



Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk

News

New Provincial Leadership Elected

On April 18, 2010, the US Province of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk elected new Provincial Leadership. The members of the new Provincial Leadership are Sr. Catherine Talia as Provincial and Sr. Judith O'Connor, Sr. Valerie Heinonen and Sr. Barbara Gooding as Councilors.

Sr. Catherine Talia will serve for six years and the Councilors will serve for three years in the ministry of leadership. The new team brings a wealth of experience in leadership, finance and organization management. Sr. Catherine has served as Novice Directress, Assistant Provincial and Provincial, in addition to her ministries in education and community outreach. Sr. Judith has also served as past Provincial and was recently General Superior for 12 years. Sr. Valerie has served on Provincial Leadership as Councilor and currently works as an investment consultant specializing in corporate social responsibility. Sr. Barbara has ministered in school and religious education and served as Parish Life Coordinator of three rural churches in Louisiana.

“For us as a Province, this is indeed a threshold. We as new Provincial Leadership are standing on the shoulders of the ones before us, yet standing at a new threshold. We hope to cross that threshold with new energy to continue to make God known and loved in our world,” said Sr. Catherine.



New Leadership (from l-r) Sr. Barbara Gooding, Sr. Judith O'Connor, Sr. Catherine Talia and Sr. Valerie Heinonen.

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Sr. Helen Chasse & Tabor Retreat Center - Holistic Approach to Spiritual Healing



Sr. Helen Chasse

Sister Helen Chasse never thought that her sister's off-handed suggestion would materialize into a place where people would come and have their lives transformed. But that is what happened. Sr. Helen had been involved in retreat and spiritual direction ministry since the early 1980s. In 1994 the suggestion prompted her to explore starting her own retreat center. She invited several people to dialogue and dream with her. Four religious representing four congregations joined her. The result, Tabor Retreat Center, established in 1995 is located in Oceanside, NY.

The name Tabor came from the gospel passage of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor. The Retreat Center's mission statement grew out of that event:

Tabor Retreat Center is a place where people can come apart to be with God in a prayerful way:

- to reflect on who they are and where their lives are taking them,
- to develop and deepen their relationship with God,
- to listen, trusting that God will reveal what is needed,
- to be open to God's transforming action in their lives.

Strengthened by their encounter with God, people go forth participating in God's transforming action in their own lives and in the world.

Since its founding Tabor has taken on a life of its own. Not only has it transformed those who have come, but it has been transformed by them as well. In addressing retreatants needs new programs have emerged. Tabor's holistic approach results in retreats that address participants' spiritual as well as physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Tabor offers weekend and 24 hour retreats, days and evenings of prayer, workshops and individual spiritual direction as well as a Hermitage Suite for individuals seeking to take time apart.

This year Tabor's rooms are being repainted and refurbished as part of the 15th anniversary celebration. With their new look they continue to be warm and inviting spaces where people can come to experience peace and renewal.

For more information on Tabor's programs, call 516-536-3004 or visit www.taborretreatcenter.com

Sr. Helen Chasse awarded Zonta Club's 2010 Woman of the Year

Sr. Helen Chasse, OSU was honored by the Zonta Club of Long Island as 2010 Woman of the Year for her work in advancing the status of women. As Director of the Tabor Retreat Center for the past 15 years, Sr. Helen has worked to empower women and help them to develop their full potential. Through her dedication to women, Tabor has become a sanctuary where women can come to reflect on themselves and their lives leading to spiritual and emotional growth.

Sr. Helen received her award at Zonta Club's Women of the Year Dinner on March 11, 2010 held at the Inn at New Hyde Park.

Zonta International is a global women's organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Sr. Denise Farrands - Enthusiastic Educator



Sr. Denise Farrands

Sister Denise Farrands has never lost her enthusiasm for educating children after 45 years of teaching. She has touched the lives of hundreds of children throughout her teaching career in both Connecticut and New York, teaching grades five through eight. She continually utilizes many teaching techniques on a daily basis that keep her students challenged and engaged. By always making the content interesting her students become enthusiastic learners. With her firm but fair demeanor, students know what is expected and work to achieve. She strives to teach the whole child by promoting the student's intellectual, religious, emotional, physical and social development.

Sister Denise is currently in her 41st year of teaching the children at Our Lady of Victory in West Haven, CT, where she presently teaches Religion, Science and Geography to grades six through eight. She is also the Science Coordinator and moderator of the Lector Program.

Her commitment to academic excellence has earned her much recognition. In 1988 she received the Miriam Joseph Award for distinguished teaching in Catholic Elementary Schools presented by the National Catholic Education Association. In 1990 and 1992 she was selected by former students for inclusion in the Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Sr. Denise is a native of Middletown, CT. She is a proud product of Catholic School education having attended St. John's School in Middletown and Mt. St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford. Her experiences with the nuns who taught her planted a seed that blossomed into a religious vocation and instilled in her a love for teaching. She received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from St. John's University and a Master of Arts in Education from Fairfield University. She entered the Ursuline community in 1960 and will be celebrating her 50th anniversary as an Ursuline this year. "I thank God each day for the blessing of my Ursuline vocation. It is 50 years this year and I am filled with love and gratitude for each sister who has been a part of my journey."



Science comes alive in Sr. Denise's class.

Jubilarians

Congratulations to the following sisters who will celebrate their jubilees this year:

50 years:

Sr. Alice Traynor, Sr. Bridget Olwell,
Sr. Agnes Seebach, Sr. Denise Farrands

60 years:

Sr. Mary Grace Hodnett, Sr. Teresita Catalano,
Sr. James Fox

70 years:

Sr. Louise Grube, Sr. Sara Mooney

75 years:

Sr. Cecilia Moloughney

What are they up to now?

Sr. Mary Joan of Arc Spelman - Still Making Music



Sr. Joan of Arc Spelman

After 50 years ministering in education, Sister Joan of Arc is still making music. An accomplished musician, Sr. Joan of Arc continues to minister to others through sharing her talents as a flutist in St. William the Abbot's Masses. She shares her faith with others through her belief that music is a wonderful form of prayer. Throughout her teaching career she touched many lives with her talents as a musician and an educator.

Born on the feast of Saints Peter & Paul in 1933, the second of three girls (Eileen, Irene) Sister Joan of Arc spent most of her childhood in Ozone Park. She attended Nativity BVM where she was taught by the Ursuline Sisters. After graduation from Nativity Sister attended St. Angela Hall Academy in Brooklyn. She recalls that by the time she was in third grade she wanted to be a sister and the desire never wavered over the years.

Sr. Joan of Arc entered the Ursuline Community in 1951 and was professed in 1954. In 1956 a new school was opened in Stamford, CT where Sister began her teaching ministry – 37 third-graders from Stamford. Sr. Joan of Arc then went to St. William the Abbot, Seaford NY where she taught third grade for seven years. It was during this period that she entered forty third graders into the Diocesan Glee Club competition. From this small group was formed the St. William the Abbot Glee Club. The original group placed second in the competition and in each succeeding year the SWS Glee Club ranked first or second. This was the beginning of her long career in education and music.

Over the years sister has taught a variety of subjects such as Science, Religion, Algebra, English, Library and Music in various schools such as St. William the Abbot, Seaford, NY; Our Lady of Grace, Howard Beach, NY; St. Mary's High School, Greenwich, CT; St. Gabriel Junior High, Stamford, CT; Long Beach Catholic; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Wantagh, NY; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Lindenhurst, NY. During her career she led many Glee Clubs and became an active member of the parishes in which she worked, acting in such roles as Lector, CCD teacher, Parish Council member, and Leader of Song.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John's University, a Bachelor of Science in Music from Nazareth College and a Master of Arts in music from New York University. In 2006, Sister finally retired after 50 years of teaching. No matter what the subject, Sr. Joan of Arc always liked the challenge of learning something new and she always found a way of sharing her love of music.

Throughout the fifty years Sr. Joan of Arc was committed to teaching children and to making our faith known to them, she has been grateful to her Ursuline community for its constant and continued support over the years. She plans to continue in her ministry of prayer and music and hopes to begin giving private piano lessons.

Has an Ursuline Sister made a difference in your life?

Would you consider giving a gift today to help support our retired and infirm sisters?

Have you thought of including the Ursuline Sisters in your will?

Events

85th Anniversary Cocktail Party

On Sunday, May 2, 2010 the US Province of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk continued their 85th Anniversary Celebration with a Cocktail Reception at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston, NY. Lifelong supporters of the Sisters, Patrick and Breeda Connolly, were honored. They gave a beautiful reflection on what they, their children and grandchildren have received from the Sisters as members of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Howard Beach, NY.



Honorees Breeda & Patrick Connolly



(from l-r) Sr. Carmel, Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. Regina, Sr. Mary Grace, Sr. Joanne and Sr. Teresita.



(from l-r) Associate Linda Siani, Sr. Edith, Sr. Catherine, Sr. Diane Kirwan, OP, Sr. Anna, Sr. Barbara & Sr. Anne Rodgers, OP

(from l-r) Sr. Geraldine, Sr. Ann, Sr. Marguerite & Sr. Regina



3rd Annual Swinging for the Sisters Golf Outing

On August 9, 2010 the third annual Swinging for the Sisters Golf Outing benefiting the Retirement Fund was held at the Pelham Country Club.



Friend Tom Von Essen & Sr. Barbara



(from l-r) Sr. Ursula, Sr. Edith & Sr. Mary Anne enjoy lunch.



Friend Jim Gomiela & Sr. Marguerite



Joe & Gloria Campisi

Gloria Campisi, Howard Beach, NY

I was recently asked the question “Why do you contribute to the support of the Ursuline Sisters?” I cannot begin to explain in thought or words the reasons – there aren’t enough pages in a book to explain why!!

I first became aware of the Ursuline Sisters when my oldest son attended first grade at Our Lady of Grace School in Howard Beach many years ago. Their days were spent in a classroom with teachers, who were dedicated, life-giving and caring.

They were the greatest helpers that any mother (and father) could have to help us in the years that our children went from first grade to eighth grade. Children spend the greatest part of each day (and week) away from home in a classroom, their well-being entrusted to the care of the teachers they will have through the years. It is there that they build their foundations for their future...the building stone and the support system that they will carry through all the years of their lives and in turn into their children’s lives.

My children were extremely lucky to have been taught by the best and given this important foundation. They often talk with fond memories of their teachers. Our lives and their lives were touched in so many ways by so many wonderful Sisters. They were the greatest teachers any child could have had. They gave our children the strong foundation of who they are today.

“OUR URSULINE SISTERS...
‘OUR SILENT WARRIORS,’
WHO DO SO MUCH
IN SILENCE.”

Their mission was our children – the poor and the needy, and the best example children could possibly have to teach them and help them to grow with God’s love and in God’s way.

How can we thank them? I don’t think it can be done!!! My husband & I were a young married couple when we moved into our community so many years ago. Our fondest memories of our Parish are our memories spent with our Sisters in the Convent.

Today, if we ask for prayers – we know it’s a done deal. When we visit them in Blue Point (which we love to do) we experience and are filled by their Christian way of life and example. We never leave without feeling a closeness to God by our visit.

So to answer the question I was asked...should we contribute to the safe keeping of our Ursuline Sisters? – Who then deserves it more – who gave so much of themselves to us and ours?

My favorite description of our Ursuline Sisters is to call them “Our Silent Warriors,” who do so much in silence. We need to remember by our contribution the many ways they gave to us. Now it is our time to give back.

How lucky we were to have had them in our lives. How very lucky my children were and are to have been taught God’s Way of Life. To have been taught to share God’s love. To have been taught to be thankful.

Would you like to share your reason? Please call or email Hope Motreuil at 631-363-2422, ext. 2003 or hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org

We Remember with Gratitude...



Sister Sheila Molloy, OSU who died January 30, 2010 at the St. Ursula Center Convent in Blue Point, NY after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 72 years old. She entered the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on September 8, 1955 and took the religious name Sr. Mary William. She was in the 54th year of her religious profession.



Sister Paula Carey, OSU who died June 8, 2010 at the St. Ursula Center Convent in Blue Point, NY. She was 90 years old. She entered the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on August 24, 1938. She was in the 72nd year of her religious profession.



Sister Joan Sirtowt, OSU who died on June 11, 2010 in Waterbury, CT after a brief illness. She was 65 years old. She entered the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on August 9, 1963 and took the religious name Sr. Joseph Ann. She was in the 47th year of her religious profession.

Gifts in memory of our deceased sisters may be sent to:
Ursuline Provincialate, 81-15 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica, NY, 11432-1308

Saint Angela's Friendship Circle

We are deeply grateful to the following donors who have joined the St. Angela's Friendship Circle by making a commitment to give on a monthly basis. Their commitment to our community helps us ensure the security of our retired and infirm sisters, as well as provides our sisters the ability to serve in various ministries.

Judith Barnes
Joan & Arnold Bellmer
Helen Brown
Grace Canby
Timothy Connell
Eugene & Rose Daly

Patricia DeMerie
James & Mary Di Chiara
Janis Doland
Joseph Stevens Painting, Inc.
Barbara Tubito-Megara



For more information on the Saint Angela's Friendship Circle
call Hope Motreuil at 631-363-2422, ext. 2003
or email hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org



Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk

United States Province • 81-15 Utopia Parkway • Jamaica, NY 11432-1308

www.tildonkursuline.org

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If your address has changed or
if you would like your name
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631-363-2422, ext. 2003 or email:
hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org*

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Upcoming Events Annual Holiday Fair

**November 6, 2010
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
St. Ursula Center
186 Middle Road, Blue Point, NY**

Homemade Baked Goods ♦ Crafts ♦ Handmade Items ♦ Raffles ♦ And Much More.

For more information, please call or email Elizabeth Wilson at
631-363-2422, ext. 2060; info@tildonkursuline.org

Interested in volunteering or serving as a committee member for our events?
Please contact Elizabeth Wilson.

Visit our website at www.tildonkursuline.org!