

Bylines

Ursulines of the Eastern Province Winter 2007

In This Issue

Not the Whole Story

It's a nice problem to have: so many Ursulines doing so much that our News and Notes column takes up almost the entire issue. It's also true that, were we to tell the whole story about each of these sisters, we would have as many features as we now have items. We do promise more about them and others in future Bylines.

We also report in this issue on the relocation of the nuns in the Bedford Park community from the grand old convent attached to the Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx to their "new" homes. And on the leasing of the Ursuline convent in Malone, NY, to the North Country Community College, the building renamed Ursuline Hall in honor of the long history of Ursulines as educators in the area.

Even so, and while we're sure that we've missed some noteworthy items, we want at least to mention all the Ursulines who still actively serve in our schools and elsewhere; the volunteer work that "retired" Ursulines do in prisons, soup kitchens, with Senior citizens, at the Ursuline Adult Learning Center in New Rochelle, etc. Please know that, along with those whose ministerial life is now wholly devoted to prayer, all of us pray for you and your intentions. May God bless you in 2007!

Nancy M. Malone, OSU, Editor

News and Notes

JUSTICE, PEACE, INTEGRITY OF CREATION

"God of the universe, you have called us as Artisans of Justice and Peace to reverence this planet earth that nurtures and gives us life . . . May we be a contemplative presence for our world ." (From a prayer being said now by Ursulines all over the world.)

Sr. Maureen McCarthy, a nurse practitioner/midwife, and Kathleen Hartmann, a nurse, wife, mother and grandmother, addressed an audience of Ursulines and others at the Province Center in early December. With a Power Point presentation and commentary, they described their work with the AIDS-ridden people of the tiny African country of Swaziland. They



Photos courtesy of Maureen McCarthy, OSU

Sr. Maureen McCarthy (2nd from left) and the staff of Good Shepherd Hospital in Swaziland.



A crying child and her "gogo."

brought home to us the overwhelming facts and statistics of the situation, personalized by photos of the afflicted men, women, children, and babies they served – among them some of the countless orphans, often cared for now by their "gogos," their grandmothers.

Responding to "The Global Challenge of Water," Sisters Mary Ellen Smith, Frances Lyle, and Christina Pratt attended a conference on the topic at the United Nations. Mary Ellen and Chris were among a dozen Ursulines who participated in the September demonstration in Central Park calling for an international response to the genocide in Darfur.

In November, [Sisters Mary Sullivan](#), [Maureen McCarthy](#), [Maureen Welch](#), [Jean Humphries](#), and friend Patrice McDermott, who teaches at The Ursuline School, joined the annual protest at Fort Benning, Georgia, calling for the closing of U.S.-sponsored Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation there. Formerly known as The School of the Americas, the school and its Central American graduates were implicated in the deaths of “the four church women,” six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter, and Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador .

[Sr. Mary Sullivan](#), Province Coordinator for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC), and [Sr. Maureen McCarthy](#), again in a Power Point presentation and commentary, spoke to some 150 students at The Ursuline School about the global crisis regarding water. As a member of the international Roman Union JPIC commission, Mary spent January 5-15, 2007, in Rome. As well as addressing shared concerns, such as global warming, the commission attended to the concerns of Ursulines from different countries and cultural contexts throughout the world.

In January, [Sisters Madeline Welch](#), an attorney at the Community Legal Aid Society, and [Jeanne Frances Cashman](#), founder and Executive Director of Sojourners’ Place for the homeless, both in Wilmington, were speakers at a Forum on Immigration. Sponsored by the Ethics Resource Site at Delaware State University, the forum had as its purpose was “to identify and explain features of the immigration process in order to dispel some popular misconceptions...and to identify ethical issues about immigration and immigrants.” Madeline, who has been appointed Prioress of the Generalate Community in Rome, will assume her new responsibilities in March. *Buona Fortuna, Madeline!*

CONGRATULATIONS

to the Ursulines who, since the last regular issue of *Bylines*, have been honored for their achievements in various fields and for their service to their local communities and beyond.

[Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly](#), our provincial, was presented with the Yitzhak Rabin Peace Award by The Coalition for Mutual Respect in New Rochelle. Among many other accomplishments, including her 25 years as President of the College of New Rochelle, Dorothy was cited as founder of the Interreligious Council in New Rochelle; for her work with Community of Peace People (Northern Ireland); and for her appointment by the President of the United States as a delegate to the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing.



Walter Bobrow, Coalition for Mutual Respect, Chair of the Committee for the Yitzhak Rabin Peace Award, congratulates Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly on the occasion of her reception of that award.

Ursuline Bylines

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A Higher Consciousness

Sr. Carole Marie Keaney attended the UN Conference on Environmental Change held in Nairobi in November. As a “Designated Observer,” she was invited to be among the 5,000 attendees specifically so that informed Catholic parties might participate in a global effort to avert climate change.

Informed she is. During her 31-year stay in Indonesia, she began to practice organic, sustainable gardening. After her return to the States, she received an MA in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England in New Hampshire. Since

What is our vision of the future?



Photos courtesy of Carole Marie Keaney, OSU

Sr. Carole Marie Keaney with Nobel Peace Laureate, professor Wangari Mathai. Mathai is a household name in Kenya for the battles she has fought to protect the environment, and especially the forests.

then, she has been working at the Empowerment Center Community Garden – now called Harmony Farm – which she pioneered in Goshen, NY, using, of course, organic and biodynamic growing methods. The Empowerment Center and Harmony Farm, both owned by Dominican sisters, also serve as a place of retreat for inner-city youth, residents, and seniors.

Carole Marie says that the UN conference addressed the issue of environmental change from every angle – governmental, political, religious, technological, economic, etc. She and her companions “were saddened by the lack of a sense of urgency on the part of the first-world countries, including the U.S.” (which has not yet signed the Kyoto Protocol). She believes that “with a global crisis confronting us, we are being forced to find answers on another level... to [develop] a higher consciousness, and to remember that whatever we think, say, or do, has an effect on the whole.” In a postscript she noted, “Never in all my time in Indonesia have I seen such destitute poverty as in the slums of Nairobi.”

News and Notes (cont'd) CONGRATULATIONS

For her many services to and on behalf of the elderly, **Sr. Miriam Thérèse Peppin** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women of Excellence Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of New Rochelle. “MT” has been Executive Director of the New Rochelle Office of the Aging; Administrator of the Hugh A. Doyle Senior Center; founding President of New Rochelle Meals-on-Wheels; and host of

the monthly WVOX radio program “Open Line,” devoted to matters of interest to Seniors. In semi-retirement now, Miriam Thérèse is a pastoral counselor at the Wartburg Home and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist to the elderly.

At a splendid dinner at Fordham University’s Graduate Center, **Sr. Winfred Danwitz** was honored as the founder of Angela House, a home for single mothers and their children in the Bronx. She was also recognized and honored as a past President of the New York City Speech, Hearing and Language Association at its Annual Awards Ceremony & Membership Celebration. **Sr. Dolores Yanshak** is now Executive Director of Angela House.

“Dux femina facti.”

(from Vergil’s *Aeneid*)



Photo courtesy of Joanne Safian, RSHM

Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly, provincial, presides as Sr. Jean Baptiste Nicholson renews her vows.

Some 600 people – Ursulines , family, alumnae, friends, teachers and staff, parents – gathered at The Ursuline School on January 13, 2007. In a Eucharistic Liturgy offered by Msgr. Dennis P. Keane and followed by a reception, they were celebrating the Golden Jubilee of **Sr. Jean Baptiste Nicholson**. Thirty-seven years of “ JB’s ” Ursuline life have been spent at TUS as teacher, principal, and now as president; she still teaches her beloved classics in a before-school elective class.

Under her leadership, the plant has been enlarged and remodeled to include a new gymnasium/auditorium, space and facilities for the arts and computer science, and the Chapel of St. Angela. Parking lots, tennis courts, and sports fields have been added on the grounds. With its dedicated faculty and staff, good academic record, and an array of extracurricular activities for its diverse student body, TUS has received the US Department of Education’s School of Excellence Blue Ribbon award three times in the last twenty years. This is not to mention the countless students who have been “helped” by JB in ways unknown to others. A faithful Ursuline, an educator par excellence, Jean Baptiste is indeed a woman and the leader of all that has been accomplished (*dux femina facti*) during her tenure at TUS.

JUBILARIANS

First Profession	Name	Community
70 years 02/06/37	Monica Ste-Marie	Wilmington
60 Years 01/17/47	Lorette Brophy	South Africa
01/17/47	Joanne Desmond	Wilmington
50 Years 01/16/57	Benadette Hannaway	City Island
01/16/57	Mary Miller	St. Teresa’s
01/16/57	Jean Baptiste Nicholson	James St.
01/16/57	Stephanie Wilson	St. Teresa’s

News and Notes (continued) CONGRATULATIONS

The Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education at Fordham University sponsored the *Sapientia et Doctrina* Celebration at which **Sr. Miriam Cleary** received an award “for service to the renewal of the church.” Miriam is co-founder and co-director of the Center for Spirituality and Justice and has a private practice in spiritual direction.

Sr. Anne Thérèse Dillen’s “Old Salt” won the Jules Bauer Award, given to the best watercolor in show at the Jules Bauer Award Show of the Lumen Gallery in New Rochelle. Anne teaches art at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle .

Following the 11:00 a.m. Mass on the Sunday after Thanksgiving at St. Patrick’s Church in Chateaugay, NY, **Sr. Mary Hallahan** was feted for her 16 years of service as Pastoral Associate there. Many parishioners as well as Mary’s sister, Sister Audrey, RSM, from Lake Placid, and Associates from Malone took part in the celebration.

Sr. Beth Dowd was this year’s recipient of the “Sylvia Muldoon Woman of Spirit Award” given by St. Augustine’s and Sts. John and Paul’s parishes in Larchmont. Beth is Founder and Director of Songcatchers, a name that embraces music programs

A Woman of Many Parts

Sr. Mary Virginia Orna, Scientist-in-Residence at the College of New Rochelle, spent a busy month in Europe this fall. She was an invited participant to the conference in Florence commemorating the 40th anniversary of the flood there. The conference was concerned, among other matters, with issues surrounding the conservation and preservation of the city's inundated works of art and precious manuscripts, an area to which Mary Virginia has applied her skills of chemical analysis. Before the conference, Mary Virginia conducted a Study Tour for 30 scientists on the Archeological Chemistry of Rome.

After visiting the salt mines, prehistoric iron mines and museums in Austria, Mary Virginia returned to Italy to make a retreat (in Italian) with the Ursulines in Desenzano, St. Angela's birthplace. She then stayed

with the Ursulines in Gorizia, near the ancient Roman ruins of Aquilea and the 450-year-old fortified city of Palmanova. She is the author of ten books and many articles that deal with archeological chemistry, the history of chemistry, and chemical education. Should we also mention that she has constructed numerous crossword puzzles, many of which have appeared in the Sunday *New York Times*?



Sr. Mary Virginia in the lab.



Photos courtesy of Mary Virginia Orna, OSU

Sr. Mary Virginia Orna emerging from a Medieval Silver Mine in Kutna Hora, a town outside of Prague.

MEANWHILE – IN PERSON, PAINT, PRINT, AND PRAYER



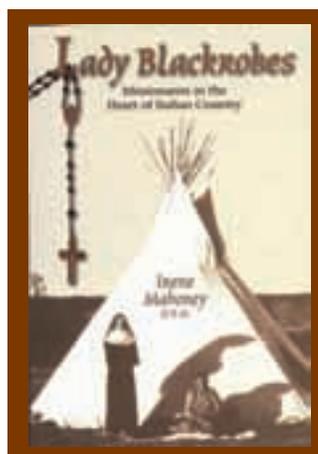
Sr. Beth Dowd (extreme right) conducts Songcatcher's Christmas Concert.

for children of different ages. Songcatchers' Concert Choir, made up of some of the children and adult alumni/ae of the programs, gave its 12th Annual Concert for Peace in the chapel at the College of New Rochelle in mid-December.

Sr. Claire Smith, herself a victim of MS, was well received at Graymoor in Garrison, NY, where she spoke to over 60 HIV patients on "Living with Disability and Where Is God in All This?"

Sr. Irene Mahoney traveled to Great Falls, Montana, for two book signings and a radio interview marking the 2006 publication of *Lady Blackrobes: Missionaries in the Heart of Indian Country*. A history of the Ursuline missions to Native Americans in Montana in the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth

centuries, the book describes the bold—and sometimes rash—founder of the various missions, (continued on p. 6)



Lady Blackrobes *Missionaries in the Heart of Indian Country*

is available from
Fulcrum Publishing
4690 Table Mountain Drive Suite 100
Golden, CO 80305 Tel: 800-992-2908
and from amazon.com

BEDFORD PARK COMMUNITY MOVES

Behind that headline lie years of meetings – within the community, with the administration of Mount St. Ursula Academy, and in consultation with various experts in various fields, including housing in the Bronx and securing funding for it. The sisters were seeking a solution to the problem of a diminishing community of mostly elderly nuns, living in a large, grand old building expensive to maintain, and attached to a wonderful high school. They reached a decision to build a mixed-income development of affordable units at the far end of the Bedford Park grounds for low and middle-income senior citizens, with apartments set aside for Ursulines who wish to live there in the future. When the funding is secured, the project, scheduled to begin in late 2007, is expected to be completed within three to five years.

Given that, and the expense of maintaining the old building in the meantime, a decision was reached to relocate the community. Six of the sisters have moved to Andrus-on-Hudson, two to another Ursuline community, and eleven to the second floor of the Province Center, formerly the Marian Residence. The eleven will retain the name and the identity of Ursuline Community of Bedford Park. Sr. Pascal Conforti has been appointed as their superior.

Should you wish to be in touch with the sisters: Pascal Conforti, Josephine De Pietro, Maria Rosa Deiso, Julia Dennehy, Ann Duggan, Mary Raymond Harrigan, Florence Marie Kretz, Virginia Maxwell, Therese McMahon, Mary de Sales Murphy, Elizabeth Ann Sommer, and Gloria Marie Sullivan now reside at

Bedford Park Community
1338 North Avenue,
New Rochelle, NY 10804
Tel: 914-636-3456

Joan Marie Clarke, Mary Claire Curry, Pierre Drury, Gregory Horgan, Catherine Marie Jordan, and Mary Patrick Levis now live at

Ursuline Community
Andrus-on-Hudson
185 Old Broadway
Hastings-on-Hudson
Tel: 914-478-3700

Ann Curry and Mary Ellen Smith are now at

St. Teresa's Convent
39 Willow Drive
New Rochelle, NY 10805
Tel: 914-632-1199

News and Notes (cont'd) PERSON, PAINT, PRINT, PRAYER

Mother Amadeus Dunne; the physical, financial, spiritual, and emotional hardships endured by the nuns at the missions; their successes and failures; and the plight of the Indians, often at the hands of the U.S. government. Irene tells the tale with a keen understanding of the differences between the religious and cultural ethos of that time and our own.

Sr. Patricia Schifini, Vocation Director for the Pre-Candidacy Program in the province, shared her thoughts on her life and ministry as an Ursuline in *Angela Alive*, a publication of Roman Union Ursulines in the USA. Pat is a teacher and Coordinator of the Peer Ministry program at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle.

Sr. Nancy Malone's review of a book, *The Gospel according to Mark* by Marie Noonan Sabin, and an article on "Living with Faith and Doubt" were

published in fall issues of *The American Catholic*, to which she is a frequent contributor.

In December, **Sr. Alice Gallin** spoke to a group of Seniors at The Ursuline School on the differences in the church before and after Vatican II.

And a group of Ursuline Associates, Sisters, and friends enjoyed a pre-Advent day of retreat at the Province Center. **Sr. Phyllis Hinchcliffe**, who taught for years in the Religious Studies department at the College of New Rochelle, led them in meditation on Mary and the Holy Spirit, "Mary's Prayer, Our Prayer".

Visit the New Ursuline Web Site:

www.osueast.org

A Mission of Service/ A Vision for Change

FORMER URSULINE CONVENT IN MALONE DEDICATED TO NEW USE



Photo: Sheila Murphy, OSU

Former Ursuline Convent in Malone, renamed Ursuline Hall, now leased to North Country Community College.

On a chilly December afternoon, a few dozen townspeople – including county legislators, the local pastor, five Ursulines, Associates, alumni/ae of our school, and trustees of North Country Community College – assembled in front of the former Ursuline convent in Malone, NY. They were officially marking the passing over of the convent building to NCCC, which is presently leasing it.

College President Dr. Gail Rice addressed the assembly, noting the dedication of the Ursulines in Malone to education and expressing delight that the work of education will be continued by the NCCC. Bryan Hughes, '62, recalled his 57-year-long association with the sisters. After these brief remarks, Dr. Rice unveiled the sign announcing that the building at 90 Elm Street has been renamed Ursuline Hall. **Sr. Ann Peterson** and Ms. Mary Kay Tulloch, a trustee of the college, performed the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. A reception was held in the dining room of the former convent.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

In the chapel at the Province Center, Ursulines and Associates celebrated the Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent and in memory of the Ursulines who died in 2006. Before the liturgy, a rose was brought to the altar in the name of each departed sister, among them Sr. Mary Thomas Maloney's two sisters, Veronica and Priscilla. In a brief, simple, and profound reflection on the readings, Wilmington Associate Marguerite Gormley Gomes wove together their meaning for our sisters, for our province, and for the world. Please join us in grateful prayer for the lives of Sisters:

Veronica Marie Maloney	January 1, 2006
Margaret Crowley	January 26, 2006
Loretta Shanahan	February 23, 2006
Eugenia Marie Garvey	April 11, 2006
Priscilla Maloney	May 26, 2006
Patricia Powers	May 30, 2006
Cecelia Navin	October 18, 2006
Mary Gerald Carroll	October 31, 2006
Annunciata Bethel	November 12, 2006



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.

Bylines

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**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE URSULINES' SPRING 2007 BENEFIT EVENT
FOR ONGOING URSULINE MINISTRIES AND URSULINES IN RETIREMENT**

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY

A SATIRICAL REVUE WITH PARODY LYRICS TO POPULAR TUNES

