

Bylines

Ursulines of the Eastern Province Spring 2009

BEYOND BORDERS

By Bridget Puzon, o.s.u.

In the midst of recounting many stories about her years of service worldwide, Ann Duggan (formerly Mother Cornelius) stopped and reflected: “Another language opens doors.” Ann’s fluency in French took her from teaching in schools in New York to Rome, first of all, then beyond.

It was in 1971 that after doing simultaneous translation for the Ursuline General Chapter, she became secretary at the Ursuline Generalate in Rome. Travel and international meetings were part of the job, and for her these experiences “opened up the world.” As translator to a Catholic Bishops’ symposium on spreading the Gospel (evangelization) while respecting and accommodating local customs (indigenization), Ann heard African bishops describe the church in their countries. Their words were compelling, and she resolved to serve there when her term in Rome was completed.

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*Sr. Ann Duggan (rear, far right) with HIV+ orphans whom she worked with at St. Vincent's Parish in Haiti.
(photographer unknown)*

Thus it was that in 1978, as Assistant Country Representative for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), she headed to Togo, with a stopover in Lagos, Nigeria. The stopover was hardly a welcome to Africa. Unrest in the country and suspicion of foreigners made her stand out. Ann was taken aside, surrendered her passport, was questioned by police, then placed in an empty room, and—unaware of the custom of bribery—left there for a few hours before being released. The plane to Togo had already taken off, and her adventures in Africa had begun.

A day later, she reached Togo, where CRS sponsored food and nutrition programs at a variety of centers. She went upcountry to visit them, and her French enabled communication with the Togo director. As they drove, she delighted in her first glimpse of the fauna, like cavorting monkeys, of this African country. In the offices, occasional totems or other odd objects appeared on her desk—and she impatiently pushed them aside. Only later did she learn that a curse had been cast on staff of CRS Togo: for two years prior to her arrival, two women on staff had become ill and left. As the CRS Executive Director Ken Hackett pointed out, Ann broke the curse, and the work went on, unimpeded.

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BEYOND BORDERS *Continued from page 1*

CRS gave her the Unsung Hero Award in 1997, one of several honors she received over the years. She may be unsung, but she is lyrical about those in the field serving and those being served.

In drought-stricken Kenya she visited a CRS project there; children sat outside on benches. Ann introduced herself and asked them their names; she followed up with a question: which country in all the world would they like to visit? All screamed, “America! America!” “Why?” she asked. “You have rain in America.” She goes on with her stories, but her voice changes. In another area of Kenya, getting emergency supplies to the people, Ann found long lines of skeletal tribesmen, as far as the eye could see, waiting for food. They were clothed in animal hides, and in desperation they sucked those hides for fluid. After telling this, she is silent, a silence filled with sadness.

In 1992 Ann became Response Coordinator of CRS programs for HIV/AIDS all over the world. In Johannesburg she found HIV orphans, something she would find over and over in every country she visited; and a day care center for children while their HIV-infected mothers worked. In a column of the *Washington Post*, October 18, 1999, Ann entitled her discussion of AIDS, “Continental Scourge.”

The HIV/AIDS programs took her beyond Africa. In Haiti, she visited the HIV orphans at Rainbow House, and their care inspired hope. She conducted workshops for the CRS staff serving the people of Haiti. In India Michael’s Care Home for HIV/AIDS people was, after the founders left, staffed by the residents themselves. One of them, Michael, was particularly talented in the work of the Care Center; when he died of the disease, the center was named for him.

In the care of HIV/AIDS people in any part of the world, Ann and the staff worked with traditional healers, teachers, networks, young, old—to train them for AIDS work. In her travels she fought off muggers and malefactors, all with the good sense and humor characteristic of her approach to her work. Her voice brims with affection and enthusiasm for the people and the work itself.

She retired from CRS in 2003. Now her skills and talents are subsumed into her administrative work at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, with students representing the American landscape: multiethnic, socioeconomically diverse, and typical teenagers. She notes that it is a school that in its 150-year-history has once again stretched its borders to embrace the American students of our times.

PROGRESS DESPITE HURRICANES

By Kathleen Finnerty, o.s.u.

Little did I know that in 2008, my second year in New Orleans as Superintendent of Schools, I would be faced with a mandatory evacuation for hurricane Gustav on Labor Day weekend. This was the very first time ever that the city of New Orleans was under a mandatory order to evacuate.

On Saturday of the holiday weekend, we secured anything at the convent that might blow around in the wind. Very early Sunday morning I got on the road—with 1.9 million other people—to drive north, away from New Orleans. Our destination, Dallas, TX, is west of New Orleans. However, all east or west exits were blocked as far as Jackson, MS!

Friday I returned to New Orleans to attend a meeting at the Archdiocesan office to ascertain damage and to draw up plans for reopening schools and other agencies. Damage to the schools and to the city in general, was not catastrophic. Several schools and



Laptop technology used at St. Stephen Catholic Central School in New Orleans (photo by Lacey Fangue)

PROGRESS DESPITE HURRICANES *Continued*

other buildings including the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, suffered roof damage and the loss of electric power. Most schools were able to open in a week. Despite this latest battle with Mother Nature, we remained relatively unscathed.

In my short tenure in the Archdiocese of New Orleans I am continually impressed by the vitality, hope, and enthusiasm of the Catholic school community and how much has been accomplished in the past three years.

Strengthening the Catholic Identity of the schools is always a priority. In partnership with Loyola University, the Office of Catholic Schools sponsors a Summer Institute for Catholic School Leadership, with participants able to choose courses related to their administrative responsibilities.

In addition to nurturing the Catholic identity of the schools, administrators are responsible for monitoring and improving academic programs. NOLA Smile was a week-long workshop for 3rd and 4th grade teachers of Math and Science, part of a Math/Science Partnership with the LA State Education Department, Tulane University and the local public school districts.

The Office of Catholic Schools encourages every school to seek accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Fifty schools already have achieved that status and 19 others at various stages in the process.



In October 2008, with the dedication of Archbishop Hannan High School, we witnessed the best in collaboration between church and state. The school was built using FEMA funds while furnishings and materials were purchased through state Restart funds.



*Students from St. Rita Catholic Central School stop to smell the “pansies.”
(photo by A. Spears)*

The recently passed Louisiana State Scholarship for Education Excellence program benefits the underserved. Students in Grades K through 3 who meet federal poverty income level measures and reside in a failing Orleans school district are eligible to apply for the scholarship. We now have about 500 little ones on scholarship in our schools.

I have been delighted with the enthusiasm generated by the integration of technology into daily lessons through the use of Smartboards, United Streaming, Riverdeep, and Blackboard as well as our computer program in all the Archdiocesan high schools. It highlights the devotedness of the teachers in preparing students for the challenges they will meet in college and the workplace.

In April 2008, I attended a meeting with Pope Benedict XVI at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Part of the Holy Father’s message really touched me. He said that Catholic schools should be the place where students of all ages encounter God through the person of Jesus Christ.

Indeed, I have found that to be true of the Catholic schools in New Orleans. They are nurturing, loving places, where students do encounter God and families find strength as they continue rebuilding their lives.

Life in New Orleans will never be the same as it was before Katrina. We are called to trust that we will find God in the rebuilding!

SERVIAM GARDENS GROWING

Serviam Gardens, an affordable senior residence (62 years or older) in the Bronx whose groundbreaking in July 2008 was featured in the last *Bylines*, is taking shape around the former St. Mary's Hall.

St. Mary's, the original brick building that was part of the Ursuline Bedford Park community campus, remains and will provide 10 units, the superintendent's unit, and administrative offices. It was gutted to reconfigure into individual apartments. The former dining area and community room remain as gathering places for residents.

Serviam Gardens Phase I consists of 83 units. This phase of the construction is approximately 46 percent complete, with completion slated for October/November 2009. Phase II will provide 160 units, and it is approximately 4 percent complete at this time. Target date for its completion is June 2010.

The construction uses green materials throughout. Each residential unit has bamboo flooring, recycled ceramic tiles, low emissive windows, low VOC paint (volatile organic



Serviam Gardens construction progress on the Bedford Park property (photo by Marcia Kimball, o.s.u.)

compounds), Energy Star appliances and heat sensors. Common areas use fluorescent lighting and recycled tile. The elevators are energy efficient, and a green roof blocks thermal heat and reduces storm water runoff.

URSULINES ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP



(Left to right) Srs. Dorothy Ann Kelly, Patricia Schifni, Ann Peterson, Jane Finnerty, Jeanne Giebelhouse and Mary Sullivan (photo by Terry Eppridge, o.s.u.)

Ursulines of the Eastern Province of the United States have elected the new provincial and her council to take office in June 2009 for a three-year term. Sr. Mary Sullivan was chosen to lead as the provincial superior. A graduate of Ursuline Academy, Grand Concourse, the College of New Rochelle, and graduate work at St. Michael's, Mary has served on the present provincial council since 2006. She brings experience in education, provincial administration (Assistant Provincial 1985-1991), hospital chaplaincy and a record in the promotion of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity

of Creation both in the province and as part of an international committee fostering justice initiatives from the Ursuline Generalate in Rome for Ursulines around the world.

As members of the leadership team, four Ursulines were elected to the provincial council, effective in June 2009: Srs. Jeanne Giebelhouse, Jane Finnerty, Ann Peterson, and Patricia Schifni. They come to the role from current ministries in local community leadership, parish, social work, and education. They will participate in the administration of the province in its diverse responsibilities.

Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly has led the province as provincial superior for six years, 2003-2009. During her administration, she has brought her considerable skills, knowledge, and experience as president of the College of New Rochelle to the office of provincial. In June 2009 she will turn over the office to the newly elected administration.

NEWS AND NOTES

The Ursuline Associates of the Eastern Province will be celebrating their 20th anniversary Saturday, April 25, 2009. Keynote speaker, Cheryl Clemons, o.s.u., of Maple Mount, KY, will discuss "Spectacular Christian Women: An Ursuline Focus". Following will be a panel discussion of the past, present and future of the associates and a Liturgy of the Third Sunday of Easter.

Sr. Geraldine Kennedy has joined LifeWay Network staff as Associate Director effective February 2, 2009. LifeWay is a ministry initiative founded to combat human trafficking. In January 2009, Andrew Spano, Westchester County Executive, reappointed her as a member of the Council for Seniors of Westchester County, NY, effective through December 31, 2010. She will continue as a consultant with the New York City Department for the Aging.

On Friday, March 6, 2009 at a **Lenten Evening of Reflection** a meal of soup and bread was followed by a talk by guest speaker, Sr. Camille D'Arienzo, R.S.M. who presented, "*Called To Forgive.*" The guests donated gifts of non-perishable food, which was then given to local food pantries.

Cait Mullarkey, a 2005 graduate of Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, and a senior at Swarthmore College, was named one of 32 Rhodes Scholars from the United States. As a Rhodes Scholar she will begin two years of study towards a master's degree at Oxford in microbiology with an emphasis on viruses. She will also have the option of a third year for a doctoral degree. In commenting on the award Cait mentioned the importance Ursuline Academy played in her education.

Sr. Mary Virginia Orna will receive an Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society (ACS). She is being honored for significant contributions to the goals and objectives of ACS. The award will recognize her "unstinting service to the society, its council and committees, the Division of Chemical Education and the Division of the History of Chemistry, her students and colleagues, and humanity." She has lectured and published widely in the area of color chemistry and archaeological chemistry; she has addressed 115 ACS local sections and 50 high schools, as well as having presented 15 named lectureships. In addition, she has led workshops for more than 400 high school teachers. She will present the award lecture at the ChemLuminary Award celebration at the fall ACS national meeting in Washington, DC.

Correction

Gift reported in the 2007-2008 *Annual Report* should read:

In Honor of

Keith Britton

Ms. Christine M. Britton



31 Chances to win!

*Look for the May Calendar Bouquet
in your April mail.*



Ursuline *Bylines*

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Tubilarians 2009

Please join us in gratitude for the many years of faithful service given by the following Ursuline sisters

Profession	Name	Community
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70 years

1/24/1939	Anne Marie Kelleher	St. Teresa's
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60 years

1/15/1949	Francis Xavier Bell	Thailand
1/15/1949	Mary Boyan (M.Theophane)	St. Teresa's
1/15/1949	Julia Dennehy (M. Daniel Joseph)	Bedford Park
1/15/1949	Frances Lyle (M. Carmel)	St. Teresa's
1/15/1949	Marie Albert Walsh	Wilmington

50 years

1/06/1959	Pascal Conforti	Bedford Park
1/06/1959	Elizabeth Dowd (M. Pius)	Liberty
1/06/1959	Mary Patricia Meiklejohn (M. Mary William)	St. Teresa's
1/06/1959	Claire Smith (M. Claude)	Province Group
7/06/1959	Celestine Costello (M. Mary John)	Province Group
8/06/1959	Barbara Calamari (M. David)	Bouck Avenue
8/06/1959	Maryellen Keefe (M. St. Martin)	Province Group

In Memoriam

Sister Amadeus McKeivitt

Sister Amadeus McKeivitt (nee Margaret) had a distinguished career on the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal for 20 years. Earlier she had served as Archdiocesan Vicar for Religious.

Amadeus passed away on October 14, 2008 at Andrus on Hudson. She was 91.

Sister Amadeus entered the Ursuline Order in 1936. She held a bachelor's degree in history from the College of New Rochelle, a master's in American history from Fordham University and earned a degree in canon law at The Catholic University of America.

She served as Ursuline provincial of the Eastern Province from 1967-1970, a time of dramatic change in the church and for women religious, brought about by Vatican II. Her wisdom and skill guided the province during those years. Earlier she had been superior of St. Teresa's Convent in New Rochelle.

In her early years as an Ursuline, she taught at the Ursuline Academy Grand Concourse in the Bronx, Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle, St. Joseph's Academy in Middletown, NY, St. Angela Merici School in the Bronx, and at Ursuline Academy, Bethesda, MD.

Sr. Amadeus also served in Rome as Director of Tertiaries, and in the Eastern Province, directed formation programs.

Sister Marie Therese Bugge

Sister Marie Therese Bugge, whose ministries in education and later parish administration took her to a variety of locations, died at the age of 70 on October 16, 2008 at Andrus on Hudson.

Born in the Bronx, she entered the Ursulines in 1957. Marie Therese was a graduate of St. Philip Neri School, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, and the College of New Rochelle. She earned a Master's degree in Elementary Education Administration from Villanova, and later a Master's in Religious Education from Fordham.

Her ministry in education began in 1963, when she taught at St. Philip Neri School and the Academy of Mt. St. Ursula through 1982. She became principal of St. John's Middle School in New York; from there she became principal of the Ursuline Academy Lower School in Bethesda, MD. She took time to work in parish ministry with the Ursuline novices in Guyana. In 1986, she became pastoral administrator of St. Philip and James Parish in Lisbon, NY. In 1994 she assumed the role

In Memoriam

of pastoral administrator of Holy Family Catholic Church community in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Sister Catherine (Sr. Mary Henry) Donohoe

Sister Catherine was a pillar of the Ursuline community in Wilmington, DE. Her teaching career spanned more than five decades in various schools of the province. She served in Bethesda, MD, New Rochelle and the Bronx, NY, and Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE. She was principal at Holy Rosary parish in Claymont, DE. In 2003, Catherine was honored with Ursuline Academy's Distinguished Alumna Award.

Affectionately known as "Flash" to the younger sisters for the speed with which she zoomed around, and called the "Car Czar" because she checked oil and fluids, tires, and other items of the community's cars--and then washed them throughout her years there.

Sr. Catherine passed away on January 14, 2009 in Wilmington DE. She was 91.

Sister Pierre Drury

Pierre Drury (nee Eleanore), resident at Andrus on Hudson, was an educator and lover of literature. Her first profession of vows as an Ursuline was made on August 24, 1938. She died on January 16, 2009.

A graduate of Mount St. Ursula, she earned a baccalaureate degree in English from Good Counsel College and at Fordham University she earned a Master's degree in English.

She began teaching at Our Lady of Mercy School in the Bronx in fall 1938. After three years she taught secondary school at Mount St. Ursula, later at Ursuline Academy in Bethesda, and returned to Mount St. Ursula. She became principal of Mount St. Ursula in 1959 and remained in that position for four years. In 1963-1964, she took a year in which she studied Shakespeare at Oxford University. From there she began teaching at the College of New Rochelle in the English department for five years.

She and Sr. Catherine Marie Jordan moved to an apartment in Harlem and taught at C. S. 3031. Their ministry there, from 1969 to 1979, was rich with students, parents, and neighbors who became part of their lives. Later, Pierre volunteered as tutor to children in Harlem and for service in the VA Hospital.

Sister Kristen Wenzel

Kristen Wenzel (nee Mary Joanne), a woman of vitality and engagement, made her career in higher education. From 1967 to 1978, Kristen taught sociology at the College of

New Rochelle. She promoted women's studies during those years.

Kristen graduated from the College of New Rochelle in 1961, majoring in sociology. In 1966 she earned a Master's degree in sociology, and she went on in that field to earn a doctorate, both from the Catholic University of America.

In 1978 she did a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California in Berkeley, followed by a year as a research assistant. She returned to teach at the College of New Rochelle from 1980 to 1985. An ACE Fellow at Hunter College in NY, she became an administrator there. From 1988 she held various administrative positions at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. In 1997 she went to the City University of New York Graduate School and served in administration through 2003.

Through all these years, Kristen participated in cutting-edge issues of the time. For thirty years she was active in the life of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish on City Island. Kristen died on February 1, 2009. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated in her parish.

Sr. Irene (Mother Basil) Kutsky

Sister Irene Kutsky dedicated her life to students, preparing many future art teachers and professional artists. She had a remarkable gift for empowering each person to articulate the beauty found in his or her own life.

After attending Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, PA, Irene went on to the College of New Rochelle where she majored in art, graduating in June 1942. She entered the Ursuline novitiate at Beacon, NY in September 1943 and was professed in 1946.

She taught at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle and then continued her studies at the Pius XII Institute in Florence and at The Catholic University of America. She joined the faculty at the College of New Rochelle in 1952, and taught for five years at Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE. In 1963 she was missioned to Athens where she was principal and taught art and English in the Ursuline American School.

Irene rejoined the art department faculty at the College of New Rochelle in 1968 and remained there until she retired in 1992. In her retirement she turned her attention to Senior Citizens at the Marian Residence developing a craft class for retired Ursulines and ceramics at the Senior Center in New Rochelle.

Irene died on February 19, 2009 and left a legacy of grateful former students who now carry on her work.

Bylines

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We thank our many generous donors who shared in the 2008 Christmas ornament exchange. We were pleased to display the ornaments on the three trees at the Province Center. (photos by Sr. Maria Rosa Deiso, osu)

PROVINCE MISSION STATEMENT

We, Ursulines of the Eastern Province of the United States, are women religious in an international community, united by the vision and spirit of our foundress, St. Angela Merici.

Impelled by deep personal love for Jesus Christ, Angela sought in a life of prayer and action to bring people from all segments of society to a deeper love of God and one another.

We follow Angela in the service of this twofold love. While we continue to proclaim the Gospel in our traditional work of education, we welcome the call of the Spirit to new ministries.

In response to the needs of our times, we commit ourselves, in both our life and our work, to solidarity with the poor; to the pursuit of justice for all, especially women; and to collaboration with the laity.

As a community that values both tradition and progress, we move into the future with courage and with trust in God.