



The Ursuline Education Network assists member schools to continue the Catholic, Christ-centered educational traditions originally established by founding congregations of Ursuline Sisters. The goal of UEN is to ensure the charism of St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline Order, remains an integral part of the educational experience from preschool through college. Together, we create programming to help member schools follow St. Angela's directives to faithfully and joyfully fulfill their missions. This fall edition of *Laurel Links* celebrates and honors *good works* from a few of our member schools. Be sure to make note of the upcoming programs for the remainder of the year listed on the right.

Annual UEN Student Service Awards ~ January 27, 2025

Student Leadership Conference

Be As Ministers and Servants ~ February 14-16, 2025

A Pressing and Central Task

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

March 13-16, 2025 ~ New York City

Annual UEN Athletic Awards ~ April, 2025

The Nichole Flores Esteemed Educator Award ~ May 2025

*The Life and Legacy of St. Angela Merici Italy Pilgrimage
June 1-10, 2025*

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Each spring, the Ursuline Education Network confers Athletic Awards to student athletes who exemplify Ursuline core values through their participation in sports. Nominated by personnel, coaches or teachers from individual schools, two athletes from each school are eligible to receive the following awards:

Senior Scholar Athlete is awarded to a high school senior only, who has demonstrated outstanding athletic fortitude while maintaining high academic achievement over four years.

The Spirit of St. Angela Award is awarded to a student athlete, regardless of age/grade, who embodies St. Angela's directive to "do something, get moving, be confident and risk new things."

Formally announced in June, the Ursuline Education Network congratulates the following athletes who received awards from their schools during 2024 spring awards ceremonies:

School	Nominator's name	Senior Scholar Athlete Recipient	Spirit of St. Angela Recipient
<i>Beaumont School Cleveland, OH</i>	<i>Tim Ertle</i>	<i>Cilka Rowane</i>	<i>Ava Hartman</i>
<i>Sacred Heart Academy Louisville, KY</i>	<i>Donna Moir</i>	<i>Claire Russell</i>	<i>Angelina Peyalo</i>
<i>Saint Ursula Academy Cincinnati, OH</i>	<i>Kelly Powers</i>	<i>Beazey Tierney</i>	<i>Belle Grubert</i>
<i>St. Ursula Academy Toledo, OH</i>	<i>Mike Donnelly</i>	<i>Erynn Moloney</i>	<i>Taleen Boman</i>
<i>Ursuline Academy St. Louis, MO</i>	<i>Jen Brooks</i>	<i>Ella Traina</i>	<i>Alayna Quigley</i>
<i>Ursuline Academy Dallas, TX</i>	<i>Stefanie Hill</i>	<i>Molly Nickols</i>	<i>Tess Corrales</i>
<i>Ursuline Academy New Orleans, LA</i>	<i>Harry Mason</i>	<i>Hallie Liljeberg</i>	<i>Mary Margaret Karam</i>
<i>Ursuline Academy Deham, MA</i>	<i>Mike O'Connor</i>	<i>Colleen Ganley</i>	<i>Simone Connolly</i>
<i>Ursuline Academy Wilmington, DE</i>	<i>Lauren DiSabatino</i>	<i>Gabriella Adams</i>	<i>Sarah Whalen</i>
<i>Ursuline High School Wimbledon, England</i>	<i>Rachel Corrigan</i>	<i>Ema Kandalova</i>	



A-I: The Fourth Industrial Revolution

On Thursday October 10, over eighty students and teachers from eight UEN member schools took part in a virtual conference on Artificial Intelligence hosted by Ursuline High School of Wimbledon, England. Keynote author and human rights lawyer Susie Alegre offered her perspectives on A-I's ethics, its explosive growth and impact. Guest panelists spoke of A-I in the fields of medicine, law, education and employment. Students could ask questions and closed the conference with summary statements of their own as to the positives or negatives of A-I. Prior to the Conference, students were encouraged to study Pope Leo's 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, on capital and labor. As the industrial revolution impacted human work, students were to consider A-I similarly. The Conference was a profound opportunity for Ursuline students to hear from top field experts, and think critically about how artificial intelligence will influence their own lives. Special thanks to the Conference coordinator Polly Harrison, Wimbledon's Director of Extended Learning/Oxbridge & Enrichment Co-ordinator and Eion Kelly, Headteacher at Ursuline Wimbledon, for hosting the Conference.

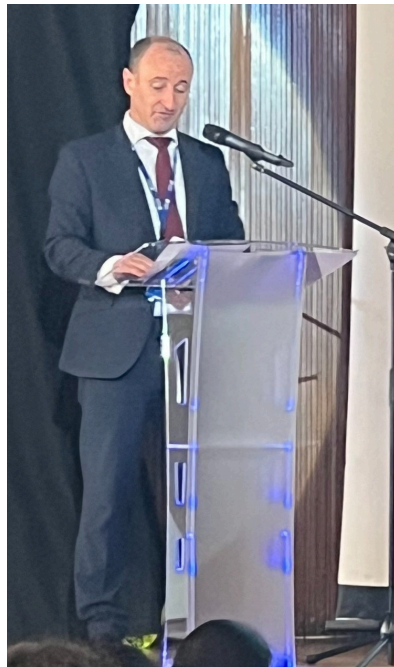


Dr Susie Alegre
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Freedom
to Think**

SUSIE ALEGRE

The Long
Struggle to Liberate
Our Minds



"As a global network of Ursuline schools, we encourage our students to apply the Ursuline virtues in new contexts. This conference uses a lens on the virtues of leading for justice, and acting with truth and integrity. The conference objectives are to set out our current understanding of the benefits and risks of AI. In this way to we aim to help our students understand how they can engage with the power of AI ensuring that it is regulated and channelled in such a way to support Catholic Social Teaching—most particularly the dignity of work, care for God's creation and the preferential option for the poor. Gaining a better understanding of AI will enable students to be excited by its opportunities and to consider how we harness it for the betterment of our world."

- excerpt from the Conference introduction



Save the Date!

Student Leadership Conference

February 13-16, 2025



URSULINE
EDUCATION
NETWORK

"Be as Ministers and Servants"

Guidance from St. Angela's First Counsel

In collaboration with the

Jean Frazier Leadership Institute of Sacred Heart Schools

Location: Higher Ground Conference Center

West Harrison, Indiana

For information and to register, go to

ursuline-education.com/student-leadership-conference/

Registration closes December 15!



ATHLETIC DIRECTORS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



On October 21 & 22, athletic directors and staff members from Ursuline Education Network partner schools were invited to join together to listen, learn, and share strategies to improve athletics within their schools. Using St. Angela's guiding counsel, and in collaboration with Ursuline Academy of St. Louis, MO, two 1-hour discussion sessions covered relevant topics selected from the January 2024 Athletic Directors' meeting. Discussion included athletic handbooks, coach and player agreements, fundraising strategies for athletic programs, effective social media, the influence of A-I along with best practices, tips, and strategies. UEN thanks Jen Brooks, for serving as host of the virtual conference.

Jen is a Certified Master Athletic Administrator with over 30 years of experience as the Athletic Director at Ursuline Academy St. Louis, MO.



*"Tell them that they should want to be united and **in concord together**, all being of one will, for in this, is everything."*

~ St. Angela Merici's 5th Counsel

International Peace Day The Ursuline School ~ New Rochelle, NY



The Ursuline School joined the global community in celebrating International Peace Day on Friday, September 20, 2024. Religious Studies students began the school day with a prayer service for peace, reflecting on our shared role in fostering peace in the world and in our lives. For the past 19 years, The Ursuline School has marked this special day by participating in Pinwheels for Peace. Ursuline art students create colorful pinwheels with written messages about unity and tolerance to help express their feelings about the state of peace in our world. The pinwheels adorned the front lawn and around the Peace Pole as a vibrant reminder of the importance of global peace. The Ursuline School's Core Values of Respect for All, Serviam & Social Justice, and Global Citizenship were highlighted during the day's events, emphasizing the school's commitment to promoting and strengthening the ideals of peace.



WELCOME HOME ~ SERVIAM IN ACTION

Excerpted from The Boston Pilot ~ September 27, 2024

Authored by faculty from Ursuline Academy of Dedham, MA

Mary-Kate Tracy '94 is the director of mission and diversity, equity and inclusion,

Kathleen Furey '18 and Jordan Grubb are campus ministers.



During this year's orientation at Ursuline Academy in Dedham, students spent time in service to others in keeping with the school's tradition of *Serviam*, the motto of the Ursuline sisters and Ursuline schools worldwide. *Serviam*, or "I will serve," has inspired generations of Ursuline students since the school's founding in 1946. As members of a Catholic school community inspired by the legacy of St. Angela Merici, Ursuline students are called to lives of purpose, love, and action. At the heart of this is a simple yet profound truth -- we as individuals are God's hands, feet, and heart in this world.

Think about St. Angela Merici, whose Company of St. Ursula became the Ursuline Order; she dedicated her life to uplifting young women at a time when society often overlooked their potential. She saw the needs of her community and stepped in with a heart full of courage and compassion. As a school community, Ursuline students are called to recognize the needs around them and respond, just as Angela did -- with open hands and willing hearts. Leading by example, Ursuline students recognize that service isn't about staying still -- it is about moving with purpose and going the extra mile for others.



In June 2024, a group of students and two campus ministers set out from Ursuline Academy in Dedham on just such a journey. It was a seven-hundred-mile, 10-hour trip, to Bethlehem Farm in Alderson, West Virginia, where they were greeted with the words, "Welcome Home." How unusual to be so far from their families and all that was familiar in Boston, to be "welcomed home" deep in the Appalachian mountains. The Ursuline Dedham contingent was met by community members from Ursuline sister schools in Dallas, New Orleans, and St. Louis. Months of shared preparation and prayer led to this week of sister school service, rooted in a common heritage, mission, and core values. Infused with St. Angela's spirit of *Serviam*, students and staff shared daily prayer, work, and community meals, and grew to depend upon one another deeply. From learning the basics of home repair and then applying these new skills to restore porches, patch drywall, and install new roofs, Ursuline volunteers spread across three counties to improve the homes of residents most in need in West Virginia. Bethlehem Farm's cornerstones of service, prayer, simplicity, and community were easily applied each day as students worked toward a deeper understanding of social justice.



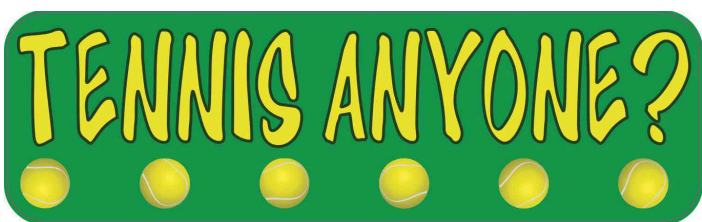
Grace Jean '26, Faye Barrett '26, Director of Campus Ministry Mary-Kate Tracy '94, Phoebe Alto '25, Bridget Julian '25, and Campus Minister Kathleen Furey '18 at Bethlehem Farm. Photos courtesy/Bethlehem Farm staff in West Virginia.

Without cell phones, watches, or makeup, students experienced a simpler way of life and grew in relationship with one another and with God. According to Grace Jean '26, "There's an unexplainable stress-free atmosphere at Bethlehem Farms that allowed me to comfortably adapt to a routine that truly makes you feel at home. As I think about the week, I'd love to go back to hear those words, 'Welcome Home' again, knowing that there's no place like home." For Grace and all Ursuline students, this is no longer a greeting, but a way of life and love that St. Angela would say "is engraved upon our hearts forever."

<https://www.thebostonpilot.com/article.php?ID=198275>



Ethically sourced, custom-printed merchandise for socially responsible organizations. Driven by our mission, we offer branded merchandise made with respect for the workers and the planet. Learn more at <https://ethixmerch.com/>



In September, tennis players from Ursuline Academy of St. Louis visited sister school Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati. Players spent time with each other, playing tennis, building connections, and sharing the Ursuline spirit!

B Beaumont School

The American Heart Association is working to engage more women in STEM through STEM Goes Red. The program draws from the association's strong legacy of science, education and discovery to help propel young women into rewarding STEM careers.

STEM Goes Red brings interesting careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to life for young women. By giving students access to leading employers and experts, they have the chance for an insider look at what they do. STEM Goes Red attendees gain firsthand experience, connect with inspiring professionals and learn about jobs across STEM fields. Students can walk away feeling like a whole new world of STEM has been revealed — a world in which they can truly love what they do and make a tremendous impact. Recently, a team of students from Beaumont School in Cleveland participated in the annual *STEM Goes Red for Girls Day*, at the Great Lakes Science Center, an event aimed at inspiring young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.



Academy of Mount St. Ursula honors *Día de Muertos* or Day of the Dead with a prayer table and service in honor of All Souls Day.



NATIONAL VOTIVE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF PILGRIMAGE, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER

Author BETH DONZE - Excerpted from Clarion Herald - April 25, 2024

<https://clarionherald.org/news/wyes-documentary-sheds-light-on-national-shrine-of-olp>

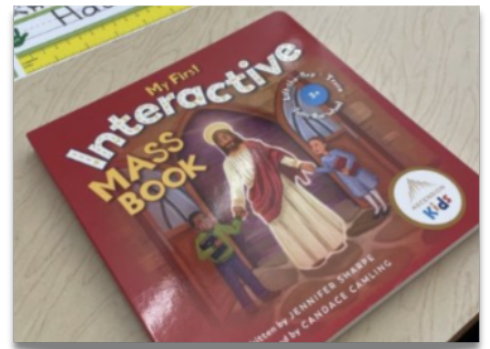
A new half-hour documentary from New Orleans television station WYES marks the centennial of the local landmark built in honor of the patroness of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana – Our Lady of Prompt Succor. “A Place of Hope: The National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor,” premiered on April 15 at 9 p.m. on WYES-TV, and traces the history of devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor, a Marian title that was formally granted by a papal decree of Canonical Coronation in 1894 by Pope Leo XIII. At the center of the documentary is the shrine itself – two adjoining, Gothic-style chapels set at right angles and sharing a common altar – completed in 1924 as a hub for students and visitors from around the world to express their devotion to Our Lady. The seeds of the project were planted more than a year ago, when the shrine’s centennial committee approached WYES about the possibility of doing a documentary. The organizers specifically asked if television journalist Karen Swensen, whose daughter Catherine had attended Ursuline Elementary School, might produce it. In an interview with the Clarion Herald conducted before the premiere, Swensen said she “leapt at the chance” to come on board as the documentary’s producer and narrator. The documentary features archival photos and interviews with some of the Ursuline sisters who preserved the shrine’s place in the city, including commentary from Ursuline Sister Carla Dolce, the shrine’s late director who dedicated her later years to its restoration; Archbishop Gregory Aymond; and shrine historian Mary Lee Berner Harris.



[View the Documentary online at PBS station WYES](#)



“When my daughter was young, she wanted me to be the first person in line at pickup (at Ursuline). Well, to be the first person in line at pickup, you need to get there about an hour-and-a-half to two hours early,” Swensen said. “I would literally park the car and then go sit in the shrine. So, I had a personal connection to the shrine, and yet I had no idea about all of its history. I knew some basics, but there’s so much more to the shrine than I ever knew, even though I had spent so much time in it.” Journalist Karen Swensen



Early Childhood students at Ursuline Academy of Wilmington, DE met their prayer partners from the Upper School. Seniors brought with them ***My First Interactive Mass Book***, written by Jennifer Sharpe. Together, they learned about the parts of the mass and how these books will be used in future liturgies.



The Life and Legacy of Saint Angela Merici

10-Day Pilgrimage & Study Tour for Ursuline Educators during the Jubilee Year 2025!

June 1-10, 2025



And I see better and hold
more dear and pleasing
the good things which I see you
constantly doing,
and now, even more,
I want and am able to help you
and do you good in every way.

St Angela Merici, Prologue to Counsels: 24-25



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Itinerary includes stops in
Desenzano, Brescia, Florence and Assisi.
Pilgrimage will conclude in Rome and includes
celebration of 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass at
St. Peter's Basilica on the Feast of Pentecost.

Limited reservations available until December 1st, with full payments due in February.

For information, visit The UEN Pilgrimage Web Page of Peter's Way Travel:

<https://petersway.com/1196.html>

Questions regarding the Pilgrimage travel and itinerary can be directed to

Kaitlyn Stankunis - kaitlyn@petersway.com



The Ursuline Education Network invites you to participate in an educator's pilgrimage to Italy in 2025. A Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church, we additionally honor the 500th anniversary of St. Angela Merici's trip to Rome, from where she solidified her determination to form her Company of St. Ursula. The pilgrimage is open to adults of all UEN member schools, educators, family, and friends. Continuing education credits will be offered to educators who take part in additional formation for curriculum development, so to enliven St. Angela within the classroom. The pilgrimage is an opportunity to experience the grace and contemplation of St. Angela's life, to enrich student instruction, and grow her vine of spirituality in our schools. Please consider joining us as we celebrate the Life and Legacy of St. Angela Merici!

Jubilee Year of Hope Edition

WHAT POPE FRANCIS SAYS ABOUT

HOPE | 30 days of
reflections
and prayers





OCT 26-28 | WASH D.C.
**IGNATIAN FAMILY
TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE
2024**

From October 26-28, students from Saint Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, OH traveled to Washington, DC for the 27th annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, coordinated by the Ignatian Solidarity Network. Schools and parishes from around the country come together to learn about a variety of social justice topics and hold meetings with elected officials to advocate for change. Inspired by Ursuline Core Values of Faith, Integrity, and Courage, students spoke about policies that can help care for God's creation and His people. SUA loves to share how experiential learning is an important part of challenging students to make a positive impact in the world!



URSULINE
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What'sUP??

Virtual Student Leadership Meetings

Join with other student leadership teams from UEN member schools to discuss and share your Ursuline-Piloted programs or just what's on the horizon at your school!



Wednesday September 11, 2024
Wednesday January 8, 2025
Wednesday April 9, 2025
3pm Eastern/2pm Central/8pm UK

Meetings will last approximately 45 minutes.

UEN Board of Trustees

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Julia Waters - Ursuline High School Wimbledon, England
Lisa Wolfer - St. Ursula Villa, Cincinnati, OH
Christy Zurcher - Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, LA



Contact UEN

Peggy McCormick-Platz, Director
peggy@ursuline-education.com



To receive a zoom link to attend What'sUP meetings,
email peggy@ursuline-education.com