



STONE

A publication of the Ursulines of Brown County
St. Martin, OH 45118-9507
Number 82 Summer 2016

CORNER

URSULINES, Part II

Connect **collaborate** Celebrate!

As we bring our 170th anniversary to a close and continue to move toward our 175th year, we look back to celebrate and give thanks to the many other religious communities who have graced our lives collectively and individually. These relationships have truly been reciprocal involving local, national and international connections. We are grateful for their presence in our lives-past and present.

Sisters from Cuba

In April 1962 we received four Sisters of the Abandoned Aged who were among the many exiled following Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba. First arriving in Florida, they became part of a large migration of refugees who came to Cincinnati. During their stay they learned English, experienced cultural events and were able to have periodic visits with other Sisters from Cuba who were staying with the Ursulines of Cincinnati. They remained for two years.



Sister Miriam Thompson coaching the Cuban Sisters in the English language

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



Sisters Concepta, Pacelli, Mathias. and Teckla with lay student Helen Zake

Ugandan Students

Following Vatican II, religious communities were asked to consider sending some of their members as missionaries to Latin and South America and Africa, in particular. We were unable to send sisters because of our small size and ministries to which we were committed. However, in 1968 at the request of Monsignor Ssuguba we began offering housing and free education to women religious from Uganda, which at that time was under the dictatorship of Idi Amin. Three women religious came from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Community and two from the Little Sisters of St. Francis. They began their studies at the then Ursuline Teacher Training Institute (now Chatfield College). Between 1968 and 1982 eight men and ten laywomen also attended our college. Many went on to receive Bachelors and Masters Degrees at other colleges and universities. Most returned home to educate a populace much in need of their ministry and care.

Local Collaborations

Glenmary Home Missions

Father William Howard Bishop was assigned to be the administrator of St. Martin Parish in St. Martin, Ohio on June 16, 1937. He arrived at his Brown County parish across the road from the Ursulines of Brown County on July 12, 1937 to begin work on founding a Home Mission Society. His diary entry for that date reads:

"Landed at St. Martin to begin work on Founding Home Mission Society...Crossing the Ohio River we came into Ohio, the land God has given us to start our great enterprise for Him."

The Glenmary Missions was founded on August 15, 1939.

Fr. Raphael Sourd was born in Fayetteville, Ohio and ordained a priest in the Cincinnati Archdiocese in 1922. After a few parish assignments, including summer service with the Ursulines in 1937, he was released by the Archdiocese, becoming the first priest to join Father Bishop, assisting him in establishing a Glenmary base in the Cincinnati area. The Ursuline Archives include hand-written correspondence from Fr. Sourd to the Ursuline leadership in thanks for financial contributions and support for Fr. Bishop's and his efforts over the years.

During the 1960's Glenmary Fr. Patrick O'Donnell taught art classes at Ursuline Teacher Training Institute (later Chatfield College). The Ursuline Novitiate took Father's Liturgical Arts classes producing tabernacles, crucifixes, candlesticks and Stations of the Cross that were then sent to the missions in Appalachia.

The Glenmary Sisters

In 1959 the Glenmary Sisters purchased the former Military Academy run by the Sisters of Charity in Fayetteville, Ohio for their Novitiate. Fayetteville is three miles from the Ursulines of Brown County. The Glenmary postulants and novices attended Ursuline Teacher Training Institute for eight years before selling their building to the Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis. The presence of the younger Glenmary Sisters with the novitiate of the Ursulines made for lively classroom discussions and opportunity for two very different religious communities with unique missions to explore together the changes taking place in the Church in the immediate years following Vatican II.



A group of Ursuline and Glenmary Sisters working together at the college

The Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis



Brothers of the Poor of Saint Francis

Brother Rock Larsen, CFP reflects: “The Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis were beneficiaries of Ursuline education from the late sixties until the late seventies. The Brothers’ postulants and novices began attending what was called Ursuline Teacher Training Institute in 1967 while they were at the St. Joseph Novitiate in Fayetteville, Ohio which had been the former Glenmary Sisters Novitiate. There were approximately 50 brothers who attended over the years at what would later become Chatfield College. They fondly recall the many sisters who instructed them during that time: Sisters Miriam Thompson, Dorothy Thompson, Jane Stier, Joan Brosnan, Ruth Podesta, Mary John Purcell, Clothilde Molitor, Loretta Thoma and Agatha Fitzgerald. Brothers Edwin, Alphonsus, and Daniel also taught at the college for a brief time during the late sixties. Former Ursuline Sisters

and Brothers also taught at Chatfield during and after the time the Franciscan Brothers were students.” *Through the years the Brothers have continued to be gracious to their Ursuline Sisters with numerous gestures of generosity and words of gratitude.*

The Ursulines of Brown County

20860 State Route 251

St. Martin, OH 45118-9507

Non-Profit.Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Cincinnati, OH

Permit #4959



Sr. Mary Hughes, OP and workshop participants

Ursulines gather to share workshop

On June 5, 2016 the Ursulines of Brown County, Ursulines of Cincinnati and some of their Companions and friends gathered for a presentation on the transformation of religious life. Thanks to a generous grant Sr. Mary Hughes, OP, Director of Transitional Services for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is able to assist smaller communities as they move toward transition. The day included presentations, reflection and discussion as we discern the future to which God is inviting us.

Collaborations Near and Far

Following Vatican II the Sisters responded to the call to minister in other places in need. These new ministries and locations brought us into contact with many other men and women religious communities. Each encounter brought new friends, new insights and a renewed awareness of how we receive many graces and blessings through working together in service to God and God's people.

Our first gratitude goes to the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of Charity for the many years of education they provided our Sisters at Our Lady of Cincinnati College and Mt. St. Joseph College respectively. As commuting students Ursulines studied side by side with the women religious at both sites.

In 1973 Atlanta, Georgia welcomed **Sr. Mary Macke** and 3 other sisters. Sr. Mary served as teacher and principal at Our Lady of Assumption School for several years. There she worked with the Sisters of Mercy from the Baltimore Province. It was her first experience of working with another religious community. Sr. Mary later returned to Cincinnati where she worked with the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana and again with the Sisters of Mercy. "Working with other communities I learned how much alike we are and what a gift they are to us."



Sister Mary Macke and Sister Denis Marie Murphy, RSM at Assumption School

Sister Pat Brockman throughout the 1990's and 2000's worked with the Jesuit and Marianist communities giving 8 day retreats. She also facilitated Chapter preparations with Ursulines in Canada, Sisters of St. Joseph, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky and Sisters of Divine Providence, Kentucky and Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Indiana. Sr. Pat shares that "the great grace in each of these was the joy of recognizing the different charism in each community." Sr. Pat also worked in Geneva, Switzerland with the Franciscans over a three-year period.

Retreat work with the Jesuits for over 20 years brought **Sr. Nancy Vollman** to centers in Milford, Ohio, Michigan and Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In addition, she has provided retreats for the Sisters of Notre Dame in Covington, Kentucky. "Each Jesuit Retreat House and retreat location has been welcoming and offered me the opportunity to journey with God's people on their spiritual path. This opportunity has been a privilege, inspiration and joy and one of my greatest blessings."

Sr. Ruth Podesta cherishes the opportunity that took her to Rome, Italy in the late 1970's where she worked in Communications in the International Union of Superiors General, an organization formed after the Vatican Council to assist religious communities all over the world in response to the Council. Sr. Ruth adds: "I will always be grateful for the times I worked with the Haitian Sisters in Miami, Florida." Ruth also served in Trenton, New Jersey and Washington, DC.

Several ministries and locations brought **Sr. Joan Roach** in contact with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden, Pennsylvania, the Mercy Sisters of the Americas in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Ursulines of Louisville in Pittsburgh. She served as Director of a Guardianship Program, Hospital Chaplain and Director of Ursuline Center, respectively. Through her connection with these women religious Sr. Joan reflects: "We are all Sisters working for the Gospel. Together we witnessed the differences among us melt away."



Sister Clare Ragazzo and Sister Roseanne White with their Comboni co-workers

Sr. Roseanne White says of her 18 years as Financial Director with the Comboni Missionaries Provincial Center in Cincinnati: "The experience of working with many different countries and cultures was really a blessing for me, opening me to the concerns of the larger world, especially in Africa and South America".

Purcell-Marian High School in Cincinnati brought **Sr. Lucy Schmid** in contact with both the Marianist Fathers and Brothers and the Sisters of Charity. She taught religion there from 1984-1988.

Sr Phyllis Kemper's nursing skills led her to work with the Sisters of Mercy at Mercy Clermont Hospital and Mercy Home Care 1987-1997. From there she took her skills into the inner city of Cincinnati where she worked with the Franciscan Friars and others as a parish nurse. She says of her experience there, "They became my support and mentored me as I began my work in the Over-the-Rhine area."

"I learned that God is so everywhere," says **Sr. Cecilia Huber** reflecting on the six years (1985-1991) spent ministering with the Ursulines of Santa Rosa, the Notre Dame Sisters and the Little Sisters of Jesus in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Ursulines of Cleveland welcomed **Sr. Patricia Homan** in 1990 where she served at Beaumont High School for 4 years. Prior to that Sr. Patricia worked with the Sisters of Charity at Springfield Catholic High School (1978-1980). "Both of these broadened my horizon, were supportive experiences of community and gave me life-long colleagues and friends."

Sr. Christine Pratt worked in the Detroit Archdiocese for almost two years (1983-1984) followed by almost 30 years within the Diocese of Toledo. "I was welcomed and included in many activities by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of Monroe, Michigan, the Ursulines and Notre Dame Sisters of Toledo, Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Ohio and Sisters of St Francis, Tiffin, Ohio and the Sisters of Mercy. Many became prayer companions, colleagues and advisors over the years we shared friendship and ministries."