

# Inter – Ursuline



September – December 2025

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## PROVINCE TREASURERS' MEETING 24TH - 28TH MARCH 2025

*This article was written by Sr Lee Veriga, Provincial Treasurer of the Province of Australia, originally published in "Bearings" issue of May 2025, bulletin of the Australian Province.*

The meeting of Provincial Treasurers and lay collaborators provided an opportunity to share, learn and grow in understanding of the role, its responsibilities and its challenges, as faced by each Province in its unique context.

Sue's opening address reminded us of our Ursuline riches and gifts and our call to share these as women of mission, hearing the cry of the poor and of our earth, to sustain hope, personally, communally and in society. She encouraged us to share wisdom, experience, and build connections for support during our time together.



*Sr Ruth Durick, osu - Facilitator*

The program included a variety of topics, including sessions on:

- the document **Mensuram Bonum** with its focus on faith consistent investments. This was presented, via zoom, by **Jean Baptiste de Franssu – President of the Board of the Vatican Bank**. ([https://www.pass.va/content/dam/casinapioiv/pass/pdf-volumi/other-publications/mb\\_eng\\_final\\_14\\_11\\_22.pdf](https://www.pass.va/content/dam/casinapioiv/pass/pdf-volumi/other-publications/mb_eng_final_14_11_22.pdf))
- The Economy of Francesco, ([https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/september/documents/2024\\_0925-economy-of-francesco.pdf](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/september/documents/2024_0925-economy-of-francesco.pdf)) presented by **Dr Dolores Sanchez from the Dicastery for Integral Human Development**. This was put in context through a day in Assisi and learning about the work of the Institute of Serafico di Assisi. (<https://www.serafico.org/>)
- Detailed outline of the role of Province Treasurer, by Sr Marie Alice Terrazzet MSOLA, with an emphasis on the importance for each to focus on the reality on their Province, attentive to include the aspects of subsidiarity and collaboration.
- The Davy Group, from Ireland, highlighted the importance of planning for sustainability and provided some practical guidelines for this planning. Key reflection points included Liquidity, Longevity and Legacy.



There were also presentations from several Provinces outlining their financial systems, planning and particular focus areas for them. A day on practical considerations around budgeting and long-term budget planning was presented by Mr Martin Van Kempen from the Netherlands.

Statistical analysis of the Institute highlighted the need to consider the reality of the Province in terms of planning for financial sustainability.

Overall, this time together was enriching and challenged me to think how to better serve in my role as Province Treasurer.

### A PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE IN CULTURAL DIVERSITY

*This article gives reflections from the APUC (Asia Pacific Ursuline Conference) meeting which, this year, took place in Australia, written by Sr. Veronica Sri Andayani, osu, Province of Indonesia.*



This year, the **Asia Pacific Ursuline Conference (APUC) 2025** brought us—35 daughters of St. Angela—to the land of Australia. More than just a meeting, this conference became a true pilgrimage of hope: an encounter with one another, a deep immersion into local cultures, and an opportunity to be shaped by experiences of intercultural religious life.

#### **The First Steps: Rooted in the Land, Nature, and Life**

The journey began with an immersion programme, an invitation to enter more deeply into the lived realities of local communities. We were divided into two groups.

The first group went to Brisbane, joined by Sisters from India, Taiwan and Thailand. Accompanied by Sr. Helen who led the immersion and Sr. Kari, they were introduced to the Aboriginal spirituality—a deep reverence for the land, where nature is not seen as a resource but as a living being, a sacred mother. Through this immersion, they were invited to listen to the earth, to feel the pulse of the land, and to understand how Aboriginal people live in profound connection with creation.

The second group traveled to Alice Springs, with Sisters from Indonesia, India, and the Philippines. Under the guidance of Sr. Ruth Durick, Sr. Anne Surtees, and Sr. Mary Wicks, they were warmly welcomed into the life of the local community at St Therese Parish's Spiritual Center. There, they met local women who, with the support of the Ursuline Sisters, expressed their faith and cultural identity through dot-by-dot painting—a traditional Aboriginal art form—on ceramic crosses. The creative process was quiet yet powerful, a space where art and faith met in sacred expression.

The immersion also included time to appreciate the stunning natural beauty of Alice Springs and to experience the richness of Aboriginal culture through stories, symbols, and hospitality.

#### **Gathering in Sydney: Where Is My Heart Now?**

On Friday, May 23, 2025, all participants gathered at Mary MacKillop Centre in Sydney. There was a sense of joy and gratitude as we saw one another again, each carrying unique experiences from the immersion.

On Saturday, Sr. Kari, the Provincial Leader of Australia, invited us to enter into a time of interior reflection. With a simple yet profound question—"Where are you now?"—we were encouraged to pause and become aware of the movements in our hearts. Through paired sharing and group reflection, we listened to one another's journeys and recognized how God had been quietly and powerfully at work in each experience.

## **Journeying with the Word: God Dwelling Within Us**

**O**n Sunday, May 25, Sr. Mary Coloe, PBVM, a renowned Scripture scholar, led us through a beautiful exploration of the connection between the Book of Genesis and the Gospel of John. She highlighted the intimate relationship between God and humanity, showing how the act of creation continues, and how God dwells within us—not far away, but near, present, and active in our daily lives. Her presentation stirred deep awe and contemplation, reminding us that we are co-creators with God in the unfolding story of salvation.

## **Listening to the Voices at the Margins**

**M**onday brought us to Xavier College and a local hospital, where we met teachers and health workers dedicated to serving those often left out of mainstream society. At the school, students proudly shared how their education allows them to reconnect with and preserve their Aboriginal heritage—through stories, values, arts, and traditions.

In the hospital where some of us visited, the director of the campus explained to us, how each and every patient that they receive in the hospital is given unique care and attention. It was begun by some nuns, but now it is fully managed by the lay people as there aren't many Sisters in that particular Congregation. We were also happy to know that a few Aboriginal people who work in the hospital are treated with dignity and respect. We had the opportunity to listen to them and the way they collaborate in the hospital.

The day concluded with a Eucharistic celebration at Sydney Cathedral, followed by a visit to the iconic Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge—beautiful reminders of the blending of nature, culture, and human creativity.

## **Walking Home with Symbols of Hope**

**O**n the final day, participants from — the Ursulines of the Roman Union, the Canadian Union, the Congregation of Tildonk, and the Ursuline Franciscans—came together to share how this pilgrimage had touched their communities. In a closing ritual, each participant offered a footprint symbol, representing their unique journey of faith, hope, and commitment. Alongside it, each one wrote a personal reflection on the grace received throughout the APUC journey.

## **A Heartfelt Thank You**

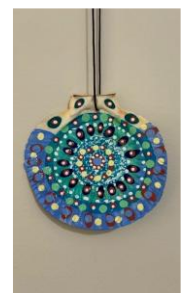
**W**e are deeply grateful to Sr. Kari Hatherell, whose spiritual guidance opened space for deep reflection, to Sr Ruth Durick, who worked tirelessly to help with travel arrangements, and to the Provincial Council of Australia and all the Ursuline Sisters of Australia, who received us with generous hospitality and made this gathering a true encounter of hearts.

APUC 2025 was not just an event—it was a breath of new life, a rekindling of the flame, and a collective step forward in our journey as daughters of St. Angela. In our diversity, we found unity. In our differences, we recognized the same Spirit moving among us.

May this pilgrimage continue to inspire us all to walk with hope, rooted in faith and open to the rich diversity of the world God has entrusted to our care.

*This extract is from the Bearings Issue of July 2025, written by Kari Hatherell, Provincial of the Province of Australia*

**A**t the final ritual of the Asia Pacific Ursuline Conference, we commissioned the 30 participants to go forward as Pilgrims of Hope by placing a scallop shell around their necks, one of the ancient symbols of the pilgrim. These shells were painted by Sharon, Teresa, Josette, Mia, Michelle, Muriel and Georgina from Ltyentye Apurte, (Santa Teresa). These are the Arrernte women with whom Sr Anne Surtees works. They are the backbone, the foundation, the rock, on which the Catholic community is built in their unique community in the Northern Territory.





## USA Toledo Ursulines

### LEGACY – TOLEDO, OHIO

*This is an extract from The Ursuline Education Network- Laurel Links, Spring 2025 Issue*

In a vibrant celebration of leadership and legacy, the St. Ursula Academy Learning Commons, at **St. Ursula Academy of Toledo, OH** now features a stunning mural dedicated to former SUA principal Nichole Flores '89, who passed away last year. Created through the collaborative talents of SUA art teacher Caroline Jardine and junior Mia Hayes, the artwork stands as a permanent tribute to Flores' impact on the SUA community. The mural incorporates inspirational words from St. Angela Merici, connecting Flores' modern leadership to the 170-year tradition of Ursuline education at SUA. As we commemorate the 170th anniversary of the school's founding by the Ursuline sisters in 1854, this artistic installation bridges past and present, honoring those who have shaped our institution. "The artwork captures both Mrs. Flores' spirit and our Ursuline values," Jardine said. "Working alongside Mia to create this piece was a meaningful way to honor someone who has given so much to our community." Students and faculty alike have embraced the mural as a daily reminder of Flores' dedication and the enduring principles she championed during her tenure. The colorful installation ensures that her contributions will continue to inspire future generations of young women at SUA.



## USA Ursulines of Louisville

### WALK WITH ANGELA



In celebration of Catholic Sisters Week 2025, the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville invite you to virtually walk the path of St. Angela Merici on the 500th anniversary of her historic Rome pilgrimage. The interactive map brings St. Angela's journey to life with short videos narrated by Louisville Ursuline Sisters at each location. There are six videos total, great for all ages to enjoy! Access the virtual map by visiting their website

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/walkwithangela/>

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON SR. MARY FRANCES JUDGE A LIFE ILLUMINATED BY COLOR AND SPIRIT

*This article is published with the credit permission (Heather Robinson Hernandez, Museum of Friends). This is the link back to the original article on the Museum of Friends website: <https://www.museumoffriends.org/post/artist-spotlight-mary-frances-judge>*

Congratulations to Sr. Mary Frances Judge, osu, Province of USA Central, who is being spotlighted by the Colorado “Museum of Friends” for her display “Life Illuminated by Color and Spirit”!

At the Museum of Friends, we are proud to house *Spiritual Light* by Mary Frances Judge as part of our Permanent Collection, a luminous body of work that continues to move and inspire visitors from all walks of life.

An Ursuline nun and visionary artist, Mary Frances Judge began her artistic journey in the early 1980s. Her unique perspective and spiritual depth quickly caught national attention when *The New York Times* featured her in the 1983 article *New Gallery Opens with Nun’s Work*. The piece described her paintings as “a collection of mystical paintings in lyrical bursts of color showing the emergence of the soul of women from the unconscious realm of the collective human psyche.” That spirit still resonates through every piece she creates.



Artist, Mary Frances Judge

Since that early acclaim, Judge’s work has been exhibited widely across the country. In 2024, the Museum of Friends proudly presented her solo exhibition *Spiritual Light*, offering audiences an immersive experience in her visual language of sacred symbolism and transcendence. These works are still on view at MoF as part of our commitment to preserving meaningful, spiritually charged art.



Steven Montgomery, longtime friend of Mary Frances Judge, donated paintings featured in the exhibition *Spiritual Light*

Judge continues to contribute to the contemporary art world with bold vision and introspection. Her current exhibition, *The Subway Series – Art Express*, now on view at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City, reflects a different, but deeply personal exploration. This series depicts the

influential figures who shaped her creative journey, including artists, mentors, and art dealers of the Soho and East Village scenes. In her paintings, these icons: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Willem de Kooning, Mary Boone, Leo Castelli, and others ride the subway express, submerged in painterly layers that symbolize her own ambition, artistic longing, and the complex dance between visibility and vocation.



Jane St. Lifer from Jane St. Lifer Art and Artist, Mary Frances Judge

While *Spiritual Light* evokes transcendence through mystical color and quiet illumination, *The Subway Series* offers a close look at ambition, legacy, and the creative path. Together, these two bodies of work reveal Judge's enduring dedication to art as a vehicle for transformation of the self, the soul, and the collective imagination. Looking ahead, a major museum in Dallas will host a retrospective of her work in 2026, accompanied by a full-color catalog documenting the evolution of her artistic life.

To learn more about Mary Frances Judge's exhibitions, media coverage, and current projects, visit [her website](#).

Whether you're discovering her work for the first time or returning to sit with it again, we invite you to visit the Museum of Friends and experience *Spiritual Light*, a lasting testament to inner transformation, feminine presence, and radiant vision.

## Indonesia

### SANTA URSULA SCHOOL AND A NEW HOPE ON THE EDGE OF BORNEO

Article written by Sr Veronica Moekti Gondosasmith, OSU, Province of Indonesia.

Tiny footsteps danced joyfully into the courtyard of Santa Ursula School in Penajam Paser Utara, East Kalimantan, on Monday, July 14, 2025. Kindergarteners in white-and-green checkered uniforms, primary students in red and white, and junior high students in blue and white uniforms beamed with joy, exchanging cheerful smiles. Optimism carried them into the new academic year of





2025–2026. In their eyes gleamed one shared hope: to pursue an education that would lead them to their dreams.

These children are the 30 new students of Santa Ursula. Twelve are enrolled in kindergarten, twelve in elementary school, and six in junior high school. During the orientation week, they were introduced to their new teachers, classmates, and an entirely new environment.



This first day of the school year was not only a milestone for the students but also a historic moment for the Ursuline Sisters. In this Jubilee Year 2025, the Sisters, through the Satya Bhakti Foundation, made a bold move: they officially opened the Santa Ursula Kindergarten, Primary, and Junior High School in Penajam. It was not an easy decision to establish a school in

Penajam—a remote area on the eastern edge of Kalimantan.

To the local community, Penajam was long seen as a peripheral region, lacking proper public infrastructure and educational facilities. Government-provided schooling was limited. This area, home to both native locals and transmigrants, lay far from the bustle of urban life. Reaching the city of Balikpapan takes over three hours by road, and access to books and skill-building resources is very limited.



The Ursuline Sisters recognized the urgent need for equitable access to education in various regions. Amidst the growing infrastructure development across the country, they believed that education, too, must be expanded and made accessible. Through the gift of this new school, the Sisters are contributing to this mission of equity, offering children in Borneo a quality education. They believe good education should not only be for urban children.

This school was founded in a Jubilee Year marked by the spirit of hope. It was not opened merely as another academic institution, but as a sacred mission—to broaden access to learning. Santa Ursula School arises in the face of increasing competition from free public schools.

But this courage is deeply rooted. It is nurtured by the spirit of early missionaries who came to the Indonesian archipelago, driven by one belief: God's providence never sleeps. Santa Ursula School in Penajam was thus built on a faith-grounded spirit and a strong vision of service.



### **A School with a Future-Focused Vision**

With modern facilities relevant to today's needs, Santa Ursula Penajam presents itself as a school that combines the classical Ursuline educational spirit with contemporary innovations. The Sisters carefully selected some of the best teachers from across Indonesia, aiming to infuse the school with a spirit of diversity and inclusion.

Senior teachers from Santa Ursula Jakarta were also brought in to help instill the Ursuline school culture. This tradition is known for its discipline, human values, and the spirit of Serviam.

More than just academic excellence, the school is also committed to accessibility. Shuttle services are provided for students who live far from the school. Santa Ursula also fosters a healthy school ecosystem grounded in strong fraternal values, with an environment that supports a positive and effective learning atmosphere.

In the near future, a dormitory will be built to accommodate junior high students from more remote regions. The Sisters envision the school not just serving Penajam's residents but also those from surrounding areas.

### A Fruit of Collaboration and Prayer

The presence of Santa Ursula School is not the work of a single entity. It was built through the collaboration of many helping hands. The school received strong support from the community, the Church, and the local government.

Bishop Mgr. Yustinus Harjosusanto, MSF; Parish Priest Fr. Agustinus Adeodatus Wiyono, OMI; and Drs. Makmur Marbun, M.Si., then Acting Regent, were among those who supported the school's establishment. They all shared a common dream: the presence of a quality school in Penajam. It is here that young seedlings are nurtured with wisdom, guided to grow into whole individuals—each bearing the image of God.



St. Angela Merici, once said that a good beginning is not enough without perseverance. That is why this school invites parents, educators, the community, and the Church to unite in prayer and support so that Santa Ursula Kindergarten, Primary, and Junior High School may continue to flourish in Penajam.

Santa Ursula Penajam is envisioned as a safe and joyful space to grow. Not merely a place for children to learn reading and math, it is a place to learn how to become whole human beings—humans who care for the earth, for one another, and who live in hope.



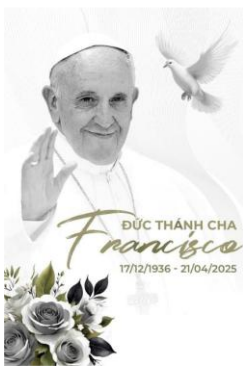


### SHARING FROM BETANIA COMMUNITY, DONGNAI, VIETNAM

*News extracted from a sharing of community in Vietnam to the communities in Thailand, from April and May 2025.*



**On April 11**, Sister Lang helped the dancers, who are parishioners at the sanctuary of the Christ the King's sub-parish, practice dancing for the flower offering day to honour Mother Mary.



Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, Successor of St. Peter, Father of the Universal Catholic Church, was called home by the Lord at 7:35 a.m. (Vatican time – 12:35 p.m. Vietnam time) on Monday of the Octave of Easter, **April 21**, 2025, at his residence in Santa Marta, Vatican, at the age of 88.

At the invitation of the Vietnamese Bishops' Conference, all dioceses, religious communities, and parishes nationwide would ring bells to "remember" the late Pope at 7:00 a.m. and celebrate Mass for him on the same day, April 23.

The entire Universal Church mourns a gentle, humble, merciful shepherd who always cared for the poor and those on the margins of society.

**May 1**, Vicar Joseph Cuong celebrated Mass for the community. This was the first Mass celebrated after the new chapel was renovated.



**May** is the month of offering flowers to the Virgin Mary. The Church sets aside this month to express its special respect and love for Mary, the Mother of Jesus on earth. Many Catholic churches in Vietnam have a tradition that



parishioners, with songs and chants, all come forward to offer flowers to praise, thank and celebrate the Mother. In that atmosphere, the sub-parish of the Christ the King solemnly organized a flower offering to the Virgin Mary. The flower offering took place in a solemn, fervent and loving atmosphere.



*The evangelising mission of the Church is essentially a proclamation of God's love, mercy and forgiveness, revealed to mankind in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Missionaries have served the Church's mission by breaking the bread of the Word with the smallest and the most remote and by bringing to all the gift of inexhaustible love, which springs from the very heart of the Saviour.*

**2024-2025** The Ursulines of France and the city of Tours are celebrating Mary of the Incarnation to commemorate the 10th anniversary of her canonisation.

**Session in April 2024 with Fr. Max Huot de Longchamp:**

Four sisters from Beaugency and Tours took part in this fascinating five-day session: Sr. Brigitte Marie Poulet Goffard, Sr. Annie Dru, Sr. Anne Leroy and Sr. Françoise Vidal.

**On 28 April 2024, during the Provincial Assembly in Beaugency:**

**Morning prayer** with a time of sharing in groups of three or four sisters around a text from Mary on the Vine (John 15:4 *Abide in me, and I in you*).

... “Give me, O Divine Father, that faith which unites me to Your Son and makes me one body with Him”... Relation d’oraison 1634 meditation 8 p 33-34

**On 30 April 2024, feast of St Mary of the Incarnation: solemn Mass in Tours Cathedral at 7pm, presided over by Fr Raimbault, Vicar General of the Diocese.**

- Music by the cathedral choir.
- Drinks after the celebration and discussions on spirituality and the life of our sister in Tours and Canada.

For some, it is a discovery, for others a joy to evoke the missionary from Tours, a figure of holiness in Tours.





## 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 International zoom meeting

A positive experience for us thanks to the large participation of French-speaking Ursulines from several continents and Canadian friends. Thank you to Mary of the Incarnation for allowing us this 'world tour' in prayer, listening to the Spirit and the joy of encounter! This encouraged us to repeat the experience, both technically and internationally, so we planned more Zoom meetings, including in English!

## September 2024

### European Heritage Days

The official theme was: 'Heritage Routes... Maritime Heritage'.



A temporary exhibition and a narrative of the Dieppe-Quebec trip, with the participation of Fr. J. Legoux, historian, priest of the Diocese of Tours, Ms Catherine Rohard, historian, tour guide, and five Ursuline sisters.

## 15 December 2024

**ADVENT: a special gathering at the Ursuline community in Tours, sharing with neighbours and friends on the theme:**

*Mary of the Incarnation and the Virgin Mary.*

2:30 p.m. Sharing of texts about Mary

4:15 p.m. Tea time and Vespers.



## February 2025: two international Zooms

On 16/02/2025 in French with a presentation by Ms Nadeau-Lacour

On 23/02/2025 in English with Sr Armida Veglio, osu

*Mary of the Incarnation and the Heart of Jesus*

(in connection with *Dilexit nos* by Pope Francis)

*"Ask me through the heart of Jesus, my most beloved Son;*

*it is through him that I will hear you and grant your requests. "*

Time for sharing with a text by Mary of the Incarnation about the Heart of Jesus

Then a time of prayer: *It is through the Heart of my Jesus, my Way, my Truth and my Life, that I approach you, O Eternal Father...*

**Congratulations and thank you to the French and English Zoom teams**, as well as to the many Ursulines and friends from all the countries who participated!

For several years now, there have also been **two Marie de l'Incarnation reading groups** with sisters and lay people, meeting once a month:

Reading of the *Correspondence* in Tours.

Reading of the *Testimony* in Beaugency.

## Wednesday, 30 April 2025

**Solemn Mass at the Cathedral in Tours at 7:00 p.m.**, presided over by Fr du Sartel, the parish priest of the Cathedral and a fervent friend of Marie de l'Incarnation.

## 1 May 2025

**At St Pierre Ville (parish of Marie Guyart Martin): Talk** by Ms Marie-Caroline Bustarret: '*A Mystic of Action*'.

**Festive tea party** with competitions and maple syrup tart tasting.



**Spiritual concert** conducted by Ms Isabelle AIME (“Ensemble Vocal de Tours”)

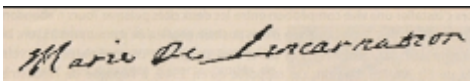


**Encouraged by the success of these events, we are planning two Zoom meetings on 25 and 28 November 2025 (one in French and the other in English) on *Hope in Mary of the Incarnation, in link with the 2025 Jubilee.***

**In 2024/25, the Marie de l'Incarnation Centre, located in La Petite Bourdaisière, welcomed:**

- Ursulines and lay people from the Maisonnée Sainte Angèle (Chirac - Malet, France)
- The tertians, with Sr Françoise Vidal (2024) and Sr Armida Veglio (2025)
- Young students, animators at our Paris-Serviam youth hostel.
- A group from Canada.
- Lay coordinators and collaborators who work for our Province
- During a **symposium about prayer** organised in Tours in May 2025, the sisters of Tours gave a talk about Mary of the Incarnation's prayer.
- A group of **young Catholic scouts** under the patronage of Mary of the Incarnation spent a day following Mary's footsteps in Tours: St. Peter's Church, the Quais de Loire, St. Joseph Hermitage, the so called “Petite Bourdaisière”... were the special and very joyful places where they met and shared their experiences.

**You are always welcome, along with your friends and acquaintances...**



*and the Ursuline sisters and lay people of the Centre Marie de l'Incarnation, Tours*

## **NEXT INTER-URSULINE BULLETIN**

**A**s usual, the next issue of the Inter-Ursuline bulletin will welcome all your experiences to be shared around the world. Please send short articles, with or without photos, to the secretariat. With thanks!

For more news, do not hesitate to visit the Website!