

# Bylines

Ursulines of the Eastern Province FALL 2013

Every six years, the Ursulines of the Roman Union hold a General Chapter in Rome, focusing on the state of the congregation and its future directions. The General Chapter for 2013 will take place September 10 to October 12. Each of the 28 provinces worldwide sends its provincial and delegates. The U.S. Eastern Province elected delegates Sr. Jane Finnerty and Sr. Ann Peterson. Before the Chapter, the delegates visit another province to learn about its life and ministry, and we present here the account of their visits.

## A VISIT TO THE CARIBBEAN

Bridget Puzon, O.S.U.

“I wanted to visit an Ursuline province with a different culture, where it would give me a Third-World experience,” recalled Sr. Ann Peterson.

Ann chose the Ursuline Caribbean Province: Barbados, Venezuela, and Guyana. The experience of Ursuline life here offered a new horizon on the Ursuline mission. When she landed in Caracas, Venezuela, Ann observed local Ursuline efforts.



A sculpture of Saint Angela Merici created by Elias Toro for Academia Merici in Caracas, Venezuela.

Under the leadership of Sister Jacqueline daSilva, the Ursulines sponsor Merici Academy for girls from pre-school through high school. The school continues the traditions of Ursuline education in its academic programs and in its Serviam spirit through the activities that turn theory into practice. The school buzzes with activity and energy, like its American counterparts. In a bustling urban setting, students, their parents, and alumnae actively engage in service, particularly to the poor. Most

notably, their presence and contributions have been focused on a school in the barrios. The spirit of St. Angela is strong there, Ann

*Continued on p. 3*

## AT THE TIP OF AFRICA

Bridget Puzon, O.S.U.

When the plane touched down in Johannesburg, Sister Jane Finnerty began her journey to meet the Ursulines in South Africa and Botswana. As her pre-General Chapter visit to another province, she chose this one because of her desire to see the work of the many sisters from the Eastern Province who had served there, particularly in founding ministries in Botswana. Sister Kathleen Colmer from England, also making her pre-chapter visit, traveled with Jane.

During two days in Johannesburg, Jane learned about the province and its works in South Africa. She visited St. Ursula's School in Krugersdorp that, early in the period of national transition, was integrated, with a mixed-race student body.



Photos by Jane Finnerty

St. Ursula's School in Krugersdorp, SA.

Her next stop was in Soweto homeland, where the Regina Mundi church is a landmark. She also visited Mandela House, former home of Nelson Mandela. Another noted former resident, Desmond Tutu, had also lived in Soweto. The Hector Peterson Museum told the story of the Soweto uprising in the 1970s, key to the changes in South Africa.

In rural Subiaco, she visited the Benedictine mission, with a high school and kindergarten where two Ursulines serve. The students provided a welcoming program, and Jane recalled that American Sister Fran Lyle had once served there. The works of Ursulines

*Continued on p. 4*

## IN THIS ISSUE

As I See It	2
Educational Conference	4
Serviam Girls Academy	5
In Memoriam	5-6
News and Notes	7

# As I See It

Mary Sullivan, O.S.U.

Lilly pointed excitedly to the TV, getting her father's attention. "That's Barack Obama." "And who is Barack Obama?" John asked. Without hesitation, Lilly said, "Michelle's husband." Lilly's grandmother was retelling the story as we sat across the table from the bright-eyed, blonde five-year old sitting on the edge of her adult chair ever ready for what the next moment would bring.

It is a story worth telling, I thought. It immediately evoked laughter and a variety of spoken and unspoken responses. My first reaction was "Well, she certainly has her priorities straight." Even though Obama is President of the U.S., for Lilly, he is first and foremost Michelle's husband.

As I write this, I am looking out my window at the beautiful ocean on this end-of-summer day. Children and parents are running into the water, playing ball, building sand castles, engaged with each other in playful and meaningful ways that speak to the love and care they have for one another. Summer does this. The very nature of summer invites special time for these relationships, and families make real efforts to spend time together. I know one family who has had Christmas in July so they can all be with one another.

The Ursuline family also came together this summer. Ursulines from around the U.S. met in Cincinnati in July to deepen our connection with Angela, our foundress, and with each other. Sue Scharfenberger, an Ursuline from Kentucky, inspired and challenged us with her talk, "Angela's Radical Gospel Vision: Expanding the Circle." We left Cincinnati knowing that we are in a



Photo: T. Eppridge

different place with one another and counting on each other to enhance the synergy among us so that we will continue the conversations and continue to expand the circles that unite us in our relationships with one another.

One of the highlights for the Eastern Province this summer took place on August 11th. Ann Dumas made her Final Profession at the Province Center Chapel. Annie's strong sense of her vocation and her deep commitment to her relationship with Jesus, so evident in the ceremony, was her gift to us. Annie left for Guyana on August 20th where she will live in an Ursuline Community and serve the people there for two years.

And last, but not least, was the coming together of the LCWR (the Leadership Conference of Women Religious) whose members are joined together through our primary commitment to Jesus, and the commitment of our communities to the following of the Gospel. Ilia Delio, OSF, set the context for the Assembly in her keynote presentation, "Leadership Evolving" . . . showing how a growing awareness of an evolving Universe impacts understandings of religious life and leadership. All that followed in the Assembly was once again grounded in a contemplative process which continues to strengthen our relationships with each other, and our integrity as a Conference, and situates us well to continue the dialogue with the Vatican.

As I see it, we are all graced with important relationships. May we attend to them with the love and care worthy of them. Thank you, Lilly, for reminding us of who and what comes first!

## *Ursuline Bylines*

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## A VISIT TO THE CARIBBEAN

*continued from page 1*

noted, though the political climate is uncertain.

Catching a plane to Georgetown, Guyana, introduced Ann to the limited air travel among these countries, with long waits in airports. The hot, humid climate of Guyana is as characteristic as the abundance of fruit and vegetables in the marketplaces. The Marian Academy and St. Ann's Home serve as the locus of the Ursuline community. The sisters live in the convents nearby; water and electricity are in limited supply. Yet life flourishes as everyone adapts.

Girls unable to live with their families because of extreme poverty or abuse are assigned to St. Ann's where they are cared for by sisters and lay staff. The girls attend local schools, St. Rose's and St. Angela's. Despite the limitations of their circumstances, the development of these girls is striking. The people who support the orphanage have made a difference in the children's lives.



*St. Ann's Home in Guyana.*

Nearby Marian Academy, a pre-school through secondary school with an Ursuline principal, provides education much like Ursuline schools elsewhere. It is heartening, Ann notes, to recognize the common spirit among the schools.

Far in the interior of the country where the roads are nearly inaccessible, the Ursuline sisters of Tildonk serve the native people of Guyana.

The next stop for Ann Peterson was Barbados, a Caribbean island known for luxurious tourist destinations. In contrast, the Ursuline school in Bridgetown is near to poorer dwellings of the native inhabitants. Here, she encountered the Ursuline spirit in St. Angela's lower school and St. Ursula's secondary school, amid the island's economic and social

## FROM THE EDITOR

**Bylines would like to hear from you.**



Photo: John Vecchiola

For the next issue, we invite readers to send a letter to this Editor about all things Ursuline. How did an Ursuline or the Ursulines influence your life? Perhaps this is a specific moment framed by a recollection. Perhaps this is an observation about a practice or perspective cultivated over many years. Or you might want to respond to a story in this issue or an earlier issue of *Bylines*. Simply, we want to hear the clarity of your voice and share that so others hear you as well.

Letters should not exceed 300 words. If you have photos, please include these with contact information: your name and a phone number. You may send your letters via either e-mail or the US Postal service. If sending as an e-mail, the address is [devofc@aol.com](mailto:devofc@aol.com). Please put *Letter to the Editor* in the subject line. If sending a hard copy, the street address is: Ursuline Provincialate, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Mark your envelope *Letter to the Editor*.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Roxanne Zimmer, *Editor*

limitations. As in the other schools she had visited, she marveled at the children's singing, joyful and hearty, especially the song "Insieme," meaning "together," and composed to express the theme among Ursulines worldwide.

Ann observed there are fewer than twenty sisters in the three countries of the province. "Each of these Ursuline communities gathers for communal prayer each morning and evening. The deep faith of the sisters, in the midst of obvious challenges, was one of the most impressive and moving experiences for me."

"The political situation in each of these areas," she went on, "has an impact on our ministries. This is especially so in Caracas, where there was a recent election."

For an American Ursuline, the visit to the Caribbean provinces was by turns heartwarming in the common spirit she encountered, and heart-aching in the basic material limitations of developing countries. At the same time, the horizons of Ursuline life and service reflected the devoted women, men, and children who comprise the communities of the Caribbean Province.



# Ursuline Educational Leadership Institute

Martha Counihan, O.S.U.

As fewer Ursulines teach in Ursuline-founded institutions, it is heartening to see how the “torch” is being passed to those in Ursuline education. Ursuline Sisters, Ursuline school administrators, teachers, alumnae, trustees, and friends gathered at The College of New Rochelle in late June for an enlightening three-day institute on background, theory, and practice of Ursuline education. Representatives from the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, The College of New Rochelle, Ursuline Academies in Cincinnati, OH, and Kirkwood, MO, and Ursuline Educational Services shared expertise and experiences.

Sisters Jane Finnerty and Bernadette Hannaway organized the program. Participants enjoyed a variety of presentations and discussions. Mary Cabrini Durkin, a member of the US Company of St. Ursula opened the institute with a presentation on St. Angela Merici, a “woman for all times.” Subsequent presentations included a history of Ursuline education. Terri Rogan, Director of Mission Integration at the

Ursuline Academy in Kirkwood, Missouri shared her experience in continuing the Ursuline mission through the academy’s religious education and service programs. The second day featured presentations, a panel discussion, and responses on the subject of “The Ethos of Ursuline Leadership.” Administrators of Ursuline schools, CNR, and alumnae involved in higher education presented and joined in discussions. Presenters included Sisters Martha Counihan and Jean Humphries, Dr. Joan Bailey, Mrs. Eileen Davidson, Dr. Mary Driscoll, Mrs. Cathie Field-Lloyd, Mrs. Lisa Harrison, and Ms. Meghan Toomey.

The June institute was offered in coordination with Ursuline Educational Services (UES). Judith A. Wimberg is the present Director. In June, 2014, UES will sponsor an international conference on Ursuline Education at The College of New Rochelle. International meetings of Ursuline educators have been held in recent years in Brazil and Taiwan. Next year the US Ursuline leaders will be the hosts, and we will be happy to welcome our colleagues from around the world!

## At the Tip of Africa (*cont. from page 1*)

in these areas of South Africa are rich in the country’s recent dramatic history and a source for understanding their part in it.

Botswana was the next stop on the journey. A relatively new nation, Botswana was the place where American Ursulines Anne Marie Kelleher, Gregory Horgan, Ann Alicia Smith, and Christina Pratt contributed to education and social outreach. Jane participated with admiration and great joy at the community’s liturgical celebration for Ascension Thursday. Without a priest, a parish committee oversees the services.

In areas remote from the towns of Serowe and Sefare, Jane observed the life-changing development of water projects, supported in part by Ursuline communities and schools in the U.S. From taps in the ground, water is now available in family compounds for personal use and for their gardens where food is grown.

A strong and effective project developed in Botswana is the non-profit organization Mothers for All; its mission is “to help ensure that no child is left alone.” Because of the AIDS epidemic and poverty, the organization



*Water is available for personal use from taps in the ground.*

has developed a mission to provide basic needs and hope for orphaned children. To support their efforts, they have established a use for waste paper, converting newspapers, calendars, and posters through processing the paper into products such as jewelry, hand-made cards, and gift packaging. Their website is [www.mothersforall.org](http://www.mothersforall.org).

When Jane returned from Botswana to Krugersdorp, South Africa, she was delighted to have an opportunity to bring Sr. Lorette Brophy\* the latest news of the Eastern Province.

On the day of departure, a visit to Brescia House School in Bryanston and the Marist-sponsored Sacred Heart College, where Ursulines serve, rounded out an inspiring, challenging, and heartwarming visit to the South African province.

*\*Editor’s note:* We regret that we received news of Sister Lorette Brophy’s death as we were on deadline. Sr. Lorette’s obituary will be published in the next issue of Bylines.

## Serviam Girls Academy Summer Enrichment Program

Field trips and traditional classroom learning are keys to the success of the Serviam Girls Academy summer program in Wilmington, Delaware. About 50 middle-school girls participated in this four-week enrichment program during June and July.

Typically, mornings were devoted to language arts and math. The afternoons included enrichment activities such as ice skating, a Zumba class and a disk jockey session. The "Be a Friend First" Program developed a number of interpersonal communication skills including dealing with aggression within the community. A variety of scientific investigations were explored during one week at Delaware Technical Community College in Wilmington.

During a field trip to Philadelphia, the girls visited the African American Museum and toured the Supremes exhibit. According to Principal Kate Lucyk, the girls enjoyed seeing the outfits worn by the Supremes during performances. "Fashion is a huge priority for middle-school girls and each one really enjoyed seeing how it has transformed since then. I even overheard many girls say, 'Oooh! I would wear that one!'" The group also walked Independence Mall and saw the Liberty Bell.



*Serviam students visit African American Museum in Philadelphia.*

The four-week summer program is required of girls attending the Serviam Academy. Sr. Mildred Hait, OSU, noted that the summer session expands educational and cultural horizons not usually available to these girls. In addition, the varied learning experiences improve their chance of academic success in high school as has been demonstrated by the graduates of the first two classes of Serviam Academy. A generous annual grant from the Ursuline Serviam Ministry Fund supports these enrichment efforts.

## IN MEMORIAM

### SR. JANE CLARY, O.S.U.

*January 28, 1912 – July 14, 2013*



An avid reader and a joyful presence in her years as a member of the community of St. Teresa in New Rochelle, Sister Jane Clary, formerly known as Mother Madeleine, died in July at Andrus on Hudson. She was 101 years old. She was predeceased by her parents, two brothers and four sisters.

Jane was born in Seneca Falls, NY, to Ellen and Thomas Clary on January 28, 1912. She graduated from The College of New Rochelle in 1933 with a major in history. Jane entered the Ursulines the same year. In 1944 she earned a Master's degree in English at Catholic University of America.

She taught at The Ursuline School and Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle. In 1941 she joined the faculty of The College of New Rochelle. With her irrepressible spirit and her love of books, she taught generations of young women in the English department until 1977. She also initiated the study of film on campus.

After retirement from the college, with her dauntless spirit, she became a proof reader at Isidore, Lefkowitz, Elgort and then at Al Paul Lefton. She was a librarian at Right Associates from 1984 to 1986. Even in her retirement in 1986, Sr. Jane did volunteer work. In 2006 she moved to Andrus, where her cheerfulness continued and stacks of books revealed her longtime interests.



## IN MEMORIAM



**SR. FRANCIS XAVIER BELL, O.S.U.**

*September 6, 1926 - April 11, 2013*

Clare Marie Bell, born and raised in Brooklyn, attended The College of New Rochelle, where her aunt, Mother Ignatius Wallace had been a long-time Dean. In 1946, Clare entered the Ursuline novitiate and took the name Francis Xavier. She taught briefly at Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle, then was missioned to Thailand in 1953.

After some years of teaching in Ursuline schools in Bangkok and Chiangmai, she embarked on a project to help a group of villagers become self-sufficient. The Zonta Dairy Farm was begun under her direction, supported by her indefatigable fund-raising, and eventually taken over by the villagers themselves.

After the farm project Clare returned to Bangkok to assist in building an Ecumenical Center of Spirituality. Clare also taught, and gave retreats, to both sisters and priests, not only in Thailand but also in the Philippines and Indonesia. In her later years, she served as director of a large Ursuline retreat-seminar-camp facility in Hua Hin in the south of Thailand.

Because of a stroke in 2008 Clare began to lose her power of speech. Undaunted, she continued her service in the province, translating and doing other necessary work for the community. In March 2013, Clare suffered a fatal stroke, and passed away peacefully on April 11, 2013.



**SR. THEODORE HAHNENFELD, O.S.U.**

*December 23, 1922 – June 29, 2013*

Miriam Hahnenfeld was the daughter of Marguerite and Theodore Hahnenfeld. She attended St. Angela Merici School in the Bronx and Cathedral High School in Manhattan. In 1942 she entered the Ursulines and took the name of Theodore. She graduated from The College of New Rochelle in 1947 and in 1976 earned an MA in Religious Studies at Gregorian University, Rome. She also received certificates in Theology from Weston Theological, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pennsylvania.

Miriam studied Far Eastern Culture at The College of New Rochelle. Here the seeds of missionary work were planted. In 1947, she volunteered for missionary work in Bangkok, Thailand spending over 60 years in service, teaching and caring for the people. Being close to the students and Thai sisters brought her many joys and helped her to appreciate deeply the Thai people and their culture.

From 1959 through 1999, Sr. Theodore held various positions including principal at the Mater Dei School, Superior of the Regina Mundi and Mater Dei communities, and two terms as Provincial of the Thailand Province in 1964-1970 and 1988-1994. Miriam died in her beloved Thailand on June 29, 2013.

### Ursuline Website

[www.osueast.org](http://www.osueast.org)

Many times throughout the year reflections, events and happenings, and other interesting Ursuline activities are posted on the Province website. To regularly receive Ursuline news simply visit the website and click on the subscribe button on the top menu. You will receive an e-mail each time we publish something new.



# News & Notes



*Above: Rev. Martin Biglin blesses Sister Ann.  
Below: Sister Mary Sullivan gives Ann the ring that marks final profession.*

**Sr. Ann Dumas** made her final vows of religious profession in the Ursulines on August 11, 2013 at the chapel of the Ursuline Provincialate. Ann has been serving as a mathematics tutor at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, and in summers she has served at St. Ann's Home in Guyana. Ann has chosen to give her next two years of service to St. Ann's.



Photos: Christopher Pope

On June 22 the Ursulines held their annual **Mass of Thanksgiving** and reception for benefactors and friends. Over one hundred guests attended. The beautiful weather found many of them enjoying the reception outdoors in St. Joseph's Garden. The Ursulines look forward to this yearly event to personally thank the many faithful supporters who contribute in many ways throughout the year.



Photo: T. Eppridge

**The Annual One-Day Retreat** sponsored by the Angela Spirituality Group will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013, from 9:30 to 3:00 at the Ursuline Provincialate. The retreat will be led by Dr. Geraldine Hoban, who trained in spiritual direction at the Center for Spirituality and Justice; she is experienced in community and mental health programs and is currently in full-time practice. For a brochure with further retreat information, contact the Ursuline Provincialate, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804. 914-712-0060

*Thanks to our many faithful supporters, once again the May Calendar fundraiser was a huge success. The following is a list of the lucky winners of the 2013 May Calendar drawing. We are very grateful to everyone who participated.*



May 2013				1	2	3	4
				Amanda Banks \$250	Noreen Deane Moran \$100	Susan Armstrong Boulay \$100	Ann Carney \$100
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Nancy Kotonias \$250	Camille Casling \$250	Katherine Maria \$100	Linda Sprague \$100	Jeanne Devlin \$250	Kristy Seemungal \$100	Alice Queffelec \$100	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Maura Condon Carson \$500	Bridie Liscoe \$100	Barbara Watson \$100	Rosemary Twomey \$100	Katie Tylutki \$100	JoAnne Hanlon \$250	Laura Fasano \$100	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Neal Jon DeLuna \$250	James & Anne Maistre \$100	Thomas M. Coultry \$250	Sr. Doris Therese Walbridge, O.S.U. \$250	John McErlean \$250	Bill Glendon \$100	Jamie Moore \$100	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
Barbara Brogan \$150	Mary Sandak \$1000	Donna Geraghty \$100	Clare Morriss \$100	John Sullivan \$250	Helen Koelble \$150		

# 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.