

Bylines

Ursulines of the Eastern Province SUMMER 2018

SERVIAM

by Martha Counihan, O.S.U.

Bronx-born and bred, Sr. Patricia Russell's father was a seaman who worked on the Panama Canal. He would have been surprised that his daughter would serve in Central America and be involved in construction—in the Bronx.

After his death, Pat juggled studies at CNR and part-time work. A history major, she focused on Latin America. After CNR, she and her good friend, Mary Shea, taught at Spellman High School before they joined the Ursulines. After profession in 1969, Pat took an MA in history at George Washington University, then teaching that subject at Ursuline Academy in Bethesda. Her experience in Washington, DC in the late sixties laid the groundwork for incorporating social justice into high school curricula.

When Sr. Pat moved to New Rochelle to teach, she began studies for an MA in Economics at The New School to base her social justice teaching on sound economic understanding. Service in Mexico, Honduras, and Costa Rica with Catholic Relief Services followed.



Sr. Pat Russell

The former chapel and behind it, the second building of Serviam Heights.



Her experience with developing small business marketing for agricultural products led to service as a loan officer with the Leviticus Alternative Fund which provides low-income loans for small businesses as well as affordable housing. Several Ursulines had also been involved with the Leviticus Fund, carrying on the mission of Ursulines to serve the poor and needy.



The former convent, now part of Serviam Heights.

Pat returned to the Bronx for the dual task facing the Ursulines of the Bedford Park Community as they developed the underutilized adjacent land and assisted the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. In 2006, Provincial Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly appointed Sr. Pat as Liaison for Property Development. Working with the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, they collaborated in the development of the low income 243-unit senior housing, Serviam Gardens and Serviam Towers.

Serviam Heights, scheduled for occupancy in June 2018, is the second project. The 1892 former Ursuline convent has been rehabbed into 57 senior apartments and a new building has been added. Each of these buildings includes "green" features such as energy-saving appliances, lighting, and rain harvesting for irrigation. *Continued on p. 5*

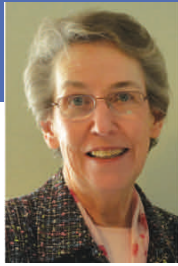
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PROVINCIAL NOTES

Jane Finnerty, O.S.U.

For 2019, the General Chapter of the Ursulines of the Roman Union chose the theme *A Global Community Moving into New Life*. Several events of the past year highlight our global reality.



In September we welcomed the Congregational Leaders of the Irish Ursuline Union to our province meeting and in January we watched live stream as the sisters pronounced vows in the Roman Union. In welcoming the Irish Union we expand our global community with sisters in Ireland, Kenya and Wales.

We were delighted with the visits of Prioress General, Mother Cecilia Wang, from Taiwan, and our General Council comprised of sisters from Brazil, France, Indonesia, Poland and the United Kingdom. The group met with the Leadership Teams of the three US provinces. Sr. Moekti Gondosasmito, from Indonesia, spent an extended visit in our province.

Photo: Althe Giordano, OSU



Mother Cecilia Wang with Sr. Jeanne Brennan at Andrus on Hudson.



Photo: T. Eppridge

Sr. Moekti Gondosasmito

Through the years several members of our province have served in various capacities at our Generalate in Rome. The cultural diversity is both a challenge and a source of richness that Sr. Mary Alice Duggan has addressed in this issue.

In addition, Sr. Sandy Wardell describes her experience at St. Lucia, a mission sponsored by our Southern African province. Sandy brought her creative teaching to children who won her heart.

There is also the ongoing ministry of teaching English to sisters from non-English speaking provinces who wish to improve their language ability. Sisters Sheila Campbell, Mary Alice Duggan and Mary Virginia Orna, have brought their skills to this task.

Referring to the Venezuelan project of supporting Corazon de Maria, a work of the Ursulines in Caracas, a student of Sr. Brenda Buckley said, "The Ursuline sisters have always been known for global outreach—helping people in need. This is what the Ursulines do." It touches my heart to know that our students have caught this message.

As we prepare for our General Chapter in 2019, the bonds that unite us as a global community will bring us new life and renew our commitment to bring hope and a spirit of reconciliation to our world so in need of healing. You are part of our Ursuline community and your generosity is truly gift, grace, and blessing.



Photo: T. Eppridge

While improving her English at Katlan International Language School in NYC, Sr. Halina Bobkowska from Poland, center, is being tutored by Sisters Sheila Campbell on the left and Mary Alice Duggan on the right.

From the Editor

Roxanne Zimmer



Photo: John Vecchiola

Editor's note: This January I joined a delegation of twenty Canadian farmers on a goodwill trip to Cuba as guests of the National Association of Small Farmers.

My focus was a better understanding of food security. As it happened, I found myself in front of former Ursuline establishments in Havana and Camaguey. The Camaguey site, Monasterio de las Ursulinas (Monastery of the Ursulines) had been recently restored showing off the beauty of the courtyard and cloisters as well as the semi-circular stained glass windows and the local *tinajones* or large round clay pots. Today the site serves as the Camaguey Historian's Office.

In Cuba, former Ursuline Monasteries in Camaguey on the left and in Havana on the right.



Photos: Roxanne Zimmer

Ursuline Bylines

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THE RICHNESS OF DIVERSITY

by Mary Alice Duggan, O.S.U.



Photo: Sara Gunn

Recently I returned from three weeks at our generalate in Rome where I had been translating at international meetings of our provincials. I find myself going back through the years of opportunities I have had as a result of studying French and being a member of an international religious institute. At the beginning of my Ursuline life more than fifty years ago, I never imagined the variety of experiences that would become part of my life.

As a young sister, teaching French in schools was a great joy. I shared my enthusiasm for the French language and culture with my students whose names and faces I still recall. I had the joy of accompanying students to Belgium. After morning French classes, students explored the town in the afternoon. It was not only their first international experience but mine as well.

That was the beginning of experiencing the richness of diversity. My life has been enriched by knowing Ursulines from many countries.

My language background also helped me in teaching English as a second language in Mexico, and more recently, to some of our young sisters from European countries making their novitiate at our generalate. Two years ago, when I returned from Rome, I was

invited to teach English to our young sisters in Brazil. During the past year it has been a joy to accompany two of our sisters from Latin America while in New York improving their English before participating at the generalate.

In each experience, in Belgium, in Rome, in Mexico, in Brazil, and in New York, it was not only a question of languages, but also an opportunity to get to know another culture and to know the people of that culture. It is a gift to know young Ursulines who represent our future as daughters of Angela.

Very shortly after his election, Pope Francis began speaking about the importance of going to the periphery. It is a challenge to recognize all kinds of peripheries. There are the poor, migrants, prisoners, the disabled, the elderly, victims of trafficking.... I am trying to respond to Pope Francis's call by visiting the sick and the dying and by giving time to victims of human trafficking. In all of this, there is also a wealth of persons and of experiences.

Our Mother Saint Angela said, "Persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun...." I am confident in Angela's presence with me through the years, today, and into the future.

NEWS & NOTES

In early spring, the province was visited for a few days by our Mother General, **Mother Cecilia Wang**.

Sr. Moekti Gondosasmito, a member of the Ursuline General Council, visited the Eastern Province for two weeks in May. To get to know as many sisters as possible, she stayed at the Province Center, later at St. Teresa's in New Rochelle, and visited sisters at Andruson-Hudson, and in Wilmington, Delaware. She also went to the Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx, The Ursuline School in New Rochelle, Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, Delaware and Songcatchers in New Rochelle.

Sr. Moekti visits with Sr. Beth Dowd and Songcatchers.



Photo: Alie Giordano, OSU

The Donor's Mass of Thanksgiving followed by the reception in Angela's Garden Room room were held on June 2nd at the Province Center. It was a time to enjoy friendships and share the news.



Photos: T. Eppridge

Above: Suellen and Eugene Tozzi enjoy refreshments with Barbara Costello.



Top right: Sr. Dee Yanshak joined with Indonesian friends Liliana and Vincent Halim.

Right: Kathleen and Marguerite Fredrick chat with Bob Gillin.

Continued on p. 5





In Khula Village, Sr. Sandy teaches Sunday School. "I've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart."

MY TIME IN AFRICA

Sr. Sandy Wardell describes her 2016 experiences at the St. Lucia Retreat Center in Natal, South Africa

We live on the edge of the wildlife reserve where hippos roam the neighborhood at night. I wake to the sounds of the guinea fowl or the cries of the bush babies. It is an "insect enriched environment," and with no screens on my windows, I have no idea what I will find in my room at night. Our community had an outing at the reserve when I arrived. I saw elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer, monkeys and animals I'd never heard of before.



Photos courtesy Sandy Wardell OSU

"Danger Crocodiles" sign at the Ezemvelo Kzn Wildlife Preserve in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Crocs and hippos are an everyday occurrence.

We are a community of four: Sr. Catherine from Zambia, Sr. Elizabeth Marie from France and Sr. Frances Boston from Australia. The new, handsome Retreat Center also functions as the local Catholic Church. (<http://stluciaretreteat.org>). 'All are welcome in this place' with about ten regular parishioners who are Anglican or Lutheran. It is the only Sunday Service in St. Lucia.

Sr. Catherine oversees the Training Center, and trains people from Khula village in weaving, sewing, making rosaries, jewelry and soon pottery.

Khula is about 20 minutes by car. It is a traditional Zulu village, very poor, dirt roads and homes built of mud brick and straw. The Catholic Church, which is more like a storefront church, is packed every Sunday and the music and all of the movements are so uplifting and full of joy.

The children are loving and affectionate, eager to learn and very attentive. They are a teacher's dream come true. My Sunday school class loves to sing, 'I got that Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in my heart'. Zulu is their first language, but they are very proud when they can speak English. I am being tutored in Zulu by Sister Elizabeth.

I hope to begin teaching English to high schoolers in an after-school program in the village, continue to teach Sunday School, and help out in the Retreat Center.

My brain is almost rewired for driving on the opposite side of the road. I'm fine as long as there's a car in front of me. South African drivers are more impatient and more reckless than NY drivers if you can believe that!



At the St. Lucia Retreat Center in St. Lucia, South Africa. UNO comes to the after school program and the children catch on immediately.

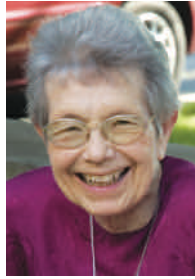
ANNUAL REPORT CORRECTIONS 2016-2017

1. James Ward \$100 donation
2. Elizabeth Crawford \$250 donation

The iris on the masthead are the descendents of flowers planted more than a decade ago by then secretary to the provincial, LaNell Schultheis.

In Memoriam

Sr. Miriam Cleary (M. Ancilla) passed from this life on Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd, 2017. We give thanks for Miriam, her clear-sightedness, her teaching and administrative work at The College of New Rochelle. We remember especially her ability to lead others both here and abroad into a deeper relationship with God.



Sr. Marie Albert Walsh passed away on April 5th, 2018. Marie Albert was a dedicated educator and an energetic woman with a mission. Whether in schools as teacher or principal, in communities as prioress, or serving the poor in the Ministry of Caring in Wilmington, she put her full energy into every task before her.

Sr. Mary Miller (M. Alma) peacefully left us on April 28th. Mary, the gentle math teacher, the Alaska missionary, lived quietly in God's presence and was lovingly present in all her relationships. We will miss her gracious smile and her willing helpfulness.



Sr. Mary Dowd (M. Mary of the Incarnation) passed away on May first, a few hours after the feast of Mére Marie, her patron. Whether teaching English, doing parish work, or in social justice organizations, she was completely dedicated to the groups she served. We will miss her deep zeal, her passion for social justice, her poetry, and—yes—her unforgettable laugh.

Sr. Joanne Desmond (M. Kevin) shared her gift for music as a teacher, director of glee clubs and choral groups, and as a member of the Delaware Oratorio Society. Her love of music together with her kind manner made her welcome in many schools and organizations. Joanne left us to join the choirs of angels on May 19th.



Sr. Elizabeth Ann Sommer (M. Veronica) died on May 26th. Betty, a quiet woman, had a welcoming smile and an appreciative manner. Her students found her caring and thoughtful. We her sisters marveled at her talent at the piano. It was as if the music in her heart had found its way to her fingers at the keyboard.

SERVIAM *continued from p. 1*



Photo courtesy T. Eppridge

Standing on the stairway in the former convent, from bottom to top: Sisters Nancy Arroyo, Maureen Welch, Jacqueline Da Silva, Geraldine Kennedy, Kathleen OConnell, Patricia Russell, Barbara Calamari, Mary Beth Read, Terry Eppridge.

Local leaders, including John Reilly, Executive Director of Fordham Bedford Housing, have praised the Ursulines in opening the formerly cloistered property to their needy senior neighbors.

NEWS & NOTES *continued from p. 3*

The College of New Rochelle, on Reunion Weekend in June, hosted an exhibition and reception for Ursuline artist **Sr. Anne Dillen** whose reunion year it was. Her watercolors and pastels



Sr. Anne Dillen is congratulated by a friend.

filled the exhibition hall in Mooney Center. The reception was attended by many of her reuniting classmates as well as other CNR Alums and their husbands. (Continued on p.6)

Bylines

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NEWS & NOTES *continued from p. 5*



Sisters Jackie DaSilva, Terry Eppridge, and Alrie Giordano participated in the Families Belong Together demonstration in White Plains on June 30. They are pictured

with Carol DeAngelus, a Sister of Charity.

A Fourth of July gathering hosted by the St. Teresa's Community was a welcome chance for all to celebrate the holiday and to enjoy

Srs. Mary Beth Read and Somchitr Krongboonsri from Thailand.



Srs. Sheila Campbell and Halina Bobkowska from Poland.



Sr. Beth Dowd with former director of The Adult Learning Center Sharon Parenti, also a party guest.

a summer dinner together. Ursuline visitors from Poland and Thailand were with us for the holiday. The Thai sisters are visiting Sr. Alice Bouchard, a veteran missionary of Thailand who now lives at Andrus.

Below, Srs. Thipkanok Prasopchokchai and Nancy Arroyo.



Photos: T. Eppridge



At the table, left to right: Srs. K.M. Donohue, Halina Bobkowska from Poland, Thipkanok Prasopchokchai from Thailand, Joan McCarthy and Annie Dumas.

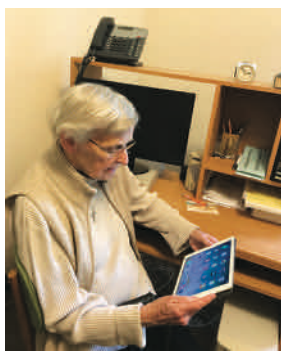
Development Update

Sara Gunn, Director of Development

Some words often used to define "Development" are growth, expansion, progress, success and initiation. These succinctly describe what has been happening in Development for the Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province. We are growing our database as well as many of our campaigns including the Christmas card appeal, May Calendar drawing, income from Bylines issues and our Mass cards. We are on track to raise \$300,000 before our fiscal year concludes on August 31, 2018. Thank you for your ongoing support.

In the fall of 2017, we began the iPad Initiative with one Sister. Now five Sisters have received refurbished iPads due to the generosity of our supporters. Rita Ferrari, an instructor in Information Technology at The College of New Rochelle, generously donates her time to train each Sister on how to use the iPad, an invaluable aspect of this initiative. Included here are

Sr. Joan McCarthy



Photos: Sara Gunn

Sr. Jeanne Giebelhouse is learning from CNR Information Technology instructor Rita Ferrari.

some photos of the Sisters with their iPads.

Sr. Kathleen O'Connell

The Ursuline Sisters developed relationships through their various ministries. It is heartening to see how many lives they have touched. Through the generosity of our supporters, the Ursuline Sisters can continue to build a society as St. Angela Merici envisioned so long ago.

