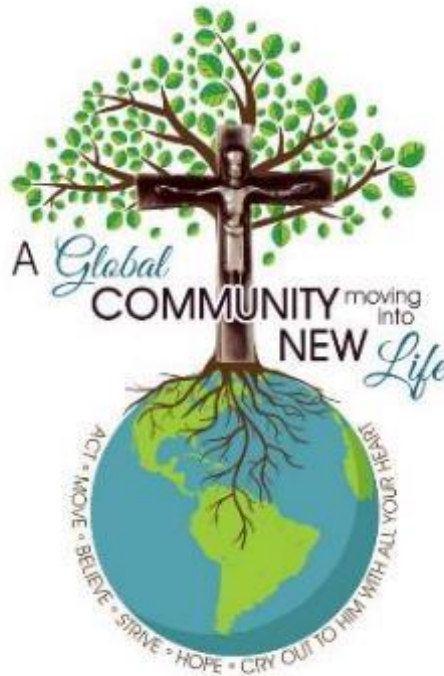


Inter – Ursuline



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Poland, Tours

PILGRIMAGE TO TOURS

Sr Arleta Duszyńska osu shared some memories of the pilgrimage of teachers from Lublin, Poland, to Tours (29 June – 4 July 2025).

It was the beginning of summer, the scent of linden blossoms along the Loire. A group of teachers from the Ursuline School in Lublin set out on a journey to breathe, for a few days, the same air that Saint Marie of the Incarnation once breathed—at the very source of her life, her choices, and her mission. On Sunday morning, 29 June, at 6:00 a.m., we boarded a bus that took us to the airport. Then came the flight to Paris, the eventful bus ride to Tours and... the first emotional moment when the gates of the Ursuline Sisters' convent at 12 rue du Général Meusnier opened for us like the doors of a home. Our evening meeting with the Sisters, settling into our rooms, and the abundant supper set the tone for the whole trip: wonder and gratitude.



Monday: Encountering Tours and Saint Marie of the Incarnation

After breakfast, we had the opportunity to join the Sisters of Tours at Morning Prayer. The melodic chant of the breviary verses—even in a language we did not fully understand—stilled our hearts and drew us closer to God. After prayer, we set out into the city. Tours gave us a gentle welcome: the glow of the stained glass in Saint-Gatien Cathedral and the Basilica of St. Martin, the shadows of medieval timber-framed houses on Place Plumereau, the calm of the Loire. We walked “in Marie’s footsteps”—not like tourists on a marked trail, but as if following a map of the heart. Our stops were brief but intense: churches, alleyways, places of prayer. Sisters Annie and Françoise guided us with great devotion through the life of Saint Marie of the Incarnation and the streets of Tours.



At lunch someone said, half joking, half serious: “This will be a lesson for the whole school year.” In the evening, we took part in the Mass. And later, at 8:00 p.m., we gathered once again for reflection and prayer. That day we learned that pilgrimage is not measured in steps, but in the depth of one’s gaze.



Tuesday: Beaugency – the silence of the archive and the voice of letters

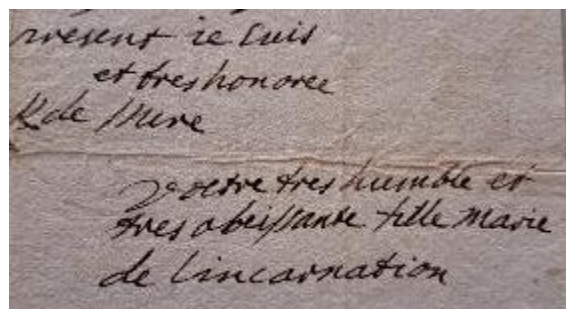
In the morning, we took the train to Beaugency. This small town slowly reveals its charm. Our visit with the Ursulines and to the archive where some of the writings and letters of Saint Marie of the Incarnation are kept felt like a conversation across the centuries.

Someone read a line from a letter in a whisper; someone else silently formed a ready-made catechesis in their mind. We also visited the Ursuline school—a place where “Serviam” echoes



both as a promise and a mission.

After lunch we toured the remaining part of the 17th-century monastery. Its beautiful interiors, the quiet stones steeped in history, and the marked presence of Saint Ursula Ledóchowska. As a young woman, Saint Ursula lived in the Beaugency convent for two years to learn French. She left behind paintings and a cross on the wall. In the evening, with hearts full of gratitude, we returned to Tours. This is how lessons are born: from touching history and listening to the silence of archives.



Wednesday: Orléans – the courage of Joan and the certainty of vocation

Breakfast, platform, train. Orléans welcomed us with the House of Joan of Arc and the Sainte-Croix Cathedral. The story of a young girl who heard God’s voice and followed it, intertwined with questions about our own everyday courage: How do we accompany our students so they are not afraid of choosing the good? How do we teach history so that it becomes both a mirror and a window? In the evening, Touraine wrapped us again in its quiet peace.

Thursday: Blois and Amboise – beauty that educates



Thursday, we followed the Loire to Blois and Amboise. In Amboise, the riverside château and Clos Lucé—the home of Leonardo da Vinci—invited us to look at the models of his inventions like teachers examining notes: “How do I show this to the class? How do I turn this curiosity into experience?” In Blois, royal history stands close at hand: arcades, courtyards, stories begging to become “living lessons” for students. Sisters Arleta and Lidia visited the former Ursuline convent in Blois, now a school. The Ursuline monastery in Blois played an important role in the formation of the Roman Union of Ursulines... By

evening we all felt the same: beauty is a teacher, and the Loire a patient master of harmony.

Friday: farewell to Tours, a short Parisian epilogue, and the return

Early morning, the train to Paris with a change in Orléans. At the Paris station, Sr. Laetitia Pennec was already waiting for us and led us to the Ursuline House “Serviam” at 20 Rue Gay-Lussac—a meaningful address, just steps from the Luxembourg Gardens. We left our luggage and, after quick lodging arrangements, we headed toward Notre Dame Cathedral for the 12:00 Mass. Afterwards we split into two groups: one fulfilled its dream of taking a boat cruise on the Seine, while the other walked enthusiastically through the Louvre, the Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe, and toward the Eiffel Tower.

In the evening, we enjoyed a delicious dinner on the terrace of the Ursuline house, from which the view was breathtaking: Paris glowing in the sunset. The next morning, we left for the airport and flew back to Poland. The return was swift, yet in our hearts we carried the sense that the Warsaw sky still smelled faintly of the linden blossoms of Tours.



Hospitality that becomes a lesson

It is hard to write about this journey without beginning and ending with gratitude for the Ursuline Sisters of Tours. Their home became our home: a simple meal, a smile, the open door of the chapel, the willingness to talk—these are the details from which the experience of the Church “by name” is woven. “Serviam” resounded daily—not as a motto above a gate, but as a warm “come in” and a gentle “rest.”



What we bring back to school

We bring with us the wisdom of Saint Marie of the Incarnation, the silence of the archives, the courage of Saint Joan, the curiosity of Leonardo, and the light of the stained glass from Saint-Gatien Cathedral. We also bring simple rhythms: setting out in the morning, gathering in the evening to reflect, and prayer that orders the heart like a well-structured lesson plan. And one more thing—the sense that teacher formation is not only training sessions, but pilgrimage: from place to place, from wonder to questioning, from gratitude to decision.

Small moments, great gifts

There was laughter over coffee on Place Plumereau, there were beautiful silences in the cathedral, there were “incidental” conversations that gathered scattered thoughts into one. Someone quietly saved a line of prayer in their phone; someone else photographed the shadow of the bridge on the Loire and said: “This is exactly what education is about—building connections.”

And so, we return to Lublin enriched by community and new perspective. Saint Marie of the Incarnation teaches us that the most important decisions mature in everyday life, and the most beautiful lessons grow out of closeness—to God, to others, to places. We thank the Sisters of Tours for a home open like the Gospel. And we thank one another—for a journey in which every “together” meant more than any “alone.”

Australia – Ireland – Indonesia

ENGLISH LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

This article was published in the review “Bearings” of the Province of Australia in October 2025: English language workshops – Bandung, Indonesia – July 21st – August 1st, 2025



The two weeks of English language workshops were held in Bandung, within the Griya Community setting. Griya is the Aged Care accommodation site for the Sisters.

The Indonesian Sisters were attentive to the needs of the workshop group and in providing a suitable meeting room set up for us.

The elderly Sisters in the Griya community also appreciated the presence of the younger sisters and having a chance to use some English with them.

In the first week, we had 20 sisters attending – 6 from Thailand / Vietnam; 6 from Taiwan and 8 from Indonesia. There were a variety of English levels but each one managed to participate to the best of their ability. Once we identified those with greater needs, we were able to make sure some further clarification was provided and when possible 1:1 attention was given to help them complete the activities.

The second week was a smaller group, as most of the Indonesian sisters left to attend their Province Conference; only two Indonesian sisters remained for the second week.

At the end of the first week, the group travelled back down to Jakarta, to join in the celebrations of five Jubilarians – 1x 75 year and 4x 60 year Jubilees.

The theme selected for these English language workshops was – Pilgrims of Hope – Sharing Our Stories.

Prior to arrival in Indonesia, each participant was asked to complete a template for their own Personal Coat of Arms. These provided a concrete resource for initial meetings and greeting and getting to know a little about each one. These Coats of Arms were then displayed and provided ongoing discussion.

Each morning included prayer, followed by some ‘icebreaker’, getting to know you activities, which certainly enabled the group to interact, laugh and get to know one another in a fun way. The group bonded well, and their feedback suggested it was a valued time for learning about other cultures and meeting new Ursulines from other Asia Pacific Provinces, as much as developing their English skills.

The theme – Pilgrims of Hope – Sharing Our Stories, supported the focus on the writing genre of Narratives throughout the two weeks. Sessions focused on the structure and language features of narratives and associated grammar. Modelling of story writing steps, with group interaction, was also provided in the sessions.

There were two excursions, which provided real world contexts for writing stories. The first was to Tahura Grand Forest and the second to Udjo – Cultural Centre for Angklung (traditional Indonesian musical instrument).

Prior to each excursion, sessions were held to unpack related vocabulary and fact sheets for each site. Follow up tasks asked participants to write their own narratives arising from the excursion experience.

One on one feedback on their story writing was given to each participant.

An English Work booklet containing a variety of grammar, reading and writing activities, was also provided for each participant. This was used throughout the two weeks, but also provided ample English practice to be continued, once they returned home.

The face-to-face encounter was greatly beneficial in enabling English learning through games, partner and small group activities. It enables a more active participation in English skills development, as it demands consistent use and exposure to English.

Some feedback comments from participants' Evaluation Forms

'The face-to-face meetings for me is the best to learn because we had real-life use of the language not merely academic study, but practical applications as well. We had hands – on experience.'

'Diverse learning, games and interactions help enhance understanding and friendships.'

'The face-to-face meetings have helped me more confident and courage to speak loudly and help each other and progress together.'

'This was a great opportunity for us, the Ursuline Sisters from Asia, to meet and share experiences with each other. Most importantly, we get to practice speaking English together.'

'Let's get to know our Ursuline friends from the Asia -Pacific region! By learning about each other's cultures, we become part of one big Ursuline family around the world. Openness, learning, and sharing help us grow closer together. We are united by the same heart.'

Brazil

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

From August 11th to 15th, Colégio Santa Úrsula in Ribeirão Preto (SP), hosted the **1st Ursuline International Leadership Conference of Latin America**, a gathering that brought together lay and religious leaders from the five countries where the Ursulines are present – **Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Peru and Venezuela**. The objectives were to **strengthen the identity of Ursuline Education**, promote the sharing of experiences, and deepen the charism founded on **SERVIAM**



(**"I will serve"**), the legacy of Saint Angela Merici. The organizing committee was formed by representatives from each country: **Rafael Bianchi (Brazil), Julio Aroní (Peru), Andrea Raczynski (Chile), and Edgar Contreras (Venezuela)**. More than 90 participants attended the event, representing 13 educational institutions



Inspirations and Horizons

The conference was inspired by the **Synod on Synodality, the Jubilee Year of 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope, the 125th anniversary of the Roman Union of Ursulines**, and the preparation for the **500 years of the pilgrimage to Rome for the jubilee year**. In this context, the meeting sought to unite tradition and innovation in the formation of leaders committed to faith, social justice, and **care for our Common Home**. The program included moments of spirituality, prayer, training, debates, and group work, in a process of collective construction of perspectives for the future of Ursuline Education in Latin America.

At the opening, **Sr. Helenice de Souza**, Provincial of Brazil and Peru, welcomed the participants: *“Against winds and tides, but always guided by the breath of the Holy Spirit, it is here that we meet. The beauty of this gathering lies precisely in this: in authenticity, in the possibility of being ourselves, of expressing our faith, our charism, our journey, and our dreams. That is why this meeting is unique,”* she said.



Sr. Neusimar Marques da Silva, General Councillor of the Roman Union, presented the theme **“125 years of the Roman Union: meaning and horizon”**: *“The charism of Saint Angela has always been lived in diverse ways throughout the centuries. It was never bound to a rigid form. On the contrary: its strength lies in the capacity for innovation, adaptation, and pioneering spirit,”* she emphasized. Recalling a historic photograph of the **First General Chapter of 1900**, she highlighted the decision of the North American Ursulines to bring an Indigenous child to the meeting as a visible sign of the educational and evangelizing mission among native peoples. They felt they could not participate in such a historic moment without clearly expressing the mission that defined them: to be at the service of people, especially in education and faith formation. Thus, they decided to bring the girl, crossing the ocean by ship, unable to imagine registering the moment without her presence. The child not only attended the meeting but was also included in the photograph, as an expression of the true meaning of the Ursulines’ existence. *“There is no charism*

of Saint Angela that is not at the service of others, that does not reach beyond itself toward someone to be served,” explained Sr. Neusimar.



In the same spirit, the Conference in Ribeirão Preto also included the participation of Valquíria, a student at Santa Ângela Agricultural Family School (EFASA), in Pedro II (PI) – Brazil. As a special guest, she took part in the talk “**The relevance of Saint Angela’s charism today**”, presented by **Sr. Helenice de Souza**.

Sr. Neusimar acknowledged her presence and emphasized the importance of the moment: “*At the heart of this mission is education. Not only academic teaching, but the integral formation of the person, education for life and for service. The Ursuline mission of education has an impact because it is transformative – it generates belonging, commitment, and awareness that life gains meaning when placed at the service of others,*” she affirmed.



At the end of her presentation, she read a special message sent to the participants by **Sr. Susan Flood**, osu, Prioress General of the Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union.

Other highlights included **Sr. María Eugenia Chávez Flores (Sr. Maru, México)**, who presented “**Angela and the Church**” emphasizing Saint Angela’s call to live an active faith—growing, serving, and facing reality with hope and fidelity.

Sr. Laure Blanchon (France-Belgium-Spain), spoke on “**Leadership in the Way of Saint Angela**”. She highlighted Angela’s relational and spiritual leadership—rooted in trust, freedom, and shared responsibility—empowering both sisters and laypeople to lead with courage and collaboration.

Lawyer and specialist in mediation and peace culture, **Juliana Polloni**, delivered the lecture “**Leadership with Presence: Emotional Intelligence and Dialogue to Transform School Communities**” and **Cecilia Nipp**, Director of Global Relationships and Cultural Exchange at Ursuline Academy of Dallas: “**Global Education and Exchange.**”

Another highly significant moment was the panel “**The keys to Ursuline education and its relevance in the 21st century**”, with the participation of **Julio Aroní (Peru)**, **Edgar Contreras (Venezuela)**, **Rafael Bianchi (Brazil)**, **Carolina García (Chile)**, and **Lourdes Salazar (Mexico)**. The participants also worked on a SWOT analysis, guided by **Julio Aroní**.



The theme “**INSIEME for the Integral Ecology**” was presented by the delegation from Pedro II (PI, Brazil), who showcased Saint Angela Foundation’s pillars as an agricultural school capable of training and professionalizing youth, enabling them to study, work, produce, and remain in their homeland. *“More than an educational project, it is about restoring the bond with the land and promoting **Integral Ecology** – feeling a sense of belonging to the place, the roots, and one’s own history,”* explained **Rogério Araújo**, coordinator of the institution.

At the closing, the organizing committee presented a final message, highlighting two strategic axes that will guide the work from the Conference onward:



creating spaces for information, exchange, and collaboration, and promoting continuous formation in the Ursuline charism.



In the final prayer, participants emphasized the special recommendation of the foundress, which summarized the spirit of the Conference:

“Persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun. And take care, take care, I say, not to lose your fervour.” (Last Legacy, 22–23).



Poland – Netherlands

BLESSING OF THE NEW HOUSE IN DEN BOSCH

News from this new foundation by Sr. Ewa Dziura, OSU, Province of Poland.

Since 22 August 2024, three Ursuline sisters from Poland have been forming a community in Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands, which is a part of the Dutch Ursuline community in Grubbenvorst. At first, we lived as guests in the parish house at St. John's Cathedral, then in the local seminary, and finally, since 12 September 2025, we have been living in our own house.



Our small flat is located in a part of the convent belonging to the local Congregation of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. Gradually, with the help of our sisters and the sisters from whom we rent our accommodation, we managed to furnish it. The most difficult thing was to find a suitable tabernacle for our small chapel. Fortunately, we managed to find one before the arrival of Sister Iwona Skorupa, our provincial prioress, and were able, on 16 October, to ask Father Vincent Bom, the parish priest, to bring the Blessed Sacrament and to bless our house.



Now, one could say, we are complete. Not only we have a place to live, but we can also appreciate the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, which is why we are here. So we try to keep in mind that we are here for Him, for the local people, and for our sisters in Grubbenvorst, whom we visit every weekend. For us it is also important, that we have a work – one of us works in the cathedral



and two in the seminary. This type of work allows us to interact with people, whom we are getting to know more and more. Outside of work, we continue to be involved in helping the homeless. We are also looking for other opportunities to reach out to people.

USA East

DISCOVERY OF NUCLEAR FISSION



This article was written by Sr. Mary Virginia Orna, OSU, from the Province of USA East. We thank her for trying to bring this scientific adventure within our reach.

From October 6 to 9, 2025, the Italian Gruppo Nazionale di Storia e Fondamenti della Chimica held its 21st biennial meeting in Arezzo (Tuscany), Italy. I was honored to be an invited speaker to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the element rhenium. This event is important for three reasons: (1) rhenium, element number 75, is an extremely rare metal and is the last of the naturally occurring elements with stable isotopes to be discovered; (2) the element is one of only four to be discovered by a woman; (3) the woman in question, Ida Tacke Noddack, was also the first person to suggest the possibility of nuclear fission; her prescient idea is only recently being resurrected after years of dismissal and neglect.

Ida Tacke Noddack (1896-1978) completed all of the requirements for professional work in chemistry, including a doctorate in chemical and metallurgical engineering from the Technische Universität Berlin. Employment opportunities for women at that time were quite dismal, and after sporadic industrial work, she ended up as an assistant to Walter Noddack (1893-1960), who eventually became her husband. It was she and Walter who noticed that some elements predicted by theory to exist had not yet been discovered, so they went on the hunt for two of them, so-called eka-manganese and dvi-manganese. In 1925, the two element hunters claimed priority of discovery for elements 43 and 75, naming them respectively masurium and rhenium. Within a short time, after analyzing thousands of samples for minute quantities of these two rarities, they were able to produce a gram of rhenium, but masurium eluded them. As time went on, a nervous scientific community began to discount their claim on 43, and when another scientist, Emilio Segrè, discovered it as a radioactive species, their scientific credibility foundered.

In 1934, an Italian physicist, Enrico Fermi (1901-1954), and his team succeeded in producing new elemental species by bombarding others with slow neutrons. When they claimed to have discovered a new element with a higher atomic weight and number than uranium, the heaviest of the naturally occurring elements, Ida Noddack, in a publication in a prestigious journal, questioned the claim, suggesting instead that Fermi might have observed a different phenomenon, the splitting of the uranium nucleus, that is, nuclear fission. Because of her now-questionable scientific credentials and lack of professional status, Fermi and the rest of the scientific community either ignored or summarily dismissed her assertions. Only five years later, in 1939, her idea made headlines when that same phenomenon was announced by German scientist, Otto Hahn (1879-1968); Hahn went on to receive the Nobel prize for this discovery but acknowledged Ida Noddack's prior intervention only two years before his death, and grudgingly, at that.

Viewing these events from the perspective of a century, we must ask why Ida Noddack was so shunned by the scientific community that not even a nod in her honor was made by her contemporaries. Here are some possible reasons.

Misogyny. Women were often denied credit for their insights and discoveries.

Undocumented Claim for Discovering Element 43. The Noddacks were unable to provide absolute proof of their discovery of masurium, thus throwing a shadow on their scientific credibility.

Misunderstanding of Modern Developments. The Noddacks stuck to classical analytical chemistry rather than trying new methods.

“Tainted” with Possible Nazi Sympathies. There was always an aura of silent collusion that followed the Noddacks because of positions they accepted during the time of the Third Reich.

Prematurity. Ida let loose a bombshell that had no precedent and was therefore unacceptable to the scientific community.

Interdisciplinary Dissonance. In the case of nuclear fission, physicists needed a reasonable model but all that chemists needed was reliable chemical proof of the existence of the fission products. That is what Ida asked for.

Communication Failure. Ida Noddack was one monolingual voice lacking institutional backup, a network of co-workers, and credentials in physics.

Lack of Follow-up. Ida Noddack's intervention was dismissed, say some, because she herself never made a move to verify her statement.

Epilogue. Ancient Greek myths were paradigms of universal human experience. Cassandra, for example, was a prophet whose insights were never believed. The Cynic philosopher, Diogenes, went about the streets of Athens with a lighted lantern in broad daylight searching in vain for an honest man, throwing light on the falsity and corruption of social conventions. Both examples are symbols of how weighty, truthful, sincere and/or authoritative voices can be ignored, dismissed or go unnoticed by contemporaries often blinded by social structures or conceptual frameworks. Such was the experience of Ida Noddack, a Cassandra/Diogenes

figure for our times whose vision has been vindicated and whose scientific acumen is being honored a century after the events.

Poland

IN THE SPIRIT OF ST ANGELA

From 5 to 12 October 2025, representatives of Polish Ursuline schools embarked on a remarkable journey to France. The delegation included school directors and teachers from Lublin, Kraków (school and kindergarten), Wrocław and Rybnik. The purpose of the trip was to exchange pedagogical experience and seek inspiration for formation in the spirit of St Angela Merici – our foundress. This article was written by Sr Arleta Duszyńska OSU, of the Province of Poland.

Paris – an encounter with the heart of Ursuline education

The first stop of the visit was the Sainte-Ursule School in Paris, where the Polish group was welcomed by the directors of the primary and secondary schools, B. de Corta and J. Beghin. Throughout the day, participants had the opportunity to tour the school, learn about its organizational structure, and speak with teachers, educators and pastoral coordinators. Discussions focused on contemporary educational challenges, the role of religious education and the creation of a school environment rooted in Christian values. Joint meetings and final reflections with the directors revealed many commonalities between the Polish and French models of Ursuline education. We also noticed significant differences – including the recruitment and employment of teachers, which in France follows a model entirely different from the Polish one.



The following afternoon we met with representatives of the governing board of the association overseeing the schools. They presented their model of school management and the ways in which they support the directors and teachers of all Ursuline institutions in France. Together, we also worked in workshop format on contemporary pedagogical challenges which – as it turned out – are shared by both Poland and France.

Amiens – how to bring St Angela’s values to life in everyday school practice

The third day of the visit was dedicated to training sessions held at Sainte Clotilde School in Amiens, where workshops were organized under the theme: *“How to Put the Pedagogical Values of St Angela Merici into Everyday School Life.”*



The meeting was conducted in French with Polish translation by Mrs Anna Kokoszka. Discussions focused on practical ways of introducing Ursuline spirituality into the daily lives of students and teachers, cooperation between school and family, and the role of community in the educational process. Teachers from all Ursuline schools who had begun working in the institutions that academic year were invited to the training.



After a shared lunch in the school cafeteria, there was time for an exchange of insights between participants from both countries.

Before leaving Amiens, we visited the largest medieval cathedral in France (nearly twice the size of Notre Dame in Paris), listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Beaugency – in the heart of Ursuline history

On 9 October our group travelled to Beaugency, home to one of the oldest Ursuline schools in France. We were welcomed by Delphine Bochu, director of Notre Dame de Beaugency. Participants were able to observe teachers at work, speak with students and meet members of the teaching staff.

A highlight of the visit was the tour of the Ursuline archives, where a rich collection of historical documents tracing the development of Ursuline education through the centuries was presented. We also had the opportunity to see some handwritten letters of St Marie of the Incarnation. The encounter with this place provided a moment of deep reflection on the spiritual heritage of St Angela Merici.

We were warmly received by the Ursuline community in Beaugency, who prepared refreshments for us and spent time in conversation.

Nantes – contemporary projects and a new generation of teachers



The next stage of the journey was a visit to the Blanche de Castille School in Nantes. The Polish group was greeted by Virginie Nay-Chacun, head of international projects.

On the way from the station to the school, Mrs Nay-Chacun showed us historical sites associated with the beginnings of the Ursuline presence in Nantes. At the school, we met with directors, deputy directors and pastoral coordinators. We had the opportunity to learn about innovative educational projects implemented in the primary and secondary schools and to

participate in Mass celebrated in the school chapel. The atmosphere of openness and community helped foster new professional and friendly relationships.

Formation and the future of Ursuline education

Saturday, 11 October, and Sunday morning were devoted to exploring Paris. Each of us sought out places that held personal meaning. We visited Notre Dame Cathedral, the Basilica of Sacré-Cœur on Montmartre, Père-Lachaise Cemetery (where Fryderyk Chopin is buried), toured the Louvre, ascended the Eiffel Tower and wandered through countless charming streets.

Before our departure, we climbed to the terrace of the Serviam Institute, where most of us were staying, to admire the beautiful panorama of Paris and take a commemorative group photo.

Throughout our stay in France, we were cared for by Sr Marie-Thérèse La Goc, Provincial Prioress of the Ursulines of the France–Belgium–Spain Province, for which we are deeply grateful!

Summary

It was a very intensive time, excellently prepared by the teachers and sisters in France—days of a living experience of unity within the Ursuline family, transcending borders, languages and cultures. We encountered the four-hundred-year-old educational heritage of the French Ursulines, which remains a source of inspiration for contemporary educators. The directors and teachers from Poland returned with new ideas, fresh insights and a renewed conviction that the educational mission of St Angela Merici is still relevant and necessary in today's world.

“May the bond of love unite you!” – the words of St Angela became the motto of this fruitful time of meetings and dialogue.

NATIONAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MERICIAN NETWORK

On 18–20 October 2025, 270 school principals, teachers and educators from the Merician network gathered in Quimperlé. The entire Notre Dame de Kerbertrand educational community, young people and adults alike, mobilised to host this gathering: the gymnasium was completely transformed, combining a meeting space (with an ocean theme featuring lots of fish and waves) and a conference space.

Our theme, *‘Heirs, let us serve on the path to the future – rereading yesterday, listening today to build a welcoming tomorrow’*, was explored in various ways during conferences and workshops, not to mention informal exchanges, which allowed us to get to know each other better and to envisage various collaborations across the network.

The young people set the tone by reading a letter from the Merician youth for the school of tomorrow, a powerful, committed and engaging text.

After the official opening by Sr Marie Thérèse Le Goc (Provincial) and Franck Bouzat, delegate of the “tutelle”, Brother André Pierre Gauthier (FEC) invited us to write in the spaces left blank by Saint Angela. New times call for new educators. More than words, young people expect a relationship, a presence, a real, lived presence, in the image of a God who made himself present. In this way, we will become guardians of fraternity and we will build community on the admission of our fragility.

Short videos on the Merician educational tradition punctuated his presentation. The afternoon was devoted to workshops:



- Learning to welcome and care for the fragility of young people
 - Developing welcome, team spirit and mutual aid in the classroom
 - Learning to live in harmonious relationships
 - Building a tribe
 - Encouraging and maintaining students' attention
 - Keeping a free and daring spirit
 - AI in our pockets
- Preparing to welcome the ecological challenges of tomorrow

A long break allowed us to visit the school complex and/or learn the art of making Breton crêpes.

The following morning, we continued our reflection with a round table discussion bringing together people committed to building a more hospitable world.

Sr Laure Blanchon, OSU, presented the work carried out by the ‘Pierres d'Angle’ (Cornerstones) groups, which enable people in very precarious situations to share the Word of God and enjoy moments of fraternity.



Olivier de Wavrin, SJ, drawing on his experience with JRS and in the service of eco-responsibility in his province, shared his reflections on Laudato Si and hospitality.

Noyale Antoine reviewed with us a project bringing together a diverse (and often marginalised) audience for a large gathering in the Diocese of Finistère.

All these words wove together to form a mosaic that was both simple and rich in experiences of hospitality.

At the end of the morning, Véronique Albanel's lecture, 'Hospitality at the risk of nationalism and populism', deepened our view of the contemporary world and invited us to discernment.

It is with all these contributions that we entered into the Sunday Eucharist celebrated by Mr Dognin, the local bishop.

In the afternoon, the people of Quimper offered us a number of opportunities to discover the region. Despite the rain, we made the most of it. A Breton evening brought the day to a close, with tastings of local products and Breton music and dancing.

Monday morning was devoted to reflecting on how to implement the various contributions in the network's establishments. Many projects were launched.



During the final celebration, Nadège Tubia, the new director of the Angèle Merici Centre, was officially sent on mission.

We all left happy and nourished by this beautiful encounter, pilgrims of hope. We hear Angela saying to us:

For understand that now I am more alive than when I was when I lived on earth; 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 day. Counsels Pr, 23-25

Poland

JUBILEE SOLI DEO GLORIA! OF THE URSULINES OF KRAKÓW

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God (Is 43:1-3a).

Article written by Sr Maria Magdalena Masłoń OSU

Did our predecessors, the Ursulines of Poznań, whisper these words softly in prayer when they boarded the train from Poznań to Kraków 150 years ago? We can only guess, but it is certain that they set off into the unknown with great faith and complete trust, relying on the One who had made this promise to them.

On Saturday, November 25, 2025, the Ursuline community in Kraków celebrated the 150th anniversary of the sisters' arrival in Kraków. Jesus used to take his disciples up the mountain from time to time, from where they came down strengthened, transformed, and amazed. This jubilee was certainly such a divine rapture to the “mountain,” from where one can see better, farther, and differently.

We began our celebration with a solemn Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrated by Bishop Damian Muskus OFM, accompanied



by a group of priests who serve us daily and who are our friends. The visitor of the missionary priests, Fr. Paweł Holc, CM, and his confreres, Fr. Bronisław Fidelus and Fr. Robert Więcek SJ, who welcomed everyone on behalf of Father Provincial Jarosław Paszyński SJ, were also present. In addition, the liturgy was



enhanced by the Schola Mariacka, a great group of the liturgical servers directed by Tomasz Konturek, a former student of our school, as well as by the presence of the banner from the Ursuline Primary School No. 159 in Krakow. The Provincial Prioress, sr. Iwona Skorupa, the prioress of the Kraków house, sr. Maria Jaworska, with the community of sisters, Ursulines from many houses in Poland and Ukraine, as well as a large group of our current and former employees, teachers, parents, school and kindergarten children, students, graduates, and religious sisters from many congregations were also present. The community of Ursulines of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus in Kraków, with their superior sr. Ewa Protaś and the superior of the Warsaw Center, sr. Anna Renkiewicz, also participated in the jubilee thanksgiving. Many other people joined us thanks to the online broadcast.



During his homily, bp Damian Muskus OFM focused on the second part of the Gospel according to St. Luke, presenting us with the image of a caring gardener who patiently tends to a fig tree. He compared this daily effort to ensure that the tree bears fruit to the educational work that the Church has entrusted to the Ursulines for centuries, a work inseparable from the witness of God's love, sometimes even to the point of

martyrdom, as was the case for blessed Klemensa Staszewska OSU.

“Where did these sisters draw their strength, courage, and bravery?” asked the celebrant. “The invaders, the Nazis, the Stalinists did not succeed in breaking them. Nor will the new challenges of this era of spiritual indifference and distancing from the Church succeed in doing so.” Where did they get this strength and determination? The bishop answered by quoting St. Angela Merici:

“Jesus Christ will never abandon this Company as long as the world lasts. For if he planted it in the first place, who can uproot it?” It is Jesus Christ, his presence among us, who is the guarantor of our life and our action, until the end of the world. Bishop Damian's words resonated with us several times that day.

After the Eucharist, we went to the Ignatianum University assembly hall, where we were warmly welcomed by the Chancellor of the Jesuit University, Fr. Andrzej Paweł Bieś SJ. This part of the jubilee celebration was filled with joy and emotion. The performance of the kindergarten children and students of our school, entitled “Animated by the spirit of Saint Angela - come and see,” was rewarded with loud applause. So it was with smiles on our faces that we watched the performances of the little ones, who, dressed in beautiful folk costumes, danced brilliantly to the song “Hej, na Krakowskim Rynku” (Hey, on Kraków Market Square), performed a krakowiak (one of the national dances), and sang the well-known song “Czerwone jabłuszko” (The Red Apple). With tears in our eyes, we listened to the school choir, which showed the full extent of its abilities, from the interpretation of the patriotic and religious song “Uwierz Polsko” (Believe, Poland) to the energetic contemporary rap of the TGD song “Miłosierni” (The Merciful). The next item on the agenda announced by sr. Ewa Pyzik was a lecture on the history of the Kraków house and the Ursuline community on Starowiślna Street, given by sr. Iwona Naglik.



The speaker took us on an incredible historical journey, during which, filled with a multitude of emotions, we spiritually accompanied those who, 150 years ago, had the courage to leave their convent in Poznań and set out in search of opportunities to live the Ursuline charism. We listened with fascination to the story of these women who, like the widow in the Gospel, never stopped knocking and asking until they obtained the necessary permissions from the authorities to run a school or a university dormitory. The story of those who, both during times of persecution and during wars, worked every day to educate future generations in a spirit of patriotism and love of God. Of those who constantly sought new ways to implement the Ursuline SERVIAM, interpreting the signs of the times and following the call of the Holy Spirit. Of those who, during World War II, distributed hundreds of meals every day, welcomed refugees into their homes, cared for wounded soldiers, and provided clandestine education. Ursulines full of faith, who risked and gave, drop by drop, their lives—like blessed Klemensa Staszewska, who until her last breath in the extermination camp repeated with love: “God is so good to me.”

“Where did these sisters get their strength, courage, and bravery?”

Finally, the moment for wishes and jubilee thanksgiving arrived, and our community in Starowiślna was literally overwhelmed with gifts, such as magnificent chasubles, a veil, a stole, hand-embroidered altar linens, original paintings made especially for the occasion, and many other wonderful gifts that reveal the kindness, gratitude, and generous hearts of so many people. One special gift (certainly not accidental!) was... a tree to plant in our community garden: a young red-leaved maple. Even in these details, our TENDER GARDENER reminds us of His presence! He never misses an opportunity to assure us that HE is there and watches over everything.

The prioress of the Kraków community, sr. Maria Jaworska, then took the floor to express her deep gratitude to all those present for their large turnout and for all their help in preparing that jubilee ceremony. Thanks to the open hearts of so many people eager to share their talents,



including sr. Ewa Pyzik, who led part of the jubilee in the hall, and sr. Edyta Kapica devotedly taking photos and recording videos, we felt that this day was the work of a true INSIEME, of all those who have shaped and continue to shape the history of this place. Ultimately, as the Provincial Prioress Iwona Skorupa later mentioned, many of us spent their time of formation in Krakow and were part of the local community. On this occasion, we extend our special thanks to sr. Maria Jaworska and her council, as well as to the community of sisters on the house on Starowiślna Street, who spent many months planning the ceremony and lovingly prepared every detail, from articles in the Catholic press to the rich schedule of the entire jubilee, to the communal lunch at the Ursuline convent.

At the end, sr. Iwona Skorupa thanked all the sisters, as representatives of the generations that have been here, above all for who they are. “We have many reasons to rejoice and thank Jesus for guiding us and being with us,” sr. Iwona concluded with feeling.

150 years ago, when the Ursulines of Poznań boarded the train that was to take them to Kraków, they took with them a stone column with a statue of Mary, which still stands in our garden today. “The Lord is with you”: this is the assurance given by the angel to the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation. Our sisters carried the same assurance in their hearts. Not only when they set out into the unknown, but every day anew. That is why they did not lack strength or courage, for He was with them: the TENDER GARDENER.

“The evangelizing and educational mission of the Ursuline sisters will continue, because the world needs women who have the courage to accompany young people and teach them everlasting values,” assured bishop Damian Muskus OFM on behalf of the Church during the Mass. And in honour of the new vocations, the parents of our students presented the sisters with a basket containing fifty roses—for the 37 Ursulines of the Krakow community and for those whom the Lord will send in the future.

We came down from our “jubilee mountain” strengthened, renewed, and joyful. The Ursuline seed in Kraków continues to grow and bear fruit. On this exceptional day, we once again experienced the power of the words of Saint Mother Angela: “(...) **I am always among them, with the One who loves me, or rather with the One who loves us all.**” HE IS THERE. LIKE A TENDER GARDENER. And He will not let us go from His divine hands. SOLI DEO GLORIA!



Czech Community

NEW EVANGELIZATION SEMINARY

In this article, Sr. Marie-Anna Linhartová would like to share her strong experience of life-giving studies as a big support for spreading Good News in a new way.

“For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:20

A few years ago, I was invited to study New Evangelization at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit (USA) by Dr. Mary Healy, a professor of Sacred Scripture and a well-known speaker on topics related to Scripture, evangelization, and healing. And one year ago, it came true. Thanks to a scholarship and the chance to dedicate two summers (plus some online studies in the spring) to this pursuit, I was able to join a group of priests working toward a licentiate in New Evangelization at the seminary. As the only sister, I participated in the New Evangelization programme as part of my postgraduate studies.

With this article, I aim to inspire others interested in studying this topic—offered at only a few institutions—to see that it is both possible and beneficial. It also served as a welcome sabbatical for me after my third term as provincial, which I saw as a true gift.

I admit the first summer was intensive and quite challenging, but the Lord took care of me! Our wonderful sisters in New Rochelle allowed me a month of preparation—I had the chance to speak with them in English and to acclimatise myself. Another kind woman, a former teacher and member of a charismatic community, provided housing in Detroit. Her home was in the Mexicantown neighborhood, which made me grateful for our sisters in Mexico, especially when I attended Mass in Spanish. She also lent me her mother's old car. Thanks to the Lord and the generosity of others, I was later able to drive a better car with no restrictions this summer. The rest of the time, I could stay with Dr Mary Healy or other missionaries.

The studies were fascinating, enriched by engaging lectures, text analyses, and discussions with classmates from around the world. The professors are highly respected in their fields and have written many books. Here are some of the classes we could take: The Letters of Paul and the New Evangelization; Models of Evangelization; Small Christian Communities and the New Evangelization; Isaiah in the Light of Christ (4 months online from Prague); Evangelization and Spirituality; Theology of the New Evangelization; Theology of the Laity. After completing the theoretical coursework, I was fortunate to participate in various practical activities, thanks to the support of Dr. Healy and many friends. We had some activities thanks to Encounter Ministries (see more: <https://encounterministries.us/>). This included attending the Encounter Conference in Toledo, Ohio, both summers, where I appreciated the warm welcome from the Ursuline Sisters of Toledo and Cleveland. I also took part in the regional meeting of Renewal Ministries (see more: <https://www.renewalministries.net/missions/>), because some of my professors from the seminar were among other missionaries, and they invited me.

Other activities were offered with Christ the King Parish, which is a very active charismatic parish in Ann Arbor. We were given the task of evangelizing or praying for the people we met. We also offered prayers for healing to those who were sick, whether it was in the city park or after Mass.

I am now back in Prague, continuing my studies at the Encounter School of Ministry online. This equips us to make even greater use of the practical side of evangelism. It is certainly interesting that Encounter School is also built on people who have studied New Evangelization at SHMS in Detroit.

Thank you, Sr Sue, for encouraging me to study the New Evangelization program. I also want to express my gratitude to my sisters from the Czech community for making this possible and stepping in when needed. I would love to give back—ideally by sharing what I’ve learned through our classes and some events. We were sent on a mission; this experience was not just theoretical—we gained a lot of practical inspiration. If possible, I would be happy to come to your communities or your prayer groups and share some topics, especially from the classes on Evangelization and Spirituality, because I believe it is vital for all of us. Mark 16:15-18 applies to everyone; we have all been sent! I know my English isn't perfect, but I am doing my best to use this language for evangelization. I think our Church needs a new Pentecost; charismatic gifts are available to all, and our Institute also needs renewed missionary enthusiasm.

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. Please send short articles, with or without photos, **before 1st July 2026**, to the secretariat email. With thanks!

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