

Bylines

Ursulines of the Eastern Province AUTUMN 2011

ALWAYS THANKFUL

On September 24 the Ursulines held their annual Mass of Thanksgiving and a reception for benefactors and friends.

The Mass was celebrated at the Province Center Chapel with Father John Vigilanti, president of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, presiding.

An autumn-themed reception followed in the Angela Garden Room and St. Joseph's garden. Many friends and supporters joined together on this happy

occasion to renew old acquaintances and catch up with the activities of the Ursulines.

The annual day of gratitude for Ursuline supporters has evolved over almost 20 years. From evening dinners at Christmas time, to summer garden parties, and now this year's first harvest celebration.

Each year the Ursulines look forward to this opportunity to personally thank the many wonderful people who contributed financially as well as through their time, talents, and prayers throughout the year. Those who could not be with us, because of distance or other obligations, were remembered and celebrated with prayers of thanksgiving.

*Left: Sarah Léonard and Anne Walsh, OSU.
Below: Joan Cornell and Edna McCallion.
Bottom right: Miriam Cleary, OSU and Catherine Giles.*



Above: Francisca Torres serves Marion and Joseph Lechowicz.

Below: Dr. Mark Cockburn and daughters Frances and Madeleine enjoy the refreshments.



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SPEAKERS BUREAU AT ANDRUS ON HUDSON

Doris Therese Walbridge, OSU

During last year, a number of sisters came to Andrus sharing their ministry and experiences.

In Fall 2010, Sr. Anne Therese Dillen described her paintings of Angela and use of different media. Sr. Sheila Campbell spoke about teaching ESL to non-English-speaking students at Concordia College and to Ukrainian seminarians at St. Basil's Seminary in Connecticut.

Sisters Stephanie Wilson and Kathleen Kuczkowski, who participated in the Roman Union Exchange 2010, told of their enrichment in the provinces in Italy and Poland. Martha Counihan, archivist at CNR, spent sabbatical time at the Ursuline Generalate in Rome. Her research focused on how the Ursuline community provided sanctuary to hunted Jews. CNR faculty member Sr. Susan Conte and a colleague, Bob Shrivien, showed the DeWitt Jones DVD, "Celebrate What's Right with the World." They engaged participants with the possibility of "seeing in a new way." Also in March, Sr. Patricia Russell showed a PowerPoint on Serviam Gardens – Serviam Towers.

In April, Sr. Eileen Finnerty described her work as Pastoral Associate in a multi-ethnic parish in Ossining, New York. She described the RCIA programs in two languages, the teen program, and the active community outreach. Sr. Marjorie Stumpf, a docent for years at the Botanical Gardens in the Bronx, helped celebrate a long awaited Spring by her presentation on trees.

In May, Sr. Marian Bohen gave an account of her missionary experience in Indonesia and described her book-in-progress, *Wind in the Buffalo Grass*. Sr. Bridget Puzon talked about "An Adventure in the Nation's Capitol." She spent a month at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC interviewing veterans and editing oral histories from World War II. The stories, which were seldom shared when vets returned home, will come to light through this Library of Congress collection.

In June, Sr. Mary Jane Robertshaw spoke on the art of carving the statue of Angela from a block of mahogany which now stands in CNR's Holy Family Chapel. Sr. Maryellen Keefe, on the faculty of SUNY Maritime, spoke about her forthcoming book, *Casual Little Affair: the Life and Fiction of Sally Benson*.

As I See It by Mary Sullivan, OSU



Photo: M. R. Deiso, OSU

Autumn came with a rush of events in addition to the opening of a new school year. In the New York area, the commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of September 11 brought the mellowing of memories and the completion of the Memorial to the men and women who perished at the World Trade Center. The Memorial is serene and reverent, inviting reflection and prayer. The city stopped to remember.

One of the many activities that filled these days was the Mass of Thanksgiving to thank our friends and benefactors. Until this year, the event was held in the spring, and this year we moved it to September, representing a beginning – just as schools open and planning for the year's activities fills the calendar.

The Mass and Reception brought together many friends and Ursulines, glad to be there and glad to see each other after summer vacations and travel. Our joy at having the opportunity to enact our gratitude around Mass and a social gathering was as bright as the day itself.

October 21 holds the feast universally celebrated in Ursuline schools (Ring Day): the Feast of St. Ursula. When we wonder why St. Angela named her company after Ursula, a rich variety of reasons emerge. Ursula was one of the saints in the book of saints her father read to her and that was reinforced in the colorful images of her in local churches. Then as she contemplated forming a company of women, she found Ursula's "courage in facing the unknown in order to carry out God's plan, her pilgrimage to Rome, that thrill of joy which runs through the whole story of [Ursula's] adventures" (Mariano, Tarolli, Seynaeve, Angela Merici, 1986).

These occasions started things off with autumnal celebration of friends past and present. In the next few months there'll be holidays and holy days further brightening the year.

GUYANA IN MY HEART

*Interview with
Sr. Ann Dumas, OSU,
who teaches at
The Ursuline School
in New Rochelle,
after her return from a
month of service
in Guyana,
by Michele Foran and
Bridget Puzon, OSU*



Ann: I tried to help in as many ways as I could. At the convent, it included learning how to backwash the water tanks so we could have clean water. I helped with the laundry and some meals. I shared in the usual cleanup after meals. At St. Ann's I sorted donated clothing for the girls. My main project and the one I found the most rewarding was to tutor some of the girls at St. Ann's Home.

Michele: What did you tutor them in?

Ann: I tutored them in math. A couple of the girls were preparing to take the national exams so that they would be able to move on to their next school.

These girls need so much help. Most of the girls can only count on their fingers. Three of the girls I taught could not subtract. Some caught on pretty fast, but others struggled a great deal. We used pencils, fingers, you name it, and still a few continued to struggle.

It took me two hours to teach one little girl 1+1, 2+2, 3+3, and 4+4. But she learned to do it. And, she was so proud that she kept asking me to ask her to add those numbers again and again.

Michele: How old were the girls you tutored?

Ann: They ranged in age from 7 to 16.

Michele: This must have been very rewarding for you. How many weeks in all did you tutor these girls and is there a particular success story?

Ann: It was an awesome experience. I tutored a total of three weeks. I think each girl's individual progress could be considered a success. I just wish I had had more time to spend with them. *(Continued on p. 4)*

Bridget: First question has got to be why you went to Guyana to serve.

Ann: Part of my formation as an Ursuline in temporary vows is an immersion experience among the marginalized in another culture. I was not shocked or surprised by the poverty.

I grew up on a farm with 8 brothers and sisters. We were poor, so this was like my living experience. Because Guyana is English-speaking, language was not a barrier.

Bridget: Tell us about the community.

Ann: I stayed at St. Joseph's Ursuline Convent in Georgetown, Guyana. Around the block is one of the sisters' ministries, St. Ann's Home. St. Ann's has about 40 girls, ages 4 to 17, from all over the country. Some families can't afford to take care of them, and some girls have been physically or sexually abused. They're well cared for, and they attend school during the day.

The neighborhood is poor, with runoff water in ditches. The outdoor markets show an abundance of food for sale. I went out accompanied, since being American, I'd be viewed as a wealthy target.

Marian Academy, located in Georgetown, is the only Catholic School in the country. With the easement of the government's control on education, the Ursulines felt that it was time to begin anew to teach Christian values. After many meetings, the Jesuits and Ursulines undertook the endeavor. The sisters also make bread for hosts used in the churches.

Michele: What did you do while you were at St. Joseph's and at St. Ann's?



*Sr. Ann Dumas and Sr. Mary Peter Ngui shopping
at the market in Georgetown, Guyana.*

Photo courtesy: A. Dumas, OSU

A MINISTRY REVISITED

Martha Counihan, O.S.U.

In August 2011 I returned to San Miguel, a village in the Andes in northern Peru. I had first gone there in 1987, joining Louisville Ursulines to revive a parish that had had no Church presence for over 20 years. Working with Spanish Redemptorists, we set to work giving basic religious instruction to rural catechists. Some of them walked six hours to and from our monthly meeting. In August 2011 I met some of those same men and women again! Back then we formed a parish council and groups among the townspeople. Ursuline Associates were later formed, and they are still active today.

The Ursulines left San Miguel in 2007. But recently, Sr. Kathy Neely has returned to oversee the completion of a center for the handicapped funded by a German Catholic charity group. A “comedor” (lunch program) was recently started by the pastor to provide a daily lunch to 100 rural school children. Each child contributes a stick of firewood daily, and the children’s mothers each give a week to prepare the lunch. In the 24 years since I arrived – and I have visited several



Photo: M. Counihan, OSU

times – the parish has been greatly revived. Also there are now a paved road, electricity, Internet, and cable TV! I was delighted to visit my old friends again.

GUYANA *continued*

There was one particular girl. She came from the interior (the bush). The police had picked her up. She has been at St. Ann’s only for a short time. She is 16. The week before I started to tutor her, this child could not count from a number given to her. For example, if I said 4, she could not say 5, 6, 7, etc. If I asked her to put up four fingers she would have to count them out first 0-9 on her fingers. But, within one week she learned her ones facts and then her twos facts. Once she got the hang of it, it was like a springboard. Although in many ways this was a success, it was also sad because I know without constant practice she will lose it all. On my last day with her she begged me to stay and help her. The girls are bright and thirsty for knowledge. They need to build their confidence and believe in themselves.

Michele: Can you sum up your overall experience?

Ann: Much laughter, much sharing, praying together, working together, frustrations, sadness and tears were all part of the community.

In the short time I was in Guyana I came to love the girls that I tutored.

I experienced a deep gratitude to God for sending me to Guyana. My eyes were opened wide to the poverty, and I truly felt I was living the authentic life of the truly poor. A simple life but yet wealthy in love, heart, and hospitality. And this experience also led me to a deeper confirmation that the life God is calling me to is as an Ursuline. I want my experience to become not just a memory; I want it to live in me, to lead my life, to the One who is, the I Am.

Michele: Would you consider going back to Guyana?

Ann: When is the next plane?



Photo: A. Dumas, OSU

URSULINE AT MARITIME

Maryellen Keefe, OSU

The State University of New York's Maritime College is the last station on my educational ministry track.

"Why Maritime?" After a dozen years in a non-tenured position at Iona College, I found the Humanities Department of a little known New York institution. To my great surprise, about 85 percent of the students are Catholic.

Most Maritime students pursue engineering degrees while others prepare for careers in the business of shipping. Many prepare their sea legs by joining the "regiment." They wear a quasi-military uniform, follow a highly disciplined regimen – described by some as "almost monastic" – and cultivate qualities of leadership working with colleagues whether at sea or on land.

Though it draws from a pool of regional candidates, Maritime attracts students from all over the country and abroad. The female population is only 13 percent. Perhaps, with our new President – Rear Admiral Wendi Carpenter – that percentage will improve dramatically.



Photo: R. Meade, HR SUNY Maritime

Bright and highly motivated, my students are a joy to teach. Since most are gifted in math and sciences, language arts often pose a challenge. The Humanities courses provide a welcome relief. Introducing them to great writers expands horizons. To have a student call out after finishing *The Merchant of Venice*, "Can we do another Shakespeare play?" is perhaps the greatest compensation.

Last semester I offered "The Bible as Literature." This semester I am teaching "Irish Literature." Often I choose a work I have never taught before, and it succeeds in awakening high levels of student interest. One such was Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*. Who knew?

Service is another component of my ministry at Maritime as a University Faculty Senator. I also am moderator of the Newman Club and, in the absence of a full-time chaplain, have been working with priests in neighboring parishes for our Sunday evening liturgies.

Now a tenured Maritime professor, I am thankful for the opportunities for service. This year will include challenges on a new committee – the Diversity Committee – that seeks to break down racial, religious, and gender barriers within the Maritime community.

RIBBON CUTTING AT SERVIAM GARDENS

Patricia Russell, OSU

Serviam Gardens-Serviam Towers, the 243-unit housing complex for seniors developed on land leased by the Ursuline Bedford Park Community, was officially inaugurated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 3, 2011. John Reilly, Executive Director of Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, the developer of the project, thanked the Ursuline Sisters and those present who represented the public and private investors and government agencies for their valuable contributions.

"The complexity of putting together such a project became clear as each speaker covered his/her angle of participation," commented Sr. Bridget Puzon, one of the 25 Ursuline Sisters who attended.

Enterprise Community Partners is a long-time collaborator with Fordham Bedford Housing and a leading provider of capital and expertise for the creation of affordable housing. US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), NYC Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and



Chase Bank, each assisted in securing the funds to accomplish the project. Serviam Gardens also benefitted from the support of former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Congressman Jose Serrano, City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera and Assemblyman Jose Rivera.

"The Ursulines are pleased to be part of this wonderful accomplishment that provides affordable housing for the seniors of the Bronx, enhances the neighborhood, and adds to the beauty of the campus," said Sr. Mary Sullivan, O.S.U., Provincial of the Ursulines.

IN MEMORIAM

Sister Agnes Neville, formerly known as Sister Bernadette, died at Andrus on Hudson on the Feast of the Ascension, June 2, 2011. Agnes was known by her community and former students for her wisdom and her unique wit. She loved and had insight into the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Agnes was born in New York City on January 7, 1927 to Bridget and John Neville. She is survived by two brothers, Reverend Joseph Neville, S.J., and John Neville. She held a B.A. in history from the College of New Rochelle and an M.A. in Secondary Education from The Catholic University of America. Over her career in education, she taught at St. Angela Merici School, St. Philip Neri, and Our Lady of Victory, and was superior at the Bedford Park community, all in the Bronx; St. Joseph's

School in Middletown, NY where she also served as principal and superior; Ursuline Academy in Bethesda, Maryland; Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle; and

The Ursuline School in New Rochelle. Agnes was a member of the St. Teresa's community in New Rochelle from 1985 until 2005, when she moved to Andrus.



Sister Ursula Baumann, born June 1, 1921, and named June, died at St. John's Hospital in Yonkers on September 2, 2011. She was 90 and had been a resident of Andrus on Hudson since 2005.



In 1943, she entered the Ursulines. Sister Ursula served in many positions at her alma mater, the College of New Rochelle. She taught mathematics, served as Assistant Dean and Administrative Assistant. After a year of tertianship in Rome, she returned to teaching at CNR, becoming Treasurer and then Business Manager.

Sr. Ursula was appointed Provincial Treasurer in 1966, and in this role she exercised foresight in financial retirement planning. She was also Assistant Mistress of Novices and later

General Treasurer at the Ursuline Generalate in Rome. When she returned from Rome, she served as assistant in financial planning for the Diocese of Brooklyn. Sr. Ursula was an adjunct professor of accounting at Pace University from 1983 to 1990.

She brought her considerable energy and unique style to her various ministries. She became Treasurer of St. Teresa's community in New Rochelle. Sr. Ursula also taught at Fordham University and Franklin College in Switzerland. She was chaplain at New York United Hospital Medical Center, a computer teacher at St. Pius X elementary school, and gave tutoring services until she retired in 2005.

Sr. Ursula earned a master's degree in mathematics from Fordham University and a master's in business management from the University of Omaha in Nebraska. She served as Treasurer to the Conference of Regional Treasurers of New York, was on the Board of Advisors of the Brothers of the Holy Cross, and on the Board of Trustees of The Ursuline School.

Sister Gregory Horgan, born Margaret



Mary and fondly called Sis, died on September 12, 2011. She was 94 years old and had resided at Andrus on Hudson from 2006.

Sister Gregory entered the Ursulines in 1940, and she made her first vows in 1943.

She taught at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, St. Philip Neri School in the Bronx, and Ursuline Academy in Bethesda, MD.

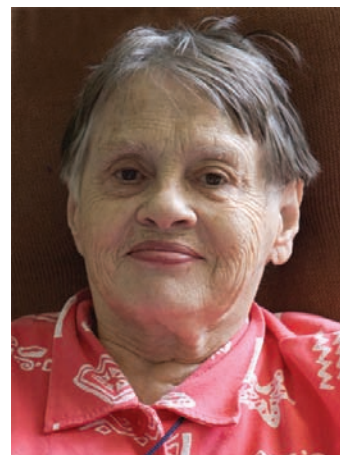
In 1959 she began her longtime ministry in South Africa and Botswana. Her first assignment was to Johannesburg, South Africa. She next taught at Brescia House in Bryanston, and then at the Teacher Training College in Serowe, Botswana. In the following years she was head teacher at Krugersdorp, South Africa, co-director of the Education Center in Serowe, Botswana, and coordinator of the Breakthrough Program.

After her 40-year educational ministry abroad, Sr. Gregory returned to Bedford Park in 1996. With her characteristic ebullient spirit, she served at the Adult Learning Center/Ursuline Social Outreach in New Rochelle. She retired in 2002. Sister Gregory held a bachelor's degree from The College of New Rochelle, and a master's degree in religious education from Fordham University.

On September 15, 2011, **Sister Carolyn Gregory**, formerly known as Mother Regina, died at Andrus on Hudson. She was 83 years old.

Creativity was part of her teaching at St. Angela Merici School, St. Joseph's in Middletown, Our Lady of Mercy School, and the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. From 1971 to 1988, she worked in publishing at the New American Library. Carolyn also taught at the School of New Resources at The College of New Rochelle, followed by librarian work at The Ursuline School.

She was a '45 graduate of The Ursuline School and a '49 graduate from The College of New Rochelle. She also held an M.A. in education from Villanova University and an M.S. in studio art from The College of New Rochelle.



News and Notes

On September 8, **The Upper Room** held a service of prayer in remembrance and reconciliation, commemorating the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001. The service was held at the Province Center chapel in New Rochelle. The Upper Room is a group of committed Catholics seeking to understand their responsibilities as laity in the church.

The Angela Spirituality Group held a one-day retreat led by **Sister Bridget Haase, O.S.U.** on October 15. It was entitled "Immersed, Enkindled, Anointed: Living Our Baptism in Everyday Life." Sister Bridget coordinates the spirituality program at The Boston

Home, a long-term care facility. Her website, www.wisdomwonder.com, describes her work and her publications.

The Ursuline School celebrated the dedication of a new Media Art Center to honor **Sister Anne Therese Dillen** on her retirement after 36 years of teaching art. The state-of-the-art Media Arts Center is a gift from Richard and Maura Nasti, whose daughter Julia graduated in June 2011. They paid tribute to Anne Therese's special gift as an art teacher who inspired many students at The Ursuline School and, in particular, their daughter.

SERVIAM GIRLS ACADEMY MARKS ITS FIRST GRADUATION

Mildred Haipt, OSU Chair of Members

Surrounded by an air of excitement on the campus of the Ursuline Academy, eight young women became the first graduates of Serviam Girls Academy in Wilmington, Delaware this June.

Serviam Girls Academy inspires students in grades 5-8 to help break the cycle of poverty in their communities. Founded in 2008 by a group of dedicated parents, teachers, and Ursuline Sisters, Serviam is committed to the mission and spirit of St. Angela Merici. The school instills the importance of *Serviam* – I will serve. In the tradition of Ursuline education, the school aims to develop the whole person with academic and enrichment programs.

Each graduate will attend an area secondary school aided by Serviam's Graduate Support Director who, in alliance with the Nativity Miguel Network, will provide continuing support to the Serviam graduates as they meet the personal, social, and academic challenges of their high school years.



Photo: R. Gitten, Dev. Assoc. Serviam Girls Academy

SGA graduates, left to right, top row: Katiana Jones, Danielle Myrie, Mariana Lopez, DaJae English; bottom row: Aionna Williams, ShaDonna Hunton, Dennasia Carroll-Livingston, Tayra Knight (now attending Ursuline Academy)

The Ursulines are grateful to all the generous 2011 May Bouquet contributors. The proceeds will benefit Ursulines in Retirement. Below we have listed the winners of the 2011 drawing.

	1 Sheila O'Connell \$250	2 Grace Rosettie \$100	3 James J. O'Connell \$150	4 Ellen Kehoe \$100	5 Mary Lou Baird \$250	6 Margaret Melady \$100	7 Rosaline D. McDermott \$100
	8 Francine and Martin Rogers \$500	9 Honorable Robert G. Main, Jr. \$100	10 Claire F. Smith, OSU \$250	11 Joan Ruffino \$100	12 Kathleen Curtin \$100	13 Mary Helfrich \$100	14 Eileen Sammon \$150
	15 Magdalen Sanchez \$150	16 Anna Cyr \$100	17 Anne Dore \$100	18 Bill Glendon \$250	19 Bernadette and John Powers \$250	20 Rosalie Crabbe \$250	21 Bernadette and John Powers \$150
	22 Ellie O'Neill \$150	23 Ellie O'Neill \$100	24 Lucy Piro \$150	25 Rosemarie Augello O'Hearn \$100	26 Claire and Joseph \$250	27 Phillip Leroux \$150	28 Jane Kahl \$150
	29 Joseph Spillane \$250	30 Norma Mahoney \$1000	31 Dorothy Holzer \$100				



From October 1 – 17 the exhibit “**Inspired by Saint Angela**” was held in the Mooney Center Gallery at The College of New Rochelle. Creative works by Ursulines past and present were displayed at the exhibit, which was presented in conjunction with the Inauguration of Judith Huntington as the 13th President of The College of New Rochelle.

INAUGURAL EXHIBIT “INSPIRED BY SAINT ANGELA”

FEATURED ARTISTS:

Martha Counihan, O.S.U., SAS’67
Anne Therese Dillen, O.S.U., SAS’58
Mary Dowd, O.S.U., SAS’49
Terry Eppridge, O.S.U., SAS’53
Irene Kutsky, O.S.U., SAS’42
Justin McKiernan, O.S.U., SAS’32
Mary Jane Robertshaw, O.S.U., SAS’51

St. Angela Merici, the visionary founder of the Ursulines, inspired many in her time and many more in the centuries since. The exhibit “Inspired by St. Angela,” will grace the Mooney Center Gallery from October 1-17, 2011, in conjunction with the Inauguration of Judith Huntington.



Paintings, sculptures, and written works were featured. Some of the artists represented were Sisters Martha Counihan, Anne Therese Dillen, Mary Dowd, Terry Eppridge, Irene Kutsky, Irene Mahoney, Justin McKiernan and Mary Jane Robertshaw.



FEAST OF ST. URSULA

Ursulines of the province gathered at the Province Center chapel for Vespers on the Feast of St Ursula, October 21, recalling in prayer the dream of St Ursula and the journey she undertook with her companions, a journey that has inspired generations of young women to follow their dreams with courage. The service, planned and organized by Sr. Madeline Welch, was followed by a celebratory dinner held in the Angela Garden Room.

Painting by Sr. Jolanta Woroniecka, OSU, c.1950

Ursuline *Bylines*

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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.

Visit the Ursuline Web Site: www.osueast.org