URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

WINTER 2018
NEWS

CONTEMPLATION | JUSTICE | COMPASSION

Paula Miller describes her path to Social Justice Coordinator for the Ursuline Sisters

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URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND

WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

The *Ursuline Sisters News* is published three times a year for friends and supporters of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland.

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DEVELOPMENT OFFICE SCHEDULE

Normal business day hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Normally CLOSED on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Friday after Thanksgiving.

We may be closed during holidays, but our WEB DONATION PAGE is always OPEN and SECURE! https://secure.ursulinesisters.org/Donation.php

Please remember the Ursuline Sisters in your will.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Sister Joanne Gross, OSU

In these early months of 2018, as we prepare to move from the building that has been our home for 60 years, it is good to remember these words of Thomas Merton: "The religious life exists and thrives not in buildings … but in the soul. And there it exists not as a 'good feeling' but as a constant purpose, an unending love that expresses itself now as patience, now as humility, now as courage, now as self-denial, now as justice, but always in a strong knot of faith and hope, and all of these are nothing but aspects of one constant deep desire, charity, love."*
This year of great transition in Cleveland Ursuline life will test our constant purpose and unending love – and will require those qualities of soul that Merton eloquently expressed. Fortunately, we have many models of this kind of grace, in the lives of our sisters, co-workers, friends and benefactors about whom you will read in these pages.

> *This year of great transition in Cleveland Ursuline life will test our constant purpose and unending love.*

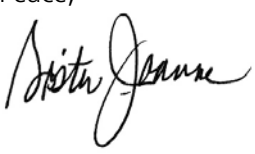
Sister Mary Laura, who died in November of 2017, exemplified courage and Merton's "strong knot of faith and hope" throughout her life, and most especially in her many educational and diocesan ministries. Brian Miller patiently and humbly serves us in a variety of volunteer capacities. Ursuline educated through and through, Paula Miller, our social justice coordinator, lives justice and practices self-denial in ways that are simply inspiring. Our Merici Award winners, Susanne Schroer and her late husband Gerald have been models of faith and love for their family, and we have been blessed by their generous charity and friendship.

Merton's caution about buildings notwithstanding, because we are moving, you will also read of our new residence. Familiar fixtures will grace Merici Crossings. Sections of stained glass from the chapel will be suspended from the 1st floor ceiling. The Holy Spirit window – a gift in memory of Sister Dorothy Kazel – will be backlit above the fireplace in the great room. We have worked to make the new space simple but elegant, practical yet contemplative, recognizably Ursuline yet bold in design.

Finally, you will note a different logo for this publication. Consciously trying to remain faithful to our roots as well as speak to the 21st century world, we have now selected the double star that is a part of our 17th century coat of arms as our new logo. You will find a fuller explanation in these pages. We hope our new look speaks to you as well! *(NOTE: You will see more and more of our new look as our old stock of materials is used up.)*

Thank you again for your many kindnesses. We are better Ursulines because of your support and prayers.

Peace,

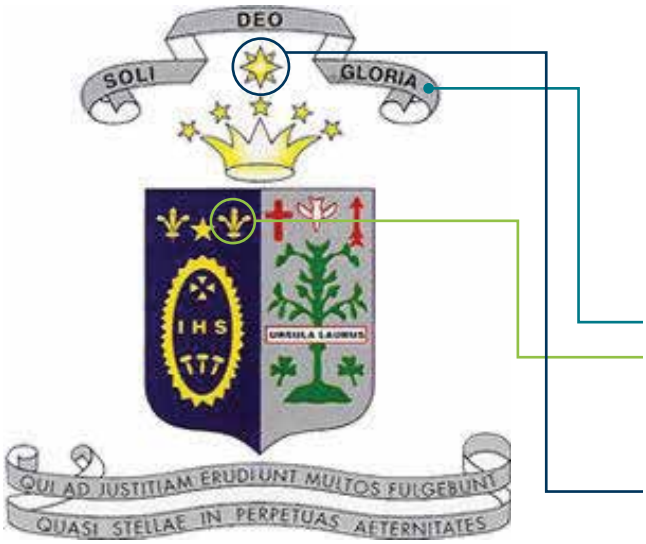


Sister Joanne Gross, OSU

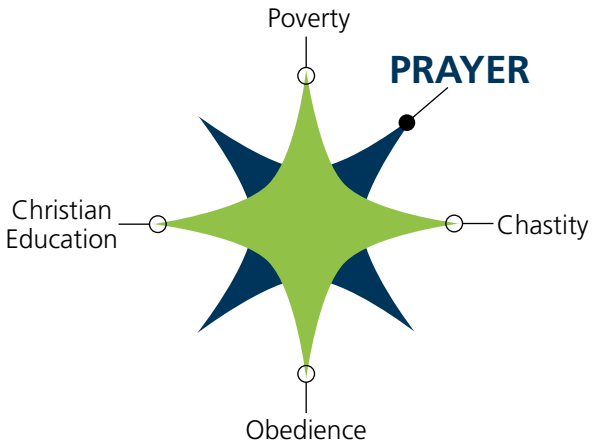
*Thomas Merton: *The Secular Journal*. April 8, 1941. 190.

The Ursulines Have a New Logo!

URSULINE SISTERS OF CLEVELAND



Ursuline Coat of Arms, 1607



Eight pointed star, new logo of the Ursuline Sisters, signifies life of prayer and ministry.

There is a new look in these pages, and it is rooted in a long tradition.

The Ursuline Coat of Arms was granted to the Paris congregation of Ursuline Sisters by King Henry IV in 1607. Various elements of the Coat of Arms have been used by Ursulines over the centuries to illustrate our charism, or the particular way the Holy Spirit has called us to manifest the gospel through our congregation. We have highlighted the motto **"Soli Deo Gloria"** to proclaim that we strive to live for the glory of God alone. We have used the **fleur-de-lis** as a symbol both of our Trinitarian faith and our French foundation. In a conscious effort to remain faithful to our roots as well as speak to the world in the 21st century, we have now selected the **double star** from the Coat of Arms to represent us through our new logo.

Legend tells us that a star hovered for days over the house where St. Angela Merici, our founder, awaited burial. Legends may be for children, but they also proclaim truths. In this case, we believe that Angela was a holy woman chosen by God to institute the Company of St. Ursula, the original foundation of all Ursulines throughout the world and through all ages. More specifically the double star symbolizes the active-contemplative life of each Ursuline Sister, committed to both generous ministry and faithful prayer. The foundation star represents prayer as the ground of our life. The four points of the front star symbolize the three traditional vows of religious – poverty, chastity and obedience – as well as our Ursuline vow of Christian education, teaching and witnessing to the gospel in whatever service we perform.

This is certainly a year of exciting changes for the sisters, and with our new logo and the new look of our newsletter, we will also have a new website design. Be sure to check it out at www.ursulinesisters.org.

Susanne and Gerald Schroer Sr. to be honored with Merici Award

Susanne and the late Gerald Schroer Sr. will receive the 2018 Merici Award at Ursuline Derby Day, Saturday, May 5, at First Energy Stadium. This award was created in 2009 to recognize those who live and act in the spirit of Ursuline foundress Saint Angela Merici. The Schroers have exhibited that Merici spirit many times over the years through their generous support and valued friendship.

Susanne and Gerald Schroer's story began in St. Louis, Missouri where they were raised and attended Catholic schools. Susanne attended Nerinx School for Girls, while Jerry was 10 miles down the road at St. Louis University High School. While most classmates had the typical boring part-time jobs, Jerry enjoyed a position as bat boy for the St. Louis Cardinals. A solid friendship between Susanne and Jerry began when Jerry's best friend introduced them during those high school years, but it wasn't until college when they began to date. They were married 4 years later in 1961. The wedding took place April 8, one week after the start of Lent and the weekend before baseball season. Jerry's Dad was the visiting clubhouse manager for the St. Louis Cardinals. (You may be guessing by now that the Schroer family is made of die-hard Cardinals fans.)

Jerry and Susanne enjoyed successful careers for a number of years, Susanne as an x-ray technician and Jerry as a regional sales manager for Allied Chemical. In 1973, by then with a family of four children, Jerry and Susanne took a big risk and purchased a 50-bed nursing home in Westerville, Ohio. They focused on providing high quality care and services to the patients entrusted to the company's care as well as offering employment opportunities to its staff. Their strong faith, love for each other, support of their children, and hard work grew a successful company.

The Schroers have always had a strong desire to help the mission of the religious sisters in our Church. They first came to know the Ursulines through their son Andy's wife Tricia, who is Sister Susan Durkin's sister. They became aware of the Ursuline mission and the needs of the sisters and were eager to help in any way they could.

Sister Susan recalls the time when Mr. Schroer came to the sisters' aid when they were seeking licensure for the Saint Angela Center to help offset operating costs. "Jerry generously lent his skill and expertise to help us navigate

Susanne and Gerald Schroer

a lengthy and complicated process, and with his wife Sue provided guidance, wisdom and financial support to see the process to completion," she said. "The Schroer family has continued their legacy of generous support and service to the Ursulines, with son Jerry Jr. currently serving on the Ursuline Sisters' Health Care Committee. Their friendship and faith have truly been a blessing to the Ursuline Sisters."

One day after a Mass was offered for him, Gerald Schroer passed away in their home on December 14, 2015. Certainly if Jerry were here today he would say he not only shares this award with his beloved Susanne, but also with his children Jerry, Peggy, Andy and Matt and 11 grandchildren.

On behalf of all of the sisters, congratulations and thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Schroer, for your many years of friendship and support!

SAVE THE DATE!

Ursuline Derby Day is around the corner!

Mark your calendar for

Saturday, May 5, 2018

at 5:00 at First Energy Stadium.

URSULINE DERBY DAY

A Kentucky Derby Party to benefit the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

GENEROUS DONORS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF MERICI CROSSINGS

The chapel will have expansive windows with a view to the outside.

The great room will incorporate the window commemorating Sister Dorothy Kazel and the martyred Salvadoran missionaries.

The dining room will also offer access to an outdoor dining area.

The new Ursuline Sisters residence, Merici Crossings, is now 50 percent complete, and the sisters are on track to move into their new home in fall of 2018. The harsh winter weather has not deterred the dedicated and talented construction team from A.M. Higley. Join the sisters in following the progress of the building by viewing the live webcam at www.ursulinesisterscampaign.org/live-construction.

The Bold Faith | Building a Future Capital Campaign has not slowed down either. **In January, the campaign surpassed the $8 million Celebration Goal and forged ahead to the Challenge Goal of $9 million.** The campaign's success reflects the generosity of donors expressing their deep gratitude for the life and ministries of the Ursuline Sisters. Thank you!

Special recognition goes to the Moran Family Foundation that offered to match dollar-for-dollar each new gift or pledge made between the groundbreaking on June 6 and December 6, 2017. **Thank you to all who participated in the Moran Family Foundation challenge.** The response was extraordinary and encouraging as the fundraising continues.

The sisters are moving important elements of their history into Merici Crossings, including the beautiful stained glass windows from the current motherhouse. The conceptual renderings shown here provide a glimpse of a few of the interior spaces.

BOLD FAITH
Building a Future
Campaign for the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

Learn more about the capital campaign and its progress, by visiting **www.ursulinesisterscampaign.org.**

MEET PAULA MILLER,

Social Justice Coordinator for the Ursuline Sisters

I have a vivid memory of being at my junior year retreat with my other Villa Angela classmates. I always enjoyed these annual retreats. We were all scattered around the room at the St. Joseph Christian Life Center and we were given a question to reflect on: What impact do you want to make in the world? I remember what I wrote down all these years later: I want to leave the world a better place than I found it.

Paula Miller

Thinking about that answer today, I cannot help but see now that I could not have written this without the influence of Ursuline Sisters in my life. Having been taught by Ursulines for 12 years—first at St. Jerome's School, then at Villa Angela—those early years would lay the foundation that would set me on the path to fulfilling my answer.

In 1983 I was in the 8th grade at St. Jerome's School. We arrived in math class only to find a reel-to-reel projector set up. What kind of math is taught on film? We didn't have math class that day. Instead, we watched the film *Roses in December*, the story of Jean Donovan and the killing of the four churchwomen in El Salvador in 1980. It was the first time I heard the name Sister Dorothy Kazel. I didn't know it then but watching that film would plant a seed which would guide me in my life of justice work and activism. Thinking back on it now, I am humbled by how brave a decision it must have been at that time to show this film. It was less than three years after the loss of one of their own sisters in a political climate that supported U.S. military intervention in El Salvador. And even though the teachers must have known that as 14-year-olds we would probably not grasp the full extent of what happened, they still felt it was important enough to show us this film.

I wouldn't hear Sister Dorothy's name again until three years later. Sitting in Sister Maria Berlec's Spanish class, she would tell us stories of her time with the Cleveland Latin America Mission Team and bring in speakers, such as fellow Mission Team member Father Paul Schindler. I don't remember the specifics of those talks but the seed planted back in 8th grade was watered during those classes. Taking the longer view of those early years, what I'm struck with is how the Ursuline Sisters—despite being in the midst of their grief—still felt called to tell Dorothy's story and the story of the people of El Salvador.

It was during my second year at Hiram College that I began to learn the political implications behind the deaths of the four churchwomen and the civil war in El Salvador. It was at Hiram that my path first crossed with the InterReligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF). As my political awareness grew, so did my urgency to help end the violence in El Salvador. I had a personal connection to what was happening there through Sister Dorothy and Jean Donovan. I became more involved with the IRTF, which helped me organize letter-writing parties urging our legislators to stop sending military aid to Central America.

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In 1995, after a year of service at a shelter for immigrants in Austin, Texas, three more Ursuline Sisters would join me on the next part of my journey. During the late 1990s, the movement to close the School of the Americas (SOA) was growing, and the Ursuline Sisters passed a corporate stance to support efforts to close the SOA. It was during this time that I met Sister Sheila Marie Tobbe, Sister Beverly LoGrasso and Sister Diane Therese Pinchot. Together with these sisters, we carried on the legacy of Sister Dorothy each November at Ft. Benning, Georgia, home of the infamous U.S. military training school for Latin American soldiers. These three women taught me that Dorothy's legacy was

Paula Miller (left) meets with peaceful protesters.

not only accompanying the people of El Salvador but also speaking truth to power. Just as Dorothy called on President Carter to think about the innocent people being killed, we called on our government to close the taxpayer funded school that trained the soldiers that killed Dorothy and thousands more. A few years later, I was able to pay this mentoring forward when I supervised Sister Erin Zubal during her graduate school internship with the IRTF.

After 13 years working in community development in Northeast Ohio, I began to feel a call to return to my roots working with immigrants. In 2012 I moved to Tucson, Arizona, to work with a humanitarian aid group called No More Deaths and live in an intentional community called Casa Mariposa. No More Deaths works to end death and suffering in the Mexico-U.S. borderlands; Casa Mariposa provides hospitality and support to people detained in immigration detention centers and after they are released. Accompanying people on their journey to the U.S.—whether in the desert or detention—opened my eyes to the very real impact of U.S. immigration policies, both here and abroad. The hundreds of traumatized Guatemalan, Honduran and Salvadoran women and children that passed through our doors at Casa Mariposa helped me understand even deeper Jean's words: "Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could except for the children, the poor bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them? Whose heart would be so staunch as to favor the reasonable thing in a sea of their tears and helplessness? Not mine, dear friend, not mine."

After my return to Cleveland, I was invited to be the Social Justice Coordinator for the Ursuline Sisters. In many ways, partnering with the Ursuline Sisters feels like a homecoming. I am grateful to give back to these women who helped form the person I am today. I am especially excited to be a part of the legacy work that will enable the Ursuline values of contemplation, justice and compassion to live on many years into the future and to continue to work together to leave the world a better place than we found it.

Paula Miller (3rd from left) and humanitarian aid volunteers.

My experiences as an intern
for the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

By Marcella McHenry

As a junior at Ursuline College, I needed an internship for one of my course requirements as an English major. My advisor, Sister Cynthia Glavac, thought that I would be a good fit to work as an intern for the development team of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland.

"I try to place an English major in our Development Office who has some connection to us so that she will begin her internship experience with a basic understanding of our identity as Ursuline Sisters and our Mission. The internship affords first-rate, hands-on experience of working in a professional environment for a non-profit organization," she explained.

I immediately agreed with her idea, because my dorm was right across from the motherhouse, and I was already acquainted with several of the sisters, many of whom had been my professors at Ursuline College.

On a snowy day in April, I met with Cindy Johnson, the Director of Development, and Mary Moran, the Director of Marketing. They explained to me that my duties would include creating and maintaining social media accounts, learning about marketing strategies, and doing little errands for the developmental team and sisters. This sounded like fun, and I was excited to start working with them in late August 2017.

> *"The internship affords first-rate, hands-on experience of working in a professional environment for a non-profit organization."*
>
> – Sister Cynthia Glavac

Intern Marcella McHenry hard at work!

Being an intern for a religious organization and working for religious sisters was a new adventure, and I learned so much about marketing and communications for a nonprofit community. I also met many kind and helpful sisters and learned about their several different ministries, which include fields as diverse as education, healthcare, pastoral work, and hospice care. The development team also made me feel at home right away.

One of my favorite projects was creating a social media account for the sisters. The development team was looking for something new that appealed to younger people. Instagram was a perfect way to reach out to more people, so I got to use my countless hours of social media experience for a good cause as I created an Instagram page for the sisters. I spent a lot of time taking pictures, searching for inspirational quotes, and interviewing sisters for quotes to post online. My aim was to obtain at least one hundred and twenty five followers for the account, and I am happy to say that I exceeded this goal!

Working for the Ursuline Sisters and their associates has been a fun adventure, and I felt at home with the development team from day one. My boss, Mary Moran, especially helped me feel welcome. She found a variety of interesting tasks for me to do and took my ideas seriously. I learned a lot about working at an office and used my skills as a writer and communicator. I was happy to know that I had also been helpful to the development team.

"Marcella was such an asset to the Development Office in her semester with us. Her youthful energy and insight were a great help to myself and the team. We wish her all the best as she continues her Ursuline College experience," she said.

I am honored that I could help the Development Office. I will always be grateful for this professional experience!

Interested in an internship in the Marketing and Communications office?
Just call or email Mary Moran: 440.449.1200 ext. 198, or mmoran@ursulinesisters.org.

Ursuline Sisters are welcome at Light of Hearts Villa

Sisters Helen Marie, Irene Charette, and Patricia Mulhern were the first three of seven "pioneer" Ursulines to move to Light of Hearts Villa.

Lola Tarasco, Director of Health and Wellness for the Ursuline Sisters (right) helps Sister Pat Mulhern settle into her new home.

Sisters Helen Marie and Irene unpack at Light of Hearts.

Care of our Ursuline Sisters continues to be a priority. To ensure quality of life for all, we provide sisters with appropriate support services to accommodate changing needs resulting from aging and other life changes. Since 2013 we have utilized Regina Health Center in Richfield for sisters with long-term care or assisted living needs. Recently we expanded our assisted living options by entering into an agreement with Light of Hearts Villa in Bedford. Like Regina, Light of Hearts Villa is under the umbrella of the Sisters of Charity Health System. We are excited about this new opportunity and are confident that the same focus on mission and welcome we have experienced at Regina will carry over into our experience at Light of Hearts.

A pioneering group of seven sisters transitioned to Light of Hearts in early February with the affirmation and blessing of the Ursuline community. Like our sisters at Regina, these sisters hope to extend the Ursuline spirit and presence to the Light of Hearts family. Sisters anticipate engaging in service and prayer outreach among residents and staff even as they themselves enjoy the support Light of Hearts offer!

To keep up with the news about the Ursulines at Light of Hearts, please visit our facebook page, www.facebook.com/ursulinesistersofcleve.

Brian Miller discovers the rewards of being an Ursuline Volunteer

Brian Miller may not initially have had the question, "What's in it for me?" in mind when he sought a fitting volunteer opportunity, but he did find that there was something in it for him.

Lauren and Brian Miller with their dog Lady.

Brian currently resides in Lyndhurst. He grew up in Alliance then moved to Cleveland with his family when he was 16. Brian attended St. Joseph High School before heading to Marquette University for a year, then to John Carroll University where he majored in accounting. It soon dawned on him that this was not the right career path since he is very much a "people person." He soon moved on to positions where he could be, in his words, "out and about and interacting with people."

Professionally, Brian enjoyed working as a carpenter for eight years for the Geauga Park District. He said, "Imagine getting paid to work in pristine forests of Geauga County. I built picnic shelters, pole buildings, trail bridges, park signs… and best of all, I made maple syrup in the park's own sugar house at Swine Creek Park. I loved having maple syrup on my pancakes."

The last 19 years of his career was spent as a friendly neighborhood mailman. His favorite job by far was his first when he worked for the Playhouse Square Foundation in the early '70s with Ray Shepardson who was leading the effort to save and restore the then-dilapidated theaters. According to Brian, "The pay was minimal but we were all on a grand rescue mission to save these beautiful theaters."

Meanwhile, Brian met and married Lauren, who worked at the Ursuline College Library where one of her favorite co-workers was Sister Colette Livingston. "I married Lauren on September 4, 1983, after my three-year campaign to wear her resistance down. In 1988 we had twins, Carrie and Nathan, and, surprisingly (to me), raising kids was *sooo* much fun." His daughter is now a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota in primatology. Brian's son recently moved to Chicago seeking greater opportunities for a career in acting and theater.

> *"I enjoy being with other people with similar values: compassion, concerned about the future of all people, people with a sense of humor, and, if I was lucky, people on the same spiritual journey that I was."*

In his post-career phase of life, it was important to Brian that he do something meaningful. "I enjoy being with other people with similar values: compassion, concerned about the future of all people, people with a sense of humor, and, if I was lucky, people on the same spiritual journey that I was. Ursuline was an obvious choice and it was close to home."

As an Ursuline volunteer, Brian is a substitute staff person for the Angela Hall reception desk, he supports Sister Rita Kuhn by helping her load and transport her supplies to and from craft shows, and he took on the responsibility of driving the wheelchair van for Sister Maryanne Quinlivan. Through it all, Brian has developed friendships, including one with Father Denis Ruane from St. Paschal Parish, whom he encountered while on volunteer duty.

Now both Father Denis and Sister Maryanne reside at Regina Healthcare Center. Brian says, "Once a week I visit Father Denis for his spiritual advice and quite often I meet Sister Maryanne for lunch. And I have the pleasure of occasionally being able to provide additional service to my friends there. I'll take Father Denis out shopping and bring supplies not only for Father Denis but also goodies for Sister Maryanne and her cronies, er.. buddies. Once I was able to help a friend of Sister Maryanne's for her golden jubilee by bringing out pizza, bagels, and ice cream. But there is no free lunch. For every good deed I perform for my friends at Ursuline and Regina Healthcare Center I ask my friends to say one 'Our Father' and one 'Hail Mary' for my family. I think it's a pretty good trade."

Sister Mary Laura Bouhal
Faithful Friend and Minister

Sister Mary Laura Bouhall is remembered as a sparkle in the classroom, in the congregation and at the Chancery – every place she made her mark in the world through which she walked with unbridled joy and faith. Ever smiling and always ready with a word of encouragement she entered into new life with God November 18 at Regina Health Center in Richfield where she had been residing since 2015.

Sister Mary Laura

Loretta Joan was born March 15, 1933, to William and Catherine (McCarthy) Bouhall and grew up in East Cleveland with her brother and sisters. She attended St. Philomena School and then graduated from Ursuline Academy of the Sacred Heart. In 1950 she entered the Ursuline community and professed final vows in 1956.

Sister Mary Laura earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from St. John College in Cleveland. She began her teaching ministry at Holy Cross School in Euclid and continued in primary education at Christ the King School, East Cleveland, and Immaculate Conception School, Cleveland. After serving as principal at St. Joseph School in Avon Lake, she was asked to serve in the Cleveland Diocesan Vocation Office. After 16 years in that position, she served a 19-year-tenure as Assistant Chancellor for the diocese.

Upon retiring from the diocese, Sister Mary Laura returned to ministry with children as co-director of a fledgling preschool begun at St. Agatha-Aloysius School until illness invited her to a final ministry of prayer and presence at Regina Health Center. Roommates, family members and staff discovered in her a wellspring of deep faith, wisdom and compassion.

"Believe it for certain at death's last moment you will receive the greatest gift of God's own person. Take it for a fact also that then especially you will recognize me as your faithful friend."

– 9th Counsel of St. Angela

Sister Mary Laura will be remembered as a dedicated religious, a loyal and generous friend, a beloved family member, and a faithful minister of the church. To her niece Mary Kay Conkey, also an Ursuline, Sister Mary Laura will ever be remembered lovingly as "my aunt the nun." Her sparkling eyes and smile will shine forever in the hearts of all she touched.

She is survived by her brother William (Lois) and many nieces and nephews. Her sisters Mary Conkey and Dorothy Arendt preceded her in death.

Donations in Sister Mary Laura's name may be made to the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland.

URSULINE SISTERS
OF CLEVELAND

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Please help us update your personal information. Call Sr. Elaine at 440.449.1200 ext. 199 or email eberkopec@ursulinesisters.org.

Thank you!

Visit www.UrsulineSisters.org to submit prayer requests.

Annual Fund supports care of retired, infirm sisters

The 2017-18 Annual Fund appeal is quickly coming to a close (June 30)!
And with escalating health care costs, its success is more critical than ever!

The Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland stand – and serve – on the shoulders of giants, sisters who gave their all to the service of God's people. Many of these "giants" are still among us. Though retired from active ministry, they continue to inspire and encourage us with their fidelity and legacy of good works. We owe them our gratitude. Even more, we owe them loving and supportive care in their golden years. The Annual Fund assists us in doing just that – providing care for our elderly and infirm sisters. The Annual Fund also supplements ministry salaries of sisters still engaged in active service.

We are most grateful for the support we receive. Remember, we receive no assistance from the diocese. We rely on our working sisters, and on our fundraising efforts.

Please consider making a contribution to this year's Annual Fund appeal. For more information about the Annual Fund or about payment options, please call Cindy Johnson 440.449.1200, ext. 105.