



ON THE WAY...

While we are preparing this edition of our Newsletter, our President Sr. Căcilia Fernholz osu is on the last stage of her way to Santiago de Compostela. More than 700 from Pamplona, all on foot! How many steps?

Naturally we will be glad, when she arrives at home on 20th June. But, may be, this is a metaphor for our Federation. Even so the destination is not always apparent, we stay on our path. That means to do many little steps, seldom a larger one. It is well being on the way together, encouraging each other!

Photo: Frantisek Zvardon, from: J. Bernhard, Chemins de Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle, Éditions du Signe, 2010

A STRONG TEAM...

... at the German "Katholikentag" in Mannheim



It was really a good chance: a "Katholikentag" in a town, where an Ursuline convent exists – and moreover: the Spiritual Center is just next-door! The workshop Vocational Pastoral seized the chance, schemed and built a staff. So a team of 17 persons were there from 15th to 20th May 2012, 13 Ursulines and three associates of the Angela circle in Hersel as well as a "male Ursuline" – and additional Sr. Regina Hunder as Ursuline of the Mannheim community.

"To be there" means at first the large room, where we could present our supplies. Part of the décor was a large drawing of St. Angela on an easel with a pretty candle besides it, and two double-sided pin boards, one with photos of Ursulines in various missions, and the second one with photos from the Angela circle, and a small corner for conversations.

"To be there" was three times each day the large and bright chapel of the Ursuline convent, where we met for Lauds, Noon Prayer and Vespers, always prepared by one of the team according to the topic of the day: "Angela", "Ursula" and "Sr. Dorothy Kazel", an Ursuline of our times, who was murdered in El Salvador in 1980. Twenty up to fifty people came together to these times of prayer. And also the meditative way through Psalm 23, which Sr. Lucia had prepared, attracted many.

Our special offer in bibliodrama and meditative dancing as well as many other events took place in the so called "Angela-Saal". By that a lot of people passed our room and looked into it. So again and again interesting conversations happened. Several took something of our books, CDs or pictures with them. We enjoyed that among these visitors were two former Ursulines.

Those of us who were off duty at that time could look up in a big register such a lot of events, so it was difficult to decide. Most of the venues war in the city and only few – so as the "Kirchenmeile" of the Dioceses and religious orders were on the other side of the river Neckar, but also easy to reach by tram. And to the outdoor services we had a very short way up to the castle.

Very special gratitude deserves our host. The three Mannheim Ursulines handled the rush of so many guests wonderfully – and we were not the only organisational problem, which in these days Sr. Petra, Sr. Maria and Sr. Regina assailed with.

Also for us it was stressful to be afoot the whole day, if we are not used to be. But how else "a new start" will go on? Some criticized that a great breakthrough did not seem to happen. But could it come by great events like this? At least many people had a conversation with each other. If they took this experience home, something could change there. Anyway, we finally mentioned, that even for us ourselves it was a new experience of confraternity, working together in a project. The members of the Vocational Pastoral workshop should be satisfied!

Sr. Brigitte Werr osu
Translator: SBr

SOLI DEO GLORIA

300 Hundred Years Ursulines in Würzburg

The Würzburg Ursulines invited to a celebration on 28th April 2012. Three hundred years ago they answered to the call to come from Kitzingen to Würzburg! The Würzburg citizen – including Bishop Friedhelm Hofmann – gave thanks to them and came to the feast: to the High Mass, in which the school choir sang a mass Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed for the Ursulines in Vienna! as well as to the ceremonial act with much music and performances by the schoolgirls. And they stayed gladly for the refreshment, which gave the opportunity to conversation. The speech took Sr. Katharina Merz osu, Superior and Headmistress, about the Ursuline motto: "Soli Deo Gloria" – Honor only to God – here some of her thoughts:



"The first Ursulines came to Würzburg with this motto in their luggage. They followed a call of the Würzburg citizen and understood it as well as a call and challenge by God. They gave the honor to God as they addressed themselves to the people, who needed them. [...]

I admire the strength and the courage of the sisters, who always started again after defeats and setbacks, after the hard years of National Socialism and the total ruin on 16th March 1945. And I ask myself, what gave them this courage? It was always the confidence in the help from God.

SOLI DEO GLORIA is challenge and encouragement at the same time. Challenge in that by the honor to God you center the humans in the focus, what means to set the love to God and to the next as the utmost principle. It is encouragement as one can expect never to be lost in the feedback to God, because he will give Strength and courage. [...]

Today we look back gratefully at 300 years, which for us Ursulines were affected by the engagement for young people. We could gain God's succour in various manner.

Reviewing the past and facing the future we will discover, what is now relevant and what we are longing presently. It is proved: If you idealise or depreciate the past and if you project your wishes into the future, you would not really utilise the strength of the present time. But we want to seize the chance of this time going the next step with school and convent, being convinced that – in the words by Alfred Delp – "the strength of God goes with you on all routes."

Translator: SBr

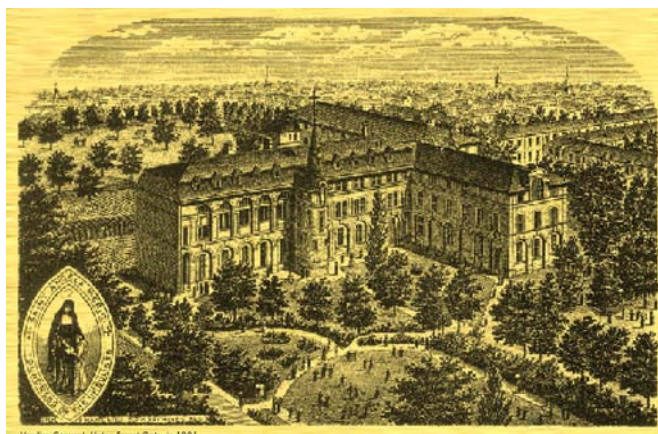
ST. ANGELA'S SCHOOL WITH OUTSTANDING REPUTATION

Ursulines just 150 Years in Forest Gate

In May 1862 four Ursuline Sisters sailed from Saventham in Belgium and on the 8th May they arrived at Victoria Dock Canning Town. They made the next stage of their journey by pony and trap to Upton a small hamlet near Forest Gate and thus began the 150 year long and varied history of St Angela's.

At that time there was no St George's Road and Upton Lane was just a lane "very narrow, full of wild flowers, and lined with trees on both sides". The sisters first home was two semi-detached houses with a stable. Both houses had large gardens with many trees. The rare tulip tree, which survives to this day, was by then already mature. Three courses of bricks from the original wall dividing the two

gardens still survive and now provide seating along Merici court. The old houses have gone now but are Merici stands on their cellars.



The Ursulines were one group of many sisters who came to England from 1850 onwards, at the request of the bishops. The Catholic Church in England was re-settling after a long period of persecution and was making many high ranking converts. The bishops wished to provide for English Catholic girls the high quality education they saw offered by sisters on the continent and in Ireland. At the same time they were aware of the need to set up schools for the many poor children who were flooding in, especially from Ireland to the industrial cities of England where work was plentiful.

The sisters, against all the odds, set to work immediately on this twofold mission. By May 28th 1862 two of them had begun teaching in a couple of cottages in Sun row, now Green Street and a year later they opened St Ursula's elementary school in the stable attached to the convent in Upton Lane. This was the first stage of what today we know as St Antony's Catholic Primary School in Upton Lane. At the same time the sisters turned their attention to a girls' boarding school. The register still exists recording the first Boarder Nellie Bernard who arrived on the 19th August 1862 -we even have her photo - By the Feast of St Ursula in October there were 6 students and by 1877 there were 50. One of these 50 was Mollie Hynes, who became Sister Xavier Hynes.

Today St Angela's reputation as an outstanding school providing High Quality Catholic education for Catholic girls in the neighbourhood remains as solidly intact, as the still functional school buildings the nuns erected ten years after their arrival. A pupil of 1921 remembers her schooling as time of "Innovations in studies, school societies, the opening of the library, Sixth form discussions, social occasions and new responsibilities and with them all a great deal of fun." A verdict that still holds good for many pupils today!



From: <http://www.ursulines.co.uk/school-forest-gate.htm>

ACTIVE ELDERLY SHAPE THEIR LIVES

For Example: The Ursulines of Stannard Court Unit

The Stannard Court unit of the South Thames cluster came into being at the end of 2008 and was established as a new way of looking at Ursuline life for the active elderly. We are three sisters: Catherine, Campion and Anne. Two of us are in our later 70s and one in her early 80s. We live in independent flats in a retirement complex consisting of 79 one or two-bedroomed apartments; we



meet on a regular basis for a shared meal and for prayer. Between us we have an active ministry in our vibrant local parish: RCIA*, 1st Communion, reading at Mass or taking communion to the housebound.

In addition we have maintained previous involvements in spiritual guidance, prison chaplaincy, working with the Jesuit Volunteers and with asylum seekers with the Jesuit Refugee Service, or as a school governor. It is rare that we do not have contact with one or another in the course of each day. The other residents in Stannard Court know that we are "nuns" and we feel valued for what we contribute to the surprisingly communal life which is found here. People look out for and are interested in each other and we are very much included in this network of concern.

* RCIA = *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

From: <http://www.ursulines.co.uk/south-thames-feature.htm>

GERMAN IS FIRST FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Twelve girls from Peru were guests at German St. Ursula School



In March 2012 the St. Ursula Gymnasium at Neheim had for a second time a group of Peruvian exchange students from the Colegio Sta. Ursula in Lima. This contact with the Ursuline sisters in Lima exists already 17 years. The Ursulines keep there not only the social project "Miramar" – well known due to the support by the working group "Unsere Welt" at the SUG Neheim – but also a school for the middle and upper class students.

The first official exchange between the Colegio Sta. Ursula and the SUG Neheim in 2010 was very successful. Now, from 9th to 29th march 2012, is again a group of schoolgirls of the 7th and 8th form from the Peruvian secondary school with two teachers in Neheim, staying with German guest families.

The intentions of this visit in Germany are to assure the Peruvian students in the German language and to prepare for the language diploma in the next school year. As the Colegio Sta. Ursula in Lima is a private school with a German headmaster, German is the first language, which is taught already in the primary school.

Naturally they receive many new impressions about everyday life in German families and also about German culture. After a party to meet each other – with folkloristic presentations by both groups – there was an excursion to Cologne on the programme and also a rally through the city of Neheim.

The journey to Cologne by Intercity train was as fascinating as much as the visit to the Cathedral and the chocolate museum because there are only three railroads for passengers in Peru. Naturally the Peruvian students and their hosts paid a visit to the tomb of St. Ursula, the patron of both schools.

Daily life in the families and regular school attendance at St. Ursula Gymnasium give the distinction to this exchange. German cuisine is explored – everything tastes "lecker" (i. e. delicious). A new experience is also having lessons together with boys, because the Colegio Sta. is a girls' school.

From: Arnsberger Rundschau, 21.03.2012
Translation: SBr



URSULINES OF CINCINNATI: Leadership Change

Sr. Lynn Jarrell, OSU, Louisville wrote via e-mail:

From the Ursulines of Cincinnati we have received a request to send notice of an unexpected change in their leadership.

For health reasons, Sr. Elizabeth Lang has resigned as General Minister of the Ursulines of Cincinnati. Sr. Margaret Mary (Margie) Efke (photo) will serve as the new General Minister.

Prayers for Sr. Elizabeth and for the community are appreciated at this time of transition. We join with each of you in keeping Sisters Elizabeth and Margie as well as all the members of the Ursulines of Cincinnati in our prayers as they move through this transition in their leadership.

THE LAST BUILDING FROM THE FRENCH COLONIAL PERIOD Ursuline Foundation in New Orleans

Built in 1752, the Old Ursuline Convent in New Orleans is the only remaining French-colonial building in the United States.

History : The Ursulines or Sisters of Ursula were the first of many orders of religious women who came to New Orleans and founded schools, orphanages, and asylums and ministered to the needs of the poor.

The sisters arrived in the mudhole that was New Orleans in 1727 after a journey that nearly saw them lost at sea or to pirates or disease. Once in town, the Ursulines provided the first decent medical care (saving countless lives) and later founded the local first school and orphanage for girls.

The convent dates from 1752 and is the only remaining building from the French colonial period in the United States. It was a rare survival of the disastrous 18th-century fires that destroyed the rest of the French Quarter.

Used by the Ursulines for 90 years, the convent now functions as an archive for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, with documents dating back to 1718. The Sisters moved uptown in 1824, where they remain today. St. Mary's Church, adjoining the convent, was added in 1845.

Be sure to see the herb gardens, which inspired one of the nuns to become the first pharmacist in the United States: she was never licensed, but she published a list of herbs that cured various maladies.

The Ursuline Academy, the convent's girls' school founded in 1727, is now uptown on State Street, where the newer convent and chapel were built. The academy is the oldest girls' school in the country.



From: www.sacred-destinations.com/usa/new-orleans-old-ursuline-convent

„FAREWELL ARMIDALE“ Australian Ursulines handed over their House of Foundation

Cath Duxbury writes:

“20 November 2011 will forever mark the day of our official farewell from our house of foundation in Australia, at Armidale, after 129 years – and a few weeks. The weather was perfect and the ultra-marine skies graced the scene as many gathered in the courtyard around the statue of Mary Help of Christians for a ceremonial transition of our presence in this house to those who will come after us.

I could not help thinking of that late evening in 1882 when Bishop Torreggiani and his priests greeted our weary founding Ursulines as they emerged from their stage coach and he said ‘Now, my dear

children, this house belongs to you and your descendants for all time, and no one can take it from you, not even Bismarck'.



Over the intervening years we have prayed, and worked hard. We have made many friends, built with bricks and mortar and with love and encouragement. We have participated in many areas of ministry in the Armidale Diocese and become a part of its fabric and history. Colleagues and friends found additional ways to recognize that and to celebrate and recall our partnership with them on the days leading up to 20th November.

The Catholic schools invited us to special functions as many of the sisters had not visited the schools for quite some time. This involved a tour of new buildings and a luncheon with ex-teachers at St Mary's on Friday. At O'Connor, a

tour of the updated facilities was followed by morning tea on Saturday. There was a great spirit of reconnection, of engagement, and of thanksgiving.

As most priests could not be available to join us on 20th because of Sunday duties in their parishes, Fr Bernie Frize suggested that those who were available might gather in our Ursuline Chapel on the morning of Friday 18th to celebrate Mass with us there for the last time.

It was a very special occasion as we gathered around the table together and we were joined by a few ex- teachers. We were invited to remember our experiences in the chapel and what it meant to us, and to share some thoughts with those gathered. Fr Paul McCabe brought with him the 'Duderstadt Chalice' that had been given in 1864 to the convent at Duderstadt. It was used at the Mass and connected us in a profound way to the founding Ursulines... Many of the sisters recalled events and memories in the chapel and especially remembered all our Ursuline sisters for whom this beautiful chapel has been a very special place.



... On Sunday many ex-students and friends came from near and far to join with us and to share the moment with us. Grateful memories surrounded the very beautiful and dignified ritual of handing over our house. It was in many ways 'the best of times and the worst of times'."

www.australianursulines.org

A REGIONAL NETWORK AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS

First APWRATH Conference in Manila

Manila, Philippines - April 27 - 30, 2012 - The Asia Pacific Women Religious Against Trafficking in

Humans (APWRATH) held its first-ever Regional Conference in Manila, Philippines to strengthen its regional network in the fight against trafficking in humans.

Theme: "Strengthen the Network of the Asia-Pacific Women Religious Against Trafficking in Humans." The conference was bringing together delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region to share best practices and come up with new solutions to the pressing problem of human trafficking. There were representatives from Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. Sr. Siphim Xavier, OSU was among five



representatives from Thailand. Please pray for the success of the meeting plans to help to exterminate this international crime from our world.

Check this site for a report on the conference: <http://www.ursulines-ur.org/news-provinces> !

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

SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT DAYS

For Perpetually Professed Sisters – 5 Years and below

This program held every two years by the Commission on Spiritual Life in the Ursuline Province of Indonesia. This year 32 sisters joined this program. The sisters came from many Ursuline Communities in Indonesia. There was also one Indonesian sister who is studying in Philippines who came to Indonesia to join this program. All the sisters were very happy with the program. They found that the program strengthened their spiritual life as Ursulines. In addition, they were very happy to meet in order to encourage each other and enrich each other through togetherness and sharing.

In the opening ceremony Sister Edith Watu, the Provincial of the Ursuline Province of Indonesia, said that the priority of the province of Indonesia was the spiritual formation. The young sisters are energetic and very enthusiastic in their ministries. Therefore, they have to be wise in keeping the balance between the spiritual life and the apostolate. As religious, the sisters have to maintain the spiritual life as the main foundation of their personal life and ministry.

The daily schedule consisted of personal prayer, scripture sharing, lectures, personal reflection, sharing with one another and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The sisters were divided into various groups. There were groups for scripture sharing and groups for liturgy, sharing about religious life and practical concerns. The materials given in this program are:

Growing as Whole Person – The Aura of Human Body – Kinds of Experimental Prayer – Celibacy – Internalizing The Three Vows: Chastity, Obedience and Poverty as an Ursuline Sister – The Message of Lent from Pope Benedict XVI.

On the evening of 4 March, the sisters expressed what they had received from the program in an attractive performance. Each group expressed this in various ways such as dancing, singing, drama and poetry. Sr Edith Watu and the sisters from the provincialate community were invited to see the performance.

On the last day of program the sisters had an excursion to Bukit Kareumbi, a very beautiful valley. After reaching the valley by train and bus, they went hiking in the area. They really enjoyed the trip, but they were tired because of the challenging terrain they had to traverse. In spite of this, their happiness and enthusiasm were not dampened. The whole program of the Spiritual Enhancement Days was a time of abundant blessings that refreshed and encouraged the sisters to persevere and be faithful in their vocation to serve God and others as Ursulines. Soli Deo Gloria!

Sr. Indira Krisanti Lengkong osu

From: <http://www.ursulines-ur.org/news-spiritindo2012>

ST. ANGELA HAS MANY FRIENDS!

A Report from Milan

Milan, 16th January 2012

Dear sister Brigitte,

We received your newsletter from the provincial in Italy and we thank you very much for it.

We were glad to learn that we are part of a widespread family, which has daughters and sons all over the world and which can broadcast news. So one can feel connected, especially in prayer. That was the wish of our St. Angela group: "to be united at the feet of Jesus".

Because you invited us to this, we want to use the opportunity to introduce ourselves and give you a little insight into our history.

At the beginning we were a group of parents, whose children attended the school of the Roman Union Ursulines in Milan. The sisters shared their spiritual and formative offers with us and called us to collaborate in concrete initiatives of the school. By that we learned always more about the spirituality of Angela and began to appreciate it.

In a prayer a sister gave us the following word of the prophet Josua: "... choose this day whom you will serve" (Jos 24,15). In the monastery garden, where we had gathered, some of us accepted the invitation, to become members of the emerging association.

On a Sunday in October 1983 we confidentially handed our lives over to Jesus and we recognized and decided, that our mission is to be SERVANTS OF PEACE IN THE ON DUTY OF HIS DIVINE MAJESTY.

Due to the initiative of an Ursuline meanwhile another St. Angela association began in Montefelcino (Province of Pesaro), whose mission is the flourishing of a parish.

In Capriolo (Province of Brescia) exists a group, which grew with the one in Milan, but now is developing an independent style and its own agenda.

In Desenzano, Angela's native city, a new group begins, thanks of the two Ursulines, who live in the house of Angela.

The Friends of St. Angela meets monthly at the place of origin. Additionally the complete group is gathering three times a year in Milan, Desenzano and Montefelcino for a retreat.

The Lord and st. Angela will pay attention to us and lead us on the right track for further steps and new projects.

With best wishes

Gerardo Gaspardo (in the Name of the Friends of St. Angela)

Translation: SBr

100 YEARS COMPAGNIA IN SICILIA

Angela Relic on Pilgrimage

In 1912 the first Compagnia of St. Angela was established in the diocese Palermo on Sicilia. So the Sicilian groups celebrate their centurian anniversary in 2012.

On this occasion a relic of St. Angela was brought from Brescia to Palermo. From there it came on a pilgrimage to the other companies in Noto, Syracuse, Agrigent, Piazza Amerina, Catania, Ragusa and Caltanissetta. Just on 6th of May, the exact date of the anniversary, it was back in Palermo and then returned to Brescia by plane.

From: Nello stesso carisma con responsabilità, No. 2, 2012, p. 42f



Übersetzung: SBr

“NEW AND STUPENDOUS DIGNITY!”

Daughters of St. Angela in Burundi

The President Maria Razza went to Burundi with Mons. Adriano Tessarollo and the councillor Kate Dalmasso for the formation and consecration of thirty-seven “Bene Angela”.

In previous issues of the periodical “Nello stesso carisma”, you could find and re-read the “Bene Angela” story and their pathway to this very special and amazing landmark. Here we devote a word to Father Modesto, an Italian missionary in Burundi who had the adventure of knowing the founder of the “Bene Angela”, of knowing the group, and of introducing the Company of Saint Ursula, Institute of Saint Angela Merici, to the bishop of Gitega.

Thirtyseven daughters of Saint Angela, consecrated for some years as seculars in Burundi, are now incorporated into the Company of St. Ursula, Federation, a secular institute of pontifical right. Years ago, these Burundian daughters of Saint Angela did not know about the existence of this institute. Thanks to several intermediaries, after six years of reflection, study, and preparation, they are now part of the international Company.

The ceremony was one of utter simplicity, in the view of the invited guests: only about thirty other Burundian daughters of Saint Angela, about fifteen of their priest-friends, a few representatives of congregations in the city. Nothing more. This was to preserve an unpretentious and reserved style suitable for consecrated seculars.

Archbishop Simone Ntamwana of Gitega was welcoming and accompanying them. I firmly believe that this was a record-breaking length for a ceremony of first consecration: very simple, but lasting a good four and a half hours. However, it was full of value and feeling. The Archbishop of Gitega wanted the formula of consecration, expressed during a Eucharistic celebration and welcomed by the President of the Federation, to be pronounced personally by each one of them. Therefore, just the speaking of the formula lasted an hour and three quarters. Carried out with prayerful and attentive composure, everything was completely African, a sure sign of a "new and stupendous dignity".

The choir that enlivened the liturgy was composed of other sisters, daughters of Saint Angela who will follow, in the next turn, to be consecrated in the bosom of the international Company. The masculine voices of Burundi's priests completed the choir.

The ceremony had an enviable spirit of closeness. Everything was carried out very well. The traditional speeches, not to be omitted, emphasized the joy of observing how the Lord has exalted the humble. Thus it was emphasized how their founder, Father Pierre Nkundwa, died without achieving diocesan recognition for the Statutes and Constitutions of the Daughters of St. Angela of Burundi. At the time of his death, the young women felt that they had no official recognition, like people that "don't know where to go" according to the Burundian name "Ntahonja." Nonetheless, beginning in 2007 Bishop Simone had asked the Federation to study how to move toward incorporating them. Well, this opening to a worldwide identity was the great Surprise from a God who protects the humble. The Burundian sisters were called and recognized as "Beloved by God."

The fact of being consecrated in the midst of the people, in the concrete situations of daily life, appeared a very valid and feasible charism in Burundi. Several times it was emphasized how, in humility, they have reached a point that others have not. And then, farewell to the "Bene Angela", who are secure in the love of Christ and rendered lovable by his presence.

Fr. Modesto Todeschi, Xaverian
Translation: SURS

READY FOR THE MUSEUM?

Sr. Maria Magdalena Lieberer OSU is the last Ursuline of Fritzlar

Sr. M. Magdalena sits in her comfortable chair, in front of her lies the actual newspaper, nearby a glass of tea. In the corner of the room the TV broadcasts a Holy Mass.

The old furnace, the wall paper, the dark wooden floor, things from the convent in Lima, photos and religious pictures on the wall were testimonies for a time long ago.

"I am ready for the museum", the 86 year old nun asserts and laughs. Nevertheless she knows quite well what is going on in the neighbourhood and in the world.

In the past she was a teacher. The education of young people was the purpose of her life, Sr. M. Magdalena tells.

She does not worry about the future of catholic schools, because the people were searching for religious education. The parents capitulate too often to their children, she says. "They should teach their children what is aloud or not aloud."

If one of the students would ask her to join a religious community, her answer will be clear: "It is beautiful to live in a convent." Maria Magdalena has committed herself for her lifetime to God and to her order. Meeting this cheerful woman you could not think she will regret her decision.

Every day in the convent is structured by the prayer sessions, although Sr. M. Magdalena is the only Ursuline in Fritzlar. At 6 o'clock the day begins for her with getting dressed. Then breakfast follows. Four times the week she goes into the chapel for mass. The rest of the forenoon goes by with playing an looking TV. Before lunch there is another praying time. The meal comes from the school kitchen. And then a siesta takes place.





Everyday Sr. M. Magdalena in the afternoon Sr. M. Magdalena prays the rosary and goes into the chapel for meditation. This would last even an hour, says her care-taker. The day ends already at about 19 hours, when Sr. M. Magdalena goes to bed.

By Olaf Dellit
From: Hessisch/Niedersächsische Allgemeine
Translation: SBr

WHAT HELPED ME DECIDE

Three Stories of Ursuline Vocation

No, my cell phone did not ring. There was no text message. God did not e-mail me. No Facebook status appeared providing the answer to my question, "Should I become an Ursuline sister?" Rather, I decided to enter because of inner feelings and little signs from those around me.

I remember joining the Ursulines for a meal and prayer and having a sense of peace overtake me; feeling my heart beat in excitement as I listened to Ursulines discuss a new venture or one of them describe her struggles with unjust structures and what she was doing to stand up for the voiceless. These signs confirmed for me that I had to at least try Ursuline life.

In the fall of 1996, I moved in with an Ursuline community of sisters to begin my candidate year. One evening that year, I was sitting at the dinner table with a lifelong friend's family when her mom asked me how I specifically knew life as an Ursuline was for me. Before I could respond, my friend's younger brother said, "Mom, come on, you sent me to 12 years of Catholic school and we learned about the call. Some people get it and some people don't. Obviously Jeannie got it."

This comment has stayed with me throughout my almost 14 years of Ursuline life. I have always wanted to hear that call more loudly, vividly and clearly; alas that has not happened. The clarity of the call for me, though, has always been those heart tugs, the moments of passion I feel for the work we're doing, and the glimpses of peace I feel when I'm gathered with my Ursuline Sisters, in prayer with God, and in good space and comfort with who I am.

Sr. Jeannie Humphries, OSU

As a young woman, I was so impressed with the joy that I experienced among the Ursuline Sisters who taught me. Their joy and enthusiasm spoke to my heart, and I wanted to be a part of a group of sisters that so loved God and their vocation that their joy just spilled out everywhere.

I also was amazed how the Ursulines challenged me to be the best person that I could. Their words, but mostly their actions, showed me that God had gifted me with certain gifts and that I needed to share those gifts with others. These wonderful Ursuline women also showed such a

respect for me as a woman and an individual, and that is a gift or response that I have tried to instill in others, especially other young women.

At the time I entered, I did not realize all that I do now. One thing that has grown in certainty is that I made the best and right decision. I love being an Ursuline Sister and all that it calls me to be and do.

Sr. Rita Ann Bregenhorn, OSU

Looking back, what helped me decide is the same thing that has helped me continue living as an Ursuline Sister. Sometimes that "what" is difficult to articulate because most of all, at its core, it is a sense of the rightness of the choice. Here's how I know that this life is right for me.

I am someone who has always had a longing for more—what's here is wonderful, but never enough. Although that trait is not without some difficulty, I think it is part of what drew me to Ursuline life. In this life there is the opportunity to seek and know God more deeply; there is always more of God's love to experience, and there is the gift of being able to work directly to bring that love into concrete expression in the world.

What I remember most clearly from the Ursuline Sisters I knew when I was in high school is the joy I saw in them and their delight in being together. That certainly drew me. As I've lived this life I've had opportunities to experience both the joy it can bring and the wonderful companionship of dedicated, gifted women.

My parents raised me to be a woman of faith, as they were people of faith. That faith, along with their encouragement, was an important part of my decision to be an Ursuline. My family and friends agreed with me that Ursuline life was a good choice, and their support has helped sustain me.

Sr. Peggy Moore, OSU
Translation: SUrs

ANSWERING THE CALL

Sister Lois Castillon, OSU



My calling as an Ursuline Sister has taken me around the world serving others.

I grew up in St. Louis, Mo., with two sisters and two brothers. My parents encouraged us to love our God and our Catholic faith, to say our prayers before going to bed each night, to play fair, and to do our best in our schoolwork.

They also modeled for us a love of the outdoors, laughter and family fun. I remember especially gathering around the piano which mom played "by ear" and singing favorite songs.

Toward the end of my years as a student at Ursuline Academy of St. Louis, I knew I wanted to "try out" being an Ursuline. I loved what great teachers the Ursuline Sisters were and the way they were "companions on the journey" of life. Even then, I appreciated their global vision and hearing about their missionary work in countries around the world.

The seven years of formation confirmed my choice to the sisterhood of Ursuline life. My commitment vows of consecrated celibacy, poverty and obedience along with my educational efforts to become a teacher and an administrator prepared me well in the spirit of St. Angela

Merici, who founded the Ursuline Order in 1535. What a heritage we have!

I have taught or administered in schools in Springfield and Chicago, Ill.; in New Orleans; in California and Missouri; and most recently in Dallas at Ursuline Academy as acting principal and as Prioress.

I have studied in New Rochelle, N.Y., and in Iowa City, Iowa. I earned my doctorate degree in educational leadership from the University of San Francisco.

Before coming to Ursuline Academy of Dallas, I served for 14 years as the director of Ursuline Educational Services, a collaborative effort of the more than 40 Ursuline-sponsored and Ursuline-affiliated schools and colleges in North America to carry their educational tradition into the new millennium. This ministry also took me to Taiwan, Austria, England, France, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Canada and South Africa, where I led workshops and conferences on many aspects of St. Angela's heritage and how we network in Ursuline education in the United States.

What a joy to be an Ursuline and experience the global work of God bearing fruit! One of my hobbies and greatest joys is clown and mime ministry. At Ursuline Academy of St. Louis, I worked with students in the Clown and Mime Club to share the Gospel. We presented programs at preschools and nursing homes in the community.

What I love best about God's call to me and my response to God centers on the joy of being present to young people, especially young women, and bringing out the best in each student.

Our Ursuline school core values, given to us in the words of St. Angela, focus on the uniqueness of each individual, on academic excellence, on growing our faith, on building community, on peace-making and on "Serviam" — I will serve.

Special to The Texas Catholic

PAT AND MARY

Angela's Piazza in Billings / USA

Driven by a desire to aid women who are underprivileged and often overlooked, Sr. Pat Funderhide, OSU, and Sr. Mary Dostal, OSU, created Angela's Piazza, a women's drop-in center located in Billings, Mont., in 1998. The Piazza, which now assists nearly 1,000 women and their families each year, provides programs such as a domestic violence support group, education classes, a support group for victims of sexual assault, 12-step programs and parenting classes. All of the programs have been initiated at the direction and based on the needs of the women who are served by the center.



Srs. Mary and Pat are interested in more than helping others; they want to teach women how to help themselves. While women are using the Piazza's programs to get a handle on what is going on in their lives, they also are learning how to make better choices for themselves and their families. And, under the guidance of Sr. Pat and Sr.



Mary, they are learning how to give back instead of continually being on the receiving end. For example, they are invited to volunteer at the Piazza with newsletter mailings and helping at the annual garage sale. Opportunities like these empower the women by giving them ownership of their circumstances and helping them discover the ability within themselves to improve their lives.

The ultimate goal at Angela's Piazza is to send these women into their futures knowing they are strong, courageous and life-giving. The Piazza will continue to be here for them if they need support along the way.

See: <http://www.osucentral.org/meetthesisters/sisterstories/srsmarydostalandpatfunderhide.aspx>

INSTEAD OF A PRAYER

*Many people don't know,
how important it is, that they are here.*

*Many people don't know,
how good it is, only to see them.*

*Many people don't know,
how comforting their gracious smile is.*

*Many people don't know,
how pleasant their nearness is.*

*Many people don't know,
how much poorer we were without them.*

*Many people don't know,
that they are a godsend.*

*They could know it,
if we would tell it to them.*

© Petrus Ceelen, (*1943), Belgian priest, psychotherapist, author and aphorist,
works as prison chaplain and is since 1992 aids chaplain in Stuttgart

Aus: <http://www.altenpflegeschueler.de/cgi-bin/drucken/Printview.pl>

Translation: SBr

WHERE URSULINES LIVE

This time:



America:

Brasil, Canada, Mexico, United States

Africa:

Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Kongo, Erithrea, Äthiopia, Madagaskar, Nigeria

Europe:

Austria, England, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Swiss

Asia:

Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore

Oceania:

Australia

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