campus.

But our labyrinth is open, with the request that everyone follow proper safety protocols by wearing masks and physical distancing.

Other events, such as ministry meetings, continue with a new look as we follow those safety protocols as well.

Our Zoom account has enjoyed quite the workout in the last few months!

Ursuline Preschool & Kindergarten is resuming most classes with limited enrollment.

And popular fundraising events for our vital ministries are moving online.

Our annual Nun Run is one example.

Keep up with news about our ministry events on our social media pages.

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**Our Response to Racism**

The issue of racism in the United States and our local communities has been prominent in recent weeks.

However, this bane that blights our society is one we Ursuline Sisters have been united in combatting for some time.

A year ago, Ursuline Ministries began a dialogue with employees about racism, and UM President Brigid Kennedy engages in conversations with employees of color to ensure we’re doing what’s necessary for all persons to feel comfortable and supported in and by our ministries.

With the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, we released a public statement. You can read this on our blog: www.theursulines.org/2020/06/02/our-statement-on-the-death-of-george-floyd/

One of our Ursuline Associates, Shelia Triplett, was a guest on WYSU’s Doing Good. Sheila provided insight about the concept of White Privilege. You can listen to this five-minute program by visiting wysu.org/sites/default/files/doing-good/SheliaTriplett.mp3.
Comfort, Inspiration for Troubled Times

Sister Dorothy Kundracik
“This time is a gift to us to call old friends and renew the bonds that were set aside in our busy schedules. We can bring peace amidst the hardship.”

Sister Pauline Dalpe
“When words are unable to express the times we are living in, I turn to words that inspire me — and pray with Thomas Merton.
(American Trappist monk and writer, 1915-1968)

Sister Diane Toth
“My favorite quote (Ezekiel 26): ‘I will take your heart of stone and turn it into a heart of flesh.’ I’m curbing the impulse to think negatively... I tell myself to listen, care and make a difference.”

Sister Darla Vogelsang
“There’s potential for new beginnings ahead if we keep our focus on Christ, who is both our origin and our destination in life as we now know it and hope it to be.”