



# CORNER

# STONE

A publication of the Ursulines of Brown County  
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Pictured receiving the award are left to right: Bev Ross, Executive Director, Creative Aging, Sr. Christine Pratt, Sr. Phyllis Kemper and Lisa Legters, Program Director, Creative Aging

## Continuing the Legacy...

**Creative Aging Honors Sister Joan Leonard (posthumously) and the Ursulines** Founded over 40 years ago as the Arts and Humanities Resource Center for Older Adults, Creative Aging Cincinnati has continued to serve Seniors in the Greater Cincinnati area. It was begun by Ursuline of Brown County Sister Joan Leonard, OSU, PhD when she presented a series of literature classes to members of the Over-the-Rhine center city urban senior center. The discussions were so well received by the seniors and those who worked with them, that they led to the development of other programs designed to foster interest, creativity and participation in the arts among older adults. In 2004 the Arts and Humanities Resource Center for Older Adults changed its name to Creative Aging Cincinnati.

Creative Aging brings local area professional artists, performers and educators to present a one-hour long program at senior centers, retirement communities, adult day care centers, and nursing homes in Cincinnati and surrounding areas. What Sister Joan envisioned 40 years ago has continued to inspire wellness through the arts. Since 1975 the program has served 315,000 seniors, provided over 7500 programs and is currently working with 115 artists.

On September 7, 2016 Sister Phyllis Kemper, Congregational Minister and Sister Christine Pratt represented Joan and the Ursuline Community at the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the arts and humanities program. During the afternoon of gratitude and entertainment, Sister Joan and the Ursulines of Brown County were honored for the support given over the years that Joan directed the program. Sister Joan died in 2010 but her legacy continues through Creative Aging.



*Our 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has come to a close. In the past three issues of Cornerstone, we shared the rich history of our community from 1845 to the present. We identified the many relationships we formed with other women and men religious, many with whom we continue to collaborate and celebrate our lives together. As we look forward to our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020, we are continually aware of the graces of the present and the challenges of the future. Cornerstone will be one means by which we will share the next years of our journey with you.*

*In this issue we share the activities of the last months which have seen moments of great celebration and sadness. We hold all of these dear as in each event you have been present with us, whether in spirit or in person. Our legacy continues in many ways and with many partners in ministry. We are grateful for all of you.*

Cornerstone is the way we share our ministry, community life, prayer and vision with you. We rely on your donations to meet our expenses. Thank you for your support. Sister Christine Pratt, OSU, Editor.

## **Ursulines Receive Champions of Mercy Award.**

Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio celebrated 100 years of service throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati with a dinner honoring 100 Champions of Mercy at the Cintas Center, Xavier University. Those named Champions were chosen from over 200 persons and organizations. Among the 100 finalists were Hope Emergency, represented by Sister Lucia Castellini, OSU and Diane Vollman, Ursuline Companion who serve as co-directors of Hope Emergency. Sister Christine Pratt was also named for her 34 years of work for justice.

Hope Emergency, located in Brown County, Ohio was begun by Sister Dorothy Thompson in 1975 in response to a need for food and clothing in an area of few resources. In the ensuing years Hope was directed by Sister Miriam Thompson, and Sister Marjean Clement. Sisters Lucia and Sandra Bates became co-directors in December of 2000. During that time Hope Emergency became its own 501(c)3 and moved to its own 3 building facility. In 2015 Sister Sandy died leaving a legacy of care for those in need in the area. Dianne Vollman continues the work of Hope as current co-director with Lucia. Hope Emergency counts on its 55 volunteers to assist in this important ministry to the people of this Appalachian area.

Chatfield College, sponsored by the Ursulines of Brown and located in both rural Brown County and Central City Cincinnati named Hope Emergency as a Champion of Mercy. They nominated Hope in the following words: "Chatfield College would like to nominate the Hope Emergency Program as a Champion of Mercy. Hope provides food, clothing and household items to an average of 250 families a week in Brown, Highland, Adams, and Clinton counties. In November of 2015, 1,235 families were served, with a total of 3,426 individuals, 1,139 of those being children. In addition to weekly distribution, Hope also services families recovering from disasters such as fires or flooding. Dependent on volunteers and donations, Hope Emergency Program lives the compassion of Jesus by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and comforting those in need."



**Sister Lucia Castellini standing as her name is read. Seated in center foreground is Dianne Vollman waiting to be recognized**

Mr. Tony Stieritz, Director of Catholic Social Action for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in his nomination of Christine wrote: "Early on in my own career with the Cincinnati Archdiocese, I met Sister Christine, who was then with the Toledo Diocese, in our statewide social concerns and rural life gatherings. By the affectionate way that her own constituents and leaders from around the state were talking about her, I could immediately tell that she was a champion of mercy. She had earned the trust and respect of so many people, it was clear that she was someone "walking the talk" of her Christian discipleship. Since coming to Cincinnati not so long ago, so many communities of people have already been blessed by

her ministries of mercy: her Ursuline community, St. Monica-St. George parish, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, our office's Catholic Social Action Commission and Climate Change Task Force – just to name a few! There are so many people out there who deserve this recognition by Catholic Charities as a champion of mercy. Sister Christine indisputably needed to be among them! I was delighted to nominate such a mentor and a friend. “

## Sister Mary Paul Walsh Committed Her Life to Education

Sister Mary Paul (Margaret Ann) Walsh, beloved member of the Ursulines of Brown County for 74 years, died peacefully at Mt. Notre Dame Health Care Center on August 11, 2016 at the age of 92. Dear sister of John (Nancy) Walsh, W. Medway, MA, and Robert (Marjorie) Walsh, Eaton, OH, Jane (the late Robert) Oberschmidt, Toms River, NJ, and Sister Martha Walsh, SC. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews and a great grandniece. Her parents Catherine and Henry Walsh, her brother James Walsh and sister Mary Catherine Stenger preceeded her in death. As a member of the Brown County Ursuline community she spent the majority of her life as an educator in the Cincinnati, Dayton, Springfield and Saint Martin areas. Before her retirement she was the Ursuline Archivist. Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, August 16, 2016.



Sister Mary Paul Walsh

## Sister Jane Stier Among First Women to Receive Doctorate in Theology

Sister Jane (Mary Frances) Stier, beloved member of the Ursulines of Brown County for 68 years, died peacefully at Mt. Notre Dame Health Center on October 7, 2016 at the age of 90. Dear sister of J. Kent (the late Peggy) Stier and Julie (Ken) Schuermann. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and great, great nieces and nephews. Her parents Frank and Loretta Stier and her sisters Loretta Breetz and Margaret McAndrews preceeded her in death. Sister Jane taught at Ursuline Academy for 10 years, worked in adult education for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and taught at Thomas More College after obtaining her doctorate in theology at the Catholic University of America. Mass of Christian burial October 13, 2016



Sister Jane Stier



Sister Debbie Lloyd and Sister Rosemary Grueter

## Sister Rosemary (Raphael) Grueter and Sister Debbie Lloyd Celebrate Jubilees

On October 2, 2016 the Ursuline Community, family and friends of Sister Rosemary (Raphael) Grueter and Debbie Lloyd gathered at the Mt. Notre Dame de Namur Chapel in Cincinnati to celebrate their jubilees. Sister Rosemary celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> and Sister Debbie her 25<sup>th</sup> year of profession as an Ursuline. Father Jeff Kemper, a friend of the Community, presided at liturgy. A reception followed.

Sister Rosemary (Raphael) Grueter. OSU entered the Ursulines of Brown County in 1944. She took her final vows August 9, 1949. Sister Rosemary attended Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing after which she became the nurse for both her community and the boarding students attending the School of the Brown County Ursulines in St. Martin, Ohio. During that time, she also served on the community's

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# The Ursulines of Brown County

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***WALK OF MERCY FOR THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE at Brown County Ursulines, October 23, 2016***



***Watch for further information in the next issue of CORNERSTONE . . . . .***

*continued . . .*

Leadership Team. After the closing of the school Sister Rosemary became the Director of Maintenance and later secretary to the Congregational Minister for many years. Presently she resides at Mt. Notre Dame Health Care Center in Reading.

Sister Debbie Lloyd was born in Troy, New York. She entered the Ursulines in 1988 and took her final vows on October 19, 1996. Her ministries within the community include the Development Office at Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati, Librarian at Chatfield College, teacher of Spanish at St. Henry District High School in Erlanger, KY, and elementary school Spanish classes at St. James the Greater and St. Vivian in Cincinnati. Sister Debbie is presently the Archivist for her community.