

Inter – Ursuline



January-April 2023

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Educative Ursuline Network

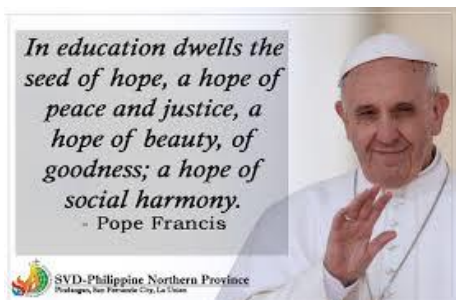


URSULINE GLOBAL COMPACT EDUCATION REPORT – 2021-2022

Responding to the call of Pope Francis in his [Global Compact on Education](#) some Ursuline Educators - sisters and lay collaborators - formed a Committee which connected more than 50 Ursuline schools, inviting them to work on creative projects within their school communities over a 12 month period.

The School Teams responded in a variety of ways, according to their individual contexts, the needs of their community, as well as the needs of our world. Their projects related to environmental issues, human rights issues - related to racism and justice, and caring for marginalized people.

The program commenced on 15th October 2021, via Zoom, amid the pandemic, with these words of Pope Francis directing us – *‘Amid the present health crisis – and the poverty and confusion it has caused – we believe that it is time to subscribe to a global pact on education for and with future generations.’* He reminded us, *‘A different world is possible and we are called to learn how to build it. This will involve every aspect of our humanity, both as individuals and in our communities.’*



In union with Pope Francis, **‘We also know that the journey of life calls for hope grounded in solidarity. All change requires a process of education in order to create new paradigms capable of responding to the challenges and problems of the contemporary world, of understanding and finding solutions to the needs of every generation, and in this way contributing to the flourishing of humanity now and in the future.’**

We believed in the passion and creativity of our young people and their desire to make a positive difference in their local context and then, together with others, reach out to change our world, step by step. We were not disappointed!

Each school team had an adult facilitator from their school, who would mentor, encourage and support their students, as they planned and carried out their projects. Each of the planning committee members had a group of schools with whom they connected on a regular basis, to offer further support and encouragement and as a contact person, from the planning group, for clarifications and response to specific issues that may arise for each of their school teams.

All school teams gathered again, midway through the project time, on April 26th 2022, to share an update on the goals of each of their projects, how they were managing these, their achievements so far and the challenges they had faced, up to this point.

The aim of this meeting was to have school teams listen to each other, learn from one another, and gain new insights and ideas on how to proceed with their own projects.

The final meeting of sharing and celebration took place on **30th September 2022**.

During our final meeting we shared a letter from Pope Francis who addressed all participants with an encouraging message. In his letter, he acknowledged the work of the school teams, their commitment and energy in making a difference in their world. He appreciated their individual projects and encouraged them to continue their work to make this world a better home for all of us. Finally, he invited these young people to join in next year's Youth World Day in Lisbon. You can find the text on our website with this link: [Letter from Pope Francis](#)

We pray with Pope Francis and one another – **‘May we be sustained by the conviction that education bears within itself a seed of hope: the hope of peace and justice; the hope of beauty and goodness; the hope of social harmony.’**

We look forward to working with these enthusiastic and passionate young people and their teachers in future Ursuline education projects – Insieme!!

International Tertianship 2021-2022

A COUNTRY LIKE THE RAINBOW

Sr Liz-Hu, tertian in 2021-2022, shared with us the time of immersion she had in Poland after her tertianship in Rome.

Time flies, and my grace-filled Tertianship is over. My immersion in Poland was the perfect ending for my Tertianship. When Sr. Elizabeth asked me to share my immersion experience in Poland, I joyfully agreed. I would love to share this joy and gratitude with you. I am sure if you come to Poland, you will love Poland as much as I did.

Not surprisingly, my flight was delayed since so many European flights are delayed this summer. Sr. Edyta waited for me at Krakow airport for two and a half hours. My destination was Czestochowa, and Sr. Edyta had already bought a train ticket for me. Although I was tired due to the traveling, I saw a beautiful rainbow in the sky on my way to Czestochowa, which made my tiredness disappear immediately. When I reflected on my trip, I found the rainbow had a special meaning for me. The Polish lost their country three times and regained it three times. This perseverance is amazing. She showed her rainbow-like beauty after the storms.

Hospitality is one of the beauties of this country. Before arriving in Poland, I was most interested in knowing about the refugees coming to Poland from Ukraine. After the outbreak of the Russian and Ukraine war, Ukrainians touched the hearts of people all over the world. Most of our communities in Poland help refugees who are women and children. I was grateful to have the opportunity to talk to the in Czestochowa, Krakow, and Siercza. Our sisters host them as guests. In Czestochowa, I saw our Sisters preparing children's slides and a small swimming pool for some Ukrainian children. In Krakow, I heard some sisters say that I could take the Ukrainian children to the mountains or riding bikes with them for the weekend. Sisters in Siercza specially decorated the living room for one of the Ukrainian children's birthday. Just to list a few activities, you can already feel the hospitality and acceptance of this place!



If you have the opportunity to come to Poland, you will be touched by the hospitality of our Sisters. Sr. Christofora asked Jana and Natalia to take turns to accompany me so that I would not be hindered by the language to do anything. In Krakow, Sr. Maria also asked Sr. Edyta to accompany me all the time and show me the beautiful city, its culture and historic sites. I visited the incredible salt mines, the Jewish camps, a lot of churches, the Royal Palace, St. John Paul II hometown, the shrine of divine Mercy, etc...I also had the opportunity to see the beautiful countryside, and to visit several smaller communities. You won't have time to get bored since our sisters' hospitality.



“Szczęść Boże”, which means “God bless you”, is the greeting in Poland every day even to the strangers in the street. They know how to rely on God because of sufferings in the past,. Their faith is not only shown in the greeting but also day to day life. There are several Masses provided every day in many churches, adoration, divine mercy prayer etc. One day Justyna and I were visiting Warsaw. We went to a church at 3:00 p.m. to attend Mass. To my surprise, at 3:00 p.m., two priests prayed the divine Mercy with parishioners. After the prayer, Mass began and after Mass there was adoration.

Their faith in God also can be seen in the pilgrimage to Czestochowa. Our Lady of Czestochowa is nearby our community, only about 10 minutes walking distance. During the summer, thousands of people go on pilgrimage on foot to Czestochowa for more than ten days from all over the country. Some people ride horses, some ride bicycles, and most of them go there on foot. Many of our Sisters have experienced pilgrimages on foot for 10 to 20 days, some even multiple times. I wish I had the opportunity to join them in this pilgrimage in the future. Those experiences enlarged my understanding of our Catholic Church. I was so touched by their faith.



The most beautiful and grateful thing for me was to be with our Ursuline Sisters in different communities. I was lucky to attend both Anna's and Justyna's final professions. It was a great opportunity to meet many Sisters I had never met before and to see some old friends too.



I was very touched by the ritual of the blessings from Sisters in the morning and parents' blessings before the Mass. The liturgy was very solemn. It reminded me my own final profession to continue to say "Yes" to God.



I also had the opportunity to see our missionaries from Senegal, Ukraine and Peru. I admired their courage and the spirit of living in another country. Polish cuisine is also unforgettable. There are cooks in the communities of Czestochowa and Krakow. Sisters took turns on weekends. In Warsaw there was no cook and our sisters cooked every day. I spent seven days in Warsaw, and appreciated very much the food provided by Sr. Maria Anna and Sr. Czeslawa. I treasured the time with our Sisters. The love and care of the sisters to me is engraved in my heart.



All those are great gifts for me. I deeply appreciate this beautiful time in my life. I am so proud of being an Ursuline and to have this opportunity to know our Sisters from different countries and to know this beautiful country and people. If you come to Poland you will discover the beauty of this country and its people in a different way.

Slovenia

BEATIFICATION OF DC ANTON STRLE

Sr. Marija Jasna Kogoj participated at the diocesan level in the process for the beatification of prof. dr. Anton Strle. The process has already been going on at the Dicastery for the causes of saints in Rome.

Now she has written a biography about the Servant of God. Based on documents and testimonies, this is a popular presentation of his life, mission and spirituality, with the aim of getting to know this Servant of God as widely as possible. For more than 38 years, prof. Strle celebrated Mass and heard confessions in our Ursuline church in Ljubljana every day. He was also the confessor of many Ursuline sisters. At the Faculty of Theology, he was a professor of dogmatics, occasionally also of patristics and ecclesiology. Prof. Strle was also a member of the International Theological Commission for some years, and at that time he collaborated with prof. Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI), who also gave his testimony in the process.

On Mission Sunday in 2003, he still heard confessions and said Mass in the Ursuline church with the remains of his strength, and the next morning he crossed over the threshold of eternity.

GREECE

ISLAND OF TINOS: AN AMAZING SETTING FOR LIFE.

A friend of the Ursulines of Greece, Antonis Dellatolla, head of Caritas-Tinos and the Cyclades Islands, and responsible for St Ursula's House in Tinos, sent us some interesting news from Tinos, the Monastery of Loutra and St Ursula's House in Tinos-Ville. From these long letters reporting the activities of summer 2022, we have extracted some stories and photos.



One could say “it all began” on 20 September 2020, the day when Sister Maria Theresia Fonsou, Ursuline in Tinos, suddenly died. This “departure” to the Father caused immense pain in the Island. Two years later, it is clear that the fruit has germinated from this buried grain. Sister Theresia continues her work in the manner of “the Little Thérèse”, her patroness.



A large part of the former monastery of Loutra had been transformed into a museum of religious life and of the educational commitment of the Ursulines in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is continuing and growing. The elementary school of the island has a



branch in the premises of the old school. The small chapels in the middle of the hill of Loutra have all been restored. Thus, throughout the year, celebrations take place at the chapels of St Joseph, the Holy Family, St Michael, St Thérèse and that of the sisters’ cemetery. People come on pilgrimage and the bishop and the priests are faithful to the celebrations which unite heaven and earth!

Also in Loutra, the workshops of the 19th century monastery such as the bakery, carpentry, etc. are gradually being restored. One of them has become the "Serviam Café", managed by Caritas, with generous young people. A young refugee from Rwanda has just received a professional contract. A victory for him and a magnificent service for Caritas! This Serviam Café is now known as a social initiative that enables many to rediscover a taste for life. Some of the profits have helped in the restoration of the buildings. Craftsmen come to work voluntarily after their regular working hours.



The monastery church, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, from time to time, brings together the faithful who are attached to Loutra and to the Ursulines who gave so much for the families and the island! When the weather is beautiful – and that is often in Greece – these links continue with the sharing of traditional Greek cakes in the space in front of the Serviam Café!

In Tinos-Ville, the house of the Ursulines, which now belongs to the diocese, has become “the House of St Ursula”, under the responsibility of Antonis and a committee of which our sister Agni Almperti is a member. The chapel is a place for prayer and the Eucharist; the premises are places for hospitality: sessions, weekends of relaxation, for adults and children, the Servidoras sisters, the people of the island, Catholics and Orthodox together, happy to meet in the place where they have shared so much with Sr Theresia.



The current Father-Bishop, Joseph Printezis, and his predecessor (who now resides in Syros), Nikolaos Printezis, are faithful, grateful and close friends, supporting these small Christian communities scattered throughout the islands, including Naxos which has just celebrated the arrival of the Ursulines 350 years ago! There is no doubt that Antonis knows how to keep the flame alive, with friendship and a sense of the heritage to be brought to fruition today. We continue to pray with gratitude for these Ursuline roots in Greece and with confidence for the fruit they are still called to bear!

France-Belgium-Spain

MONTAUBAN 2022 – INSIEME



For 30 years, the members of the Merician network in France/Belgium/Spain have met together every 3 years. A small team, led by the head of the Centre Angèle Merici, chooses the theme which responds to current needs and, through various contributions and activities, enables a sharing of experiences. These gatherings, which bring together sisters and lay people, are an opportunity to nurture our belonging to the same body, breathing and spreading the spirit of Saint Angela in the different places where we live and are missioned.

« *Serviam, a growing group, communities in the making* »

It was to reflect on this theme that the network of Ursulines of the Roman Union brought together 270 staff, volunteers, partners and sisters from France and Belgium for the three yearly Merician gathering in Montauban in the department of Tarn et Garonne.

From Saturday 24 to Monday 26 October 2022, under a circus tent set up in the courtyard of the Monsignor Théas high school, the participants had a time of sharing and exchange led by Father Daniel FEDERSPIEL, provincial of the Salesians of Don Bosco.



The many speakers - Father Bernard DEVERT (Habitat et humanism, housing and integration), Jean HOUSSAYE (University of Rouen), Sylvain CONNAC (University of Montpellier), François TADDEI (Learning planet institute), Nadine Rousseau (Editions Paroles de sagesse) , Michel Gambassi (GSE Foundation, sustainable development), Stéphane TOURNIER (Restaurant Les Jardins de l'Opéra – Toulouse) and Valérie SANNIER (Resto du Cœur – Montauban) - led the assembly to reflect on the means of really living communally within our educational and religious communities.

Numerous “Serviam exchange” workshops have enabled each school, community, household to present to others their projects to give young people and adults concrete experience of innovation in education, pedagogy and social ties.



Celebration, so dear to Saint Angela, was also a part of it. Thanks to the partners and the students of the hotel section of the high school who welcomed us, we were able to enjoy the experience and treat ourselves to local products. Visits to the city of Montauban, the cloister of Moissac or along the water of the Tarn delighted the representatives.



During the mass celebrated by Father Daniel, Sister Marie Thérèse le Goc, provincial of the Ursulines of the Roman Union for France/Belgium/Spain, missioned the team “Souffle” (breath) to face the new challenges of transmitting the charism and sustaining the works.



To conclude this gathering, the schools’ representatives were invited to form an inter-school / community / home team in order to come up with a project to be carried out together to experience the togetherness in our network. These projects were then posted on the “what if we” platform of the Learning planet institute, which invites us to create new ways of responding to the challenges of our time.

And what if we... meet again in three years to pursue together our commitment to serve life in the common home!

CELEBRATION OF THE MONTH OF CREATION AT MALET

How could we respond, in the spirit of "Laudato Si", to the desire expressed by Pope Francis to mark in a special way the month preceding the feast of Saint Francis – 4 October? Experienced in Malet, France, and Sr Françoise Bonnaterre echoed it for us, Fraternité du Chemin. Malet, on 28 November 2022.



Stimulated and encouraged by Sister Brigitte Brunet who had spent two and a half months in Ireland following an international session on integral ecology, a small team set to work collecting Psalms of praise of Creation, looking for passages in the Encyclical "Laudato Si" that would encourage sharing, and choosing hymns. What were we going to do with this rich collection? Quite simply, put together a little booklet for each evening of the month, for pilgrims and walkers to use during the short time at the end of each day for rest, integration and sharing.

For example, in this booklet for Thursday evening, there is the anthem: “All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord”, then Psalm 95 “Sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth”. After a passage from Laudato Si read in the group and then shared, we end with an intercessory prayer, beginning: “God of Love, help us to give refuge to all animals and plants...Help us to listen as You do.”

In addition, the sisters of the community joined in this process by choosing a hymn to the Creator God for the Sunday evening prayer: "Par les cieux devant Toi, Louange et Majesté, par l’infiniment grand, l’infiniment petit...Mon Dieu, Tu es grand, Tu es beau..." (song by Patrick Richard).

During this month, we were really spoiled by the colours in our environment bathed in sunshine. The evening sharing was very rich: awareness of our humanity as part of creation, of the impact of consumption on the environment, of the fact that "all is connected", and of the importance of a real "ecological conversion".

The days passed and the month was ending; the feast of Saint Francis was on the horizon. How would we gather the fruits of this orientation? Once again, our small team came together and a new project was born. To put it into action we distributed a poster and flyers to friends, acquaintances and parishes round about.



“The profound originality of the spirituality of Francis comes from the fact that it reconciles in a concrete and vital way things that are apparently irreconcilable. It brings together purity of spirit and the lyricism of life, love of the Cross and celebration of the Sun, identification with Christ crucified and affective communion with nature.” (Eloi Leclerc: Le chant des Sources P .61)

It was in this spirit that we conceived the idea of “A walk in the heart of creation” in the gardens of the Convent of Malet. We proposed a time together on the theme of taking care of Creation. How did it go? Around forty people from different backgrounds gathered on the forecourt of the “Espace Rencontre Angèle Merici”: sisters, friends, pilgrims, staff members and parishioners. The Canticle of Francis was our guiding thread and led us to the Church with “*Brother Fire*”, around the Fountain with “*Sister Water*” “very useful, very humble, precious and chaste”. After sharing a drink of water and watering some of the flowers, we went to the gardens where we praised our “*Sister our mother Earth*” and ate some small cherry tomatoes.



Then, back in front of the house, we stood around a young tree, planted the day before by Christian Hilaire; another step to take care of Creation would be to hang coloured ribbons near the tree that would be blown by “*Brother Wind*”. At the end, we were sent by Father Jean-Luc Barrié, dean of our sector, to share our desire to listen to the Voice of Creation and to commit ourselves in our place to the poor and the earth who cry out to us.

On 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis, we marked the day with a festive morning prayer with the pilgrims and walkers. The Canticle of the Creatures had a special place as well as the prayer of St Francis: "*Where there is hatred, let there be love, where there is doubt, faith!*"

“Saint Francis was open to all creatures in wonder and tenderness. And they, in their turn, were open to him, to the totality of humanity and its mystery”: Eloi Leclerc (Chant des sources p. 53). Could it not be the same for us? Everything has to begin somewhere!



Australia - Ireland/Wales - Indonesia

ENGLISH WORKSHOPS IN INDONESIA

English workshops in Indonesia with Sr Lee Veriga and Sr Anne-Marie Dixon. Article published in "Bearings" magazine of the Australian Province, 2022, written by Sr Lee Veriga, Australian Province.

Prior to going to Indonesia, to deliver two weeks of long-awaited face to face English workshops, I traveled to Ireland to meet up with Sr Anne-Marie Dixon. Anne-Marie and I have been working together for nearly two years providing English workshops, via Zoom, to a number of our Sisters from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan. During my time in Ireland, I met Sisters from a number of communities in the Irish Province, including those in Dublin, Cork and Sligo. I also had a couple of nights at their holiday house in Garretstown in County Cork - the wild side of Ireland's coast.



This time in Ireland was an enriching experience, full of Angela's spirit of hospitality and welcome.

The Irish summer I experienced was certainly a different one to that of Brisbane! If I had stayed a couple more weeks, I would have experienced their heatwave summer conditions when they had a maximum of about 25C!! I think they may have actually had some relatively hot days also. I also had the opportunity to visit



Wales, where there is still one Irish Ursuline living and working in Cardigan.

While in Wales, we traveled to Newport to locate the address of where my great grandfather had lived. This was quite an adventure and I did manage to find the address, adding a little more to my family story.



Our planning for the workshops sought to present English in a real-world context with vocabulary and writing tasks connected to excursions and more interactive activities for developing grammar, speaking and listening and writing skills. Some of the excursions were within walking distance from the community, and thus provided another opportunity for using English in

an informal setting.



All the participants seemed to quickly connect with each other, with a good sense of joy and fun in being together.

Apart from their development in English, there was also evidence of a growing understanding and connection between the Sisters from the different countries/Provinces and their sense of belonging to the broader Asia Pacific region.

The five sisters from Vietnam, connected well with the others and quickly became key participants in all activities. Angela's spirit and values were evident within the group, creating a sense of unity and belonging as one.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the first week, Anne-Marie tested positive for COVID and spent the next two weeks in isolation. It wasn't quite what we had planned! Eventually she was able to re-join the group



One of our excursions, embedding English within a real-world context, was a visit and guided tour of the Mosque, located across from the Catholic Cathedral. This was followed by a writing task to compare and contrast key elements of the Mosque and the Cathedral. It was an opportunity for inter faith dialogue, adding to the interculturality focus of our gathering.

At the conclusion of the two-weeks of workshops, we were invited to join the community, celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Sr Martha, from Jalan Pos Community. This was an opportunity for further engagement with the Sisters of the Indonesian Province. We also met with two of the other communities in Jakarta as well as the Community in Bandung, where we visited the replica of Le Grezze in Desenzano



We also toured the new Aged Care Facility located on the grounds. Here the older Sisters were responsible for a flourishing hydroponics garden housing a variety of lettuce and other greens. These were proudly presented as part of our lunch menu!

Throughout my time in Indonesia and the visits to several of their communities in Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta and Solo, many Sisters asked after their Australian Ursuline friends. Sr Hersin and Sr Vero, as well as Sr Moekti, along with many others send their fond greetings to all in Australia. Lang and Minh Trang also send their greetings and shared many fond memories of their time with us in Australia.

Anne-Marie and I are looking forward to running the workshops again next year — hopefully, COVID free, this time!



New statue of St Angela at Jalan Pos, Jakarta.



Resting place of Sr Kien

Europe

EUROPEAN EXCHANGES AND EXPERIENCES (following)

In 2021, the Provincials of Europe wished to give all the sisters who are willing and able to do so, the possibility to live a European experience. The aim of the EXPERIENCE is to allow the sisters of Europe to get to know each other better, to go beyond their borders and to learn something about another province and another culture.

In Ireland, impressions of Sr Edita Rigasová, Province of Slovakia



Centre Nano Nagle at Cork

I participated in the European exchange this year from mid-August to mid-October. Sisters from Ireland accepted me in their province - I am very grateful to them for their acceptance. The main reason for my experience is to improve my English language. The sisters accepted me in the city of Cork, which is also deeply connected with the history of the arrival of the Ursuline sisters in Ireland at the invitation of venerable Nano Nagle. Together with the sisters, we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the sisters' arrival in Ireland.

In Cork, I lived with Sr Mary McDaid, who accepted me into her house together with Sr Tatiana Lesiuk, from Ukraine, who was preparing for her tertianship. Every day we went to an English course at the English College in Cork. In the evening, we formed a small European community where we shared with each other. Every day we got to know new things from Ireland, Ukraine and Slovakia, we enriched ourselves with each other's cuisine, prayer, but also with our customs that we brought from our country. I had the opportunity to grow daily in understanding and speaking in the English language and also in understanding other cultures and customs.



From left to right: Sr Edita, Mary Mc Daid, Sr Tania, in front of the house in Cork Cork

On weekends we organised small trips within the city of Cork, e.g. University of Cork, beautiful parks, churches. We also went to the coast to admire the beautiful cliffs or to walk along the beach. As part of the English college Cork, together with the students, I went on a sightseeing trip to the most famous cliffs of Ireland, Moher Clifft, and got to know Irish culture.

It was a very blessed time for me, for which I am grateful to God. I also thank my sisters from the province of Slovakia for the opportunity to release me from service for this experience, and I thank the sisters from Ireland for their very kind reception.

Summer in Forest Gate (England) by Sr Monika Plawecka, Province of Poland.

This summer, thanks to the European exchange programme, sr. Katarzyna Starek and I spent one month in the Forest Gate community, taking part in some of the Ursuline Links projects. It was a truly enriching and beautiful experience so I'd like to share just some of the most precious memories I have from this time.

The very first thing which struck my attention was the great national, cultural and religious diversity visible and tangible all around the Forest Gate area. At the same time I experienced this environment-our neighbours, parishioners, foreigners- as a very open and welcoming space. That, together with great hospitality and kindness of the sisters of the Forest Gate community, made me feel at home very quickly.

Then came the time of our work and involvement with Ursuline Links. The biggest event of that time was certainly a Day Camp ran at Forest Gate for 30 children from the age of 7-11. I took part in preparations before the Day Camp, during the Camp itself and then in the big cleaning up and sorting-out process at the end. We had 18 students who, after a year of training and formation, made their commitment to give up a week of their holidays and to serve the children during the Camp. Though coming from different schools, after a short while they made a wonderful team, serving and having fun together. Each evening we concluded our day of service with some time of prayer, reflection and sharing. We ended our week deeply grateful for all we had experienced, learnt and shared together.

Second project that we were involved in was the one regarding social justice. In small groups of 4-6 students and an accompanying adult we visited different types of places and organisations dealing with social justice issues. Girls who took part in the project could get the experience of some service in care homes, food banks, welcome centres, etc. Challenged in many different ways, we tried to put the spirit of Ursuline SERVIAM into practice.

Time flies and so did our month at Forest Gate. We were blessed with some many different opportunities and invitations to encounter God in the midst of daily realities of that community, in apostolic work, during the time of rest and sightseeing, in surprises and unexpected meetings, enjoying beauty and diversity around.

Great thanks to God and our dear sisters: Kathleen, Una, Margaret, Felicity, Vianney, Theresa, Colette, Catherine and Zela!

Photos from Sr Alžběta Ladnarová of Tchèque République, in the community of Forest Gate, Province of England.





In Austria, 3 weeks among the sisters in the community of Klagenfurt with photos taken by Sr Bernadetta, Province of Czecho-Moravia



In Poland, echoes of Sr Katarina Viskovic, Province of Croatia



For my European experience, I chose a community in Krakow in the Polish Province, where the sisters have their school and kindergarten. I wanted to see how the sisters worked with children and their interaction with their lay staff. In the two weeks of my stay with the community (18th – 30th April 2022), I spent most of each day in the kindergarten with the children, where I felt very much at home.

Children are the same everywhere, spontaneous, happy and playful. Despite difficulties in language, this was not a barrier for us to be included in a game or other activities. They simply took one's hand and showed one what they wanted. The sisters in Krakow have welcomed many Ukrainian refugees and accepted 25 Ukrainian children into their kindergarten. They were forced to leave their home-land with their families and go into a foreign country.

It was touching to see the children and the way the staff were trying to make their stay in a foreign country as painless as possible. In each room in the kindergarten was a Ukrainian flag and the staff approached each child with love and warmth.

I am grateful to Sr. Jolanta, the Head Teacher, Sr. Justyna, Sr. Anna and all the other staff who enabled me to have a wonderful experience in their kindergarten. On the Sunday of Divine Mercy, I had the special privilege of visiting the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow (which is also the resting place of Saint Faustina Kowalska) and take part in the celebration of The Eucharist with other pilgrims.

I also wish to thank Sr. Mary, Mother Superior of the community, who enabled me to visit the birthplace of The Holy Pope John Paul II in Wadowice and other sights and landmarks in beautiful Krakow. I also thank each and every sister for their warm welcome and the sisterly love they extended to me during my stay in their community.

From Sr Irena, Province of Slovenia in the Province of France-Belgium-Spain

I spent a wonderful month in the province of France–Belgium-Spain in May 2022. It was a precious time of cultural exchange, meeting the Ursuline reality and getting to know some of their apostolate.



I am very grateful to have been welcomed in our Ursuline community in Beaugency, a place of extraordinary natural beauty beside the river Loire and its surroundings, ancient castles – an Ursuline convent ranks among them with its clay floor and wooden ceilings, and a spiritual centre of the Ursulines, the ‘Maison de la Parole’. I had the privilege to take part in an annual Ursuline reunion. I was amazed by the beauty of their relationship and common prayer, mutual respect, care for each other and their simplicity regarding food and sleeping accommodation.



View on the Loire river from the community

With the Community of Beaugency

The second part of my stay in France was Malet, a place of three ‘fraternite’: sisters who have the apostolate of welcoming pilgrims on the way to Santiago di Compostela, sisters who take care of



each other and welcome pilgrims for evening prayers and sisters who accept and offer their everyday life in pain. I appreciated to have seen the collaboration among the Ursulines and lay people. I spent a wonderful time ironing sheets for the guesthouse with Madame Française, my so-called teacher of French language, delivering food to pilgrims and dining with them, servicing during annual retreat for the Ursulines and enjoying the countryside and some special visits of other

communities and areas around Malet. There are too many things, too many pilgrims, too many sisters to name them all!

What stays with me as a special gift from the province was a pilgrimage to Tours with St. Marie de l'Incarnation and a visit to Paris with its Bateau Mouche Seine river cruise, the taste of 'la galette', an Ursuline student residence and the generous accompaniment of Sr. Brigitte Brunet.



On the Bateau-Mouche with Sr Brigitte Brunet

Paris from the terrasse in Paris-Serviam, on right Sr Marie-Thérèse Le Goc with Sr Elisabeth Binet.

NEXT INTER-URSULINE BULLETIN

As usual, the next issue of the Inter-Ursuline bulletin will welcome all your experiences to be shared around the world, whatever the topic!

Before that, there will be a **special issue** with echoes of the "Angela and her daughters" programme that ended in Rome on October 2022.

Please send short articles **before 1st April 2023**. With thanks!

There is also an invitation from our sisters in the USA for the January issue of **Heart to Heart**:
"As we continue to reflect on "St. Angela's response to the reality of our times," our focus will turn to climate issues. We are inviting our readers to take some time to view the documentary film, "The Letter," which is available at <https://www.theletterfilm.org/watch/>. After watching the film, we would be grateful if readers would respond with a brief reflection focused on the following:

- 1) As you watched and listened, what surfaced in you?
- 2) What Angela response do you see is needed to this urgent reality of our time?
- 3) What action steps might you take?

Please email your reflections to Sr. Diane Fulgenzi by January 4. We look forward to hearing from you!"

If you yet do not know "Heart to Heart", please go to our website, in the "reflection corner":
<https://ursulines-roman-union.org/en/reflections/reflection-corner>
<https://ursulines-roman-union.org/en/reflections/heartbeat>