

Inter – Ursuline



August - December 2026

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Indonesia

LIVING ANGELA'S SPIRIT: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE FUTURE ASIA PACIFIC URSULINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026

Sr Moekti Gondosasmito, Province of Indonesia, shared this event with all of us.



March 2nd to March 6th, 2026, Jakarta became a place of encounter, reflection, and renewed mission as educators from across the Asia Pacific region, and beyond, gathered for the Asia Pacific Ursuline Education Conference (APUEC) 2026.

Guided by the theme “Living Angela’s Spirit: Building Bridges for the Future,” the conference invited participants to reflect deeply on the mission of Ursuline education in a rapidly changing world.

More than a professional gathering, the conference became a sacred space of listening, sharing, and discernment, where educators strengthened relationships and rediscovered the enduring relevance of Saint Angela Merici’s vision for education today.

A Community Across Nations

A total of 127 participants from 15 countries registered for the conference, representing Australia, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Japan, Cambodia, Ireland, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Kenya, Senegal, and Timor Leste.

Although participants from Italy and England were unable to attend because of the war situation in the Middle East, the gathering remained a vibrant expression of the global Ursuline family in the Asia Pacific region.

Different languages, cultures, and educational contexts came together in a shared spirit of Serviam - “I will serve.”

A Meaningful Beginning

The conference opened with warm greetings from Sr. Lita Hasanah osu, Provincial of Indonesia, who welcomed the participants to Jakarta. A message from Sr. Agatha Linda Chandra osu was shared by Sr. Mairead O'Regan osu, while Sr. Leonora Veriga osu, a member of the planning committee, offered the opening address.

Months of preparation had preceded this moment. Since June 2025, an international planning team had worked together through regular online meetings. The committee included representatives from Taiwan, Australia, Thailand, and Indonesia, reflecting the collaborative spirit of the conference.

The gathering officially began with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by Cardinal Ignatius Suharyo, Archbishop of Jakarta.

In his homily, Cardinal Suharyo offered a profound reflection on human identity across different eras. He recalled the philosophical statement: “I think, therefore I am.” In the age of consumerism, he noted, identity shifted to: “I buy, therefore I am.” And in today’s post-truth era, he observed that it can even become: “I lie, therefore I am.” His reflection led to a powerful question for educators: What kind of human identity do we hope to form through Ursuline education?

Drawing from *Lumen Gentium*, he reminded participants that every person is called to holiness and to the fullness of life according to their vocation. Education, therefore, is not only about knowledge but about forming individuals who contribute to a more humane and compassionate society.

The Liturgy Team, from Indonesia, ensured each of the day’s liturgies, including the opening and closing rituals, were well prepared and reflected Angela’s spirit and the theme of the conference.

In addition, morning prayer was organized and led, in turn, by Thailand, Taiwan and Australia. These prayers reflected the richness and diversity of each culture and created a deeply meaningful, shared experience which became the foundation of the day’s activities.

The Art of Listening

One of the central themes of the conference was listening. On the second day, participants reflected on the difference between merely hearing and truly listening. Guided by Dr. Wilasa Vichit-Vadkan, the facilitator, participants explored how authentic listening requires attentiveness, openness, and respect for the experiences of others.



Listening, they discovered, is not simply a skill but a spiritual practice—a way of encountering one another with humility and care.

Caring for Well-Being in a Digital World

The third day addressed a challenge faced by educators everywhere: maintaining balance across the human social, psychological and spiritual dimensions within an increasingly digital world.

Ms. Ratih Ibrahim and her team from Indonesia led a series of well researched sessions on mental health and emotional well-being in the digital age. Through reflection and dialogue, participants explored how educators can remain grounded amid the pressures of social media, technological change, and the demands of contemporary education.

The session concluded by reminding participants that caring for the well-being of themselves, as educators, is essential for nurturing the well-being of students.

Encountering Ursuline Education in Jakarta

A highlight of the conference was the school visits on the fourth day. Participants visited several Ursuline educational institutions in Jakarta:

- Santa Maria School
- Santa Ursula School
- Santo Vincentius School
- Santa Theresia School
- Santa Ursula BSD School

These visits offered participants the opportunity to witness how the spirit of Saint Angela is lived in everyday school life.

In the afternoon reflection session, participants shared moving stories and insights from their visits. Listening to one another's experiences opened new perspectives and deepened their appreciation of the diverse ways Ursuline education is expressed across cultures.



Building Bridges Across the Countries

On the final working day, participants gathered in groups according to their roles and educational levels: kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, senior high school, administrators, and other ministries.

These conversations created opportunities to explore future collaboration among Ursuline schools across the Asia Pacific region and even further across the globe.

In this way, the theme “Building Bridges for the Future” became not just a phrase, but a concrete commitment to strengthening connections across the Ursuline educational network.

Sent Forth in Mission

The conference concluded with a Missioning Prayer and ritual. Participants wrote the fruits they had received during the conference and placed them on a symbolic tree. This gesture became a sign of gratitude and renewed commitment to continue the Ursuline mission in their respective communities.

The gathering ended joyfully with the “Insieme” flash mob, celebrating friendship, unity, and shared mission.

As participants returned to their countries, they carried with them renewed inspiration to live the spirit of Saint Angela in their schools and communities.

*May we continue to be **bridge-builders**—
steady in faith, creative in response, and gentle in strength.
May our classrooms become places of belonging,
our leadership marked by wisdom and compassion,
and our communities reflect the dignity of every person.
And may the God, who called Angela in her time, walk with us in ours.
Go and live Angela’s spirit.
Go and build bridges for the future.*

Visit APUEC 2026 Official Website: <https://apuec2026.ursa.sch.id> to get comprehensive Information, materials, documentation



Slovenia

URSULINES RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR WORK

The recognition of a chapter of history shared by Sr Marija Jasna Kogoj, Province of Slovenia.

Škofja Loka has an avenue of statues of distinguished citizens, women and men of Škofja Loka, who are important locally and nationally. On November 25, 2025, Ursuline Mother Katarina Majhnič joined this avenue. During the cultural program, the statue was unveiled by the provincial prioress of the Ursulines, Sister Marija Meserko, the mayor of the municipality, Mr. Radinja, and the sculptor, Mr. Metod Frlic. The placing of the statue is a recognition of the exceptional contribution of Slovenian Ursulines to the education, upbringing, and culture of the Slovenian nation.



Between 1869 and the end of World War I, Ursuline schools flourished in our country: kindergartens, boarding and day schools, civic schools and teacher training colleges. The Ursuline educational and teaching institutes shaped the spiritual and intellectual image of several generations of girls and women. In addition to their educational achievements, they were distinguished by their modern cabinets, library, gymnasium, and school grounds, as well as their varied extracurricular activities, which complemented the overall educational process.

M. Katarina Majhnič represents all Ursulines who with their activity influenced the religious, educational, and cultural life not only of the city and its surroundings, but also of the wider region.



M. Katarina (Marija) Majhnič (1841-1921) was born in Ljubljana. She lost her mother when she was only two years old, and her father two years later. At the age of seven, she began her schooling with the Ursulines in Ljubljana. As she grew up, Marija felt God's call to religious life. She entered to the convent of Škofja Loka in 1857. For several years, she worked at the school and the college for the education of girls; she was also the novice mistress, the prioress of the community, and in 1918 she was appointed the provincial prioress of the Austro-Hungarian province based in Škofja Loka.

M. Katarina was an enterprising woman, full of good ideas, which she also put into practice. With her saintly personality and extraordinary abilities, she had a strong influence on the spiritual and material development of the Škofja Loka convent.

During her thirty years as prioress, her work left its mark in three areas in particular: renovation work on buildings, promotion of the educational mission of the Ursulines, and revitalization of the religious spirit and spiritual life of the Ursuline community.

Immediately after taking up her position as prioress, she set about renovating the old castle, which had been purchased a year earlier. With great effort, she converted it into a modern girls' educational institute, which, with its beautifully landscaped park, became one of the most beautiful in Austro-Hungary. After the earthquake of 1895, she had the damaged church restored, undertook the renovation of the monastery premises in line with contemporary needs, and had its own water supply installed.

M. Katarina did even more for the upbringing and education of young people. Under her leadership, the boarding and day schools expanded. In addition to the primary school, they had a middle school with a commercial course and a teacher training college. A kindergarten for girls and boys was opened. The institute had pupils from various parts of the empire. M. Katarina ensured that girls from mountain villages who were unable to attend regular school also received the necessary education. In 1893, a so-called mountain school was opened for them. During World War I, when the military occupied the institute at the castle and in the school premises, she was not afraid to make sacrifices in order to enable young people to continue their education and receive care in the convent part of the building.

The most important area of her work was the leadership of the Ursuline community. She strove to restore the spirit of the Order and revitalize community life. During her leadership, the number of the Ursulines in Škofja Loka rose from 32 to 81 members. At that time, Pope Leo XIII expressed his desire for the autonomous Ursuline convents to unite. Among those who responded to this idea was Mother Katarina Majhnič. In 1900, she attended the meeting and first Chapter in Rome and voted for the Škofja Loka convent to join the Roman Union. This opened the door to exchanges between convents in various fields, especially in education, which enriched the experience of the teachers. However, joining the Roman Union also required some sacrifice. At the request of the prioress general, Mother Marie de St. Julien Aubry, Mother Katarina Majhnič agreed to send an outstanding member of the Škofja Loka community, Mother Angela Lorenzutti, to Rome in 1905. She was appointed an assistant general and then vicar, and in 1910 she was elected prioress general of the Roman Union. Mother Katarina participated in three general chapters in Rome. In 1907, she met Pope Pius X.

At the beginning of 1905, the religious community in Škofja Loka gave shelter to several French Ursulines who had been forced to leave their convent due to persecution by the government. During World War I, thirty-two Ursulines from bombed Gorizia took refuge in the convent of Škofja Loka. Although the Ursulines there themselves had very limited space, since the boarding school and school premises had been converted into a military hospital, M. Katarina generously took them into the convent.

In 1918, Mother Katarina was appointed Provincial of the Austrian province. In this role, she visited Ursuline convents in the area that had joined the Roman Union, namely the convents in Ljubljana, Mekinje, Gorizia, Linz, Bratislava, and Trnava.

M. Katarina's work, particularly in the field of education, was rewarded with high recognition. In 1898, she was awarded the Golden Cross and Crown. In 1916, she received the Cross of Honor for her humanitarian work among the wounded at the castle during World War I.

She died on July 28, 1921, and was buried in the Škofja Loka cemetery. The chronicle contains a long account of her life and the virtues that distinguished her. Among other things, it says: "In addition to her bright mind and great wisdom, a special virtue of our venerable mother was her awareness, which allowed her to think calmly and soberly and quickly consider the situation even in moments of general excitement." She radiated peace and enjoyed universal respect.

We linked the unveiling of her statue in our province with the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Roman Union, as M. Katarina Majhnič was one of the founding mothers of our Union. We highlighted the events that led to its foundation, focusing on the preparatory process and paying special attention to the founding Chapter of the Union and the period that followed. Our two convents, Ljubljana and Škofja Loka, were among the first to join the Roman Union.

Hungary

300 YEARS OF URSULINE PRESENCE IN GYŐR, HUNGARY 1726 - 2026

Our three sisters in Hungary were very grateful to celebrate and share this anniversary together with those around them

On May 29th, 2026 in Győr, Hungary, the Ursuline sisters celebrated the Anniversary of 300 years of their presence and apostolate in their town.

The first Ursulines came to Győr from Vienna in 1726 accompanied by a Viennese noblewoman Maria-Anna Neupauer, the foundress of their convent. They were invited to provide education



for young girls. The sisters opened a school and very soon they needed to extend it due to the growing numbers of students. They also opened a Teacher Training College and prepared generations of well qualified teachers.

In the course of almost three centuries, the educational apostolate of the Ursulines has been highly esteemed. This ministry was abruptly interrupted in 1948 by the decision of the government. The sisters experienced many sufferings and were deprived of their right to live religious life and carry out their apostolate. Their properties were also confiscated.

However, this situation did not break the spirit of the sisters: they remained faithful to their deep sense of prayer and to the charism of St. Angela Merici.

As soon as it was possible to reopen the schools, they came back to their ministries and they reopened the boarding schools in Győr and Eger, and the school in Dombovar.

The Jubilee celebrations were preceded on May 28th by the opening of an exhibition at the diocesan museum. The exhibits, from the Ursuline convent, church and school, are beautifully displayed and are open to all visitors.



The Mass in the basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady was celebrated by Bishop Veres Andras and as well as the Ursuline sisters from Győr, representatives from the Generalate, Austria and Slovakia travelled to Győr for the Jubilee celebrations and were present at the Mass.



The current and former teachers and students from the former Ursuline school Prohaska, the boarders, and many guests came together to express their gratitude to the Ursulines for developing the good intellectual education for girls and the strengthening of their faith.

This legacy that the Ursuline sisters began still continues in the city today!

As a sign of gratitude to Sr. Maria Emerica, Sr. Rozalia and Sr. Terezia for their steadfast faith, perseverance and immense hard work, and as an appreciation to those, on whose shoulders we stand today a special Papal blessing was offered:

“To Sr. Maria Emerica Matkovics and Ursulines of the Roman Union in Győr on the occasion of the 300th Anniversary of the Ursulines presence in Győr invoking through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary an abundance of Divine graces”.

USA East

CELEBRATING THE 250 JUBILEE YEAR

The Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province marked the Jubilee 2025 Year with a series of meaningful events centered on faith, hope, and care for creation.



URSULINES
OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE

A MISSION
of
SERVICE A VISION
for
CHANGE

Pilgrimage to the Mother Cabrini Shrine



On Tuesday, September 16, 2025 the Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province made a pilgrimage to the Mother Cabrini Shrine. The Sisters toured the chapel, museum, and exhibits celebrating St. Frances Cabrini’s enduring legacy of compassion, love, and service. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini’s work with poor immigrants was so inspiring and meaningful—very relevant to today in the United States. The experience of being at the shrine together as sisters served as a spiritual renewal and a call to continue walking in faith and hope.



(Top right to bottom left) Srs. Jane Finnerty, Ann Peterson, Maureen Welch, Pat Schifini, Barbara Calamari, Mary Alice Duggan, Alice Marie Giordano, Bernie MacKay, Kathleen Finnerty, Nancy Arroyo, and Mary Virginia Orna)



Celebration of Consecrated Life



Eastern Province Sisters and Friends celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year at the Province Center

Sr. Jeannie Humphries and CSJP friends



Srs. Jeanne Cashman and Kathleen Mary Donohue

On October 5, 2025, women religious from various congregations joined the Eastern Province Ursulines in celebrating the Celebration of Consecrated Life for the 2025 Jubilee Year. Celebration began in the Province Center's chapel with prayer, tambourine shaking, and singing along to live music. Afterwards, the festivities continued in the Angela Garden Room, featuring light bites, refreshments, and conversation. Guests were treated to a mariachi band whose lively music inspired dancing and laughter. It was a truly joyful celebration, one that captured the true spirit of the Jubilee Year.

Then on Friday, October 10, 2025 we brought the celebration to our Sisters at Andrus on Hudson skilled nursing facility where members of other religious communities joined in on the celebration. The gathering began with prayer and a beautiful hymn which set the tone for an afternoon filled with fellowship and gratitude. Following prayer and song, the Sisters enjoyed a delicious meal. Laughter, and conversation filled the room, making it a special time of connection and fellowship.

Slovakia

350 YEARS OF GRACE AND GRATITUDE

Article written by Sr Ruth Tolarovicova, Slovakia

This year, we celebrate the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Ursuline sisters from Cologne, Vienna, and Liège to what is now Slovakia. Our celebrations have been centred in Bratislava, where the history of the Ursulines in our country began 350 years ago.

We opened this Jubilee Year **on 25 November 2025** with a solemn Holy Mass celebrated with the Archbishop. Throughout the year, several accompanying events have taken place, bringing together our colleagues, co-workers from our schools, and friends.

Open House Days



On two days **in April and May**, we joyfully opened the doors of our house, welcoming visitors to step beyond our walls, discover our history, and meet us in a warm and informal atmosphere. The celebrations also featured an art exhibition inspired by Saint Ursula and her companions, prepared by one of our friends and displayed in our house. Visitors even had the opportunity to enjoy a friendly football match with one of our sisters.

The Anniversary Celebration

The highlight of the Jubilee celebrations took place **on 13 June 2026**, marking exactly 350 years since the arrival of the first Ursuline sisters in Bratislava. The day began with a solemn Holy Mass in the Jesuit Church, presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio Nicola Girasoli.

In his homily, he encouraged us to remain faithful to our identity, to the charism of Saint Angela Merici, and to the unity that is the foundation of our community. He reminded us that each one of us is God's gift to the Church and to the world, and that today we are still called to bear joyful witness to the Gospel through our service.



Following the Mass, a prayerful service of thanksgiving reflected on our 350-year history in the light of the legacy of Saint Angela. Together, we gave thanks for all the generations of sisters, benefactors, teachers, staff members, students, parents, and friends who have been, and continue to be, part of our story.



The afternoon programme included opportunities for fellowship, artistic performances by former and current students, and reflections on the rich history of the Ursulines in Slovakia. It was a great joy to witness that the seed of Catholic education planted centuries ago continues to bear fruit today.

The Jubilee Continues: Pilgrimage and the Gift of the Jubilee Indulgences

Our celebrations are not yet over. The Jubilee Year will continue **on 5 September** with a **pilgrimage to Mariazell** in Austria, together with our families, friends, and colleagues. In addition to visiting the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariazell, we will also visit the resting place of Archbishop György Szelepcsényi, whose support made the arrival of the Ursulines in Slovakia possible and who stood by the sisters from the very beginning.

This year, we are also deeply grateful for another extraordinary gift received during our Jubilee Year. The Apostolic Penitentiary in Rome has granted the faithful the opportunity to obtain **the Jubilee Indulgences** in all Ursuline churches and chapels throughout Slovakia. This is a remarkable spiritual grace for us and for all who come to pray.

Our Jubilee Year will conclude **on 10 December 2026** with a solemn Holy Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Loreto, the patroness of our Ursuline Church in Bratislava.

The words of the Apostolic Nuncio continue to resonate deeply in our hearts:

"Do not be afraid of the challenges of our times. These 350 years of history have taught you to overcome every obstacle with God's help. Look ahead with hope to the next 350 years. Never be afraid to be who you are, to proclaim the Good News, and to take pride in your charism."



NEXT INTER-URSUINE 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 December 2026**, to the e-mail of Secretariat. With thanks!

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