



CORNER

STONE

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Ordinary time...

One of the hardest jobs for the editor of a Newsletter is deciding on a focus for the publication. What can we write about that would peak the interest of our constituents? What is going on that will motivate our readers to do more than look at the pictures? Once in a while there is an exciting event like the Solomon's Run Project or a new adventure in ministry, but after all, most of life is the every-day humdrum activity that keeps a school or an office or any other kind of activity happening. That is the reason the Church celebrates "Ordinary Time" as the longest season of the Church year! The ordinary is the fabric of our lives. Perhaps that is the very reason we look to a Newsletter to report on something dynamic and exciting! As this issue of CORNERSTONE comes into being we are beginning the celebration of Easter.

This is a season of bringing forth new life, so we decided to send you a Spring Newsletter that tells you more about what Ursulines do day in and day out because we suspect that you personally will be able to relate to that kind of schedule!

**As thou goest betwixt him and me,
And knowest my life in every degree,
Telling it in his presence,
Ask me grace to love him truly,
To serve my Lord with heart duly,
With my daily diligence.**

One verse of a Medieval Nun's prayer to her Guardian Angel found in *Religious Lyrics of the Fifteenth Century*
ed. Carleton Brown

What does an Ursuline do all day?

Once upon a time an Ursuline Sister's schedule was firmly set and rather predictable. Since that is no longer the case, we asked a sampling of Sisters with various ministries for an outline of what an average day in their life might be like for them so we could share the outcome with you. Times change, ministries vary but basically, just as the medieval nun in prayer on page one, each of us tries to serve the Lord with her "daily diligence." Overall, what you will find below tells the story of our 'ordinary time'

***Sister Jeanette Johnson, a retired teacher, is the contact person for our Sisters who live at Mt. Notre Dame:** Rise; eat breakfast while watching Charlie Rose on TV; pray; do physical exercise; get the mail; drive to the city; shop at Trader Joe's; make my rounds at Mt. Notre Dame Health Center; tell Sr. Mary Paul about the Ohio Memory March Madness contest and her part in it as our former archivist; check on Sr. Marjean whom I took to the doctor last week; go for physical therapy for my back problem; drive back to the country in drenching rain; prepare and eat lunch/supper; check and answer email; watch evening news with Diane Sawyer; read; do my physical exercise; pray; retire.

***Sister Cecilia Huber lives at Brescia and teaches music for Chatfield College and in the local community:** After morning prayers the whirlwind begins: a college student arrives for a piano lesson, a student does not arrive for a lesson and so telephone calls are made to discover why (but the free hour provides time to write music or practice) teaching youngsters after school hours; responding to telephone calls; answering a request to lead a Day of Prayer for Retreat or an RCIA group; responding to many family, community and parish needs; correspondence; planning the next concert - and this is retirement!

***Sister Christine Pratt, Administrative Assistant and Social Justice Ministry:** Rise, shower and pray. Participate in an early conference call with Sisters who are justice promoters for their communities from around Ohio. Drive from Cincinnati to Brown County. Meet with Sr Lucia, Congregational Minister, to go over her calendar. Prepare and submit items for updating new website. Prepare letters for Sr Lucia's signature. Take phone call from a Sister needing information. Return to projects for the community. Receive phone call from Social Action Office of Archdiocese regarding up-coming Archdiocesan Social Action Commission meeting. Meet with Sr. Agatha about items for Cornerstone newsletter and graphic designs for website. Receive phone call from staff at rural parish regarding assistance in their future planning. Prepare materials for upcoming workshop for Ursuline Companions. Return to Cincinnati and meet with colleague at my parish to work on a Catholic Social Teaching education project prior to choir practice. Following choir practice return home to participate in a conference call with co-leaders for the October Cluster gathering of Cincinnati, Louisville, Brown County and other Ursulines. Prepare for bed, watch the news, pray and retire for the evening.

***Sister Patricia Homan is the Associate Dean and Site Director for the St. Martin Campus of Chatfield College:** 7:30 AM finds me on the Chatfield College campus, unlocking doors, turning on the lights and making sure all is ready for the day. Walking the buildings and grounds at that hour when it is perfectly quiet with the sun rising is a great way to start the day. Manage email and the calendar, making mental notes about what my list of priorities should be. At 8:30 I attend the Communion Service or Mass with the Sisters at Brescia, finding it a good way to hold the Chatfield Community in God's presence. By 9:00 you will find me in the Mongan Academic building checking on the instructors and students, chatting and encouraging their success. If there is an emergency situation and instructors and/or students will be late, I serve as the communicator and facilitator of instructions. Once classes are under way scheduled meetings for various committees, conferences regarding students, preparation of prayer for various events, student advising and attending to special events like the Student Art Show quickly fill the hours. Because students are free from 11:30-12:30 and 3:00-4:00 are good times to see them and work with any in need. Usually one day a week, on both campuses, I lead a time of prayer for anyone who wishes to join the group as well as lead communal prayer for special events. The day generally ends by 4:30, after making sure the 4:00 classes are in full swing; with the exception of Wednesday when I am on campus until 7:00 PM, taking care of any issues that may surface for the 6:30 instructors or students.

*** Sister Lawrence Sickman is a part time Staff Member at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center:** Rise and head for the coffee, pray and prepare for work, facing the busy traffic and endless construction barriers in order to arrive in time for Mass, eat a banana and yogurt, outline a vague plan for the day, prepare for a class, write checks, get a deposit ready, go to the bank and post office, fix up a retreat room, set up a meeting room, check email, sort other mail, answer the phone, meet volunteers, do the Newsletter, change the bulletin board, write the weekly bulletin, respond to the questions of those passing through, eat lunch, meet with volunteers, fill out a time card, post a notice, head for home through the maze of traffic and construction barriers, relax, have supper, watch the news, work a puzzle and/or read, pray and go to bed to refresh for the next day of surprises!

*** Sister Nancy Vollman is a Spiritual Director:** Days go by very quickly for me. Rise, thank God for a new day...stumble to the kitchen to make coffee, take an hour of quiet prayer time, read the newspaper, check my email and respond...many of my directees communicate time, date changes via email. I end my email session with The Three Minute Retreat emailed from Loyola Press...a beautiful way to connect and put a period to that part of my day. I shower, dress, check email again to be sure my schedule has not changed; dust and clean and make sure my sacred space for seeing people is ready...usually see a client, go to noon Mass, get home to begin my ministry again at 1:30...my days vary...sometimes I begin early in the day and end by 4:00...sometimes begin the day later and end by 7:00 PM. Several times a week I visit my 95 year old neighbor just to check in on her...or visit with my apartment neighbors who are homebound. There is nothing extraordinary about my day except the people God sends to me. It is a privilege to journey with each person and see the Spirit of God at work in each person. I feel so blessed! Always leave at least a half hour between directees for reflection on that person's journey. Spiritual Direction has always been my first love, but for so many years it could not be my primary ministry because of the other work the Ursuline Community called me to do. One of the blessings of my ministry is that people come to my home...About four times a month I travel to see directees in their home because of illness or because they do not drive. These are my "housecalls." All the tasks that go into maintaining a home are mine: cleaning, preparing meals, shopping...I call it "Krogering"...are done in between times. Since my home is my office it always has to be ready for visitors and the Sacred Space simply decorated to match the seasons to provide a warm and welcoming place for my ministry. My day ends with returning phone calls, watching the news and some other TV program, some more quiet time reflecting on my day and the people who enriched my life that day. Some spiritual reading and bedtime. This is a typical day...I could go on and on about the atypical days of my life!

*** Sister Ruth Podesta is a college teacher and Hope Emergency volunteer:** If I were to summarize my day in three words or less it would be "laptop computer." It directs, collects, entertains, provokes thoughts, holds on to friends and frustrates. Chatfield College Class preparations – French in Fall through Spring semesters, and Latin in Summer, hold high priority space, seconded only by translations mostly French into English with a little Italian. Language and the "all" implied will continue to challenge and satisfy a part of my life for which I am most grateful. The computer fills my days helping in our Hope Emergency Program whether by scanning participants' cards as they come in or later, entering special request items into the Virtual Case Manager Program. However, being in front of the computer is nothing compared with what I imagine looking into the eyes of the men and women who come each week, rain or shine. The laptop also keeps me in touch with friends on four continents, five states and right down the road. Fun happens when the red, blue and dark red colored decks of cards compete in various forms of solitaire. And all of the above takes place here in Brown County where the rising and setting suns signal prayer, and where I see beauty whenever I look out the window.

So, what else is new?

Just in case you happened to miss photos in this issue of CORNERSTONE, be sure to check out our **updated website at www.ursulinesofbc.org**. Sister Christine Pratt and our Computer Tech, Harmon Sizemore are responsible for this magic after collecting advice, information and photos from everyone. You will discover another exciting surprise therein: a recently published book by **Sister Cecilia Huber**, destined to be a best seller!

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We have had many inquiries about the **Solomon's Run Project**. There is not much to report at this time except great expectations. The winter we have experienced along with more rain than usual has caused the empty lake to re-appear frequently leaving a deep bed of mud. One of our springtime hopes is that the engineers and work force will soon be able to move forward on the project.

The Ursuline Companions are a group of our friends, neighbors and colleagues seeking out Angela's charism and opening themselves to a deeper understanding of our common faith. For this year they have taken as their focus the strengthening of the Spiritual practices that assist us in our relationship with Christ. Toward that end they have planned a series of ongoing programs open to the public. If you are interested you will find the relevant information on our website: www.ursulineofbc.org.

Julia Chatfield wins Ohio Memory Project's March Madness Competition! In 2000 Sister Mary Paul Walsh, then Archivist, was asked by the Ohio Historical Society to gather photos of the treasures in our Archives with explanations of their provenance in order to be a part of the Ohio Memory Project, a virtual repository of primary sources of currently unknown or inaccessible historical objects across the State. This was a monumental task that Sister undertook with Sue Imbus as her assistant. In early March of 2014, Sister Debbie Lloyd, current Archivist, was asked by the Ohio Memory Project to allow the use of the photo of our statue of Julia Chatfield in a competition meant to further familiarize the public with the availability of the Ohio Memory Project's virtual repository. The original statue, carved of Indiana limestone by Sister Agatha Fitzgerald in 1961, is at the entrance of the Welcome Center of Chatfield College. The competition used a bracket system patterned on Basketball's March Madness as the computer voting process. With enthusiasm the students and staff of the college took up the voting challenge as did the Sisters, our Brown County Alumnae, Ursuline Academy and our many friends across the country. Believe it or not, due to the loyalty of our constituents, it was a landslide! Julia won hands down! You can view the results at www.ohiohistoryhost.org/madness. The competition gave us a wonderful opportunity to tell the story of Julia Chatfield, to promote awareness and school spirit, and to enjoy the experience together.