



St. Ursula Villa
Triennial Affiliation Review
February 2008

The Affiliation Agreement between the Ursulines of Cincinnati and St. Ursula Villa calls for a triennial review of the school's Catholic/ Ursuline identity to assure the continuous implementation of an educational mission aligned with the mission of the Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati. The most recent review and report was completed in November 2004 and presented to the school's Ursuline Identity Committee, the Ursulines of Cincinnati, St. Ursula Villa Board of Trustees and Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The Catholic Ursuline Identity of St. Ursula Villa has continued to be the integral, vibrant, joy filled foundation of life in this Christ-centered educational institution during the past three years. The Ursuline Identity Committee embraces this opportunity to share the highlights of the many ways our Catholic Ursuline Identity (who we are) has been integrated and celebrated in the life of students, parents and staff. Supporting documents are indicated in parentheses () and included with this report.

The report sections are as follows:

2004 Triennial Affiliation Review – Recommendations and Progress

Board of Trustees Ursuline Identity Committee – Annual Goals and Achievements

Staff and Student Involvement

Family and Community Involvement

Recommendations for the Future

2004 Triennial Affiliation Review – Recommendations and Progress

Three recommendations were recorded in the most recent review; progress is listed.

1. Continue to seek ways to make Ursuline materials appealing and accessible to teachers and enhance teacher and student involvement in communicating about St. Angela and the Ursuline saints and spirit.
 - English, French and Spanish version of *St. Angela Merici* purchased and distributed to classroom teachers and staff

- Collection of St. Angela materials consolidated and made available through Sister Margie Efke
 - *Angela's Story* purchased and distributed to Board of Trustees, VPO Board, Ursuline Identity Committee
 - Photographs from Pilgrimages to St. Angela's Italy 2006 and 2007 collected, enlarged and displayed in hallway and featured in slide presentations during special gatherings and prayer experiences
 - St. Angela ABC coloring books re-printed and distributed to first graders
 - Continuing use of the Villa booklet featuring the nine Ursuline characteristics with prospective families and new staff
2. Examine means of broadening the base of parent/adult volunteers.
- Increased parent volunteer participation in open houses and informational coffees for prospective families
 - Parent membership on the Crisis Plan and Discipline With Purpose Steering Committees
 - Continuing parent involvement in liturgies as musicians, readers, etc.
 - Parent participation in delivering food drive contributions
 - Recruitment of parent coordinator of volunteers at Crayons to Computers
 - Increased involvement of parents in daily student lunch service
 - Recruitment of new parent and non-parent members of the Board of Trustees
 - Continuing parent participation in weekly morning prayer gatherings
 - Increased parent involvement in service projects
 - Publication of information on volunteer opportunities and focus on Ursuline identity in the weekly Newsletter to Parents (Newsletter to Parents)
3. Continue to seek ways to enhance the diversity among the staff and student body.
- Diversity chosen as strategic initiative by Villa BOT in 2007 and 2008
 - Diversity initiative chair reporting to Ursuline Identity Committee
 - Increase in cultural studies in preschool and kindergarten through the creation of culture resource boxes funded by a grant
 - Collaboration with Girls Hope and (limited) participation in the Ohio educational voucher program
 - Continuation of *Everybody Counts*
 - Increased services to students with learning challenges/disabilities
 - Participation in school fair at University of Cincinnati attended by many diverse families
 - Increase in number of diverse families enrolled in early childhood program
 - Student volunteerism serving underprivileged children and the elderly.
 - Planning for Spanish Club for younger students, introduction of Spanish as a foreign language choice in intermediate grades during 2008-2009, planning for summer travel/study experience in Mexico for Villa students this year
 - Planning of implementation of Hands Across Campus in the junior high
 - School diversity statement drafted for use in parent/ student and staff handbooks and grant writing

Board of Trustees Ursuline Identity Committee – Annual Goals and Achievements

- Support the implementation of the Catholic Identity Goal for 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 (School Professional Development Plans)
- Participation with Ursuline Educational Services to host and present the international Educators Conference in Cincinnati in 2006
- Bi-monthly meetings of the Ursuline Identity Committee (sample agendas and minutes)
- Sponsorship and support of the Artist in Residence program - spring 2008 – to design and create nine quilted banners featuring the nine characteristics of Ursuline education
- Introduction of in-depth focus on Ursuline characteristics by grade level (Listing by grade level)
- Identification and implementation of annual all-school Ursuline focus:
2007-2008 Give Good Example 2006-2007 United in One Heart
2005-2006 Be Kind and Compassionate to Each Other
- Assistant Principal representing Ursulines of Cincinnati on the Board of Trustees of Ursuline Educational Services as member and officer
- Continuing active support to implement Discipline With Purpose resulting in St. Ursula Villa being named as the first fully-endorsed DWP school in Ohio in fall 2007
- Representation at the Ursuline Educational Services Administrator Dialogs in 2005 and 2007 in Louisville and St. Louis
- Preparation and presentation of Ursuline prayer experiences at annual BOT strategic planning retreat
- Endorsement and support of BOT strategic initiatives featuring the following characteristics of Ursuline education: Emphasis on the Development of the Whole Person, An Emphasis on Diversity within the School, Academic Excellence in All Subject Matters

Staff and Student Involvement

- Continuous teacher and student involvement in masses, prayer services, sacramental preparation and reception, May Crowning, graduation, etc. (schedule of liturgies 2007-2008)
- Teacher, staff and parent representation on Ursuline Identity Committee
- Catholic Ursuline Identity highlighted during interviews with prospective families and prospective employees
- Ursuline Identity presentation during new parent and new staff orientations
- Student Service Awards from Ursuline Educational Services in 2007 and 2008
- Annual service projects during Advent and Lent – example: The Heifer Project – Lent 2008
- Partial funding by school of two staff members for Pilgrimage to St. Angela Merici's Italy in 2006
- Vocation presentations to students in grades 4, 7 and 8 in 2008 (Vocation Awareness Presentation to Junior High)

- Participation in the national Ursuline Convocation in Louisville, Kentucky by four members of the St. Ursula Villa staff
- Increased integration of the arts in religious education, prayer and worship (School Continuous Improvement Plan)
- Continuing focus on the Ursuline characteristic of academic excellence (Test score and high school entrance information)
- Staff training and implementation of *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* in two Montessori and one traditional preschool classroom
- Presentations by staff at the Ursuline Educational Services Educators' Conference and Ohio Catholic Education Association Convention

Community Involvement

- Service work with elderly of Sunrise Senior Living in Kenwood, including resident excursions, concert by Villa choir, visits to the Manor House for Halloween and Christmas
- Student volunteers at Madisonville Daycare Center
- Junior High service days involving work at various community organizations
- Food and/or clothing collections to benefit St. John Social Service, Our Daily Bread, CAIN and Inter Parish Ministry clients
- Establishing the Gino DiMario Memorial Fund to benefit the fine arts program at the Villa
- Planning and hosting the annual Gino DiMario concert and picnic to celebrate Gino's life and benefit fine arts at the school
- Increased efforts to share news from the Villa in local publications

Recommendations for the Future

The Ursuline Identity Committee members and leadership propose and endorse the following recommendations for implementation during the next three years:

- Continuing use of the booklet *Our Ursuline Heritage: The Spirit of Angela Merici* following a major revision to update information, pictures and quotes
- Improvements to make resources on St. Angela Merici more accessible to teachers and students, including improvements/ additions to the Villa website
- Purchase and distribution of *Angela's Story* to all Villa staff
- Expansion of the vocation awareness program to include additional grade levels
- Continuing support of the BOT Diversity Initiative