



# Newsletter

der  
Föderation deutschsprachiger Ursulinen

27. Januar 2012



## FROM THE GERMAN SPEAKING FEDERATION

### The introduction is done

As every year we started 2012 with the Ursulinentagung (02.-05.01.2012), this time the subject was "Living together salutary". 15 persons took part, among them three women of the "Angelakreis"; the contributions out of their life situation are helpful to widen our horizon.

A participant was also Sr. Cäcilia Fernholz OSU, who took her duties as President of the Federation on 1. January 2012. In the following weeks she will consider, how the decisions and suggestions of the chapter can be animated. We wish her and the whole Federation Council a lot of good ideas, hot hands and first of all God's blessing for the new mission.

*Text and Translation: SBr*

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY IN PERU

### Santa Ursula Lima celebrates the jubilee

We celebrated seventy five years of the arrival of the first Ursulines in Peru. The Ursulines of Fritzlar, Germany, trusting only in Divine Providence, without economic means, decided to answer the call of God and designated Mother Caritas Knicken-berg and Mother Gertrudis Neugebauer as foundresses. They arrived in Lima on January 23, 1936 and on April 1st of the same year, while the school in Fritzlar was closed by the Naziregime, the crucifix was placed in Santa Ursula school in Lima that opened its doors for 84 pupils. The Ursuline community was formed then by six Ursulines.

Santa Ursula's School celebrated this anniversary with much enthusiasm. On October 21st, all the school personnel, the pupils and the Ursuline community participated in the Eucharistic Celebration.

Afterwards, we gathered for a noon meal and in the evening the pupils presented a "Musical Night" for their parents and special guests.

The next day, the alumnae gathered for a Eucharistic celebration at the school chapel in order to give thanks to God for the 75 years of the school. The Eucharist was celebrated by a young Augustinian friar, the son of an alumna. The alumnae of 1936 as well as the alumnae of 2010 participated. The songs and the emotion united so many generations of alumnae who are proud to have received an Ursuline education. Nearly 500 alumnae participated in this celebration. Previous to this celebration, 600 alumnae gathered for their annual gathering.

We thank God for these 75 years of Ursuline life in Peru.



1936

We celebrated  
seventy five years of  
the arrival of the first  
Ursulines to Peru



2011

From: <http://ursulinasurperuchile.blogspot.com/>  
See also: UKLima.pdf (in German)

## ONCE MORE: URSULINES IN PERU

### 50 Years ago from Canada to Aucayo

On March, 15, 1961, six Ursulines left the convent of Trois-Rivières to travel to Aucayo in Peru. Fifty years have passed since the arrival of the Ursulines of the Canadian Union. This event is going to be celebrated in July 2012.

What was it that inspired the Ursulines from Trois-Rivières to found a mission in Peru? During his pontificate (1957-1963), Pope John XXIII asked religious communities to concern themselves more with evangelising Latin America.

In June 1960, The bishop of the diocese of San Jose del Amazonas, Mgr Damase Laberge, asked Mère Ste-Angèle to found a school in Aucayo. As early as September that year, two Ursulines, one of them the Superior of the Province Mère Angèle Guillemette, visited Aucayo. They gathered information on the needs of the population of Aucayo and examined the capacities of the Ursulines of Trois-Rivières to satisfy those needs.

Back in Canada they presented the project to the General Council who approved. It was made official on February, 14, 1961. The foundresses left their country on March, 15, 1961. Two sisters remained in Lima to learn Spanish. On March, 30, Holy Thursday, the other four entered Aucayo to a very warm welcome.

Within the first few weeks they established a hospital ward and concerned themselves with the pastoral care of the community. In July 1961, Sr. Jeanne Thibault was confirmed as headmistress of the school (the first three grades of the primary school). The school expanded fairly quickly. In 1965 a crafts hall was established (dressmaking, weaving mill, carpenter's workshop, etc.). From 1969 onwards the pupils had the option to continue their education at a secondary school in Aucayo.

Today more than 500 pupils attend the convent school of the Ursulines from nursery school up to secondary school graduation.

What are the future prospects? The people of Aucayo have taken their lives into their own hands and improved their methods of cultivating the land. Similar progress has been made in the fishing industry. Their children enjoy a much better education. The school now possesses computers – solar panels provide the necessary energy. In the eighties the Ursulines took care of the hospital ward. Sr. Blandine Massicotte trained the nurses who continue her work.

Marie de l'Incarnation would look at what has been happening here in the course of the last 50 years with the fondness of a mother, particularly when it comes to the young Peruvian women who were ordained as Ursulines and continue her work with all their body and soul.

Hélène Plourde, OSU

From: <http://www.ursulinesuc.com/images/edit/340344126996492.pdf>

Translation: Slg and AO

## REMEMBRANCE OF THE GERMAN ROOTS

### Ursuline Meeting in Canada

**Date:** 16.12.2011 02:38

**From:** Felicitas Drobig, osu **To:** Sr. Brigitte Werr

Dear Sister Brigitte,

the meeting of the Ursulines was a great success. About 46 sisters from three different Ursuline communities met in the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. We started with a prayer session – and then, in Lectio Divina style, we contemplated and discussed St Angela's





writings. Next on our agenda were three short lectures about the foundation of the convent in Cologne and the foundation of the Convent of Prelate by the Cologne Ursulines. We also heard how the Cologne Ursulines are doing. After that Sister Maureen Meier told a few stories from Germany which she discovered when she worked on the history of the Sisters of Bruno.

Afterwards we had a German lunch with Weisswurst [Bavarian veal sausage], spätzle [a South German pasta dish], red cabbage and sauerkraut. After the meal the German Concordia Choir sang German folksongs for us. And that

brought the day at the Cultural Centre to a close. Those who felt like a nice cup of coffee were invited by the Prelate Ursulines in the retirement home.

Thanks again for your generous help. I have attached a picture.  
Felicitas

*Translation: Slg and AO*

## **TWO TIMES ROBerval**

### **The good News first...**

#### **Tribute to Mother St-Raphaël, Foundress of the Roberval Ursulines**

On December 2007, in Roberval, Québec, the committee, "Tribute to the builders" wished to pay honor to Mother St-Raphaël, foundress of the Roberval Ursulines ( 1838-1920). A bronze bust, of this Ursuline who arrived in 1882 in Roberval was realized by M. Léonard Simard. Sister Huguette Boily, Superior, recalled the hardships of the foundation, and the important place she played for young students and farmers of the region. This monument remains permanently on the plot near the Monastery which burned down completely in 2002.

From: <http://www.ursulines-uc.com/eng/news.php#5>

*Translation: Susa*

### **... and then the sad one**

#### **The Ursulines left Roberval**

After 129 years of pedagogical work in this district the Ursulines left Roberval on September 7, in 2011. A thanksgiving service took place on September 4 in Notre Dame Church. Msgr. André Rivest, the Bishop of Chicoutimi celebrated the mass with several priests of the area, people of the parish, alumni and friends. The Augustinian nuns, who gave the Ursulines housing after the fire on March 23, 2002, also participated at the celebration. [...]

See: <http://youtu.be/6-sd4XBLoXc>

*Translation: SBr*



## **TRUSTING IN THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **New Leadership in Brown County**

[...] On Saturday, March 19, 2011, the Ursulines of Brown County met in the Chapel at Ursuline Academy in Cincinnati in order to consider new leadership for our community. Sister Patricia Homan, the previous Congregational Minister (right), has graciously served two four year terms in that position and the wisdom of our foremothers advises that eight years is enough time for one to shoulder the burdens of leadership. With trust in



the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Sister Lucia Castellini was elected Congregational Minister for the next four years.

Sister Lucia (\* 1943) has been a part of the Ursuline family all her life. [...] After spending a year at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, Lucia returned to enter the Ursuline Community in September of 1962. [...] After twenty-eight years of teaching [...] she began a new adventure with Sister Sandy as Co-Founder and Co-Director of First Step Cleaning Company. The concept of the cleaning company was to express the charism of St. Angela by empowering disadvantaged women, giving them an opportunity to develop skills, increase their self esteem, and make a living in the process. Once the First Step Cleaning Company was well established, Sandy and Lucia were asked to take over the Hope Emergency Program for the Poor. For the past ten years this has been their main project. [...] She spent several years as Director of Vocations/Formation for the Ursuline community.

Mary Jo Weaver

From: <http://www.ursulinesofbc.org/pdf/cs/spring11.pdf>

## **NUNS BUILD – USA – 14-18 NOVEMBER 2011**

### **Sisters from East & Central USA Help Rebuild New Orleans**

Sisters from the Eastern and Central Provinces joined about 45 other workers in the ongoing post-Katrina rebuilding of New Orleans: Sisters Teresa Byrne, Terry Eppridge, Regina Marie Frommüller, Carole Marie Keaney and Marie-Celine Miranda. We are back safely from New Orleans. Thank you to each one for prayers and support.

Miss Yolanda, the owner of this house, and her three sons were on the roof for two days awaiting rescue after Katrina. Within about 5 days after evacuation she made contact with her children. They were reunited after five or six weeks. For us, it was an excellent week and we made great progress with this home. Miss Yolanda came each day to see the progress and to express her thanks. And we thank each of you.

This is Larry Carriere and his two granddaughters. Larry was not able to qualify for Road Home funds to rebuild because he did not have the title to his home (his daughter does and she has her own home and could only get rebuilding funds for one house). He took on the task himself with his savings but these ran out. All the money that was contributed to Nuns Build this year (\$ 6,000) has been given to Larry to continue the work. He seems to be the sole custodian of his granddaughters. The little girl was just one at the time of Katrina.



He and his father were left in the house for two days after the storm hit. The electricity on the top floor was working and they had food in the freezer. He told of grilling a rump roast on the top floor grill while waiting for rescue. When rescue did not come, the men snagged a floating section of two by fours, made a raft, and rowed themselves about 10 blocks to dry land.

From: <http://www.ursulines-ur.org/news-nunbuild2011>

## **KUDOS, SISTER DOROTHY!**

### **Master's degree with 70**

Sister Dorothy Kundracik recently received a master's degree in Theology of the Universe from the Loyola University Extension (LIMEX) program offered through the Diocese of Youngstown at the Ursuline Motherhouse.

The degree examines the story of creation – not just from the perspective of humankind, but of God's hand in designing the entire universe. "It was a challenge," Sister Dorothy laughs. "But we're supposed to be lifelong learners. This gives my mind something to chew on for the rest of my years."

Sister Dorothy used her newfound knowledge to design a cosmic walk of time through the universe for a retreat at The Ursuline Center, something she'd like to offer again.

At age 70, Sister Dorothy is a prime example of being a lifelong learner. She began study for this degree about the time she retired from her first career as an elementary school teacher – where she spent 40 years inspiring youngsters. She also holds a master's degree in geography.

In fall 2007, Sister Dorothy started a new ministry with senior citizens. She's currently the manager of the Lordstown site of SCOPE, or Senior Citizens' Opportunity for Personal Endeavor.

Sister Dorothy Kundracik enjoyed studying for her second master's degree. She graduated in May.

From: <http://www.theursulines.org/2011/07/27/kudos-sister-dorothy/>

## THE FIRE ... AND THEN ...

### Lightning struck the Ursulines School in Mons.

During the night from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August lightning struck the school. The roof of one of the wings was destroyed and that of the main building collapsed. Your numerous professions of sympathy and your prayers comforted us and gave us strength. We thank you wholeheartedly.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October the pupils of the lower grades moved back into their classrooms on the second and third floors of the damaged wing. The offices, the staff-room and the Head's rooms are operational again.



The premises have been secured, heated and cleaned. Repair works will start in a few months after the building material has dried out completely.

During those two months the Ursulines were delighted to receive so much support and encouragement.

Parents, pupils and teachers helped with the difficult cleaning of the rooms and the salvaging and cleaning of the building materials, the relocation of classes to smaller rooms ... It was an amazing show of solidarity. This supreme effort made it possible to start school on schedule at the beginning of September.

The Community of Caillou Blanc, Mons / Belgium

*Translation: Slg and AO*

See also: <http://youtu.be/pSEqNpX8RGI>

## A CHRISTMAS GIFT

### Meeting between the Ursulines of Wavre and the Roman Union

The Sisters of community in Mons, Belgium, together with their Provincial, Sister Anne-Andrée Jacob, were invited on Christmas day, 2011, by the Ursuline congregation of Our Lady of Wavre, not far from Mechelen.

Everything began with our celebrating the Holy Eucharist together at the Home Saint Angela, built on the grounds of the Sisters welcoming us ; we prayed there with many of their aged Sisters.

A word of welcome in Flemish, followed by another one in French preceded hymns and texts in Flemish and Latin.

The Christmas mystery united us all in deep communion.

After we two communities introduced themselves, we met for the Christmas meal, together with the pastor of the parish. The round tables helped us come to know each other, and the menu was particularly adapted for this day of rejoicing. Each one tried to know the other Sisters better, and our Flemish hosts made the friendly effort of speaking our French language.

We shared their feast-day dinner, sang Christmas carols, and related Christmas tales.

We spent part of the afternoon discovering the Sisters' huge building which is a sort of museum in typical New Art style. Today it welcomes many visitors attracted by this heritage!



We could imagine all these halls, staircases, and rooms welcoming after the First World War not only day students, as today, but also a thousand boarders, in an atmosphere where beauty served nature et respected it.

We passed by different doors, admired stained-glass windows edged in lead and representing different plants, walls decorated with fringes of mosaics or paintings on varieties of flowers, music, or animals... dining rooms and conference rooms decorated with frescoes recalling Jean de la Fontaine's stories, paintings representing the country side, rich and varnished wooden furniture.

Try to image a large Winter garden with coloured paintings on the walls, vaulted with stained glass, the life of Saint Ursula painted on the walls, and a corridor lined with 35 music rooms with their windows and doors decorated with stained glass windows presenting lyres and flowers.

We admired this beauty all the more knowing that some of these rooms are still being used daily and respected by today's students.

After having lingered on these beautiful grounds and enjoyed our meeting together, we spoke the language of the heart and celebrated Vespers together in Flemish. We were sorry to leave our Sisters after sharing with them this beautiful Christmas. We all left with a gift, a practical desk calendar decorated with flowers for each day of 2012, and determined to plan a new meeting together.

Anne Andrée Jacob osu and the community in Mons, Belgium  
See: <http://ursulines.union.romaine.catholique.fr/A-Christmas-Gift>

## **“A JOURNEY INTO OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE”**

### **A unique visit to the Ursuline Convent in Tours**

It was an extraordinary event when the premises of the Convent of the Ursulines (today an academy of music) were opened to the public on the occasion of 'Cultural Heritage Day 2011'. It was a huge success with more than 2.500 visitors over the weekend.

There was something new to look at everywhere!

Let's begin with St. Michael's Chapel: It is only a little while ago that the magnificent, restored paintings went back up on the walls ... The ceiling heaters were replaced by floor heating, the



wooden sculpture of Marie de l'Incarnation by the Canadian artist Bourgault is to be found behind the grille that separates the Choir from the nave. Eighteenth century music rang out beneath the vaults.

In the Petite Bourdaisière, which houses the Centre Marie Guyart, the history of the Convent of Tours beginning with the foundation of the Ursulines by St Angela Merici in the 16<sup>th</sup> century through to the foundation of the Convent of Quebec by the Tours Ursuline Marie de l'Incarnation is displayed in a vitrine.

Throughout the weekend a nine-minute video told the story of the extraordinary voyage of



Marie de l'Incarnation from the banks of the Loire to St. Laurent updating its every stage in a most vivacious manner.

The hermitage of Saint-Joseph celebrated 25 years of restoration. It opened its doors and stirred up deep feelings.

The brochure on the 'European Days of Cultural Heritage' announced as 'The Event' the history of one location: from the former Convent of the Ursulines to the music academy.

What happened during this 'Journey into our Cultural Heritage'?

The project was supposed to show off the Ensemble Francis Poulenc from the angle of history, music and architecture from the opening of the Convent of the Ursulines in 1620 ...through to the establishment of the academy of music of Tours in 1973. This event run by the association of 'Musica ficta' (department of Ancient Music) and partnered with the students of the Academy of Music was a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Touraine-Canada association.

On Sunday the students of the music academy entertained the numerous visitors with their amazing performance.

In the morning: There was a choral service, beginning in the hermitage of St. Joseph which continued throughout the procession across the premises with the litanies of St. Joseph past the 'Petite Bourdaisière', the first convent of the Ursulines, which Marie Guyart entered in 1631, through to St. Michael's Chapel.

The concert continued in St. Michael's Chapel with beautiful 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century French motets with the Choir, Duets and Soloists complementing each other. (There were two repeat performances).

In the afternoon there was a baroque concert (two reruns) which delighted the visitors.

A young student from the acting academy led people from the 'Petite Bourdaisière' to the open-air theatre near the 'Place Francois Clouet' so they could listen to republican music from the 1930s played by a brass band. The day was to be rounded off by a jazz concert in the Court of Honour (Street of the Ursulines).

This extraordinary day saw music travelling through the centuries! Congratulations and thanks to the young artists, the choirs and the soloists.

From: <http://ursulines.union.romaine.catholique.fr/Le-voyage-du-Patrimoine>

Translation: Slg and AO

## **INSIEME – TOGETHER**

### **Meeting of Ursuline School in Athens**

It was the first Meeting of Teachers and Administrative and Support Staffs of All Departments of the Ursuline Greek-French School of Athens "As for you, live and behave in such a way that your young women can be mirrored in you."

Having chosen these words as a goal, Saturday, September 24, 2011, the team INSIEME of the Ursuline Greek-French School of Athens, created to spread the Merician spirit in Greece, hosted a morning thinktank and working session with the participation of all teachers and administrative and support staff at all levels of its facilities.

The priest Marc Foskolos, researcher, teacher and historian of religion, recounted the historic journey of faith-based schools going back to Jesus Christ while focusing on Greece and spoke of the arrival of the Ursulines on Greek territory.

Then, a projection on the life of St. Angela and her Counsels was held and the break that followed gave everyone the opportunity to get to know one another and to exchange comments.

Finally, in separate small groups, we studied a special case: we tried to see how to integrate two "difficult" pupils into the community according to the sixth Counsel and eighth Precept of St. Angela.

It was a successful day and full of hope for the future of our schools:

- we all realized that we are not alone, that we are members of an extended family with links worldwide

- the younger members of our staff “met” the foundress of the Ursuline Order and had their first contact with her Counsels
- we felt proud of our heritage and we all, whatever our role, understood our mission and the path we have to follow as teachers

What is the next step?

The leadership of each school is considering distributing a complete text of the results of our reflections in our various groups to everyone, and then the INSIEME team will work on the evaluation criteria given by the participants so that the next meeting can be much more rewarding and more efficient. We look forward to our next meeting!

From: <http://www.ursulines-r.org/news-athensinsieme2011>

## **HUMAN DIGNITY VERSUS HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### **Meeting of the Ursulines from the Asia-Pacific Region**

In October 2011, Ursulines from Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, India and Australia and their co-workers, 114 people altogether, met in Baan Phu Waan, Sampran, Thailand. These meetings take place in different countries every two or three years. The topic of this meeting was: ‘The integrity of the human being versus human trafficking’.

Somchitr Krongboonsri OSU, General Councillor of the Roman Union, delivered this message from the General Superior:

*‘Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends [...] Now is the time to share and plan, so that together we may further human dignity and help those caught in the nets of human trafficking. We must rise to this challenge and work together to bring about social change and to change the world. [...]*

*St Angela calls upon us to live in our world such as it is ... She tells us: Our world is ruled by money and power, a fact that manifests itself in our consumer habits. We are self-centred, put ourselves first at the expense of others. Human beings become mere objects to be used and misused to achieve power, accumulate wealth and wallow in the luxury of self-satisfaction.*

*Our mission in life, however, is to spread the Good News of Christ. The message is as simple as it is serious: ‘Love each other as I loved you’. We teachers are called upon as Christians to evangelise so that we may concern ourselves with the situation of families and young people in order to improve it. We must take care of those whose dignity and human rights are trampled upon. It is our duty to work for peace, justice and the integrity of creation by taking a global approach. Our own lives must reflect the sacredness of creation and thus deliver Christ’s message.*

*We revere St Angela. She is our role model:*

- *she was a woman who prayed fervently*
- *she was a woman whose heart went out to those beset by the social problems of her time, who worked hard to bring about social change and encouraged others to do the same*
- *she lived in a world, in a society ruled by men but was not afraid to emphasize the important role women played/should play in that society*
- *she was a woman who had an intuitive sense of how to help people in trouble, be they aristocrats or servants*

Sr. Marie-Pierre Chassaing visited Thailand, she tells us: ‘I was incredibly lucky to be able to attend such a meeting! I enjoyed it immensely. It was through the personal exchange with those present that I was able to ‘travel’ to Indonesia, Japan, India, Australia, Taiwan and the Philippines. I was happy to meet so many of my Ursuline sisters and to learn about the hard work and dedication of the heads of institutions and teachers following in Angela’s wake.

After the opening meeting, which gave us a global insight into the problems of the Asia-Pacific region, each delegation gave an account of the situation in their particular country and of their methods of fighting human trafficking and furthering the integrity of the human being.

We prayed together. Our services and prayer sessions were so well prepared that we were touched deep within our hearts.

Siehe: <http://www.ursulines-th-ur.org/en/>

Translation: Slg and AO



## THERE IS URGENT NEED!

### German Students spent Money for Thailand

Jan.4, 2012 - Dear Sister Brigitte,

[...] Our school was spared the flood in, but many of our teachers and workers were not so fortunate. Some lost all their life savings and have to begin again at middle age. The school is trying to help them financially to get through this trying time. The most pitiful families are the ones with 3-4 young children, all of school age ... no house, no furniture, no clothes, no money, no food, husband without any job because a lot of factories were wiped out because machinery under water for days.

If you haven't already sent that money to another place in crisis, I'll get the Provincialate Account Number. It was so good of those pupils to collect money for these people in need. You certainly instilled the spirit St. Angela into them!

United in Angela,

Francis Xavier Bell osu. (for Sr. Chintana, osu. Provincial of Thailand)

## WHERE URSULINES LIVE

### This time: The Ursulines of Verona



From: <http://www.orsolineverona.it/www/mondo.htm>



Angela Merici  
Painting in the Chapel  
of the Ursulines in Landshut

## Prayer of Benediction

*Lord  
bless our life and our ministry  
in the spirit of St Angela  
and help us  
to find the right way.  
May he open our ears  
that we may listen to the inspiration  
of the Holy Spirit  
may he give us the strength  
to do what is needful.  
May he comfort us  
in the face of difficulty  
and protect us  
if we are in danger.  
May the Lord hold his hands over us,  
bless us and watch over us.  
Amen.*

*Text: SCo  
Translation: Sig and AO*

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