



Ursulines

Alive

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

*Proclaiming Jesus
through Education
and Christian Formation*

Winter 2025

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INSIDE:
**Sisters' prayers
for difficult times**



**Sister Marilyn's
long devoted service to
Elementary Education**

From Our Congregational Leader

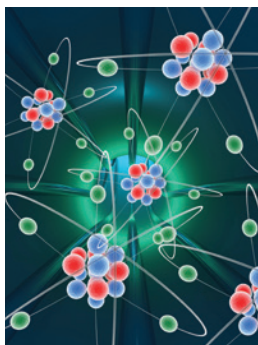
The profound energy of prayer



Dear Friends,

You know how sometimes the smallest comment you hear can find its way into your mind and heart and then emerge in your future thoughts and conversations? I had that experience this summer while listening to a conference speaker.

While reflecting on the reality that, as cherished elements of God’s creation, we are members of one body, that whatever happens to one part affects the whole, the speaker then said simply, “Nothing is neutral.” Nothing. No thought, no action, no prayer, no words, no guarded look, no shrugged shoulder, no hug. Nothing is neutral. Everything has impact.



As I tried to get my head around the deeper truth of this statement, I found myself wandering into the land of physics. Physicists remind us that the universe is energy – light is energy, sound is energy, solid structures are energy, thoughts are energy, and – surely – prayer is potent energy. Physicists also know that the action of a single proton can have measurable impact on another proton even light years away.

My brother, who teaches physics and astronomy, recently spent parts of a few summers conducting research at the CERN super collider in Switzerland. The collider is a 27-kilometer-long underground circular tunnel with super magnets that accelerate two or more protons to near light-speed; when the protons collide, they create completely new particles. Incredible energy. Unimaginable results.

I was a bit jealous of my brother for I thought, “He gets to watch inconceivable energy at work, generating awe-filled results.” But since my summer’s new expression of an ancient reality – “**Nothing is Neutral**” – I have a richer awareness I’d like to share. Yes, the protons in the super collider reach near light-speed creating new particles. But prayer. Ah, prayer, too, is energy – but energy that surpasses the speed of light. It even surpasses the speed of thought. For Jesus reminded us that “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I also.” The super collider requires 27 kilometers and super magnets to generate awe; all we require is two or three gathered in prayer.

What richness, what unimaginable energy surrounds us. So, thank you for all the ways you help bring awesome gifts to life through the energy of your prayer. Blessings,

Sister Sharon Sullivan, OSU, Congregational Leader

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COVER: Ursuline Sister Marilyn Mueth helps a third-grade girl with her reading, while the other teachers eat lunch.

Inset photo: Sister Marilyn Mueth helps a sixth-grade girl with some research for a paper she is writing on the Holocaust.

Small photo at top: An Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph reads the Ursuline Book of Prayer, which was compiled by Sister Cheryl Clemons.

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Ursuline Sisters
 of Mount Saint Joseph

OUR MISSION

We, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, sustained by prayer and vowed life in community, proclaim Jesus through education and Christian formation in the spirit of our founder, Saint Angela Merici.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Prayer
 - Service
 - Empowerment
 - Justice
 - Contemplative Presence
- ... In the spirit of Saint Angela Merici

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Sister Marilyn Mueth still finds her vitality **in the classroom**



Sister Marilyn Mueth uses a Smart board to help two third-grade girls who need assistance quickly counting in increments of 10.

“I’m not sure what we’re going to be working on,” Sister Marilyn says. “It could be math, it could be vocabulary, or it could be help writing a paper.” The student concedes she is having a bit of trouble with complete sentences. After working on those, the girl sits down at a computer while Sister Marilyn helps her find information for a paper the girl is writing on the Holocaust.

In what was once a common scene, Sister Marilyn is an anomaly these days – an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint

Joseph serving as an elementary school teacher. She and Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner – who serves at Mary Carrico Memorial Catholic School in Knottsville, Ky. – are the only two Sisters serving in classrooms. Sister Carol Shively continues to serve as superintendent of the Diocese of Shreveport, La., Catholic Schools.

After teaching upper elementary grades for seven years as a lay person, Sister Marilyn joined the Ursuline Sisters of Belleville, Ill., in 1980 at age 31. She spent a few years in other ministries – retreat service, parish ministry, and caring for her mother in her final years – but for 40 of her 45 years as an Ursuline, she’s been a teacher.

“I enjoy being with kids,” she said.

Continued on Page 4

Sister Marilyn Mueth stands in front of the Smart board in her classroom just a few feet from two third-grade girls who need help with their upcoming math test.

“Can I take 8 from nothing?” Sister Marilyn asks.

“Nooooo” is one girl’s reply.

“I’m sending you home this pretest so you can go over it with your dad,” Sister Marilyn tells her. “I know your dad does your work with you. It has all the things I went over with you.”

Sister Marilyn is the resource teacher for all students at St. James Catholic School in Millstadt, Ill., a village of 4,000 people not far from St. Louis. All day long she works with students – in small groups or one-on-one – who need additional help to keep up with their classwork.

For these third graders, their classroom teacher brought Sister Marilyn the upcoming math test with concern that the girls were likely to fail without additional help. Sister Marilyn took the test home and developed her own questions to go over with these students. After 30 minutes, she moved on to her next student, a sixth grader.

Sister Marilyn plays the guitar while leading her music class of third and fourth graders in “We Are Many Parts.” She also plays the keyboard and accordion.



SISTER MARILYN *From page 3*

“I told my Belleville community, ‘I always need kids in my life.’ Kids give me a sense of vitality.”

Now at age 76, she is showing no signs of slowing down.

“I’m not worn out yet,” she says with a smile. “I was told, ‘You don’t seem like you’re 76.’ I think that is meant as a compliment.”

The Ursulines of Belleville merged with Mount Saint Joseph 20 years ago. Sister Marilyn and Sister Mary Ellen Backes – who serves in Springfield, Ill. – are the only remaining Belleville sisters.

“I find it important to keep serving here,” Sister Marilyn said. “My home parish is 15 minutes from here.”



I’ve always worked in this diocese. It’s been home.”

On this typical school day in September, Sister Marilyn is indefatigable. She arrives at 6 a.m., to prepare for her day, and usually stays until 3:30 or 4 p.m. She moves constantly, never sitting down, working through the times the other teachers have lunch.

Kristin Laws is in her second year as principal at St. James and refers to Sister Marilyn as “a valuable asset.”

“The kids know that she cares,” Laws said. “Sometimes she is the strong hand that they need. She plays music – the kids love and appreciate that. She offers her time before school and after school. The kids know they can rely on her.”

Laws says having a woman religious in the school is “amazing.”

During a seventh-grade math flex class, Sister Marilyn assists these girls working on a poster.



“I’m Catholic, but I learn something every day about my faith,” she said. “She and I both get here early, so we have time to talk in the morning. She talks about her care and concern for her students. You have to love her.”

“I’m not sure the parents know what our school would be like without Sister Marilyn,” Laws said. “It’s a chess game all day long to fit every kid into her schedule.”

Sister Marilyn credits her flexibility to preparation. On this particular day, after her third graders and a sixth grader, she works with a seventh grader on his vocabulary, then two second graders on vocabulary, some third graders on vocabulary and reading, followed by seventh graders working on math. She also teaches K-4 music, and on this day, leads the third and fourth graders with some

hymns and secular songs while playing the guitar and the keyboard.

“How about ‘Froggy Went A-Courtin’?” she asks her students to an enthusiastic response. This is one of the songs the children are practicing for a visit to an assisted living facility in the fall, where Sister Marilyn will play her third instrument, the accordion.

She taught second grade at St. James from





St. James School was opened in 1941 in a residential area of Millstadt, Ill.

can step into any situation – from a kindergartener studying phonics, to an eighth grader in algebra,” Cobb said. “She doesn’t understand the people who do the bare minimum. She goes to great depths. She is working so hard, giving up all of her time to help the students.”

Sister Marilyn said she is much more structured now than when she was a new teacher.

“I always have routine in my classroom,” she said. “Kids love

routine, they know what’s going to happen day to day. That gives them comfort.”

She taught some of the parents of today’s students, and some of the current staff at St. James, including Austin Gerteisen, who is in his seventh year working as an aide.

“She taught me in public school religion in the second grade. She made it fun, we sang a lot,” he said. “She made us feel connected to God.”

“I taught first-grade religion for two or three years,” Gerteisen said. “When the students asked me questions, I could go to her for a way better answer.”

Kylie Chitwood is teaching third grade this year. Sister Marilyn taught her in the second grade at St. James.

“I really learned a lot in second grade,” Chitwood said. “I think she made me a good student overall.”

St. James opened in 1941, but its future is in doubt. There are only 106 students in the school, pre-school through 8th grade.

“I’ll teach as long as I have a job,” Sister Marilyn said. “There are people who are very dedicated to keeping this school open.” She concedes that small Catholic schools in the Diocese of Belleville are in trouble. If not teaching, what might she do next?

“I’ve been getting a nudge to do something for the poor. I haven’t acted on it yet,” she said.

Until that day, Sister Marilyn is content to keep making a difference in the lives of the students at St. James.

“She really helps the kids to succeed,” Gerteisen said. “Without her, a lot of kids wouldn’t get the help they need.” ■

– By Dan Heckel, Mount Saint Joseph Staff 5

1991 to 2012, before moving to Holy Trinity Catholic School in Fairview Heights for two years while caring for her mother. After her mother’s death in 2016, she returned to St. James as a resource teacher.

“We used to joke that when she taught second grade the kids could go right on to fourth grade,” said Laura Diak, who is in her second stint at St. James, now teaching middle school math and 8th grade home room. “I haven’t known St. James without Sister Marilyn.”

These days, Sister Marilyn works one on one with some of Diak’s students and also joins her classroom to assist students who need an accommodation because they learn differently.

“She’s very modest. She doesn’t fully understand the help she gives us,” Diak said. “I don’t know how we would ever replace her.”

Having a Sister teaching in the school is a bonus for the students, Diak said.

“When she taught religion, it wasn’t just what was in the book,” she said. “It’s nice that no matter what she’s teaching, there is always a religious element that she brings to the forefront. It keeps that focus where it should be. The parents

appreciate that.”

Darla Cobb has been a teacher for 37 years, with the last seven of those at St. James teaching middle school English language arts.

“Sister Marilyn has such diversity, she

Sister Marilyn created this game show format to help a seventh-grade boy with his synonyms.



Ursuline Sisters and Associates bring Jesus to the ailing through Gennesaret retreats

By Dan Heckel, Mount Saint Joseph Staff

Ursuline Sisters Shellie Intravia, Jacinta Powers, and Nancy Liddy live in different cities with differing ways to serve. But in September 2025 they came together with Ursuline Associates Amy and Tom Payne to help people with physical limitations experience Jesus.

They gathered on Sept. 26-28 at the Abbey of Gethsemani retreat center near Bardstown, Ky., for a Gennesaret retreat, named after the town in the Gospel of Mark (6:53-56) where Jesus healed the sick who were brought to him. The retreat (pronounced Juh-nez-er-et) is for people with chronic health issues who would have difficulty attending a typical retreat.

“These retreatants are people who usually don’t get out of their houses other than to go to a doctor’s appointment,” Sister Shellie said. “They have a hospitality person and a medical person. The hospitality person helps them with meals, takes them on walks, and makes sure they get where they are supposed to be.”

“I feel like the retreat brings people to a place where they can receive the love of God,” Sister Shellie said. “They can know that there are people in the world who value them, who are compassionate.”

The Paynes, who live in Owensboro, are the coordinators of the retreat.

“It’s a ministry unlike anything we’ve been involved with before,” Amy Payne said. “I’ve done lots of retreats where the purpose is for people to meet God – Cursillo, Teens Encounter Christ – but this reaches

out to people who could not usually encounter the Lord.”

“These are people in real need of knowing that they aren’t alone,” Payne said. “We don’t tell them anything the Church hasn’t always told them. We have Mass every day, and they experience a loving group of people. They have the opportunity for the sacraments – penance, anointing, the renewal of our baptism. They are able to refocus, renew and restore.”

“Sister Shellie leads a guided prayer on dedicating their suffering – to take their pain and intentionally give it to Jesus,” Payne said. “It’s a powerful weekend. We come away with more than we give.”

Sister Jacinta is a trained nurse who lives in Owensboro. She served as one of the medical volunteers at the recent retreat.

“I was moved by the ‘progression’ of the movement of the Holy Spirit from its beginning on Friday afternoon through the closing on Sunday afternoon,” Sister Jacinta said. “The guests ... came with

Continued on next page



Father Christopher Grief, front, kneels to wash the feet of a participant, as Deacon John Cecil does the same. Father Grief is the parochial vicar at St. Stephen Cathedral, and Deacon Cecil serves at Sts. Joseph and Paul Church in Owensboro.

“When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.... They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed. – Mark 6: 53-56

plenty of luggage, but also hearts heavy with burdens, both physical and spiritual. As the helpers met them and continued to be present to them there was a sense of recognizing that the small acts of kindness, along with the words of the presenters, the holy rituals and the shared sacraments seemed to cloak them in invisible blankets of God’s warm presence. It was inspiring for me to see the guests and the helpers opening to the Holy Spirit and allowing this time to ‘heal’ unseen areas of the hearts gathered for this short time.”

Sister Nancy, who is discerning her next ministry in Louisville, attended her first Gennesaret retreat, serving as a musician for Mass and the sacraments.

“I could tell that the retreat leaders understood how healing music and song can sometimes be for people experiencing pain and suffering,

Helpers with the Gennesaret Retreat gather at the Abbey of Gethsemani on Sept. 26, 2025.

and how important live music is for celebrating the sacraments and rituals,” Sister Nancy said. She was moved by all the caring support she witnessed during the weekend.

“There were a lot of generous people – from the monks, the leaders, the nurses and volunteers – who were sincerely helping the retreatants to find their way through illness and grief just by being present,” Sister Nancy said.



with the ministry in 2011, when she was serving in Louisville. She knew that Father Scaglione wanted to extend it to another diocese. She introduced the Paynes to the Gennesaret ministry in 2015 and promised to assist them if they brought the program to the Diocese of Owensboro. She now lives in Tell City, Ind., where she is director of Catholic Charities.

The Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center became the home of the retreat until Covid shut down the center in 2020. Father Scaglione stepped down once the retreat began happening at the Mount, but when the retreat center could not reopen, there was no place to host the Gennesaret retreat, Sister Shellie said.

“We called the (Trappist) monks at Gethsemani and they allowed us to return,” Sister Shellie said. “We’ve been back since 2023.”

There are some challenges with the new arrangement. Although the retreat is a nonprofit under the Diocese of Owensboro, it lost a grant when it moved to Gethsemani – even though all the participants are from the Diocese of Owensboro, Sister Shellie said. The retreat – which is free for the participants – now only happens yearly due to the cost and the distance.



Participants and helpers for the most recent Gennesaret Retreat gather at the Abbey of Gethsemani. In the center in the yellow shirt, Ursuline Sister Shellie Intravia speaks with Ackie George, from Lebanon, Ky.

“On the first evening of the retreat, everyone was just beginning to feel comfortable singing together,” she said. “The next day, they lit up and found their voices during the Gospel acclamation. It was touching to hear their strong singing of the ‘Alleluia’ – a song of triumph over death.”

Father Paul Scaglione began Gennesaret retreats in his native New Jersey more than 35 years ago. A 1968 graduate of Brescia College in Owensboro, he transferred to the Archdiocese of Louisville in 1999 and began the first retreat in 2001.

Sister Shellie became involved

SISTERS URGE US TO TURN TO PRAYER I

In our divided country and world in 2025, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph find themselves still doing what Saint Angela Merici taught them to do nearly 500 years ago – pray. Saint Angela lived in a time of constant war and violence. She devoted the entire fifth chapter of her Rule to prayer. In her Last Legacy she told her Sisters, “*And let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ, and there, all of you, with all your daughters, to offer most fervent prayers.*”

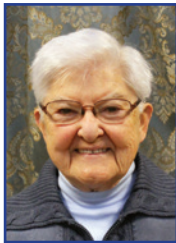
For this issue, the Ursuline Sisters were asked two questions:

- *How are prayer and your faith life helping you to deal with these precarious times?*
- *What advice about prayer could you offer others to help them navigate each day?*

This is a sample of what the Sisters wrote.

SISTER GEORGE MARY HAGAN

“Even though we are living in precarious times, God is indeed with us, just as he was during World War I, World War II, and the Depression years, when our parents were limited in income and had large families. Their faith in God sustained them. They turned to God in prayer.



Prayer awakens us to the presence of God. It makes us spiritually stronger, and helps us to accept life, even during hard times. It calms anxiety and helps with pain. Yes, praying is difficult at times, yet it is necessary.”

SISTER BETSY MOYER

“Prayer is an essential part of life just as breathing is. It is a sustaining factor in our spiritual life with God. It is our umbilical cord, that lasting connection with God. Without it, doubt, fear, and even despair can set in, leaving us physically and psychologically drained, insecure, and unfulfilled.



Prayer is a way to connect with a power greater than ourselves. But this takes time, patience, and commitment. It is a slow, reflective process that will provide us with hope, a sense of security, a longing to be present to prayer, and a chance to savor that sacred space where we feel comforted, relaxed, and safe.

I believe and trust in the power of God. The world is upside down and those who govern are at odds. Despite all this, I trust that God will intercede, that His hand will reach down and ‘overthrow’ the enemies of our time. And then, I stop and think, where is my compassion and faith in all of this? I turn to prayer, asking God in earnest to intervene, to help me/us help those who no longer trust, no longer believe, no longer see God in what we do or in what is happening. Prayer allows me to balance my thoughts and feelings. It can calm me or spur me onward. My faith and prayers allow me to hold on when all around me is awry.”

SISTER EMMA ANNE MUNSTERMAN

You are my God, I give you thanks. I celebrate you, my God, I give you thanks for having heard me. You have been my savior. I give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your love is everlasting! -Psalm 118

“**Our awesome God created everything, and God has a plan.** God also gave us free will and we can either live to find and follow the plan or not. It seems that we humans have detoured, but God is faithful and merciful. We suffer or may suffer worse things, but God is merciful, God is love. God is present and suffered and still suffers with and in us. We live in hope. God has promised that there is a place being prepared for us for all eternity. Praise God.”



IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES



SISTER CECELIA JOSEPH OLINGER

“The night before Russia invaded Ukraine, I felt so much dread and doom that at first I was paralyzed. I thought, ‘What can I do?’ **Prayer was the only option and certainly the best option.** I recalled hearing Immaculee Ilibagiza speak at St. Agnes Church in Uniontown, Ky., just a few weeks earlier. She and seven other women had spent 91 days in a small bathroom during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. She shared how she used a bible and her rosary to help her survive. Specifically, she mentioned praying the **Seven Sorrows chaplet** to help her forgive her family’s murderers. That became my special prayer for peace in Ukraine and eventually for peace between Israel and Gaza. Mary’s Sorrows made me think of the suffering that the Ukrainian people were going through.



While I had begun praying the **Divine Mercy chaplet** some years earlier, I began praying it intentionally for our country’s problems when it was used in a booklet of “Prayers to Save America.” Feeling the rosary in my pocket or pulling it out to pray a few ‘Hail Marys’ often calls me back to these intentions.

I would recommend that people have some special or ‘pet’ prayer to call on throughout the day, something that comes from the memory or a simple prayer from the heart.”

SISTER SHARON SULLIVAN

“I have had for many years a small handmade sign/refrigerator magnet that reads: **‘A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel.’** Perhaps that’s my reality as I think of my prayer life in these uncertain times. I don’t really have a ‘prayer life’ and ‘some-other-kind-of life.’ I doubt that I’m anywhere near Saint Paul’s hope to be praying always, but I am surrounded all day, every day, by God’s wonders, so each breath is a prayer whether I am conscious of it or not. My conscious daily prayer actions include:



- Each night, just before sleeping, and each morning, just before rising, I take some minutes to name and picture in my mind each Sister in the community. Sometimes I add my family – sister, brothers, nieces, nephews, and pause at a name or face for some extra prayer.
- I read or say morning prayer and evening prayer.
- When possible I participate in the Eucharist.
- And I try each day to take time to sit and listen in prayer, to try to open mind and heart quietly to however the Spirit might be moving within. Sometimes I write, sometimes I read, sometimes I just sit.

My prayer reminds me that this world is not mine to control.

This summer, Sister Simone Brambilla (of the Consolata Missionaries) reminded us that **‘nothing is neutral.’** That everything we do, each word, each thought, each action has an impact on the world around us. Our positive thoughts increase the power of hope, of goodness, while our unresolved negativity simply adds to the power of fear and hate.

Prayer helps me lean to the positive and resolve the negative. Prayer depends upon and draws from the positive energy and contributes to it as well. Knowing that my prayers are joining those of countless others helps me to appreciate both that even my tiniest effort at prayer contributes something, and that I cannot begin to imagine the true power of those prayers.”

SISTER JANE FALKE

“I have found that contemplative prayer is very helpful for me. I have chosen a word to pray over and over as I breathe.



The theme is to hear all that God desires the world to be and I hear what my part is in that world. God gives me the attitude I should take and that attitude changes depending on what is going on in me and the world. Then as Angela says, **I do something.** That something comes out of the prayer.

What I can do is small and costs me something. It is meant to change the world as best I can.”

SISTER BARBARA JEAN HEAD

“Prayer and silence are my lifeline. I spend an hour in prayer each morning plus attending daily Mass. The time set aside gives me strength for the day and helps me to remember those who are suffering at the hands of the enemies. I can’t stop the war, but I can continue to ask God to help the suffering people and to bring an end to the terrible war.



Make time each day to pray! God is with us all the time and He wants us to ask for His help. Prayer can help us to think outwardly toward those in special need.”

SISTER MARY TIMOTHY BLAND

“There are many opportunities at the Mount to help me strengthen my prayer life. The Chapel is always open to us for liturgy, rosary, exposition, and quiet times to come and be still before God.



Jeff Cavins’ book “Praise God and Thank Him” has really helped me to be thankful for whatever comes my way.

My family – I have seven brothers and sisters – has helped me also. Early every morning, my brother, Deacon Joseph, sends us the Gospel passage for the day. Sometimes we discuss it, or it may evoke other Scriptures. I look forward to these texts each day.

My advice is to make time in your day, even if it’s 10 minutes, to read the daily Scriptures and the reflections that follow. And in all things be thankful. We don’t always know what things will come our way, but through it all ... be thankful!”

SISTER MARY CELINE WEIDENBENNER

“The journey of answering the call of God to ‘Come back to me with all your heart’ has manifested to dancing deeply. As human beings created in God’s image and likeness, God’s love desires to give us the kingdom. This kingdom is a call to live with Jesus the goodness, truth and beauty given in our creation. In agape love and eros love, we carry it out. My vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience give this freedom and openness to carry it out.



My deepest prayer coming from life in the Trinity awakens my goodness and truth. I ask the Holy Spirit for an increase of the gifts of true fear of the Lord – **wonder, awe, respect, courage and wisdom.** This calls me to be with the marginalized. In increased wisdom I do little things to live this out. ‘Small is beautiful,’ I am hidden with Christ in God.

Give praise, adoration, thanksgiving and glory to God. Stop the division within and without. I am OK, you are OK, God loves us both and life is a challenge. Seek God earnestly. See yourself through God’s eyes. We simply need to acknowledge who has called us and trust in the power of Christ’s grace and mercy working in us.”



SISTER MARY ELLEN BACKES

“My prayer and faith help me in navigating life’s uncertain journey in present times. Prayer and faith help me deal with life’s surroundings. I spend quiet time in God’s presence in the early hours of most mornings. I pray that God be present to all the feelings, experiences, joys and frustrations I may encounter in the day ahead. I trust with God that all things are possible and unite myself with the prayers of all believers. **Prayer nourishes my hope**, that love will overcome the ‘bad news’ of violence and greed on display daily in the airways of our world, and that feeds into one’s helplessness to change the great spiral of evil. **Prayer nourishes my inner convictions** for good and keeps me humbly aware of God’s workings all around me.



Saint Angela offers us a way to navigate through life each day. We need to be awake to the gift of God’s calling in each of our lives. God’s plan includes that we share the gift of life that God freely gives, our individual talents, hospitality, compassion, service and love for all God’s people. We are all “brothers and sisters” in God’s gift of life. Prayer inspires us to recall God’s promise to be with all people who seek with God a world of peace, justice and love. In Jesus, we overcome in our world the darkness of sin and death and gain eternal life. With Saint Angela I pray often, **‘Lord, light up the darkness of my heart.’**”

SISTER VIVIAN BOWLES

Sister Vivian carries prayers with her or has them permanently stored in places she sees often. She enjoys the books of Matthew Kelly, and she prays a prayer to Saint Joseph, the patron of the Ursuline community. She is very devoted to the Eucharist. After each time she receives it, she prays, **“O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.”**



She has a prayer in which she tells God that she is 100 percent available to how God wants to transform her. It concludes, **“The secret to supreme happiness is to strip away everything in your heart and set aside everything in your life that makes you less available to God, and then surrender yourself to his loving plans and care.”**

In these turbulent times, she daily prays “A Prayer for Inner Strength,” which reads:

“Dear God. Please give me the strength to endure this situation, and to find blessings and lessons that it contains. Please give me the endurance to continue ahead. Please guide my thoughts, words and actions, so that I walk your path of peace and love.”

THROWBACK PRAYER REFLECTION FROM SISTER MARIETTA WETHINGTON

Sister Marietta Wethington, who went to heaven in 2022, wrote many Reflective Moments with Angela for our publications. This one from June 2020 is still relevant today.

“The writer of Saint Matthew’s Gospel tells to love our enemies as well as our friends. It is easy to love my friends. My enemies? That’s more challenging.

Psalm 145 tells us that God is good to one and all. God makes no distinction.

As I look at what is happening in our country, I see violence and what appears to be lack of love. Pope Francis calls for mercy. He tells us that all God’s children are equal in God’s sight. Mr. Rogers (ordained Presbyterian minister Fred Rogers) tells us his mother taught him to look for helpers in any catastrophe. Perhaps that is the question we need to ask. Where are the helpers in the midst of all this violence?

We do see them. People giving food to nonviolent protesters. People carrying placards asking for peace. People praying for peace. I feel sure there are many others expressing kindness, tenderness and compassion, showing us how to love our enemies as well as our friends. God is good to one and all, making no distinction.”

PHOTO AT LEFT: Bibles and prayer books are stacked in one of the cubbyholes just outside the chapel side doors. Each Ursuline Sister has a shelf space.

Brescia University inaugurates new president



Brescia University in Owensboro, Ky., inaugurated Madison Silvert as its sixth president on Aug. 15 before a packed St. Stephen Cathedral. Among the people Silvert thanked were the Ursuline Sisters, who had the vision to establish Brescia College in 1950, 25 years after they founded its forerunner, the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women.

Faculty, staff, students, board members, and guests gathered in the Brescia gymnasium in the Moore Center before processing two blocks to the Cathedral, where Bishop William Medley gave the opening invocation. Aaron Thompson, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, charged Silvert with continuing the strong education for students that defines Brescia.



LEFT: The past 30 years of Brescia presidents gathered in the Brescia gym prior to the festivities. From left are Father Larry Hostetter (president from 2007-2025), Madison Silvert, the new president, and Sister Vivian Bowles, president from 1995-2007.

ABOVE: Ursuline Sisters listening to Father Larry Hostetter's benediction in St. Stephen Cathedral include, second from right, Sister Suzanne Sims, Sister Mary McDermott, Sister Michele Morek, Sister Nancy Murphy, and Sister Ann Patrice Cecil.

In his inaugural address, Silvert talked about the continued importance of a college education. He also thanked the people who had been role models for him since childhood. "There is stationery in your pews," Silvert said. "Please take this home and write a note of thanks to someone who taught you something."

Father Larry Hostetter, who concluded his 18-year term as

Brescia president in March, offered the benediction. All those gathered were invited to a picnic in the Brescia quad afterward.



Sister Michele Morek, a former professor at Brescia, talks with former Brescia president Father Larry Hostetter after the ceremony.



Some of the Ursuline Sisters who traveled from Maple Mount for the inauguration are, from left, Sister Ann Patrice Cecil, Sister Nancy Murphy, Sister Michele Morek, Sister Vivian Bowles, Sister Amelia Stenger, and Sister Elaine Burke.

RIGHT: Sister Amelia Stenger congratulates Madison Silvert following the ceremony.



Deepening Our Prayer Life: Advice from the Four Saint Teresas

Saturday, March 28, 2026 • 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

LENT is traditionally a time when Catholic Christians recommit themselves to more serious prayer – along with fasting and almsgiving. On the Saturday of the fifth Week of Lent, all are invited to join Sister Cheryl Clemons in Maple Hall at Mount Saint Joseph for a Day of Prayer and Reflection titled “Deepening Our Prayer Life: Advice from the Four Saint Teresas.” Throughout the day, Sister Cheryl will offer insights on prayer from:



Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, Ph.D.

† **Saint Teresa of Avila**

† **Saint Thérèse of Lisieux**

† **Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**

† **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**

The day will also include quiet prayer and reflection and opportunities for small group sharing. Lunch will be provided. The cost to attend is \$60. Sister Cheryl has been offering retreats, parish missions and OCIA programs for 30 years. She has extensive training in theology, Scripture, spirituality and spiritual direction. Check the Ursuline website or Facebook in 2026 for registration information.

GENNESARET

From page 7

It is supported mostly by private donations.

Finding a priest to be the spiritual moderator for the weekend has long been a challenge, but for the past two years, Father Christopher Grief, parochial vicar at St. Stephen Cathedral, has served in that role.

“It’s been a wonderful experience to work with him,” Sister Shellie said.

“Serving as the spiritual director has become an exercise in humble accompaniment,” Father Grief said. “This experience reinforces the spiritual truth that ministry is sustained by the divine power found in solitude and prayer, a rhythm consistently modeled by Jesus in the Gospels.”

He knew nothing of the retreat before the Paynes asked him to participate, he said.

“What has drawn me back stems from the retreat’s direct echo of Christ’s compassion for the sick,” he said. “What I have found is that Gennesaret is a powerful effort to bring the sick to Jesus. My prayer for all guests of Gennesaret is that they will leave with renewed strength and radical hope as they acknowledge their journey as a path to deeper union with the cross of Christ.”

Louis Yopp was one of the nine participants at the most recent retreat. He lives in Paducah, Ky., where he is a Eucharistic minister at St. Francis DeSales Parish.

“I visit the homebound and nursing home patients to take them Communion,” Yopp said. “In my heart, I feel that these people are forgotten.”

He talked to Amy Payne about volunteering, but she suggested that he come the first year as a participant.

“I’ve had a lot of surgeries the past 12 years, for my heart, shoulder and knees,” Yopp said. “I didn’t know what to expect. When I made the turn at Elizabethtown, something moved me. I felt God stormed in and changed my life. I’ve never felt such closeness as to everyone there,” he said. “I tried to mingle with everyone. I felt like a little child of God for the rest of my life. Everyone had similar stories, but different and touching.”

“I’m going to come back and volunteer next year,” Yopp said. “I’ll do anything they want me to do.”

Amy Payne shared that when people have physical limitations that leave them feeling unneeded, they don’t want to be a burden, so they don’t ask for help.

“We tell them, ‘We want you to be the receivers this weekend,’” Payne said. “We’ve had people who are called home by God a few months after the retreat, and their families tell us that they received such peace from the retreat.”

The next Gennesaret weekend will be Sept. 25-27, 2026. To apply to be a guest or to volunteer as a host team member, contact coordinators Amy or Tom Payne at 270-316-0403 or email apayneat2251@hotmail.com. Donations to this ministry (with checks payable to Gennesaret Retreat Ministry) may be sent to Tom Payne, 2251 Becklynn Dr., Owensboro, KY 42303. ■





Sister Spotlight: Sister Kathy Stein

Meet Sister Kathy...A former teacher with a sense of humor :-)



- ✦ **What she likes about being an Ursuline Sister:** I was taught by Ursulines and got to know them. I liked the early days when we all started out together (in the novitiate). We had a class of 18. I liked to teach, and I liked Mount Saint Joseph. Nebraska was her favorite place to teach. When asked if it was cold there, she said, “Shiver my timbers!”
- ✦ **Favorite Childhood Activity:** I liked to ride horses. We didn’t own any – I had to find them. St. Louis, where I grew up “1,000 years ago” and “on the wrong side of the tracks,” has a good zoo. She has a collection of stuffed and small animals in her room in Saint Joseph Villa, including a favorite zebra and turtle. She likes animals but doesn’t care for crocodiles. “They look at you like lunch,” she said.
- ✦ **First Job:** I entered the novitiate at 18, so I didn’t do much work before then. I was a soda jerk at a soda shop. “Nothing made me rich,” she added.
- ✦ **Favorite Food:** Pork chops. And I always wanted to try lobster.
- ✦ **Favorite Place to Go:** I’m not much of a traveler. I like going to the park. I’ve always liked the country.
- ✦ **Something she would like to do:** Quilting. I have done a little.
- ✦ **Favorite Prayers:** I grew up on the Our Father and Hail Mary.
- ✦ **Favorite Song:** I have always liked “Amazing Grace.”

Soli Deo Gloria

We rejoice in the gifts of our Sisters, given for the Kingdom of God



The outgoing Mount Saint Joseph Alumnae Association officers gather with Sister Amelia Stenger A’67 after she received the Maple Leaf Award on Aug. 24 during Alumnae Weekend. From left are Mary Danhauer A’71, Jenny Speaks McGee A’70, Sister Amelia, Paula Chandler Gray A’73 (back), and Stephanie Warren A’73.



Sister Amelia Stenger received the Maple Leaf Award on Aug. 24, awarded each year by the Mount Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae Association to an Academy graduate who “personifies the values of their Mount Saint Joseph education in contributions to their local faith communities, civic communities, and/or Mount Saint Joseph.” It was a full-circle moment for Sister Amelia, a 1967 Academy graduate – she created the award in 2000. Her nominators – Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger A’58, and Sister Elaine Burke A’49 – spoke of Sister Amelia’s work in education, including becoming the first female superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Owensboro, and then in the Archdiocese of Louisville. She served as director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, and as director of Development for the Ursuline community until 2016, when she began her six-year term as congregational leader. She is the

Sister Amelia, center, posed with her nominators for the Maple Leaf Award: Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger A’58, left, and Sister Elaine Burke A’49.

10th Ursuline Sister to receive the award out of 56 total people who have won since 2000. You can find a list of all of the Maple Leaf Award winners on our website: www.ursulinesmsj.org/maple-leaf-award.



Each December we take a moment to publicly thank our donors who support the mission of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. We are grateful for your generosity and care for the Sisters. Our Sisters continue to serve in so many ways, thanks to you.

Thank you to everyone who gave a gift this year, bought a raffle ticket, Quilt Club ticket or played quilt bingo. Your notes of appreciation about how the Sisters touched your life are a wonderful gift.

The Annual Appeal this year is "God's love complete in us." We ask you to continue to support the mission of the Ursuline Sisters and share God's love.



Carol Braden-Clarke, Director of Development, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

Here are the names of our generous donors who gave gifts over the past fiscal year from July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025.

We apologize in advance if our list is not accurate. Please send corrections to carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org or 270-229-2008.

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 Tom and Debbie Tinker
 Dorothy E. Tipmore
 Mary Treu
 Tom and Sandy Usher
 Lorretta Vargocko
 Jon and Angela Verlinde
 Sylvia Viglietti
 James and Michele Vincent
 Donald and Laura Vohs
 Mai P. Vu-Ha
 Mark and Victoria Vukceovich
 Terry and Jeanie Wahl
 Donna Walker-Knight
 Jarred Warren
 Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner
 OSU, A'62
 John and Zena Weist
 Donald and Lois Whelan
 John and Chris White
 Chris Wilbert
 Mary Willet
 Mary D. Wise
 Clarence A. Woodall III
 W. Michael Word
 Michael and Susan Wright
 Michael Wurth
 Theresa And John Wurtz
 Agnes M. Yates
 Becky Zielinski
 Magdalene M. Zybko

HONORS

Sisters Julia Head, A'60, Judith Nell Riney A'65, Margaret Ann Aull, OSU
 Dorothy Powers
Sister Mary Ellen Backes, OSU
 Carol Greenwood
 Linda Medlock
 Donald and Joanna Norrenberns
Sister Mimi Ballard, OSU, A'66
 William Leslie Keene Jr.
Sister Vivian Marie Bowles, OSU, A'57
 Joe Roop and Anne Federlein
Sister Vivian Bowles, OSU, A'57, and Lydia Ambrose Payne
 Evelyn K. Ambrose
Sister Elaine Burke, OSU, A'49
 Bob Beam
Tommy and Mary Louise "Easie" Cecil
 Wayne Cecil

Sister Margaret Ann Aull, OSU, and Sister Alicia Coomes, OSU
 Anne Berry Alexander
Sister George Mary Hagan, OSU
 Thomas and Jane Hancock
 Beverly Middleton
Sister Barbara Jean Head, OSU
 David and Mary Lou Richardson
Sister Julia Marie Head, OSU, A'60
 Suzanne Gochenouer
Sister Kathleen Kaelin, OSU, A'60
 Joe and Beth Kirsch
Beverly McAuliffe A'62
 Ronald Bisig
Sister Pat Rhoten, OSU, and Sister Betsy Moyer, OSU
 George and Mary Kay Hengen
Sister Mary Matthias Ward, OSU and Sister Emma Ann Munsterman, OSU
 Robert and Marilyn Beam
Sister Emma Ann Munsterman, OSU
 Philip and Annette Skees
Sister Pat Rhoten, OSU
 James Ronald Strehl
Sister Suzanne Sims, OSU, A'66
 Amber and Marty Sims
Judith Hinchey Stokes
 William Stokes
Sister Mary Grace Swift, OSU
 Pat Gillen
Anna Marie Hayden Walker
 Karen Hayden A'69
Sister Mary Matthias Ward, OSU
 Barbara Ervin
 Pamela Cushing
 Vicki M. Stogsdill
Sister Marie Bosco Wathen, OSU
 Theresa Thomas
Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, A'62
 Mary and Anthony Buren

MEMORIALS

Adeline Heine
 Kathryn McIntyre
Angie McCann Bachner
 Steve and Sandy Stahl
Ann Hancock Collins and Sister Jane Miriam Hancock, OSU
 Rebecca Collins Morris A'71
Becky Keenan
 Kim Keenan
Betty Buechel Martin
 Chris Wilbert
Sister Carolyn Marie O'Harrow, OSU
 William and Mary Terry
Charles Hayden Jr. and Mary Pauline Hayden
 Donald A. Hayden
 Karen Hayden
Christine and Ricky Brooks
 Russell and Connie Brooks
Christine Heady Brooks
 Russell and Connie Brooks
Clement and Mary Egger
 James and Molly Egger
Clifford and Sylvia Thomas
 Louis and Shirley Thomas
Connie Schickel
 Theresa Kidwell
 Gwynn Schickel
 Edward Schickel
 Mary Willett
Deceased members of the Coyle and Reischman families
 Carol A. Coyle
Dianne Geiger
 Mary Jo Hruska
Gary and Kathy Cole
 Christine Hilbush

George Frey †
Margaret Frey

Geraldine Hunt and Pat Gaughan †
Richard Brewster Jr.

Sister Helen Pages, OSU † (Belleville)
Joseph O'Hare

Sister Mary Anthony (Wathen) and Sister Jane Irvin (Hancock), OSU †
Joseph and Margaret Soergel

Sister Martina Rockers, OSU †
Hilda Lankard

Joe and Dora McCarty †
Lela Simpson

Joseph Fowler and Harold Yates †
Agnes M. Yates

Joseph Ray †
Virginia Ray

Joy C. Schmitt and Joseph J. Schmitt Jr. †
Joseph and Sandra Schmitt

Katzer Sisters of Paola (Kansas) †
Dennis and Margaret Katzer

Laura E. Paul †
Raymond Paul

Leo Merimee †
Charles Merimee

Lois Hoffman †
Rachel Roth A'68

Louis and Liz Cecil and Earl and Betty Claycomb †
Stephen and Donna Cecil

Martha Baughman †
Keith Baughman

Mary Helen Ferrara Hamilton †
Charles and Katherine Ferrara

Mary J. Ingram †
Robert L. Scully

Mary Tighe Cronin †
Patricia Ash
Sue Palermo

Mother Cecilia Koehler, OSU † (Paola)
Frank and Jean Koehler

Patricia Davis †
Robert and Mary Flanagan

Patricia Rashid †
Thomas and Sharon Waris

Ray and Sue Vescovi †
Scott and Jenifer Miller

Sister Alfreda Malone, OSU, and Joe Malone †
Chris and Laurie Malone

Sister Aloise, Sister Regina, and Sister Joseph Angela Boone, OSU †
Catherine Keene
Paul W. Keene

Sister Amanda Rose Mahoney, OSU †
Philip and Annette Skees
Donald and Lois Whelan

Sister Anita Flaughner, OSU †
Donna Oberhausen

Sister Catherine Kaufman, OSU †
Anonymous
Lucille and Mark Auten
Craig and Carol Bauer
Gloria and Cletus Blaas
Anita Brown
Diane DiTucci
Melvin and Dorothy Heil
Karry and Sue Menke
Rosana Nice
Karen and John Perryman
Joseph and Colleen Ressler
Debbie Rubenacker
Kathy Steckler
Sabina Streng

Sister Charles Irene Hayden, OSU †
Wanda DeSpain

Sister Charlesine Bowling, OSU †
Brian and Rosemary Rosendale

Sister Clara Jo Reid, OSU †
Helman and Darlene Reid

Sister Clarence Marie Luckett, OSU †
John and Lorna Barbour

Sister Darlene Denton, OSU †
Joseph Hartlauf
Robert and Debra Harris

Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU †
Ernest Cerino Jr.

Sister Elaine Byrne, OSU †
Charles Caudill

Sister Elizabeth Ann Ray, OSU †
Rev. Robert E. Ray

Sister Eva Boone, OSU †
Bill and Sally Ann Buford A'64
Karen O'Daniel Gerstle A'69
Doris Boone O'Daniel A'49
Raymond and Ann O'Daniel
Tom and Sandy Usher
Lynette Ross

Sister Fran Wilhelm, OSU †
Joan E. Martin

Sister Francis Joseph Porter and Sister Mary Jude Cecil, OSU †
Peyton and Judith Cecil

Sister Helen Leo Ebelhar, OSU †
Richard and Isabelle Ebelhar

Sister Jamesetta Knott and Sister Mary Mercedes Knott, OSU †
Jim Knott

Sister Jane Miriam Hancock, OSU †
Joseph and Marie Hancock

Sister Joseph Mark Hayden and Sister Mary Corda Carrico, OSU †
Mildred Ann Carrico A'61

Sister Judith Osthoff, OSU, and Jack Ryan †
Susan F. Ryan

Sister Kathleen Condry, OSU †
David and Marilyn Zamierowski

Sister Mary Lois Speaks, OSU, A'62 †
Leon J. Mueller

Sister Mary Patrick McDonagh, OSU †
William Fleming

Sister M. Teresita Pionke (Glenmary) †
Joyce Mayeresky

Sister Marie Therese Brumleau †
Rev. John D. Deatrick †

Sister Mary Bertrand †
Charles and Gail Saunders

Sister Mary Carl Sherron †
Rose Sherron Strickland A'45

Sister Mary Clara †
Marcella Miller

Sister Mary Eileen Howard, Sister Lennora Carrico and Sister Nazaria Mattingly, OSU †
Thomas and Millie Hines

Sister Mary Esther †
Margaret S. Thompson

Sister Mary Jude Cecil, OSU, A'50 †
Sylvia Viglietti

Sister Mary Rudina (Rita) Klarer, OSU †
Brad Rives and Mary Klarer Rives
Rev. Gerald Waris

Sister Mary Rudolph †
David and Diane Backhaus

Sister Shelia Higdon, OSU, and Family †
Mary Jean Whitledge

Sister Michael Marie Friedman, OSU, A'64 †
Angela H. Brown

Sister Mildred Berdelle †
Mary and Sam Haik

Sister Mildred Katzer, OSU †
Lester and Barbara Wuertz

Sister Raphael Hayden †
Mary Louise Hayden

Sister Rita Redmond, OSU †
Robert and Jennifer Grabill

Sister Rosanne Spalding, OSU †
Terry and Jeanie Wahl

Sister Ruth Ann Essex †
Nick and Sandra Greenwell

Sister Susanne Bauer, OSU †
Robert and Laurie Bauer
Michael G. Bansley
Michael J. Bauer
Lois Schmidtlein

Sister Susanne Bauer, OSU and Paola (Kansas) Sisters †
Gary and Judy Freeman



Gene Meyer repays Ursuline

Gene Meyer grew up in the small town of Livermore, Kentucky, but beginning in the late 1950s, he traveled by bus across the county line to Central City to attend St. Joseph Catholic School. His teachers were all Ursuline Sisters.

“The school was in a house, they had eight grades in three rooms,” Meyer said. “It always amazed me. The Sisters had control of the classroom.”

His most memorable teachers were Sister Rose Theresa Johnson, who taught him first and second grade, and Sister Walter Louise Lush, who taught him from the fifth through the eighth grades. “They taught me discipline,” he said.

A Catholic education was important to his parents.

“My dad graduated from Notre Dame, and my mom from Nazareth College. That was pretty unusual for Livermore,” he said. “I had a good grade school education. My dad gave money to the Sisters from his retirement. They did a good job of teaching me, I feel like I owe them a little something.”

Meyer has been a long-time, generous supporter of the Ursuline Sisters, whom he credits with helping him in his professional career.

Gene Meyer of Brentwood, Tenn., sits next to his prize-winning roses. He has always appreciated his Catholic education.

- Sister Thomas Catherine Keough†
Barbara May
- Sister Vickie Cravens and
Sister Renee Monaghan, OSU†
Jim and Mary Kueny
- Sister Virginia Sturlich, OSU†
Janet Sue Evans
- Sisters Joan Marie and Johanna
Lechner, OSU†
David Lechner
Barbara Lechner
- Susan Reynolds†
Samuel W. Reynolds
- Susanne Laundry†
Charles Laundry
- Teresa Lawson†
Dennis and Regina Jacobs
- The Donahue Family†
Linda Donahue
- Theresa Estelle Lawson†
Jean V. Boone
- Tony Goetz†
Joseph and Mary Ann King
- Ursuline Sisters of Paola (Kansas)†
Kevin and Diane Gray
- Velma O'Brien†
Elizabeth Byrnes
Elroy and Frances De Jarnett
Kevin and Michelle Hermreck
Craig and Marjorie Humphrey
Richard and Mary Lyon
Patricia McCoy
Kealy O'Brien
Timbers Home Association
- Velma O'Brien and the late, great
Wiesner Sisters†
Ronald C. Platt
Ron Maite
Brianna Platt

- Mary Ruth Clark
- Mary M. Costello A'65
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald
- Sally Fitzgerald
- Joyce George
- Nancy Goetz
- Rev. J. Raymond Goetz
- Doreen Harney
- Joni Hayden
- Ann Jacobs
- Cindy Kaufman
- Judy Keller
- April Kidd
- Kathleen Kitt
- Mari Lynn Korte
- Betty Krapf
- Lorraine Lawrie
- Karen McCarty
- Cathy Mattingly
- Sonya Mauzey
- Laura Merz
- Scott and Jenifer Miller
- Cindy Murphy
- Carin Oliver
- Jerry Marie Poole
- Linda Powell
- Katie Raley
- Bill and Kathy Reid
- Suzanne Reiss
- Amanda Riney
- Lucille Stenger
- Joan Teder
- Mary Teder



IN KIND GIFTS

Gary and Imelda Cecil
Kay Clark



Quilt of the Month Club tickets for April 2026–March 2027 will be available early next year!

Don't miss your chance to enter our monthly drawings to win one of 12 unique and beautiful quilts made by Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and their quilting friends.

Only 2,500 tickets will be sold.

The price per ticket is \$25. Drawings take place the first Friday of each month at noon Central Time. The first drawing of the new club year will be in **April**. Watch for a letter in the mail or get details online:

www.ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club

Sisters for his foundational education



**Sister Rose
Theresa
Johnson**



**Sister Walter
Louise Lush**

When Meyer graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1974, the country was in a recession, and jobs were scarce. He got a job working in a local restaurant, but in 1980 decided to move to Nashville to seek employment. He got a job with J.C. Bradford & Co., a brokerage firm that was the first Nashville company to buy a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.

“I learned to trade bonds. I worked there for 20 years,” he said. “It was what I was meant to do – math was my strong suit.”

Meyer retired shortly after the company was sold in 2000, but he and his wife continue to live in the Nashville suburb of Brentwood. He is a master rosarian, and a member of both the American Rose Society and the Nashville Rose Society. He continues to be a faithful donor to the Ursuline Sisters.

“I feel like when someone does right by you, you owe them something,” Meyer said. “My success in life is because of the education I received. I know the Sisters take a vow of poverty. No one was making any money off teaching me anything.” ■

Have the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph influenced your life? If you would like to learn more about ways you can support them, contact Carol Braden-Clarke, director of Development, at 270-229-2008, or carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org.



Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

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Maple Mount, KY 42356-9998
270-229-4103

www.ursulinesmsj.org
info.ms@maplemount.org



B-I-N-G-O! More than 200 people had a ball playing Quilt Bingo at Maple Mount on Sept. 14. Thirty-five players got to pick out a quilt after shouting out "Bingo!" More than 100 quilts lined the walls or were draped over tables. This bounty of beautiful craftwork was made possible by Ursuline Sisters and their quilting friends.



Sister Helena Fischer, left, helps Lauren McCrary of Owensboro hold up her "Roses Roses" quilt. CENTER: Cindy Murphy of Owensboro displays her "Mount Maples" quilt. RIGHT: Donna Coomes of Henderson had her day brightened by her new "Sunflowers and Sunshine" quilt.



FAR LEFT: Sister Jane Falke writes down the name of a quilt winner. LEFT: Sister Vivian Bowles visits with bingo players at the event. Behind her is Sister Rita Scott. BELOW LEFT: Sister Jacinta Powers sells half pot tickets to bingo players.



WE HAVE EXTRA QUILTS FOR SALE!

Visit our website to see quilts still available for sale:

www.ursulinesmsj.org/online-quilt-sale

Join us for the next Quilt Bingo on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026!

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing,
Glory to the Newborn King!*

Merry Christmas from the Ursuline Sisters!

