Have you ever wondered why Ursulines are different from Franciscans or why Franciscans are different from Sisters of Mercy and why they are all different from Benedictines?

If you have ever asked that question, you were probably told it is because they have different charisms.

“What is a charism?” is the logical next question. One way of answering that is to say that a charism is the grace God has freely given to each religious founder – to Angela, to Francis and Clare of Assisi, to Catherine McCauley, and to Benedict and Scholastica.

Charism has also been called the spirit of the community based on the founder’s experience of God.

In scripture Saint Paul speaks of charisms as spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 12: 4-11) Not everyone has the same gifts, Paul tells us, but the gifts all come from the same Spirit who distributes them according to God’s will. There is a diversity of gifts in the Church. Then Paul goes on to tell us, “Set your hearts on the more important things.” In his 13th chapter of the Letter to the Corinthians he names love as the greatest gift.

What do Angela Merici’s words say to us about the most important gift? I believe Angela’s answer is the same as Paul’s. It is love. In fact, it is a love so intimate that we become “true and virginal spouses of the Son of God.” Spouse is a word that Angela uses over and over throughout her writings. Angela also calls Jesus “Lover” – “My lover,” “our Lover,” “the Lover of us all.” Her spousal love led her to a life of contemplation. Not the contemplation that called her to live in a cloister but a contemplation that led her to go about her ministry deeply aware of the God within. A contemplation that caused her to reverence the good in every person she met and empowered her to respond to them as Jesus would.

Each generation of community members and associates expresses charism differently as they respond to the needs and the signs of the time. How do we today express the charism of Angela in our lives? Are we contemplatives in action? Are we spouses and lovers? Do we serve with inclusive hearts and loving hands? Are we filled with the spiritual energy that makes the spirit of Angela new again and alive in our day?

As we pursue our study of charism this year, may we all be gifts given by God for the life of our community, our Church, and our world.
Dear Associate Sisters and Brothers,

Do you feel CHANGE in the air?

The world is beginning a new decade of the 21st century, "the teens".... The Ursuline Sisters have elected a new leadership team.... We in the Diocese of Owensboro welcome our new bishop, William Francis Medley.... Our Associate Coordinator Team is in place and ready to lead us.

Associates & Sisters Day planning is underway. Our featured speaker, Sister Cheryl Clemons, will lead us to contemplate CHANGE, and Associate Fr. Carl McCarthy is scheduled to preside at Mass. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 10, and be sure to register by June 18. Watch for details in the May Update.

Do you remember "A Day of Caring," last year's PowerPoint presentation during Associates & Sisters Day? This worthwhile effort highlighted the many ways we care for our neighbors through Angela. While it has a new name this year, the goal is the same. Angela in Action is a great way to show how associates and sisters work to make the world better for all people. I encourage you, individually and as groups, to document your activities and submit photos and stories to my office by June 1.

I'm happy to introduce the Associate Area Group Coordinators. My thanks to the generous people who will serve on this team for a two-year term (see names on page 3). If other geographic groups are in need of leaders, please let me know.

As we experience the season of Lent, we remember our commitment as associates to work together to spread the gospel of Jesus through the guidance of Saint Angela. Let's strive to follow her lead and answer the call to contemplation and action.

I ask our loving God to bless you, every day.

Mrs. Marian Bennett, OSUA, Director of Ursuline Partnerships

ASSOCIATE UPDATES
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ASSOCIATE MISSION STATEMENT
We, the associates of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through the actions of our everyday lives. We commit ourselves to living the charism of Saint Angela Merici in union with and in support of the Ursuline community of Mount Saint Joseph.

Sisters Nancy Murphy, Rita Scott, Sharon Sullivan, Kathleen Dueber, and Julia Head were elected to serve on the Leadership Council for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph from July 2010-July 2016.

Sister Sharon Sullivan, a native of Texas, was elected congregational leader for the Ursuline Sisters in December 2009. She will be the 15th canonically elected leader of the Ursulines since they became an autonomous community in 1912. Sister Sharon is in her 28th year as an Ursuline and is academic dean and vice president of academic affairs at Brescia University, where she has served in various roles since 1984.

Sister Julia Head was elected assistant congregational leader. A native of Daviess County, Ky., she is in her 49th year as an Ursuline and is pastoral associate at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro.

The following were elected councilors:
Sister Kathleen Dueber, a native of Kansas City, Kan., was an Ursuline Sister of Paola, Kan., prior to their merger with Mount Saint Joseph in 2008. She was a councilor in Paola from 2002-2008. She currently ministers to the sisters at the motherhouse.

Sister Rita Scott, a Louisville, Ky., native, is in her 44th year as an Ursuline. She has served as plant administrator at Maple Mount since 2001, supervising the maintenance department and the farm.

Sister Nancy Murphy of Curdsville, Ky., has been an Ursuline for 49 years. She maintains the former Belleville, Ill., motherhouse and ministers with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Belleville.

The Rev. William Medley, 57, from Marion County, Ky., was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro by Pope Benedict XVI. His ordination will be Feb. 10 at the SportsCenter. Fr. Medley was taught by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. He praised their influence during a Dec. 15 press conference at Brescia University.

“`All of Marion County is honored to have a native son to be chosen for this title (bishop).”

- Associate Phyllis Troutman, Raywick, Ky.
On Nov. 4, 2009, the Payne family of Owensboro, Ky. – parents Tom and Amy, and their three children, Meghan, Sarah, and Will – made their lifetime commitments as Ursuline Associates in the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel, while Larry P. Devocelle of Springfield, Ill., made his first commitment. His friends, Terry Hogg and Irene Kucher, made the trip with Larry from Springfield to witness the ceremony. Larry is retired as director of the State of Illinois Services for the Disabled and is very active in his parish, St. Joseph Church. He serves as lector, Eucharistic minister, Mass coordinator, and co-chair of the parish education committee. Larry is also a member of the Liturgy committee, pastoral council, and the Just Faith and small faith groups. He volunteers as a guide for the Dana Thomas House (built by Frank Lloyd Wright), and in the Master Gardener program of the University of Illinois Extension Service. A graduate of the first class of the Mount Saint Joseph Spiritual Direction Institute in 2006, Larry’s goal is “to welcome everyone I encounter as if they were the Lord!” His friend, Associate Karen Siciliano, says, “Larry’s deep prayer life radiates into all that he is and all that he does, so that he is able to ‘preach the Gospel’ without uttering a sound.”

“I thank the Sisters for their example of walking in Jesus’ footsteps. They show us how to live justly, love abundantly, and imagine a better world through the light of the Holy Spirit.”
- Associate Susan Scott, Louisville, Ky.

We are pleased to announce Area Associate Group Coordinators for 2010-2012:
Grayson County, Ky.– Brenda Semar & Carol Hill
Hancock County, Ky.– Mary Ann Schilling
Henderson and Union counties, Ky.– Therese Fraize & Annette Stokes
Kansas City area– Carol O’Keefe & Lisa Reilly
Louisville, Ky. area– Susan Scott, Suzanne Reiss & Lorraine Luken
Memphis, Tenn.– Judy and Paul Gray & Michael Zeigler
Muhlenberg County, Ky.– Jean Simpson, Gail Davenport, Marcia Stoller & Judy Sims
Owensboro, Ky.– Martha Little
Western Kentucky– Sid Mason & Pat Wilson

BELLEVILLE ASSOCIATES
Recommitment Ceremony
Saturday, April 17, 2010 • 1 p.m.
Peace Chapel in Mount Carmel Cemetery
Belleville, Ill.

ASSOCIATE COMMITMENT
July 10, 2010 at Mount Saint Joseph
Mandeville. It didn’t mean much more to me than a poor town adopted by the Diocese of Owensboro and a place where my first cousin, Associate Mary Danhauer, had served the poor for three years. However, for those same reasons, I knew SOMEday I would go and see for myself. I just had to wait on the Lord to assemble “MY” group. When my local dentist, Dr. Darrell French, and the Pilgrims of Hope group were gathering dentists and others for a mission trip, I knew I would feel comfortable because years ago I was a dental hygienist. After traveling many miles, I sure didn’t expect to be stripping, sanding, and resealing picnic tables. That sneaky devil had me thinking, “You’ve GOT TO BE KIDDING.” As Tom Rose and I worked on those six tables under the shade of June plum trees, Tom helped me to see the tables were really the patients’ waiting room. Those reverent and patient families deserved smooth and preserved benches. For years to come my memories will include meals of jerk chicken and pork, pumpkin soup and Red Stripe beer; acting and sounding like a caged WILD monkey, while brushing sealant under our final table with black gecko drops on my bare leg; listening to three little girls sing songs to us as we painted the outside of the clinic; giving away my sun hat on the last day; getting hugs from Mary’s old friends, and teasing, laughing and sharing this experience with the BEST mission group ever!

What one associate can do: Volunteering in Jamaica

By Anna Danhauer Conn, OSUA

Mandeville. It didn’t mean much more to me than a poor town adopted by the Diocese of Owensboro and a place where my first cousin, Associate Mary Danhauer, had served the poor for three years. However, for those same reasons, I knew SOMEday I would go and see for myself. I just had to wait on the Lord to assemble “MY” group. When my local dentist, Dr. Darrell French, and the Pilgrims of Hope group were gathering dentists and others for a mission trip, I knew I would feel comfortable because years ago I was a dental hygienist. After traveling many miles, I sure didn’t expect to be stripping, sanding, and resealing picnic tables. That sneaky devil had me thinking, “You’ve GOT TO BE KIDDING.” As Tom Rose and I worked on those six tables under the shade of June plum trees, Tom helped me to see the tables were really the patients’ waiting room. Those reverent and patient families deserved smooth and preserved benches. For years to come my memories will include meals of jerk chicken and pork, pumpkin soup and Red Stripe beer; acting and sounding like a caged WILD monkey, while brushing sealant under our final table with black gecko drops on my bare leg; listening to three little girls sing songs to us as we painted the outside of the clinic; giving away my sun hat on the last day; getting hugs from Mary’s old friends, and teasing, laughing and sharing this experience with the BEST mission group ever!
Ursuline Associate Fr. Tony Shonis, associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus in Henderson, Ky., had an article called “Spirit at Work: Ministry in an Age of Cubicles and Office Parks” published by America magazine on Aug. 31, 2009. The timely article published close to Labor Day focused on his visits to parishioners in their workplaces. To read the article, visit the Web site www.americamagazine.org and search for the keywords “spirit at work.”

In December, Fr. Tony presented an Advent series at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall in Owensboro titled “A Coming Christ in Advent: Three Presentations on the Gospel Narratives Preparing for the Birth of Jesus.” The series included discussions on the infancy narratives in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. The workshop was offered in preparation for Christmas and for spiritual enlightenment. Associate Dan Heckel was a small group facilitator at the workshops.

Fr. Tony will present a free four-part workshop on Lent on Feb. 23, March 2, March 9, and March 16 at Lourdes.

Fr. Tony will also direct a Thomas Merton retreat at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center Nov. 12-14. The cost to attend will be $175 for a resident and $120 for a commuter. To register, call 270-229-0200.
Happy Birthday to our Associates

MARCH
2 Shearon Harris
Diane Wilson
4 Sr. Mary McNellis, S.L.
DeeAnn Schmidt
5 Kay Buckman
Stella McClure
Fr. Jerry Spencer
7 George Horishny
10 Chris Denniston
11 Margaret Birge
12 Velma Dees
14 Mary Costello
Pauline Goebel
15 Diane Hayden
16 Joan McKinnon
17 Evelyn Cange
18 Camilla Frey
Mike Sullivan
19 Carolyn Butler
20 Angelina Glomb
21 Fr. Leonard Alvey
Marcy Bufalini
Elaine Wood
23 Carlene Braun
24 Catherine Roddy
25 Marcella Critchelow
Jodie Folkerson
26 Bea Porter

APRIL
1 Frances Elder
2 Phyllis Ann Hackmann, FS
Larry Minks
3 Lily Cloughly
Jeanne Miller
4 Joyce Firenza
Evelina Salas
5 Marilyn Trechter
6 Marian Bennett
Mary Jo Dodson
Violet Hamilton
Mary Rita Trittschuh
8 Sue Donahue
Wanda Gibson
9 Fr. Brian Johnson
Doris Kolb-Hopkins
11 Wanda Rickard
12 John Caton
14 Lucille Weidenbenner
15 Laura Smith
Fr. Richard White, CMF
16 Claudette Ford
17 Terry Barnes
18 John Laker
19 Alice Piezuch
21 Jerry Frey
Dennis Reilly
23 Teri Hubner
24 Fr. Ed Bradley
Carolyn Head
25 Rev. Patricia Dawkins
Nancy Krische
Fr. Brian Roby
Susan Scott
27 Edna Marnell
28 Michael Lemm
29 Michael Ziegler
30 Roxanne Bollin

MAY
1 Karen Howard
2 Marie Ritz
4 Murilla Gilttinger
Lil Wilson
5 Madeleine Bianco
6 John Allen
Jerry Birge
7 Susan Reiss
Bernice Rockers
9 Ruth Wright-Welzen
11 Clarence Kaiser
12 Sonia Pradenas
14 Loni Daniels
18 Karen Feehan
Michael Synk
19 Carol Hardy
Paul Parker
21 Cecilia McElowney
22 Gail Davenport
Loretta Oliver
Tracy Strother
23 Maxine Hobbs
Ola Higdon
24 Sandra Jull
25 Rose Mary Egli
Kevin Karl
26 Sr. Agnes Ijoko, HHCT
Isabel Lang
28 Marilyn Kitzer
Sharon Rose
29 Jean Bertram
30 Rev. Tom Barrett

REJOICE!
HE IS RISEN!

WE EXTEND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:
• Nancy Mills, whose brother-in-law, James Payne, died Dec. 16 in Owensboro.
• Therese Fraize, whose sister-in-law, Carolyn Hurm Snyder, died Jan. 7 in Owensboro.
• Molly Jacques, whose sister, Delfinita Abeta, died Jan. 9 in New Mexico.

ANGELA’S CORNER
I shall be in your midst, praying with you.
- Ninth Counsel
JEAN DARST GRANT, OSUA, of Clarkson, Ky., died Dec. 27, 2009. She is survived by her children, Julie and Eric, and four granddaughters. Survivors also include her brother Bob Darst, his wife Martina Darst, and her sister Catherine Gawarecki – all Ursuline Associates. She was a member of St. Elizabeth Church in Clarkson, where she was an organist and an active parishioner, and retired from Wilson & Muir Bank. Sister Elaine Byrne was her contact sister. Jean and David, her husband of 39 years, made their lifetime commitments in 1990.

JEAN L. LONERGAN, OSUA, died Dec. 31, 2009 at the Carmel Home in Owensboro. Jean was an Ursuline sister for 27 years and the first principal of St. Pius X School in Owensboro. A lifelong educator, she taught in Catholic and public schools in Kentucky, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Missouri. A woman of quiet humor, she wrote in 1989 about her retirement, “I have found this stage of my life most enjoyable, so far. I am almost rested from 45 years in the field of education.” Jean made her lifetime commitment Oct. 19, 1990, with Sister Vivian Bowles, her contact sister and best friend.

CLARICE M. MCKENNA, OSUA, of Gladstone, Mo., died Jan. 13. Survivors include her five children, Rosemarie, Bruce, Patty, James, and Christine, with whom she made her home. Her husband, James, preceded her in death in 1991. She was a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Church. Clarice worked as an IBM computer operator and moved to the Kansas City area in 1998. She made her associate commitment Jan. 24, 1999 in Paola, Kan., with Sister Judith Osthoff, her contact sister.

FAY HIGDON, OSUA, died Jan. 24. She is survived by her daughter, Melinda Caserta, and two grandchildren. Born in Owensboro, Fay worked as an accountant for 45 years, and was sacristan and a member of the finance committee at Precious Blood Church. She made her lifetime commitment as an associate on July 15, 1990, with Sister Sara Marie Gomez, her contact sister.

SISTER MARY BERTHA WETHINGTON, OSU, 103, died Dec. 2 in her 83rd year of religious life. She was the oldest member in the history of the community. She was a native of Clementsville, Ky. An educator for 59 years, she taught or was principal in the Diocese of Owensboro, the Archdiocese of Louisville, and in Missouri. From 1972-88, she was coordinator of Saint Angela Educational Center, Louisville. From 1988 until her retirement in 2001, she was in residence at Saint Angela Convent, using her talents as a gifted seamstress in a ministry of quilt making for the Ursuline community. She retired to the Motherhouse in 2001.

SISTER AGNES IRENE BICKETT, OSU, 93, died Nov. 25 in her 74th year of religious life. Sister Agnes Irene was treasured for her sense of humor and her inspiring meditation and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. She delighted in talking about her many teaching assignments. She taught and ministered in the Diocese of Owensboro, the Archdiocese of Louisville, as well as in Missouri, Nebraska, and New Mexico. She was the Guest House coordinator at the Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse until her retirement in 2001. Sister Agnes Irene was the contact sister for Associate Jean Dowdy.

SISTER MARGARET JOSEPH AULL, OSU, 87, died Dec. 7 in her 69th year of religious life. She was a native of Knottsville, Ky. She was known for her ready smile, her sense of adventure, her love of travel, and her deep prayerfulness. Sister Margaret Joseph taught in Owensboro, Louisville, and New Mexico, ministered at Mercy Hospital in Owensboro and tutored and ministered to the sick at Christ the King School and Parish in Madisonville. She retired to the motherhouse in 2002, where she continued to minister as an information receptionist. Sister Margaret Joseph was the contact sister for Associates Madeleine Bianco and Jeanne Miller.

Gifts in memory of an Ursuline Sister may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.
LENT: Feb. 17-April 3

We should view the season of Lent as an opportunity to examine our hearts, confess our sins, and reflect on the significance of Christ’s dying and rising to new life. It can be a time of spiritual cleansing and renewal.

**Focus on:**
- **Fasting**
- **Prayer & Meditation**
- **Giving to the Poor**

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**Upcoming Associate Meetings...**

- Advisory Board: Saturday, April 10, Mount Saint Joseph
- Associates & Sisters Day at Mount Saint Joseph - Saturday, July 10
- Grayson County: Wednesdays, Feb. 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, St. Augustine Church, Grayson Springs, Ky.
- Hancock County: Thursdays, March 11, April 8, May 13
- Louisville: Saturdays, Feb. 20, May 22, Nov. 20, Central Presbyterian
- Memphis, Tenn.: Feb. 21, March 20, April 16, May 22, June 18, 6 p.m.
- Owensboro: Mondays, Feb. 15, May 17, Aug. 16, 5:30 p.m.
- Muhlenberg County: Wednesdays, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, St. Joseph Church, 5:30 p.m.
- Western Kentucky: Fridays, March 12, May 14, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Sid Mason’s home, 5:30 p.m.

**Don’t miss these other events...**

- Wednesday, Feb. 10 – Ordination of Owensboro’s 4th Bishop, William F. Medley, Owensboro Sportscenter, 2 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 20 - Owensboro Associates Jail Ministry Day, Daviess County Detention Center, 9 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 21 – Kansas City Area Lenten Day of Reflection
- Saturday, April 17 – Belleville Associate Recommitment Ceremony, 1 p.m.
- Saturday-Sunday, May 15-16 – Mount Saint Joseph Alumnae Weekend
- Saturday, July 10 – Associates & Sisters Day at Maple Mount