TERRY EPPRIDGE, O.S.U.
By Bridget Puzon, O.S.U.

Energy, art, and social action mark a large portion of Terry’s life. As a young religious, the events of the ‘60s colored her experience: a country divided struggled over a contentious war, and a nation was challenged to face racial inequities. And Terry found herself a radicalized and concerned religious participating in protests and marches and generally favoring the underdog. Vatican II opened windows and the world flew in.

Having spent almost a decade teaching in Ursuline schools, she spent the summer of 1968 studying at Pratt Institute. Here she learned printing and typesetting, plus learning firsthand from the Ad Lib Press how to produce posters for student social action. Later in the Art Department of The College of New Rochelle, her skills in printing, graphic design, screen printing for posters and flyers kept her days full of energy, an exciting time, teaching and making. And that continues in her retirement, as a professional designer.

Service to others remains an important part of life long after retirement from teaching. For example, for five years she participated, with other Ursulines, in Nuns Build, working in New Orleans to restore homes in neighborhoods devastated by floods following Hurricane Katrina. Such a disaster reveals first-hand the physical and social conditions people are suffering. Even as one gets

ASSOCIATE EILEEN NIEDZWIECKI
By Martha Counihan, O.S.U.

In 1994, Eileen Niedzwiecki was invited by a colleague, Rosemary Cornaccia, to an Associates meeting at the St. Teresa community in New Rochelle. Sister Jeanne Brennan’s leadership of the Associates’ group drew many of the women who worked at The College of New Rochelle to develop their spiritual life in the spirit of St. Angela Merici.

Eileen enrolled at The College of New Rochelle in 1968. After an interview with Sr. Jean Marie Casey in the Admissions office, Eileen reflected: “I knew it was the place for me.” Eileen quickly found the companionship of so many girls invigorating. She recalls the outstanding Ursuline teachers she had with affection as well as those who were involved in student services: Sisters Irene Mahoney, Anne Bunting, Phyllis Hinchcliffe, Elizabeth Monaghan, Dorothy Ann Kelly as well as the fine support staff.

Life was changing fast at CNR during her college years. In her junior year, Eileen became a Resident Assistant and married Michael Niedzwiecki. After graduating in 1972, Eileen was hired as a Head Resident of Maura Hall where the couple and baby daughter lived. Eileen recalls the wonderful experience of community among students, staff, Ursulines, and faculty during those years, working closely with Sr. Jeanne Brennan in particular.

As her young family grew, they moved several times for Michael’s employment. In 1992, the family moved back to New Rochelle. Always an active member of the college community, Eileen became
To our readers,

Although it takes a village to spread the good news of the Ursuline Province, that village needs a tireless, behind-the-scenes leader who both honors the legacy of the Ursulines as well as recognizes the efforts of those currently engaged in the mission of Angela Merici. Michele Foran, the Director of Development, has been that person for twenty-one years. The editorial staff of this publication could rely on Michele in leading the editorial board in the right direction with story ideas deserving of your attention.

With this issue of Bylines, we thank Michele, as she retires, by recognizing her leadership in the diverse and vital tasks of a development office. Our readers know her primarily from the issues of Bylines, the Annual Report, the annual Christmas card and May calendar. She was instrumental in organizing the many events that brought us together over the years including the Mass of Thanksgiving. Asked to upgrade the website, Michele made it more accessible and dynamic. Less visible are the mountains of tasks regarding gifts and outreach to those who shared her tireless dedication to Serviam.

With gratitude we recognize her achievements and warmly thank her, wishing her Godspeed in her future undertakings.

The Editorial Board of Bylines
Roxanne Zimmer, Martha Counihan, Bridget Puzon

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**Niedzwiecki continued**

a member of The College of New Rochelle’s Alumnae Board.

With good work experience she was appointed Director of Alumnae /i Relations by President Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly in 1994. In that same year, she became an Associate. Eileen found spiritual sustenance as an Associate, complementary to her work at the College and nourished by her family’s on-going participation in the Holy Family Chapel community.

Subsequently, she followed other employment opportunities. In 2015, Eileen returned to CNR as Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. She and Michael, now grandparents of five, continue their active participation in the college chapel community. As an Associate, Eileen reflects happily upon her years, from beginning in college to the present, stating her appreciation of being a committed Ursuline Associate. “Our lives have been completely associated with the Ursulines.”

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**Eprridge continued**

older, one can lend a hand.

Currently, Terry professionally practices her graphic design and studies figure painting at the Art Students League of New York.

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**NEWS & NOTES**

The Sisters of the province gathered for a Day of Prayer, in December 2015. The gathering focused on Chapter 1 of the Pope’s Encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, “What is Happening to Our Common Home?”

On February 6th Sr. Mary Peter Lillian from the Avila Institute presented “Wellness: Spiritual and Emotional Aspects” to the Sisters of the province.

In March, **Sr. Mary Virginia Orna** left for Slovakia where she will be teaching English to Ursuline Sisters. **Sr. Alice Marie Giordano** organized the gathering of 28 students and 11 chaperones from Ursuline Schools in Cincinnati, OH, Dallas, TX, Dedham, MA, St. Louis, MO and Wilmington, DE and the Bronx. They visited the United Nations and attended the Commission on the Status of Women, sharing information on women’s empowerment and sustainable development.

In April Ursuline Sisters participated in a presentation by Dr. Jane Thibault, “On Pilgrimage: A Way of Living in Later Life.”
The attractive, humble witness to the Gospel of Pope Francis has inspired all people of good will. I have been excited, proud, challenged by his words that lead to his prophetic actions. In proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Mercy, he proposed to usher in a “revolution of tenderness.” His efforts energized us by reminding us that we proclaim the Gospel by living a life that reflects the message of Jesus: love, mercy, encounter, inclusion and option for the poor.

In a recent interview Pope Francis said that he hoped to perform a symbolic and concrete work of mercy on one Friday of each month during the year. On April 16 after visiting a refugee camp in Greece, he took three families of Syrian Muslim refugees back to Rome. His message to those he visited in the camp was, “you are not alone.” The community of Sant’Egidio, a Christian community which offers help for those in need and is headquartered in Rome, will help the families to settle and to find jobs but the costs will be covered by the Vatican. Pope Francis has been called a “Bridge Builder” and this prophetic action witnesses to this title.

Earlier this month our community at the Generalate in Rome was able to share in a similar work of mercy. Though collaboration with the Jesuit Refugee Services two women, one from Mauritania and one from Cameroon, were welcomed to a new home at our Generalate. This small, but significant act of hospitality serves as a constant reminder of how we are called to put mercy at the center of our lives.

This issue of Bylines is bittersweet since Michele Foran will be retiring at the end of May after twenty-one years as Director of Development. Michele has been tireless in her efforts on behalf of the Ursulines, always showing great sensitivity to the needs of our elderly and infirm Sisters. Her grant-writing skills have resulted in improvements of the facilities at our convent at 1338 North Avenue and at St. Teresa’s Convent. Her fund-raising efforts have allowed us to provide additional care for our Sisters at Andrus. Our varied ministries, rooted in love and mercy, have also benefited by her success in our Development Office. We have been blessed by Michele’s presence among us. Her generous and gracious service will always be remembered with gratitude. THANK YOU, MICHELE.

The Ursulines celebrated Earth Day in the Spirit of Laudato Si’ on April 28th at the Province Center.

On May 14, Province members joined in a Jubilee Celebration at Andrus, celebrating twelve Jubilarians on the occasion of their 75th, 60th and 50th years of religious profession.

On May 21, at the Province Center, Carol Zinn, SSJ, spoke on Religious Life Today: Contemporary Challenges, to the Ursuline Sisters.

On May 22, Songcatchers held its 10th Annual Spring Volunteer Concert at The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, NY. Songcatchers, run by Sr. Beth Dowd, is celebrating 20 years of “Reaching for Peace Through MUSIC.”

Sr. Mary Alice Duggan has been invited to teach English to Ursulines in Brazil.

Ursulines and our North America Ursuline extended family will gather for the 2016 North American Ursuline Convocation in Louisville, Kentucky in July.

On July 17, in Malone, NY, Bishop LaValley of the Ogdensburg Diocese will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in gratitude for the contribution of the Ursulines of Malone.

The Ursulines of the Canadian Union have requested that Sr. Irene Mahoney’s book, Marie of the Incarnation, Mystic and Missionary be translated into Japanese. The Canadian Union has a Japanese Province.
SR. MARY VIRGINIA MAXWELL

My life has been full of variety as I served in various ministries as well as teaching. It was a privilege to do so many things. And I fondly remember the variety of people I worked with, teaching in our schools, and particularly as a school counselor in the public schools.

SR. TERESA BYRNE

As I look back from 2016 to 1956, the operative word is Change. When my “band-mates” and I pronounced our vows on January 16, 1955, we were in effect cloistered, going out only for ministry or medical care. We wore the habit, a rule of silence prevailed, we saw our families in the parlor once a month. We never went home.

Then came Vatican II in the 1960s whereby all religious communities were instructed to return to their origins, uncovering the distinctive charism (gift, purpose) of their founder or foundress. Our foundress, St. Angela Merici, had a new vision in the church of sixteenth century Italy in which consecrated women would live in the world, serve God in a variety of ways, and meet for prayer and community.

My life since Vatican II has reflected much of Angela’s vision: school ministry, parish ministry, community action, service of the religious community. The foundation has always been the vows: poverty, chastity, obedience. As Angela says, “So persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun.”

I am tremendously grateful to God, my sisters in community, and my family for their unfailing support.

SR. TERRY EPPRIDGE

In human terms, 80 years is a long time. I am grateful to have lived beyond four-score, supported and encouraged by family and friends. This religious life, freely chosen 60-plus years ago, has undergone major change. The life I experience today is strikingly different from my life expectations as a young woman.

SR. ALICE MARIE GIORDANO

As I think of these many years as an Ursuline I think of my wonderment at finding myself among these women I had admired so much as a student. I remember learning about our foundress, Angela. She seemed warmly welcoming, encouraging a life inspired by wonderful women saints, a life centered on Jesus.

A year ago I met with Justice coordinators from across the USA as they affirmed the importance of bringing contemplative consciousness to all that we do for Justice.

I remember thinking of the contemplative response of all the Ursulines I know to each of the many changes these years have held. I have been grateful to be able to share the wonders of my Ursuline life with my family and to take inspiration from them. And finally, one of the greatest inspirations in my religious life has been Marie of the Incarnation’s desire to “go round the whole world in search of all those redeemed by Jesus.”

I write this as we are planning to bring students from six Ursuline Schools to the UN for the Commission on the Status of Women. We haven’t gone round the world but in one sense, we together are reaching out to girls throughout the world to help them realize that they are seen and cherished by all of us working to make our world more loving. And so, for me, being an Ursuline means deep gratitude for this network/family of Sisters and friends.

SR. JEANNE HAMILTON

As I reflect on my life, especially as an Ursuline, I am grateful for the experiences God has given me.

One reason for gratitude is because of the good elementary schools I attended. Although I went to four different schools in three different states, in each one
the Sisters were good teachers and kind. The next education step was high school, and I was fortunate to attend Mt. St. Ursula in the Bronx, NY. I started off badly: on the first day I was the only girl in the chapel without a hat. A nun kindly provided coverage: an enormous white handkerchief. After four demanding but happy years at the Mount, I went to Manhattanville College, which I liked very much. Nevertheless, after one year there I decided to enter the Ursuline novitiate because I felt that God was asking that of me.

After two and a half years at the Novitiate, I enrolled at the College of New Rochelle – a wonderful place. Teaching seemed to be the next natural step for me. I taught in parochial school, public school, high school, and college and to adult deacon candidates. Perhaps best of all was my short stretch with first graders who clapped when I appeared. Campus Ministry was another good experience but somewhat different. My years as an Ursuline have not been boring.

I am grateful for what the Ursuline Order, and God, have given to my life.

SR. KATHLEEN KUCZKOWSKI

I have been happy in my whole religious life. From the beginning I have enjoyed community living and have taken great pleasure in my varied ministry assignments both here and abroad: elementary school teaching and administration, pastoral ministry, retreat work and spiritual direction. Fifteen years in Athens, Greece, and two years in Rome, Italy, enriched my Ursuline perspective on different cultures from ours and taught me to adapt to new situations and realities of life both in the convent and in the community outside. Openness to other people has given me one good experience after another.

Throughout my life as an Ursuline I have always been grateful for the solid religious formation we received in spirituality, liturgy, theology and scripture during our years of initial training and then again after some years in the active ministry. My appreciation for an excellent liberal arts education in college as a young sister and opportunities for graduate studies later on deepens as time passes and I continue to reap the benefits. I have been completely fulfilled in a deeper relationship with and love for God. Currently, my love for community life and my ministry as a spiritual director make me deeply grateful.

SR. MARY JO LYONS

I would do it all over again. I had a strong family life. God bless my parents who were willing to support my choice of religious life. I loved teaching boys, starting with my years at Blessed Sacrament School. I love Irish culture, and I learned the Irish language at Iona. A small group of friends with the same interests met regularly to enrich our knowledge of Irish culture.

SR. NANCY MALONE

How to sum up the many things in my Ursuline life? My life as a writer has been important to me. As a young nun, teaching at Ursuline schools gave me much satisfaction, followed by new areas of service. I enjoyed work and editing at the Church Society for College Work. Later, I was privileged to be a board member and editor for the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life. And then working with Joe Cuneen on Cross Currents. I have had great satisfaction in doing my own writing, such as the book, Seeds of Grace. These highlights of my Ursuline life offer a glimpse at the blessings of a lifetime.

SR. SHEILA MURPHY

As I look back over sixty years of religious profession two threads are apparent: love of parochial school ministry and commitment to social justice Life was very plain and ordinary at St. Jerome’s school in the South Bronx in 1959. Elementary classes offered a variety of experiences. Then one Labor Day I felt a tap on my shoulder which brought a message from the provincial. It offered just a few days to get ready for a fifth grade class at (Continued on p. 6)
St. Philip Neri. The new school was well-organized and easy to adapt to. New concepts led to new procedures in the classroom such as the “open classroom.” At the time we enjoyed the influence of Vatican II; the sisters appreciated new liberties such as home visiting, new friendships, theology, travel.

Commitment to social justice has been a strong endeavor in my life. At a rally at St. John the Divine I discovered a flyer for a program to help “cut coffee” in Nicaragua. So I spent three weeks harvesting coffee beans there. More recently, I left Malone to join protesters in New York City on behalf of the planet. An earlier UN committee had been set up to deal with climate change. Interestingly, that committee meeting had been held in “Cope-n-hagen”. Was it possible to recognize a new version and coin it “hope-n-hagen”? Pope Francis writes: “The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development.”

SR. SHEILA CAMPBELL

The Hallmark Company is glad that anniversary cards exist since it improves their stock. I am glad that jubilees exist since I had the happy task of looking back over the journey of fifty years and being unequivocally grateful for what I perceived as good and accepting of what I perceived as difficult. I discovered that God has led me mercifully and steadfastly throughout this fifty year journey. As is expressed in Deuteronomy:

The cloud covered the meeting tent, and the glory of the Lord filled the Dwelling . . . . Whenever the cloud rose from the Dwelling, the children of Israel would set out on each stage of their journey. But if the cloud did not lift they would not go forward.

Central to this discovery was the initial call to be God’s follower, companion, servant full-time and forever. I gradually learned that God was indeed leading me. I was not leading God. This focus permeated every aspect of my life: prayer, family, my Ursuline Community, friends, and ministry. Over the years when I was confronted with making decisions or needed guidance, I returned to God’s original call. Once again, I rediscovered the call and moved forward with the help of God and St. Angela Merici. Angela promises us: “I myself will be in your midst, furthering your prayers” (Last Counsel).

SR. JEANNE GIEBELHOUSE

When I was young, my Ursuline aunt gave me a beautifully illustrated children’s book on Marie de l’Incarnation. In it, Jesus asks Marie, “Will you be mine?” I always felt that in some unfathomable way, He was asking me the same question. In time and with the love and guidance of Mothers Elizabeth Therese and St. Pierre, I felt ready to say yes, and went on to become an Ursuline. I taught for several years: at St. Angela’s in the Bronx and at Notre Dame School and St. Joseph’s Academy in Malone. Most of my religious life has been in community service and administration: in Malone, at the Marian Residence, at the Adult Learning Center, and, since 2003, at St. Teresa’s. Caring for our older and sick sisters has been a particularly special privilege, replete with joys as well as difficulties.

There have been many changes in our life since 1963 – our appearance, ministries, living arrangements, structures, renewed relationships with our families. But the one true thing remains the same.

In her collection of short stories called Pentimento, Lillian Hellman writes of “old conceptions being replaced by later choices,” …or “a way of seeing and then seeing again.” This jubilee year I thank God for “what was there for me once and is here for me now.”

SR. MAUREEN WELCH

As I celebrate 50 years of religious profession, I am filled with gratitude, wonder and awe to our God who has called me, sustains and nourishes me in my Ursuline life. The journey has been and continues to be filled with joy, challenge along with many changes that have led to ever deeper and richer meaning of my call to life as an Ursuline. My Ursuline sisters, the many people as well as places and events along the way, have been blessings too numerous to count.

As the future unfolds, I have firm hope in Angela’s promise to us that she is constantly among us with our God who loves us all and who will assist us in everything provided we have faith and do not lose courage and hope.
SR. EILEEN KELLEHER, O.S.U.
April 2, 1924 - November 12, 2015

Sister Eileen Kelleher (formerly Mother Mary James) died peacefully at Andrus on Hudson on November 12, 2015.

Eileen entered the Ursulines in 1946, and made her first profession of vows two years later. She began teaching at Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle. After teaching at the Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, she taught for one year at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx. After tertianship in Rome, she taught at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle. She became Assistant Novice Mistress in Beacon, New York and then Provincial Secretary for one year. She returned to teach at The Ursuline School for about thirty years.

In her retirement she volunteered to teach English as a Second Language from 1996 to 2006 at the Hope Community Center and later for a year at the Adult Learning Center, both in New Rochelle.

Eileen was an avid reader with broad interests in the world around her. She held a Master’s degree in English from Fordham University. To enhance her teaching, she attended a variety of workshops at universities on topics relevant to her teaching, including writing, international women writers, and an NEH workshop.

SR. ANNE BUNTING, O.S.U.
December 7, 1927 - November 3, 2015

Sister Anne Bunting (formerly Mother Marie de Chantal), longtime faculty member at The College of New Rochelle, died at Andrus on Hudson, on November 3, 2015.

Sister Anne, a devoted teacher, began her service at Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle, in the 1950’s, after obtaining a Master’s degree in medieval history from Fordham University. In 1959 she became a faculty member at the College. She taught there until 1997, with brief sabbaticals that took her to Ireland and Italy. She earned a doctorate from Fordham University in 1967.

Her years at CNR enabled her to teach the history she loved to students who shared her interest. She was an engaging teacher, highly regarded by her faculty colleagues and counselor to students, including a year as Dean of Students in 1969-1970. During those years, she was Permanent Representative to the United Nations for the International Catholic Child Bureau, a position she held from 1987 to 1997. She led students and CNR alumnae on memorable trips to the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. This Bylines editor watched in awe as Anne intervened with the KGB in Moscow when one CNR student inadvertently brought contraband into the USSR--a copy of Time magazine.

Anne served on the boards of Ursuline Association for Continuing Education, the Mount St. Ursula Speech Center, the Adult Learning Center; she was Associate Superior of the St. Teresa’s Community, and on various faculty committees at CNR.

A YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis, observing the state of the church and the state of the world, has written an invitation to personally embody mercy in our lives, and that the church express mercy in all her interactions with people, individual and groups.

Francis calls for those of us who are the church and especially its ministers to embody God’s mercy and pardon those who search for God’s mercy. He calls us to be welcoming and respectful to those of other faiths.
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.