North Country Ursuline Associate Cheryl Learned is part of the Ursuline legacy, keeping alive the innovative spirit of St. Angela Merici and, given proximity to Canada, the heritage of newly canonized St. Marie of the Incarnation.

Ursulines guided Cheryl during her early education, kindergarten through grade 12 in Malone, NY. While in high school she attended the Summer School of Catholic Action at Fordham University, and it reaffirmed what she had been taught by the Ursulines prompting her to act on these beliefs throughout her life.

Cheryl’s college years coincided with the heady years of Vatican II. She followed events in Rome closely at Nazareth College in Rochester. Her excitement grew as the Church adapted to the modern world, in particular with the transition to English in the liturgy, enabling Catholics in the pews to become active participants, not merely observers.

Her three decade teaching career was informed by these changes. Teaching reading became her specialty. In addition, as the reforms of Vatican II were implemented with an emphasis on the vocation of the laity, Cheryl took an active role. She participated in various programs including Two by Two, a diocesan adult education program.}

With Vatican II, Ursulines were able to leave cloistered convents and serve in new locations, particularly with the poor. By the 1960s many Puerto Ricans had relocated to the Bronx, and Spanish-speaking children were enrolling in the Ursulines’ parish schools. “Larry” eagerly took advantage of the NY Archdiocese offer to prepare these students by spending two summers in Puerto Rico. Sr. Laurence also volunteered to teach English in the Mexican Province for several years during her summer “vacation.”

While in Middletown, Sr. Laurence spent summers serving in local migrant worker programs. She continued her teaching and ministry work in New Rochelle and Wilmington.
FROM THE EDITOR

We know you’re reading Bylines. We’d like to hear from you.
Send an email to devofc@aol.com or a note to Ursuline Provincialate, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10804.

We received this letter in response to a past issue of Bylines

Having gone to St. Philip Neri and Mount St. Ursula, I have had the privilege of being taught by many wonderful Ursulines.

Four of the most influential were Sister Gertrude Marie Krug, Sister Marie Therese Bugge, Sister Dorothy Collins and Sister Gloria Marie Sullivan. Sister Gertrude Marie was my art teacher at SPN and MSU. She introduced me to a chisel point pen and my love of calligraphy began. Sister Marie Therese introduced me to musical theatre with two amazing productions in sixth grade and eighth grade – “The Sound of Music” and “The King and I.” Sister Marie also became a very dear friend long after school was over. Sister Dorothy honed my acting skills further during high school but more importantly she helped me in English Junior year especially in preparation for the Regents Exam! Sister Gloria Marie was another superstar in junior year as an amazing Trigonometry teacher!

What a blessing it was to have had such a wonderful education by the Ursulines!!
Sincerely,
Jane Joyce, MSU 1973, SPN 1969

CHRISTMAS AT THE PROVINCE CENTER

Once again Ursulines were delighted to share Christmas with all our friends through our traditional Christmas ornament exchange. Each year we look forward to the messages that you send with your ornament and your expressions of love, gratitude and peace are deeply moving.

This Christmas the ornaments were hung on one of four trees at the Province Center. They were located in the main parlor, the dining room, the Angela Garden Room and the Province Chapel. As we hung each ornament, we offered prayers in gratitude for your participation in our lives. And, your special intentions are prayed for by the Ursuline prayer group.

We thank you for your generosity, but more importantly, for your friendship and kindness.

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Correction: In the 2013-2014 Ursuline Provincialate Annual Report, through an oversight, we neglected to list gifts received from Frances Choquette Broderick, CNR ’57, in the proper category. Her gifts should have been listed under Gifts of $500-$999. We are grateful for her generosity.
The day the blizzard of 2015 was predicted for the east coast I left New York to attend an international meeting of Ursuline Provincials at our Generalate in Rome. After several days of informational meetings for new provincials, the other provincials arrived for the meeting of the Enlarged General Council (EGC). We were a rich and diverse group from different cultures and backgrounds speaking sixteen different languages.

The official opening of our meeting coincided with the feast of the Presentation of Jesus. We joined religious from around the world for Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica. In his homily Pope Francis spoke of this feast as the encounter between Jesus and his people. He went on to say that Jesus comes to us in the Church through the charism of the founders of Religious Institutes and exhorted religious to “carry forward your charism addressing the challenges that life brings.”

Pope Francis’ message set the stage for our meeting, the theme of which echoed the 2013 Chapter Message, “Empowered by the Holy Spirit: with the courage of Angela, we dare to be the change we wish to see in our world.”

This meeting was the occasion for the General Council to give an account of the initiatives they have undertaken in response to the Calls of the Chapter. Among them is the Call to increase our international solidarity and to expand our work against trafficking. The small group sharing and discussion highlighted the different faces these issues take on in other cultures and the challenges experienced in responding to them. I was struck by the work being done by our Sisters in the Asia-Pacific Region with asylum seekers and those who are trafficked. In Africa our sisters are exploring the possibility of opening a new community in Zimbabwe. In the European, Latin America and South America Regions programs are in place to bring awareness of these critical issues to students.

With the Arctic Blast of mid-February I returned home energized, knowing that we, the members of the Eastern Province, through our works of justice and peace share a common vision with our Sisters throughout the world. Insieme, together, we dare to be the change we wish to see in the world.

THE BORDER
Mary Sullivan, OSU

I often think about Laredo, Texas, a place where I spent three weeks last fall. I lived with our sisters from the Central Province and worked closely with Maria Teresa de Llano as she aided and encouraged refugee families from El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, and even the Ukraine - coming through Mexico to gain access to the U.S.

In June 2014, the Catholic Social Services of Laredo was called to respond to the urgent needs of families who had crossed the border and were being released by immigration authorities for travel to other locations in the U.S. From a federal detention center, these families were dropped at the local bus station with no further assistance, and no directions.

Continued on p. 7
Pope Francis’ letter explains his thoughts on consecrated life in the church today, in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council of 50 years ago. He writes of the Aims he envisions for this year, his Expectations, and the Horizons it includes. The letter is inclusive in expression. His vision is inclusive in the broadest sense, going beyond consecrated religious to the whole church and to all those who seek God and including the contemporary world’s dimensions.

Aims: “to look at the past with gratitude,” and “to read the signs of the times with eyes of faith.” “May this year of Consecrated Life also be an occasion for confessing humbly, with immense confidence in the God who is Love our own weakness and, in it to experience the Lord’s merciful love.” He wants the year to “call us to live the present with passion. And grateful remembrance of the past.”

“Living the present with passion means becoming ‘experts in communion,’ ‘witnesses and architects of the plan for unity . . . by acknowledging the dignity of each person and sharing our respective gifts.’” And “to embrace the future with hope.”

Expectations: “We are called to know and show that God is able to fill our hearts to the brim with happiness... our communities increase our joy; and our self-giving in service . . . gives us life-long personal fulfillment. I am counting on you ‘to wake up the world, since the distinctive sign of consecrated life is prophecy . . . to be prophets who witness to how Jesus lived on this earth.’”

Horizons: “I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission . . . I urge you as laity to live the Year of Consecrated Life as a grace which can make you more aware of the gift you yourselves have received . . .[It] concerns not only consecrated persons, but the entire church.”

Compiled by Bridget Puzon, OSU

SISTER LAURENCE MONTGOMERY
Continued from p.1

camps, in Florida, NY, visiting families, and teaching religion in the shadow of rickety trailers. I met Sr. Laurence during one such summer in Middletown where she became known as “Madre Lorenzo” and belied her self-description as “shy and nervous.” Her kind and winning personality invited new English learners to risk trying to speak English with the Madre’s patient help.

While in Wilmington, she also served migrants and taught at St. Paul’s parish. In summers from 1982 until 2000 she worked with the Franciscan Sisters in Delaware and Maryland for the rural poor. She also taught English as a Second Language in collaboration with the Wilmington Public Library for many years. Sr. Laurence recalls teaching English to immigrants from Japan and Bulgaria as well as from Spanish-speaking countries. One student was delighted to go through the newspaper and learn how to distinguish pants from trousers (none of which Sr. Laurence wears). She was honored with the Outstanding Adult/Family Literacy Service Award on behalf of the State of Delaware in 2000.

After “retirement” Sr. Laurence enjoyed teaching English to Mexican Poor Clares who had settled in a Wilmington convent and needed to find self-supporting ministries. Learning English, American Catholic and religious life customs was a skill this little dynamo Ursuline had perfected; in addition, she helped them in obtaining citizenship. A favorite memory of her last Wilmington days was the daily tutoring of a Thai Ursuline who had come to learn English. “How Sister Song Sang loved idioms!”

At the beginning of our interview, Sister Laurence remarked that she had not traveled much. When considering how much this little-traveled Sister brought language, literacy, and welcome to newcomers, Laurence Montgomery’s service is a legacy of selfless giving of our language and culture that served persons from across the globe.
ANNE CURRY, OSU

“Seeing nuns walking to school in my early days, I saw in them the light of St. Angela. Angela is beautiful, and loves people.” Anne’s face is radiant as she recalls the happy memories of her religious life in the spirit of St. Angela. The jubilee is a delight for her. And she loves to recall visiting St. Angela’s home and places where Angela had lived. She says, “Angela is beautiful.”

IRENE MAHONEY, OSU

from her book Encounters:

“Long before I thought of a life of consecration to God I had imaged my life as a writer. . . . [it] became increasingly clear that what had absorbed me throughout my adult life was this insistent double vocation. . . . The wonder was that everything ‘fit’. . . . There was no need to choose. It was all one, as I was one.”

VERA MARIE DE WOLFF, OSU

“I celebrated my jubilee with a guitar Mass (our Provincial plays and our communities sing) in Salzburg and in Vienna. Sixty years as an Ursuline seems incredibly long, but I never regretted that calling for a day: a gift of the Lord.

I am celebrating another jubilee in August – which also means a lot: 50 years in Austria! A lovely, peaceful country to be living in. I am grateful that I never had to choose between Salzburg and Vienna; they are so different and I feel at home in both. With every best wish: may you all be as content and grateful as I am with my life.”

MARCIA KIMBALL, OSU

“The lives of the Ursulines who mentored me as a student at the College of New Rochelle along with the celebration of the liturgy in the college chapel are what attracted me to the Ursulines more than sixty years ago. Both have continued to nurture and sustain me through many ups and downs, triumphs and failures. I have been afforded the opportunity of exploring a variety of ministries from teaching to computer programming that put me in a supportive role for many diverse activities such as Diocesan Religious Education, Jesuit Volunteers, Religious Associates Program, Family Health Services, Hope Kitchen, Maryknoll Cross Cultural Training Services, Adult Learning Center, and more recently to serving my Province (and other religious congregations) as archivist. As I look back over the past sixty years I can say that it has been a glorious adventure spent in the company of generous and prayerful women and a loving God to whom I am eternally grateful.”

JANE MENNIS, OSU

“As a student at the College of New Rochelle, I admired the worldwide vision I encountered there. When I became an Ursuline, I felt a call to missionary life. This led to a ministry in Greece, teaching girls English as a Second Language. After I returned to the United States, I was greatly influenced by Bishop Oscar Romero, leading me to learn Spanish in El Salvador. Consecrated life as a vowed religious opened me to a world vision.”

KATHLEEN O’CONNELL, OSU

“An image I had before entering the Ursulines sixty years ago had me standing at the top of a cliff getting ready to jump into the unknown or into emptiness. My call to consecrated life has enabled me to grow in a life of daily prayer,
both private and in participating in the Liturgical Prayer of the Church. The Ursuline motto of “Serviam” has encouraged me to serve the needs of others in a variety of ministries around our country. Sharing life in community has lent support, encouragement and friendship.

That image of long ago of the unknown has, over the years, turned into a life of true personal fulfillment, eliciting along the way, deep gratitude for that first call and oh, such abiding joy over the years. That leap of sixty years ago was truly the best leap of my life! Deo gratias.”

MARGOIRIE StUMPE, OSU

“A relative of mine, concerned about me, said, ‘Marjorie has a string of degrees and what good does it do her?’ Well, to begin with, they opened the door to valuable service in my own and other countries, including 7 years in Thailand. My studies at The Catholic University of America gave me confidence in teaching music and leading singing groups from primary grades to college classes. Later I studied library science for another degree, to serve several happy years as a librarian. Later I took up training as a docent at the Botanical Gardens. That’s the good that education was for me in service to others.”

JOAN WOODCOMBE, OSU

“As I reflect upon what I have experienced and learned over the past 50 years of my life as an Ursuline, I realize that I have come to believe and know that our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - is the center of my life and the very core of my being. That knowledge has grown, matured and deepened over the years. The love of God has been my constant in good times as well as in times of messiness and darkness. My years have been blessed indeed by my awareness of God’s presence in my life. I am so deeply grateful for this. I am also very blessed and grateful to live and minister with such remarkable and gifted women. Alleluia!”

BERNADETTE MACKAY, OSU

In the World Mission Office of the Diocese of Orlando, Bernadette MacKay does field work in the Dominican Republic. Most recently her work has been focused on education for children high up in the mountains, preparing them for high school, children for whom this would otherwise have been impossible.

MARGVIRGINIA ORNA, OSU

“An emergency six-month teaching position while I was a graduate student introduced me to the Ursulines. Well, it has been a long “six months” and I thank God every day for the “chance” encounter that started me walking humbly and joyfully along the never-ending pathway with my God.”

From July 23-25, all Ursuline Sisters, Associates, Colleagues and Friends will meet in New Orleans for the 2015 Ursuline Gathering. With speakers and discussion sessions, we will look to the future and plan to be in mission together. Whatever vocation we follow, the spirit of St. Angela is with us and we are called together to share it with the world. For information contact Sr. Ann Barrett, OSU at annb@osucentral.org.
THE BORDER  Continued from p.2

Many were suffering from physical ailments and hunger. Some were without shoes or any clothes other than what they were wearing. Having paid at least $3,500 to a coyote to get them this far all carried the one legal document permitting them U.S. access in a zip lock bag.

To stay in the U.S. these families had to have a pre-arranged U.S. resident contact or host. An employee from Immigration and Customs Enforcement makes phone calls advising the host of the family’s arrival. In addition, families must appear before an immigration court in their destination city. Some will appear for it; many will decide not to for fear of deportation.

Catholic Social Services of Laredo and the Holding Institute Community Center (Methodist Church) welcome these families providing them with food, clothing, and a place of respite before taking off for their destinations. Many had traveled twenty days or more, some of them several months. Through this initiative, mothers and children shared a meal, shower, rest and packed some clothes and food for their journey. Their relief was palpable. The playfulness of the children and their eagerness to read, draw, and play were a hopeful sign. For a few hours families could relax.

Countless stories of their reasons for leaving, stories of escape from their home towns, and their arduous travel fill my mind. When asked about the dangers of their trip, many responded “crossing the river.” Carrying a child and the coveted papers, they navigated the cold waters until they reached the American side and were taken by the U.S. border patrol to the detention center.

Others rode the train known as the BEAST, illegally hanging on the side or lying on top.

I will never forget the people I met during these days: their courage, warmth, resiliency, faith, hope, and deep love for their children. The dominant reason for leaving was the protection of their children. Since U.S. policy permits only one parent to travel with the children, the other parent either did not come or was being held in another detention center until his fate was decided.

As our legislators argue about Comprehensive Immigration Reform, knowing their stories puts a human face on these debates.

The Lost Elements: The Periodic Table’s Shadow Side by Mary Virginia Orna and two colleagues, Marco Fontani and Mariagrazia Costa was recently published by Oxford University Press. Below is a review of the book in the November 6 issue of Nature.

It is a 500+ page compendium of errors, retractions and dead ends in the creation of the periodic table — errors that were sometimes deliberate, and sometimes committed in good faith. Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann remarks in his preface to the book:

“I have not read as truly interesting a book as this one in decades – dip into it, open it on any page, and you are immediately drawn into a tale of human ambition, folly, and ingenuity. There is material in it for a dozen operas. Or is it reality shows?”

If any Bylines recipient would like a free copy (as long as supplies last), please email Mary Virginia at maryvirginiaorna@gmail.com.
ASSOCIATE PROFILE: CHERYL LEARNED
Continued from p.1

in the 1980’s, women’s spirituality, book discussions, diocesan Formation for Ministry, and Ursuline Associates.

Cheryl credits her twelve years of Ursuline education with forming the values by which she lives. As an Ursuline Associate she has solidified her devotion to Saint Angela, helping herself and others on the journey to eternal life. Through the Associates she has conducted book discussions, participated in retreat days, supported the works of Catholic Charities, and currently she serves on the local Associate Executive Committee. Through the Associates she has participated in altruistic projects to help many in the community.

Beyond church circles Cheryl has been active for years in a variety of community groups such as the Red Cross, Girl Scouts, and the Franklin County House of History. Cheryl is currently representing Franklin Deanery on Bishop LaValley’s diocesan census team, a component of the diocesan renewal program, charged with completing a “Find Your Home in Christ” census of all households by August 1, 2015. Cheryl also enjoys the company of her family with one daughter in North Carolina, and a daughter and two granddaughters in Syracuse, NY.

NEWS AND NOTES

Shortly before Christmas 2014, a choir of residents at Andrus on Hudson presented an afternoon concert of Christmas carols and songs. They provided a joyful spirit for Christmas. Singing in the chorus were Ursuline residents Sisters Marjorie Stumpf, Jane Mennis, Mary Jo Lyons, and Virginia Maxwell. A concert in the spring is planned.

On Chinese New Year’s Day, February 19, at Andrus on Hudson, an afternoon presentation by Sister Irene Mahoney was called “To China and Back.” She described what the Chinese people do to celebrate the day, based on her experience. Sr. Irene spent two years teaching English to students at Wen Tzao College in Taiwan, Republic of China.

Sister Beth Dowd, Executive Director of Songcatchers, received the National Guild Milestone Award on November 21, 2014. The award recognizes leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to supporting and advancing community arts education for more than 20 years.

For the opening of the 2014 school year, Sister Terry Eppridge exhibited thirteen of her figure paintings at Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE, her high school Alma Mater. Students from the Upper, Middle, and Lower Schools had the opportunity to see the work and Terry had the chance to discuss. Continued on p. 9

www.osueast.org 8
Mother Judith Mietzelfeld, OSU  
October 1, 1921 - October 20, 2014

Mother Judith was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1921. She studied English language and literature at the College of New Rochelle, and in 1942 she entered the Ursulines. As a junior she continued her studies at Fordham University. From 1945 to 1956 she taught philosophy and English at the College of New Rochelle.

In 1957 she joined the Austrian Province where she taught at the Ursuline High School in Salzburg. In 1964 she was appointed Provincial Prioress, and remained in this post until 1971 when she was elected Prioress General.

Her election took place during the second session of the Special General Chapter of 1969 – 1971. As Prioress General and as Provincial, Mother Judith was conscious of the difficulties of sisters living under hostile conditions behind the Iron Curtain. She took every opportunity to visit them, regardless of the risks to herself. In the 1990s she was involved in pastoral work in Vienna and missionary service in Taiwan. In 2011, after her 90th birthday, she moved to Klagenfurt. She died peacefully on October 20, 2014.

Sr. Mary Shea, OSU  
Aug. 2, 1943 - Sept. 29, 2014

Sister Mary Shea died unexpectedly on Monday, September 29, 2014. Mary was born in the Bronx on August 2, 1943. At the time of her death, Mary was working at The Ursuline School Testing Center, from 2012. Prior to that, in 2011 to 2012, she was a substitute teacher for the New Rochelle Board of Education. Her prior ministry had been in parish work.

From 1986 to 2007 she was Parish Associate at St. Mary Parish in the Bronx, where she was dearly loved.

She next served as Director of Education at St. Barnabas Parish in the Bronx from 2007 to 2010, and then at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in the Bronx for 1 year. In her early years as an Ursuline, she was a successful and much appreciated teacher at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula from 1971 to 1986.

She has served on the Board of Trustees at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, first in 1987 to 1990, and currently served from 2007, going into her second term in 2010. Mary earned a BA in Classics from the College of New Rochelle in 1964, and an MA in Comparative Literature from the Catholic University of America in 1971.

Sr. Imelda Dahill, OSU  
May 17, 1927 - January 9, 2015

Sister Imelda (Margaret) Dahill was from Taunton, Massachusetts and met the Ursulines at the College of New Rochelle from which she graduated in 1949. She joined the Ursulines after college and received the name, Imelda.

She was professed in 1952 and after study began teaching. Her desire to serve in the missions brought her to Cuba, Peru, and to Mexico. She served in Mexico for many years as a teacher, local superior, and provincial. Sister Imelda died in Puebla, Mexico on January 9, 2015.
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.

NEWS AND NOTES Continued

from April 8 to April 23. Our gathering to welcome and greet her is Saturday, April 18, at the Province Center. The Upper Room will present Professor Paul Lakeland of Fairfield University on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The topic is “Pope Francis’ Vision of the Church: Missionary Discipleship and Mercy.” It will be held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Rochelle, at 7:30 P.M.