WILMINGTON ASSOCIATES CELEBRATE 25th ANNIVERSARY

by Carol Ann Holder, O.S.U.

Approaching the twenty-fifth year of the formation of Ursuline Associates in Wilmington, Delaware, we take this occasion to celebrate and introduce you to a few of our members.

October 17, 1990, was the first meeting of Sisters Carol Ranges, Frances Lyle and Magdalen O’Hara along with six women interested in becoming Associates.

Then, as now, they wanted to give new expression to the spirit of St. Angela in today’s world, share in the tradition and mission of the Ursulines, and be a source of mutual support in seeking to spread God’s Kingdom on earth.

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MARTHA COUNIHAN

by Bridget Puzon, O.S.U.

The facets of Martha Counihan’s Ursuline life reveal her interests and capabilities. Areas that define Martha’s ministries since she became an Ursuline are primarily art, teaching, and preserving history. This ministry encompasses art, including her own work and its uses, and libraries in their multiple uses.

Currently on the Editorial Board of Bylines, her contributions include planning and writing.

Grading from The College of New Rochelle in 1967 with a degree in art, Martha became an Ursuline and has used these interests in service to others.

As an Ursuline with characteristic wit and humor, valuable in education, she has taught art at St. Joseph’s Academy in Malone, Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, and The College of New Rochelle. Following another call, she chose to serve with pastoral teams in Mexico and Peru. One of her tasks in her work was specifically to illustrate – and reinforce – religious instruction for the rural people both children and adults.

When appropriate, Martha has enlivened what was happening at Ursuline gatherings with cartoons. These touches of humor were welcome light moments.

Martha has worked in the CNR Library, notably 1976 to 1987 before one

Continued on p. 8
On the profile of Sr. Laurence Montgomery
It was with delight that I read the article in the Bylines on Sr. Laurence Montgomery. I was privileged to teach 2nd grade with Sr. Laurence for three years at St. Jerome’s in the South Bronx. I was 19 years old with 48 children in a First Holy Communion class. Sr. Laurence was my next door (classroom) neighbor and mentor. She guided me with much grace, laughter, and patience. I have so many happy memories of those years. Thank you, Sr. Laurence for instilling in me a love for education. It is so good to hear you are still active in your community. I know you bring your bright smile and kindness with you wherever you go.

With much gratitude,
Rosemary Hughes Crimmins, AMSU ‘63, SJS ‘59

On the passing of Sr. Judith Meitzelfeld
I had not heard about Sister Mary Judith’s death till I opened Bylines. Sister taught logic to our class (’57). She was also moderator of Sodality, which was a large part of my life at CNR. In 1970, Sister and I became pen-pals. To my utter amazement, we sustained our relationship for many years. I treasure her words till today and saved all her letters.
Loretta D’Agostino Schmitz, CNR ‘57

On the copies of The Lost Elements: The Periodic Table’s Shadow Side
I was overwhelmed by the positive response to my offer to send you a free copy of my recent book, while the supplies lasted. Well, they did not last for long, so many of you were disappointed. However, I sent an e-copy of the book plus information on how to purchase a hard copy to those of you who requested a copy after the supplies ran out.
Thanks to each of you for your interest. Happy reading and God bless you all.
Sr. Mary Virginia Orna, O.S.U.

SR. ELINOR SHEA AWARDED WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM CNR
 Sr. Elinor P. Shea, a graduate of The College of New Rochelle (CNR ’50), received the Women of Achievement Award at the CNR 77th Annual Alumnae/i College Weekend in June, 2015. The award, instituted in 1999, recognizes graduates for brilliant accomplishments in their careers. President Judith Huntington presented the award.
Ellie’s career has taken two distinct but intersecting paths: one in education, the other in spirituality. Her teaching career began at Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle, followed by her professorship in the History Department at CNR for nine years. After a year of tertianship in Rome, she returned to teach at CNR. From 1972-77, Ellie played a critical role, first as Associate Director and then Director, of CNR’s School of New Resources, followed by a year establishing the new campus at the New York Theological Seminary.
In 1974, Ellie was quoted in the Standard Star, “The program began as a response to the learning needs and potential of adults beginning or resuming their college education. We now have a more visible role in the community, serving its needs as well as those of the mostly out-of-town students in the undergraduate program.” Ellie still continues her consulting, spiritual direction, and group facilitation.
Ellie also had extensive and varied experience in leadership. From 1968 until 1971, she was the superior at St. Angela’s Convent in the Bronx. From 1984-86 she was Delegate Superior at St. Mary’s, also in the Bronx, as well as a staff member at Little Portion Retreat House. She has been a staff member at the Spiritual Life Center in New Hyde Park, New York, and the Center for Spirituality and Justice in the Bronx, training others to become spiritual directors and retreat directors.
On January 16, 2013, Ellie, formerly Mother Mary Berchmans, celebrated sixty years of religious profession, a landmark moment in a life dedicated to teaching, spiritual direction and The College of New Rochelle.

Thank you for your notes to the editor. Below I have shared some excerpts.
Roxanne Zimmer, Editor
St. Angela, in her great wisdom and insight invited her daughters to “Come together from time to time. Support one another. Encourage one another.”

This summer, in response to St. Angela’s directive, the Ursulines of the Roman Union USA, with their Associates and colleagues, gathered in New Orleans, a place of great historical significance for us. It was there that twelve Ursuline nuns, by royal decree of King Louis XV of France, landed in 1727. They came to minister to the French colonists. In addition to teaching the colonists’ daughters, the nuns began instructing both the Native American and African girls and women, laying the foundation for a strong African-American presence in the local church. The school for girls which they inaugurated is still flourishing today. These deep roots inspire us as we continue the mission begun so many years ago.

The presenter, Fr. Michael Crosby, O.F.M. Cap., drew us back to Angela Merici’s founding vision of choosing a “new way to do business” in founding the Company of St. Ursula: not a cloistered religious community. Her followers were to be involved in their local communities and were to work closely with the laity. Fr. Mike challenged us to be true to this vision and to explore how we are being called today to keep this vision of Angela alive.

The recent Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Assembly offered us another opportunity to join with women religious in the USA in support and encouragement of the mission and ministry of contemporary women religious in our Church. Discussed were some of the essential considerations facing religious life and its leaders. An area of particular concern to participants was the doctrinal assessment of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The LCWR officers and executive directors who were serving from 2014-2015 reported on the steps leading to the mandate’s conclusion, as well as their visit with Pope Francis. The integrity, steadfastness and courage of these leaders evoked great admiration for their role in the resolution of the process.

The desire of LCWR now is that the positive outcome of these years of intense work at building relationships, establishing trust and creating spaces for honest conversations will serve as a source of hope to others within the Church and the world.

These two different gatherings were opportunities that encouraged and challenged us to move into the future with the gifts and wisdom we have to offer and are called to use in response to the needs of our contemporary world.

In June, the Ursulines were awarded a grant for $25,000 from Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!). The grant was given for the replacement of a 50-year-old heat pump at the Province Center, where many of our retired sisters reside.

On June 19, William T. Smith, Ph.D., President of Aging in America, visited the Ursuline Province Center to personally present a check to Sr. Jane Finnerty, Provincial of the Eastern Province.

Support Our Aging Religious was founded in 1986 by a group of concerned lay people seeking to establish a network of donors to help educate and address the retirement challenges facing religious orders. Through donor contributions SOAR! is able to provide the funds for which religious orders, with retired, aged and infirm members, may apply for grants for retirement needs, the purchase of therapeutic and medical equipment, or the funding of projects that provide adequate and safe housing.

Over the years, we have been the fortunate recipient of grants from Support Our Aging Religious. Ursulines are very grateful for the ongoing generosity of SOAR!.

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In June, the Ursulines held their annual Mass of Thanksgiving for benefactors and friends at the Province Center. Reverend John Serio, S.D.B., presided at the Mass. Over one hundred Ursulines, benefactors and friends attended the yearly event.

The Angela Spirituality Group held a fall retreat on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at the Province Center. Sr. Bridget Haase, O.S.U., author, speaker and storyteller, led the retreat with a presentation on Living Our Legacy: Lessons from the Saints.

Sr. Mary Alice Duggan will return home in November 2015 after spending four years as the Interprovincial Secretary at the Ursuline Roman Union Generalate.

Sr. Ann Dumas arrived home on June 5th after having served in Guyana for the past two years. In Guyana, Ann taught math to children at St. Ann’s Home.

Sr. Alice Marie Giordano, with students from The Ursuline School and the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, attended the Teen Orientation for the Commission on the Status of Women celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform. Topics included the well-being of girls and their political empowerment, new achievements in girls’ participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, and the fight against human trafficking.

As part of the Global Ursuline Education Program, Sr. Betty McAdams, with two teachers and nine students from the Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE spent the Easter Vacation in South Africa. It was an exchange with Brescia House School and St. Ursula’s School in Krugersdorp. A new program, Ursuline Links, sponsored by the English Province is a program for young adults combining prayer and reflection with service projects. Sr. Kathleen Colmer, Provincial for the English Province, was the coordinator. Students from AMSU, The Ursuline School and Ursuline Academy in Wilmington joined students from Ursuline schools in England for Gospel reflection and various service projects.

Sr. Anne Walsh, a graduate of The College of New Rochelle (CNR ’55) was awarded the Ursula Laurus Citation at the College’s 77th annual Alumnae/i College Weekend in June.

For several weeks in April, we were happy to welcome Brazilian Sr. Neusimar Marques da Silva, the General Council member contact for the Eastern Province. During her stay, Sister Neusimar had the opportunity to visit many communities and ministries.

Sisters gathered to meet Sr. Neusimar at the Province Center.

From August 16th to the 22nd, Sr. Beth Dowd celebrated Songcatchers’ 36th Annual Sleep-away Choir Camp held at the Happiness is Camping site, in Hardwick, NJ. On November 14th, Songcatchers will perform at Iona College at the Nostra Aetate Concert in celebration of the college’s 75th anniversary.
The JPIC office at the Province Center is the focus of province efforts for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. JPIC connects us with organizations dedicated to making our world better.

As JPIC Coordinator, I am involved with many groups collaborating in works of justice across the greater New York Region and the nation. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), and NETWORK are Washington-based organizations for leaders of women’s religious congregations to share ideas and activities such as legislative lobbying on behalf of the poor. Another group, The Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop the Trafficking of Persons (CRC-STOP) advocates legislatively, provides safe housing for victims of trafficking, and sponsors educational workshops on human trafficking each year. At these events I have witnessed the increased initiative of students in leadership roles and the contribution of faculty collaborating across campuses and working with experts in business, law and social services, as well as leaders of organizations like Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS).

Locally, ecology efforts are addressed by Religious Organizations Along the River (ROAR). This coalition of men and women religious has joined local advocates pressing for General Electric’s cleanup of PCBs in the Hudson River, education and advocacy around issues related to the Indian Point Nuclear plant, and other ecological concerns in the Hudson Valley. The TriState Coalition for Responsible Investment (TRI-CRI) has engaged Catholic investors in helping corporations meet their ethical responsibility. At a recent celebration of TRI-CRI’s 40th anniversary, a panelist who was manager for a large company when he first met TRI-CRI, described how he came to understand the ethical and social concerns of the people most affected by corporate decisions. He realized measures could be taken to benefit both corporations and individuals.

Another group that has become very important to JPIC efforts is the Working Group on Girls (WGG), a UN Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). This international group provides opportunities for girls to learn about the processes of the UN and to have platforms to voice their insights on issues affecting girls throughout the world. Students from three of our schools have participated in girl-led events sponsored by the WGG. I have great hope when I see young women who are interns at UNICEF, UNANIMA (led by an Ursuline), and other UN entities modeling strong engagement and collaboration reaching out to support girls in their fledgling efforts.

JPIC also connects with worldwide efforts. In September Ursulines and students from the Academy of Mount St Ursula joined over 400,000 others carrying banners in the largest Climate Change March ever. We prepared for this by interfaith meetings that introduced us to a deep sense of solidarity with others in action for sustainability. We hope to continue the connections from this event in support of Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’.

We are grateful for the interest, support, and collaboration of our Associates, friends, collaborators, and supporters, for the many ways they join us in this engagement with justice and we are stronger because they stand with us in our shared Christian vocation, our shared human vocation.
With the theme of “The Company of St. Angela, Mission for These Times,” over 125 Roman Union Ursulines, Associates, and colleagues met in New Orleans in July. We were warmly welcomed – not only by the temperature outside, but especially by the New Orleans Ursuline Community. A welcome package included charming individual letters from elementary grade students of the Ursuline Academy which reminded us of the history, food, fun, and special features of their school and the city of New Orleans. Visitors enjoyed opportunities to visit the old Ursuline convent, the French Quarter, Bourbon Street, and other historical sites.

The gathering began with exploring new ways of living our charism as followers of St. Angela. On the first day, Michael Crosby, O.F.M. Cap., presented his thoughts on our foundress. He reminded the audience that Angela had been a Franciscan tertiary before founding the Company of St. Ursula in 1535; her Rule shows many examples of Franciscan spirituality. His presentation, using many of Angela’s thoughts, focused on freedom, understanding the positive and negative use of power/energy, and positive and negative ways of relating.

We were reminded that in 1727, twelve Ursulines from various French monasteries traveled to what is now New Orleans to found not only the Ursuline Academy, but also a hospital for the French military. Ursuline educational endeavors included both an academy for girls, and an orphanage, as well as catechism for slave and free African Americans and Native Americans.

On the second day of the gathering, the group was led in a reflection on how to imagine ourselves anew as followers of Angela in the 21st century. Religious life has shifted greatly, and the experience for many is of both disorientation and creativity. Our times have parallels in those of Angela: war, religious dissension, poverty, social and family breakdown. It was helpful to have several Associates describe their valuable experiences. Important to all was the sharing of prayer, companionship, empathy, a focus on Jesus. The Gathering invited participants to reflect upon, share, and discuss a new way of being followers of Angela in our time – and to dream about how we might begin to re-shape our future.

In the homily during the closing liturgy, I linked the gospel of the multiplication of the bread and fish with the history of New Orleans. In this context, Ursulines have “fed” the hungry of the city for over 288 years. In addition, with prayer and compassion, they have faced the adversities of wars, social, economic and political change as well as the physical devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Srs. Mary Beth Read and Sandy Wardell consider the speaker’s views.

Michael Crosby, O.F.M. Cap. outlines the structure of his two-day presentation emphasizing the Franciscan nature of St. Angela’s spirituality.

SCIENCE HISTORY: A TRAVELER’S GUIDE

While teaching at The College of New Rochelle, Sr. Mary Virginia Orna developed a course for students on the history of science and mathematics. This course gave rise to her leading Science History tours throughout the world for 20 years. The American Chemical Society initiated a symposium on the topic as well as this book. The goals of both the tours and the book include learning science through travel to sites where the science occurred. This travel can interface with the professional goals of chemists in academe, industry, and other areas.

Available at Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com
My assignment: write a summary of the Pope’s encyclical! Having just read the 190 page document, I knew that was an impossible task for this column. Several drafts confirmed this belief. A turning point came when a friend said, “Write from your heart.” The 190 page document *Laudato Si’* (Praise to you): On Care for our Common Home, erudite and, at the same time, user-friendly, touched my heart deeply. It is probably one among few encyclicals that I have reread with passion and enthusiasm, fueling as it does my belief in the Celtic tradition that creation is the first scripture.

By the time you read this column, Pope Francis will have seen and been seen by millions on the East Coast. His personal touch and capacity to reach out to all will undoubtedly leave an indelible memory. His initial reason for coming to the East Coast of the United States was to be present for the World Day on Families in Philadelphia. We in New York were happy, of course, to take second place. He touched the ground here at several New York icons – Madison Square Garden, Central Park, the renovated St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and Harlem – a different icon, home of great artistic talent, and also poverty.

The Pope will have had a triumvirate of meetings: with the Bishops and Congress in Washington DC and at the United Nations in New York. While his meetings will have focused on many areas, his strong concern for the environment shown in the encyclical *Laudato Si’* will be a thread connecting so many of his concerns. It is, as it were, an umbrella. The last paragraph of his introduction to the encyclical describes some of these concerns: “I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of the new paradigms and the forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology . . . the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle.”

With the excitement of his visit over, we are left to ponder, educate ourselves and take action on the above. Francis is not a doomsday person and yet, he will say “We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste, and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophe.” Coupled with these realistic observations is his strong conviction shared many times. “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvement and talents.”

Francis’ timing is perfect. In December 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in Paris, France. Delegates from 196 Nations will attend. The objective of the conference is to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world.

How can we prepare? What conversion of mind and heart is Francis calling us to as individuals, families, communities?

In August, Maureen Glynn Crowley met with the sisters at Andrus and described her understanding of Centering Prayer and its impact on her life. She then led the sisters in an experience of this form of prayer after which they shared their thoughts.

In September, the Ursuline sisters at Andrus were joined by the Congregation of Notre Dame sisters for the prayer, “Caring for Creation,” to celebrate the World Day of Prayer designated by Pope Francis. After the prayer a number shared their thoughts on the meaning of creation and the significance of the prayer for them.

Many wonderful articles and videos are available to help our understanding of the encyclical. Just to highlight a few:

Google:
James Martin, S.J., *Top Ten Takeaways from Laudato Si’*
Yale Climate Connections - encyclical background
Thomas Reese, *Readers Guide to Laudato Si’*
Bill McKibben, *The Pope and the Planet*
WHY PAINT?
by Terry Eppridge, O.S.U.

For me the last eleven years have been a time of searching and discovery. It came to me that drawing is an exercise; painting is a journey. My journey became a serious one in 2004. I did not know it was to be a journey but surely it has been. First came the choice of medium - oil or acrylic or watercolor. I chose acrylic - no fumes, no odor and fast drying. Paint the canvas and carry it home dry. Then find a teacher and next, what to paint. The cliché subjects are the 5 Bs - babies, bouquets, barns, beauties, butterflies. Barns attracted me. Farms had a nostalgia to them. The barns had architectural distinctions and many were disappearing. A chance to document a fading image.

But after four years of this I changed teachers. Growth required something more demanding. Larger surface, more control of the medium, more intimate subject matter. After one or two classes, the new teacher said, “Bring in oils the next class.” I did. I still had the paints and brushes given me by Mr. Thompson, my CNR painting teacher in 1956. And the materials were in working condition. Then came the search for subject matter. I tried architecture, animals, and finally, after two years, through a portrait commission, I was led to people. Then I began to find my interest, the people of the street, a guy sleeping in sunlight, women talking on a subway. The size of the work, almost life-size, and the style or technique, impressionistic tending to realism. At present I am still studying, now with my third teacher. The journey is not over yet but I have the size, the medium, the subject. Now I am journeying on technique and composition. In the process I have discovered three things: that I learn inch by inch; that I need a good teacher. In non-academic settings, which these are, instruction is often “on demand” rather than systematic; you have to ask for what you want to know. And third, that because something is basic, it may be late in the game before you learn it. The journey is rich and full of surprises. And the people I have painted have a secret second life.

MARTHA COUNIHAN From p. 1

of her stints in Latin America. In 2001 CNR appointed her Archivist/Special Collections Librarian, a position she continues to fill. From this vantage point she has organized and catalogued the development of the institution. Through articles and physical displays, she has shared the history of the College and its various leaders since 1908. She likewise has published an account that contributes to the knowledge of Leland Castle, the original College building still in use today. Her contribution fills a niche in the City of New Rochelle’s historic development.

Martha has undertaken the task of writing a book about a woman who is a Holocaust survivor from World War II. The woman of Jewish ancestry, now in her nineties, has given Martha her own account of being protected and sheltered by the nuns at the Ursuline Generalate in Rome during the war. Martha has studied the Generalate archives to complete the knowledge of that dangerous time and hopes to publish the story soon.

Along the way, Martha has used the art of service in many forms for the enrichment of others.
Sr. Irene Mahoney, O.S.U.  
May 5, 1921 – May 9, 2015

Sister Irene Mahoney, whose religious name was Denis, died peacefully at Andrus on Hudson at the age of 94.

Irene entered the Order of St. Ursula in 1942 and made her profession of vows in 1945. An outstanding teacher at the Ursuline Academy in Wilmington and The College of New Rochelle, she taught students a love of literature and a love of writing. Writing was a deeply satisfying vocation for her. As a free-lance writer since 1983, Irene wrote historical biographies including that of Marie of the Incarnation, Henry of Navarre, and Catherine de Medici. She has written accounts of the founding of Ursuline communities and ministries in China, Thailand, and Montana. Her fiction writing includes novels, dramatic monologues and a mystery. Her recent novel, China Dreams, grew out of her experience teaching English at Wen Tzao College in Taiwan in the 1980’s. In this fictional narrative, the first-person narrator goes to Taiwan as a teacher, where she faces the sharp differences between her American culture and that of the people she encounters at Ho Ping school. Irene obtained her Bachelor’s degree at The College of New Rochelle, a Master’s degree from Fordham University and a Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America. She was in residence at the Milay Artists’ Colony. Her volunteer activities included Literacy Volunteers of America. She was active in Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library and in dramatic programs for Call to Action. At all times Irene was a woman with a talent for making good, lasting friends wherever she lived and served.

Sr. Adelaide Thomason, O.S.U.  
November 30, 1921 – August 21, 2015

Sister Adelaide Thomason, O.S.U. died peacefully at Andrus on Hudson following a long illness. She was 93. She is survived by a sister, Dolores Melitio of Dallas, and five nieces and nephews.

A native of Dallas, Texas, she was to her fingertips, a Southern lady. Sr. Adelaide entered the Ursulines in 1939. Her final profession was on January 16, 1945. She earned a B.A. in English from CNR in 1945, a Master’s in Philosophy from Catholic University in 1954, and a Doctorate in Philosophy from Fordham in 1969.

Adelaide’s lifelong ministry was education, and she was a dedicated and gifted teacher. From 1945-1959 she taught at the Ursuline Academy in Dallas. From 1960-1963 she served as Assistant Superior at the Ursuline House of Studies in New Rochelle. She taught philosophy in The College of New Rochelle’s School of Arts & Sciences from 1960-1992 and she then joined the Instructional Staff of CNR’s School of New Resources from 1992 until 2006. Shy and seemingly retiring, she could stand before a classroom of students and inspire them with her skills and passion for her subject matter. Much of her effectiveness came from her diligence in keeping up-to-date in her discipline, alert to contemporary philosophers and developments in the field. In 1980, and from 2004-2007, Sr. Adelaide was an NGO representative at the United Nations for the International Federation of Catholic Universities.

There will be no other sign that you are in the grace of the Lord than that you love one another and are united together.

St. Angela Merici – Tenth Legacy
Celebrating jubilee anniversaries of religious profession at Andrus on Hudson on May 9, 2015, the sisters process out after the Mass in their honor.

Front row: Anne Curry 70 years, Josephine DePietro 50 years, Kathleen O’Connell 60 years, Jane Mennis 60 years. Back row: Marcia Kimball 60 years, Marjorie Stumpf 60 years, Joan Woodcome 50 years. Not pictured: Vera Marie de Wolff 60 years, Mary Virginia Orna 50 years, and Bernadette Mackay 50 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2015 MAY BOUQUET ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
Our gratitude to all who entered. Your participation helps to offset the cost of caring for our retired and infirm sisters.
approaching closure of the convent and loss of the larger Ursuline community, the leadership of the group has been generously assumed by an Executive Committee of three members, one of whom rotates annually. Functioning this way for several years, the Associates have been especially innovative and adaptable to many changes. A few of the remaining Wilmington Ursulines attend the meetings and support the mission of these dedicated Associates.

See then how important is this union. So long for it, pursue it, embrace it, hold onto it with all your strength . . . and I shall always be in your midst, helping your prayers.

Last Counsel of St. Angela

Allow me to introduce our 2015 Executive Committee members: Loretta Kilby, Clara Zahradnik and Meg Kane-Smith. These three Associates are the new Angela in the 21st century: prayerful, dedicated women involved in all aspects of life. Beside their busy daily lives, they commit themselves to the smooth functioning and growth of the group.

Clara Zahradnik, a graduate of Villa Angela Academy in Cleveland, Ohio, has been an Associate for twenty-three years. She is presently employed by the Chemours Company as the Export Control Leader after retiring from thirty-six years of service in the DuPont Company. Although her position frequently requires travel, Clara and her husband Peter enjoy long hours in their unique garden, which has merited award-winning prizes.

Somehow, Clara finds time to serve on the local neighborhood association, support functions of the Ministry of Caring and is now on the Planning Committee for the 2016 Ursuline Convocation to be held in Louisville, Kentucky next summer.

In the midst of our Ursuline changes, Clara has been an efficient, generous member of our Executive Committee.

The mother of seven, a retired psychiatric nurse, and an alumna of Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, Loretta Kilby, an Associate of fourteen years, wears many hats as mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and a volunteer in several areas.

Loretta is a woman of determination and a strong advocate for justice and charity. Never idle, her time is given to teaching English to Mexicans, visiting nursing homes to pray and sing for residents, service on the Board of the Delaware Association for Children of Alcoholics and is also Eucharistic Minister in her parish. Loretta states: “I am happy that I could serve on the Executive Committee and that the Ursuline Associate group is active and growing.”

Meg Kane-Smith, a third year Associate, came to teach in Ursuline Academy middle school in 1998 and presently teaches religion to sophomores and seniors. Coordinator of the sophomores’ eighty hour Service Projects, she has conducted several student summer service trips to New York, Washington, D.C., Peru (where they visited the Ursuline School) and Habitat for Humanity in Cambridge, Maryland. In 2007, Meg was one of the Ursuline faculty members and parents who founded Serviam Girls Academy, a scholarship-based middle school for low-income girls in New Castle, Delaware.

Along with her educational commitments, she is devoted to her family and still donates time to the social services activities of her parish. Her generous, cheerful disposition has brought joy and inspiration to our Associate group!

While celebrating our twenty-fifth anniversary, each of the Associates brings richness to the group and a dedication to spreading the charism of Angela.

Sister Marian Bohen was honored by Rising Hope for her twenty years of ministry teaching at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, NY at a special event in June 2015. She had taught a variety of courses including the History of Christianity.

Rising Hope, the ministry for educating prisoners, held a 20th-anniversary event called a Transformation Celebration at which teachers and former students recalled the education provided at Sing Sing. They celebrated the success of its graduates, many of whom have integrated into civilian life. Rising Hope succeeded the ministry formerly sponsored by New York Theological Seminary.

During Marian’s years of ministry, it was noted that she accomplished a variety of tasks: “she taught a number of courses, recruited new volunteers, shaped the curriculum, maintained an effective working relationship with the Sing Sing administration, and managed every aspect of the program.” She retired in 2013 and resides at Andrus on Hudson.
Ursuline 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.