

# Bylines

Ursulines of the Eastern Province AUTUMN 2018

## URSULINES IN GREECE

Martha Counihan, O.S.U.

A recent conversation with Mother Cecilia Wang about the conclusion of Ursulines' service in Greece after 300 years impelled Sr. Kathleen Kuczkowski to reflect on her years of service there and that of many Eastern Province Ursulines.

French Ursulines arrived in Greece at the invitation of Jesuits, establishing a monastery on Naxos in 1730, thus bringing higher education for women to Greece. The Aegean islands of Naxos and Lutra-Tinos were centers of Ursuline education for many years, primary and secondary education plus a weaving school. Italian



Photos Courtesy Sr. K. Kuczkowski

*Athens: Greek students prepare for marching in a March 25th parade, the historical and religious holiday marking Greece's freedom from the Ottoman Empire*

1904 and received French missionaries who helped staff the two schools for many years. Sadly, World War II and the subsequent communist revolution brought devastation, starvation and occupation to Greece. The Ursulines were forced to close their schools.

After the war, there was much concern by the Ursuline general government in Rome for continuation of the small group of Ursulines in Greece. A decision was made to seek economic help and to expand their educational mission. An international community began a language school in Athens in (continued on p.2)

*First Communion day at Ursuline school in Athens. The group includes Sr. Jane Mennis.*



*Ursuline school at Tinos - photos circa 1955*

Catholics engaged in the shipping business were settlers and were just as eager for the education of their daughters with the Ursulines as for their sons with the Jesuits. Relations with Greek Orthodox neighbors and students were cordial. The islands also gave several Greek Sisters to the mission. Two Greek Ursulines are

presently bringing the mission to an end. The Tinos and Naxos communities joined the Roman Union in

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Photo: John Vecchiola

## From the Editor

Roxanne Zimmer

We note the passing of Douglas Hearle. Doug was editor of *Bylines* for a number of years. He was a wordsmith with a journalistic sensibility. He served our readership in providing memorable issues of all things Ursuline. The *Bylines* staff extends our sympathy to Mary and the Hearle family.

## GREECE *continued*

1947, and the three communities became a mission of the South of France Province and then a Vice Province in 1956. In the 1950s, an appeal to all Ursulines for missionaries stirred the hearts of many young Eastern Province Sisters; a number volunteered, and some were selected for Greece. Over ten Eastern Province Ursulines eventually served in Greece. Most became teachers in the new Athens foundations under the leadership of Mothers Marie Elizabeth Dugan and Joan of Arc Cronin.

A small school for elementary age American children grew larger when it became known among Americans in Athens that a Catholic school was available for English-speaking children. The French language elementary school continued. A large Greek secondary school was erected on the outskirts of Athens. From the 1950s to the 1970s more than ten Eastern Province Ursulines, among others, served as school directors and teachers in the American school and the French and English language school which remained in central Athens. Several graduates of The College of New Rochelle, among them, (Sister) Maureen McCarthy gave one or more years of voluntary service.

Presently, Sisters Ann Duggan, Julia Dennehy, Kathleen Kuczkowski, Carol Ann Holder, Jane Mennis, and Maureen McCarthy can regale us with the tales of their service in Greece.

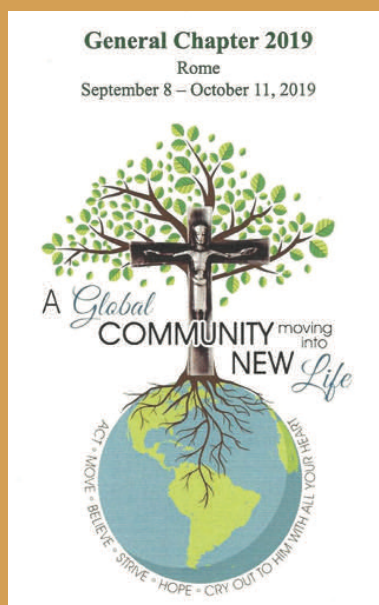
*Eastern Province Ursulines who served in Greece: Sr. Julia Dennehy, Sr. Ann Duggan, Sr. Carol Ann Holder, Sr. Kathleen Kuczkowski, Sr. Jane Mennis, Sr. Joan of Arc Cronin+, Sr. Helen Davison+, Sr. Marie Elizabeth Dugan+, Sr. Basil (Irene) Kutzky+, Sr. Marietta Marinan +, Sr. Loretta Shanahan+.*



*Left photo: Ursuline convent in Athens. Above, standing left to right: Mothers Basil (Sr. Irene Kutzky), Carol Ann, (Sr. Carole Ann Holder), Stanislaus (Sr. Kathleen Kuczkowski), Daniel Joseph (Sr. Julia Dennehy), Joan of Arc Cronin; seated: Maureen McCarthy CNR'61, Mary Krackler CNR'61, Susanne Stubbs CNR'62. Photo taken at Ursuline Convent in Athens, circa 1963.*

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

Jane Finnerty, O.S.U.



Please join us in praying for the success of our General Chapter.

## *Ursuline Bylines*

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## WILMINGTON'S GOD SQUAD

Jeanne Cashman, O.S.U.

A pastor, a nun and a rabbi walk into a classroom and begin four years of sharing wisdom, wit and wonder around interfaith matters with retirees at the University of Delaware's Osher Academy of Lifelong Learning. Our point is always clear. Our interfaith world is filled with differences, but understanding can help us live and work together in our neighborhoods. This year in our course "America's Got...Religion," we added weekly speakers including members of the Hindu, Muslim, Swedenborgian, Mormon, Evangelical Christian and other faiths. Class participation was great.

But the God Squad as we're known in Wilmington came together 35 years previously before engaging in faith conversations with retirees.

In 1983, as Diocesan Director of the Office of Peace and Justice, I happened on an article in the local paper about a group of non-Catholic clergy who'd come together to spray black paint over some anti-Catholic graffiti on a downtown building. Noting the curious juxtaposition of a Lutheran pastor named David Mueller and a Rabbi named Peter Grumbacher, I dropped them a note thanking them for their action. This led to our first get-together, for which I made name tags to tie around our necks. Half-way through the first session, we exchanged them. The result has stuck with us to this day. We are Pastor Pete, Sr. Dave and Rabbi Jeanne.

We became colleagues both because of, and in spite of, our major faith differences. Now, after years of being enriched by each other's faith and wisdom, we are drawn to share our collective learnings with a wider world. Over 35 years together, the God Squad has brought the witness of interfaith sharing to school groups, clergy and other religious settings. Lately, we've gone to assisted living facilities and headlined a nursing home fundraising luncheon. (This venue came about when the originally scheduled speaker, James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, cancelled a week before the event. We were asked to help. We called our presentation "The Color of Holy Water".)

Happenings among the God Squad often include families and grandchildren. We've shared meals out and at each other's homes, celebrating shabbat, holidays, special birthdays, weddings and bat and bar mitzvahs. Dave and I have preached from the bimah at Congregation Beth Emeth. Introducing us as the "family rabbi" and "family nun," Dave called Peter and me to bless his daughter at her wedding, to the surprise of all.



Photo courtesy Sr. J. Cashman

*The God Squad: Pastor David Mueller, Sr. Jeanne Cashman, Rabbi Peter Grumbacher.*

At my 25th jubilee, Peter did the reading from Isaiah, and Dave gave the final blessing. They and both of their congregations became involved from the very beginning of Sojourners' Place\*. We've mourned the loss of each other's family members and supported each other in many ways through those difficult moments.

I've also had the great joy of roasting both Dave and Peter at various significant milestones. We do not seem to finish each other's sentences; we tend to jump in and either contradict, make fun of or totally make mincemeat of them – all in a jolly, tolerant way, of course.

One of the nicest rewards of teaching our class at Lifelong Learning comes to us at the end when members of our class tell us they now believe interfaith relationships are possible because they witness our interaction. Not a bad goal for a God Squad!

\*Sojourners' Place, founded in 1991 by Sr. Jeanne Cashman, OSU, recently celebrated 22 years of providing Delaware's only comprehensive services to homeless adult men and women. After years in social service work and ministry to the homeless in Wilmington, Sr. Jeanne and other local leaders recognized a need for a model other than the existing one – three meals and a place to sleep with a 30-day limit. Sojourners provides an open-ended timeframe for the homeless to develop the skills required to return to society. In Sojourners' Place, the average stay is 6-8 months. Having been allowed time to grow spiritually and emotionally, the residents return to the community with the priceless gift of self-respect.



# TRAFFICKING

Alice Marie Giordano, O.S.U.



**H**uman trafficking, the lucrative multinational business based on the abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children, has long been a concern

of the Ursulines of the Eastern Province. As early as 2001, the Ursulines joined others in forming the Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop the Trafficking of Persons (CRC-STOP). By 2012, thirty-four congregations representing over 20,000 members and associates were hard at work focusing on three areas of concern for victims of trafficking: legislation, education and safe housing.

The Legislative Committee was very active in passing the New York State Anti-Trafficking Law in 2007, one of the strongest laws in the country.

Each year the Education Committee collaborates with local colleges to provide workshops educating all generations on the problems of trafficking in the supply chain, and on the prevalence of trafficking in the area of hospitality, hotels and air travel. Rachel Lloyd, founder of Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS), was given a platform one year and the Immokalee Workers of Florida spoke another time. Students at area colleges were encouraged to research and participate in various efforts.

Early on sisters provided emergency space where women in crisis were able to stay for a few nights. Then, in 2007, Sr. Joan Dawber, SC, founded LifeWay Network, an effort to provide long term housing. In February 2012, the LifeWay Network Safe House in New York City opened. Three sisters, including an Ursuline, formed a host community ready to welcome and support guests. Collaborating with social service agencies, health providers, legal and law enforcement networks, the LifeWay Network grew to a staff of nine with thirty regular volunteers. LifeWay Network now has two safe houses that have cared for over two dozen women this year.

*Photo above: a Sister volunteer and a guest at the safehouse. Below, Sr. Melissa Camardo, SCL, presenting at conference on Trafficking at the UN.*



Photos: LifeWay Network, Sr. A. Giordano

The Ursulines continue to work together with LifeWay Network through funding, volunteering, education and advocacy. Through an annual donation in each year's Gala Fundraising, we support the growing needs of housing and rehabilitation. Several Ursulines are also regular volunteers, spending time at the house where we come to know the young women and learn about their efforts to enter therapeutic and educational endeavors to gain newly independent lives. We will be part of a new mentorship program for current residents and safe house alumnae.



*Sisters Maureen McCarthy, Maureen Welch, Pascal Conforti, Jane Finnerty, Eileen Finnerty, Mary Virginia Orna at LifeWay Network fundraiser.*

We invite you to learn more by participation in US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking <https://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/joinus> and to subscribe to a Stop Trafficking newsletter at <http://www.stopenslavement.org>.

## NEWS & NOTES



Photos Courtesy Songcatchers

Songcatchers, the After-School Music Program begun by **Sr. Beth Dowd**, held its 39th annual music camp in Warwick. It was attended by over 100 aspiring young musicians and staff.

*Top photo: Sr. Beth Dowd conducts outdoors in Warwick, NY. Below: Young campers practice guitar.*



## In Memoriam Sister Alice Gallin, O.S.U.

1921-2018

On September 13, 2018, Sister Alice Gallin passed away peacefully at Andrus-on-Hudson, at age 96. The daughter of William and Alice Gallin, she was raised in New Rochelle, and educated both at The Ursuline School and The College of New Rochelle. Before entering the Ursulines in 1946, she taught high school for two years, and then went to Washington to work in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service until after the end of WWII.

From the time of her first profession as an Ursuline, in July of 1948, until 1976, Sr. Alice – then Mother

Mary Alice – was engaged in her own study as well as teaching, and administration at CNR. During those years she earned her M.A. and Ph.D., taught history, served for a time as Acting Academic Dean and later, Dean of Students.

These academic commitments were followed in 1976 by Sister Alice's participation in the U.S. Bishops' "Call to Action", a year's program focused on social and economic issues. Soon thereafter, Sr. Alice became the Associate Director of the National Catholic Higher Education Office in Washington, then Executive Director two year later, and served until 1992. During the following years, Sr. Alice contributed to Catholic higher education in multiple ways, including a time as Interim President of St. Bonaventure's University. She continued her scholarly research and writing, with numerous publications.

Predeceased by her four siblings as well as her parents, Sr. Alice is survived by many nieces and nephews as well as her Ursuline Sisters.

## NEWS & NOTES *continued*



*Sr. Mary Virginia and her Ursuline students.*

**Sr. Mary Virginia Orna** is in Poland teaching English and Italian to sisters of the Poznań Community of Ursulines. Since her students' proficiencies in English vary, the classes are one-on-one. In the Ursulines' high school she has also had the opportunity to meet with a class of seniors whose English is excellent and who are very glad to interact with a native English speaker.



The Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union were honored by the Catholic Schools office of the Archdiocese of New York on Friday, October 19th at St. Frances de Chantal Church in the Bronx. **Sr. Jane Finnerty**, Provincial, accepted the citation of honor on behalf of the Ursuline Sisters.





# Bylines

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## NEWS & NOTES *continued*

Yup'ik Ursuline **Sr. Josephine Aloralrea** of the Western Province was a featured dancer at the 40th San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival this past July. The ensemble presented *The Shimmering Moon*, a dance about light, the sun, moon, and stars.

It took the members of the native ensemble ten years to make their dance costumes. Sr. Josephine's headpiece shows rings of the universe, consciousness, and nighttime stars. Her ministry is in Anchorage, Alaska.



Photo: R J Muna

From October 6th to 8th, Eastern Province members met in Chapter to prepare for the General Chapter to be held from September to October in Rome in 2019. The task of the Chapter gathering was twofold: to discern issues of importance to the Province and to the world around

us and to elect two members as our delegates in Rome. **Sr. Lynn Jarrell**, Ursuline of Louisville, a frequent consultant on significant issues affecting consecrated life, was the facilitator for the two days of group reflection. The final part of the Chapter was the election of two delegates to attend the Chapter in Rome next year. The Provincial, **Sr. Jane Finnerty** is an *ex-officio* member of the Chapter. Sisters **Sandy Wardell** and **Maureen Welch** were elected as our delegates to the General Chapter.



Photos T Eppridge



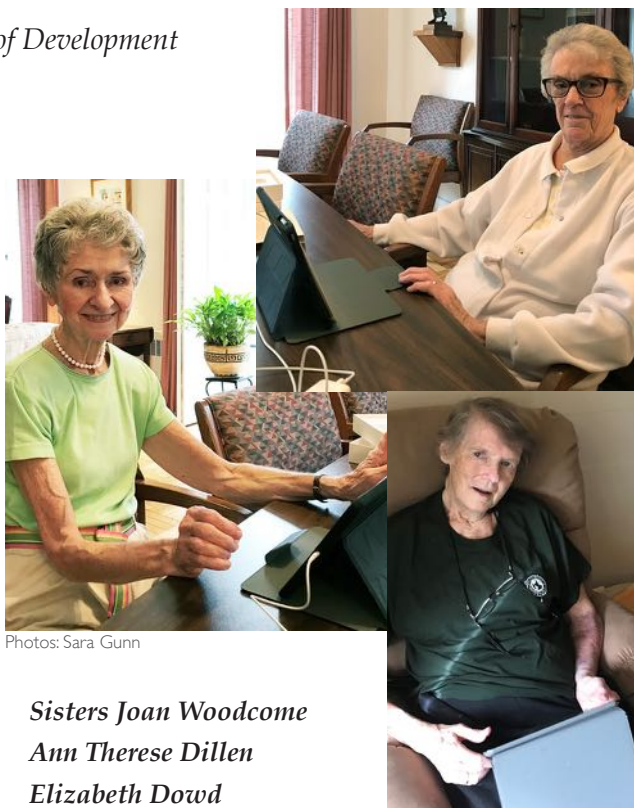
Above: Sr. Sandy Wardell; below, Sr. Maureen Welch.

## Development Update *Sara Gunn, Director of Development*

With your donations in 2017, we began the iPad Initiative that enabled us to provide a computer tablet to one sister. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we now have seven sisters with refurbished iPads. In addition, Rita Ferrari generously donates her time to train each sister on how to use the iPad which is an invaluable dimension of this initiative. We include here some photos of Sr. Anne Therese, Sr. Joan, and Sr. Beth with their iPads.

That same generosity has spilled over into our annual fund. We surpassed our \$300,000 goal when our fiscal year ended in August! Your contributions put us about \$25,000 ahead of last year. We are most grateful.

St. Angela Merici assured us that "God will never fail to provide for all your needs." The Ursuline Sisters are able to continue to build a better world because of the generosity of friends like each of you who help us to keep St. Angela's vision alive and growing.



Photos: Sara Gunn

Sisters Joan Woodcome  
Ann Therese Dillen  
Elizabeth Dowd