



SUMMER 2024

STONE

A publication of the
Ursulines of Brown County
St. Martin, Ohio
Issue 101, Summer 2024

CORNER

CORNERSTONE: A Shared Legacy

In 1986, the very first CORNERSTONE newsletter was published by the Ursulines of Brown County. It became a way for us to share our ministry, community life, prayer and vision with all of you. Thirty-eight years and 100 issues later, we are celebrating the legacy of CORNERSTONE and its editors in our 101st issue.



Sister Ruth Podesta

Ursuline Sister Ruth Podesta was named the very first editor of CORNERSTONE and enjoyed publishing the first 20 issues.

She remembers listening to Community members about what they were doing, their work and interests and she would find inspiration in that shared information.

She also appreciated the newsletters from other communities and organizations because it gave her a sense of what other Congregations were doing and their priorities. She enjoyed her time doing the publication and the gift of understanding how others were engaged.

Sister Ruth's contribution and dedication to this newsletter is greatly appreciated by our membership and community.



Sister Agatha Fitzgerald

Ursuline Sister Agatha Fitzgerald has been the editor of the past 80 issues of CORNERSTONE.

Her beautiful art creations were a staple within every issue. We asked Sister Agatha to provide some memories of her time working on CORNERSTONE.



"Assembling a Newsletter for publication has many of the same characteristics as solving a puzzle. How will all these pieces fit together into a whole? How can they be placed in a way that will catch the attention of the reader? Will the end-product be pleasing? When I was asked to publish CORNERSTONE, that was the puzzle I needed to solve."

One of the gifts offered to me at that time was a computer program called Page Maker. Under the tutelage of Carol Hauser, I became familiar with that program and began to enjoy the process of putting the puzzle together. Sometimes I was expected to establish my own theme, but other times I had to find a way to bring the Ursuline news into some kind of unity. The Sisters were very cooperative in offering information to share with our readers.

We have been blessed over the years to work with Gregg MacMillan as our printer. His technical assistance, timely advice and suggestions have been a greatly appreciated learning experience and have given us security in our end-product.

They tell me I have prepared eighty CORNERSTONE newsletters for publication. It has been an enjoyable learning experience and I will miss having the opportunity to be in touch with all of you who read and respond to our efforts. It has been a pleasure. Thank you!"



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CORNERSTONE will continue to be a joy for us to put together for our readers. We cherish both Sister Ruth and Sister Agatha's contributions to the first 100 issues. Throughout this issue, you will find some of Sister Agatha's art creations from previous issues.

A Message from our Printer, Gregg MacMillan:

"It's been over 35 years that I've been working with Sister Agatha and The Ursulines of Brown County! In addition to the Cornerstone, we've worked together on books, pamphlets, brochures, stationery, and many other printed items; that is, probably over 200 projects.

I've looked forward to these for several reasons, but mostly just because Sister Agatha has been such a pleasure to work with. Additionally, I also appreciate her projects since she is so organized and punctual. I feel that we have a mutually helpful relationship due to her willingness to make suggestions as well as being open-minded to various ideas and options.

And, of course, Sister Agatha's remarkable artwork made each project unique and special. Her artistic abilities continue to amaze me.

I feel so grateful for the collaboration time we've shared over these past 35 years."



•Cornerstone

A quarterly publication of the Ursulines of Brown County, St. Martin, Ohio 45118

Spring '86

Cornerstone is the new quarterly publication of the Ursulines of Brown County. We have chosen the name *cornerstone* for a very specific reason. As some of you may know, 1985 was a milestone year for us. Faced with the ever rising cost of maintaining buildings erected to respond to the needs of the Church in the last century, we turned to face the responsibility we have as a community for the future church. How we could best serve God's people in this time and in this place became the center of our prayer as we sought direction for the future. On Nov. 4, 1985 we watched as part of our 140 year old complex tumbled. Wonderful memories of a girls' boarding school, women's retreats, summer camp and a motherhouse mixed with the anxiety of change and our hope for the future.

In the process of the razing an unusual thing occurred. We lost the cornerstone. Despite heroic efforts on the part of the staff at Brown

County and the demolition crew the cornerstone and its contents were never found. As we reflected on this event we came to realize that the call of the Lord is to build our life and our community on a living cornerstone, Jesus himself.

This newsletter, *Cornerstone*, is an attempt to share our community, our ministry and our prayer with you. We weave a living cornerstone as we attempt to share the Lord as we experience him alive and active in our midst.

The woven cross that you see in the bottom right hand corner of this page was designed by Sister Regina Winters. It symbolizes for us the living cornerstone on which we build our lives. We are thankful for the many ways, past, present and future, that the fabric of our lives has intersected with yours. We stand firm on Jesus, our living cornerstone.



Haitian child care worker in Miami, Florida.

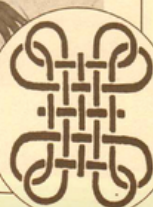
Little Haiti: Reasons to Rejoice

Sr. Ruth Podesta works at the Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center in Miami. The Center was founded in 1980 by Archbishop Edward McCarthy of the Archdiocese of Miami to meet the needs of over 50,000 Haitians who reside in the area known as "Little Haiti." The center offers services to all in the community on a non-denominational basis, promoting a variety of social programs intended to assist Haitians to become fully acculturated, self-sufficient, contributing members of the Miami community.

I arrived to visit Sr. Ruth, parked the car and rang the doorbell of what used to be a convent - the Notre Dame Academy for Girls. A black woman answered the door and welcomed me in a beautiful, liquid English. I immediately sensed this was a busy place. One person was bringing in bags of toys for children, several women and small children were expecting the second-hand store to open, religious women, lay people and priests were having a break from their Creole class, while I stood there waiting, just trying to stay out of the way. Soon Sr. Ruth came and rescued me from the organized chaos.

Father Tom Wenski, an Archdiocesan priest is the Center Director. Father Wenski is fluent in the native Haitian language, Creole, a combination of French and African dialects. He sums up life at the Center: "Haitians feel at home in this Center and in its missions. They get a sense of ownership and that's important for people marginal to the rest of society."

In the main Center building, the old classrooms



CORNERSTONE

Issue #1

Spring 1986

Editor:

Sister Ruth Podesta

CORNERSTONE

Issue #21

Winter 1991

Editor:

Sister Agatha Fitzgerald

•Cornerstone

A publication of the Ursulines of Brown County, St. Martin, OH 45118

Number 21, 1991

Sister Cecilia Remembers Alaska

As the holidays approach for the first time since my return from Alaska, I find myself remembering the celebrations of the past six years, particularly the final ones celebrated on the island of Little Diomed.

Thanksgiving had to be celebrated late because the plane could not land in the fierce winter storms. My friends reminded me that the "turkeys" and I arrived together. I spent the first day working with the women to prepare for the big community feast in the school. We prepared rather traditional foods for the more than 200 villagers, but there were also Eskimo delicacies such as agutak (the Eskimo ice cream made of finely chopped white fish, crisco, and wild berries). It was quite good, but rather rich for a "white" stomach. After the morning Mass we prepared the cafeteria for the meal. Everyone truly enjoyed the food and the company. After the community clean-up, we left, tired but happy. This had been a great way for me to meet the people.

Advent was spent preparing youngsters for their first experience of Reconciliation. The snow-covered mountains made the trips up and down a bit treacherous, but it was also very beautiful. I watched the hunters come and go and rejoiced with them over a seal or walrus catch. One could feel the presence of the polar bears; their tracks gave proof of the need for caution.

The storms kept me there for Christmas. I was a bit disappointed that I would not be joining my friends in Nome for the big day, but I learned that the Lord had other quiet gifts planned. Sister Damienne,



A few of the smiling faces...

Little Sister of Jesus, and I shared long dark evenings making gifts and listening to recorded Christmas classics, thanks to the tiny cassette player. The children were in and out constantly, hoping for all the things children hope for. The small village stores did their best to show off Christmas treasures, but there was so little compared to what we have and what we are accustomed to seeing in our large Malls.

Again, the storms kept the planes from landing, and so gifts and candy that had been ordered and the longed-for mail were held up. Even worse, many of the children were without parents and family members because of the dangerous weather. Our school play, the Midnight Mass and the village Feast were not so happy for them. Indeed two of the villagers

were missing. By the time I left, the body of one young man had been found, but the disappearance of the young woman is still a mystery.

I remember a pair of bright yellow stretch gloves one of the little girls gave me, and a box of cuttings from one of the cedar branches for a fragrance long after Christmas day. I remember the hugs and the greetings, and the little girl who wished she was a squirrel when she saw the decorated Christmas tree the Pastor brought up to the island for them. Most of all I remember the smiles of all the children in this land so dark so much of the time. What a light they shed about them!

The Eskimos taught me something that I think the first visitors to Bethlehem experienced: Jesus was there, and it's easier to find Him in the quiet mountain snow.

CORNERSTONE is a way to share our ministry, community life, prayer and vision with you. We rely on donations to meet our expenses. Thank you for your support.
Editor: Sr. Agatha Fitzgerald

Sr. Cecilia Huber



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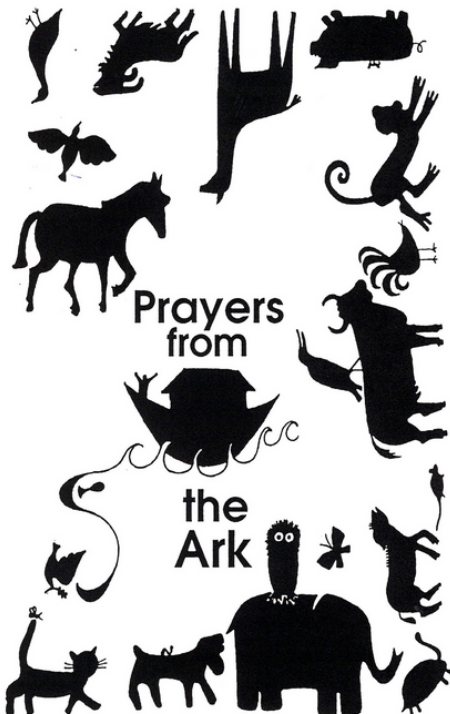


*Give thanks to the Lord
for He is good;*



His love endures forever

Psalms 106: 1



Chatfield College Christmas Celebration December 11, 1993

Chatfield College
Annual Christmas Celebration
Sacred Heart Chapel
December 1993

Music by
Sister Cecilia Huber

Cover Artwork by
Sister Agatha Fitzgerald

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CORNERSTONE is the way we share our ministry, community life, prayer and vision with you. We rely on your generous support to further our mission and care for our members.

The Ursulines of Brown County