



STONE

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

Celebrating 180 Years

"This entire affair has been conducted by an invisible hand which we must adore in silence." —Mother Julia Chatfield

The Ursulines of Brown County are thankful for our 180 years of serving the Church in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, specifically rural areas of Brown and Adams Counties. However, our reach is broader than our local area, through the many states and countries where our students lived and worked these many years.



Julia Chatfield and her Companions arrived in St. Martin, Ohio on July 21, 1845. Sister Julia, a member of the Boulogne Community for 10 years, was 48 years old when they arrived in Ohio. The only non-professed member of the group was Matilda Dunn who formally entered the Ursuline Community on July 2, 1845, in the newly built

Cathedral in Cincinnati. The oldest member of the new community was Sister Mary Bonnet at age 54 and the youngest was Sister Hyacinthe Eiffe at age 24. According to the necrology 157 members are living with the Saints of God among the ever living.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE WOMEN WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US, THOSE WHO HAVE WALKED WITH US AND THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW AFTER US



Immediately upon arrival the sisters began planning a Boarding school that would house those students who would come from far and near. They established the School of the Brown County Ursulines which operated from 1845 until 1981. Although the school was closed 44 years ago, the Alumnae Association is alive and well. Again, this year the annual reunion of former students took place on September 20th with an enthusiastic group of alums in attendance.

Graduates representing the classes celebrating anniversaries from 1955 through 1975 returned to their Brown County "home away from home". A group of loyal alums from the local area have worked tirelessly to display the school's memories. Included are pictures, programs, yearbooks and graduation snapshots from the early days to the final days in 1981. Led by Deb Barber, president of the association, the display tells the amazing story of the school from 1845-1981.

WE APPRECIATE THE TIME AND ENERGY OF FAMILIES WHO JOURNEYED WITH US IN BUILDING, MAINTAINING AND CHERISHING THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES EXPERIENCED BY HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS

Ursuline Academy of Cincinnati was established in 1896 as a “Day school in the City” to provide an education for boy and girls. As the high school population increased, space became an issue. There were several construction projects to accommodate the growing numbers. One solution was to phase out the grade school classes. The last class of 8th graders graduated from Oak Street in 1970. To settle the space issue once and for all, Sister Xavier Ladrigan and the Community made the decision to build a new Ursuline which opened in 1970, in Blue Ash, considered a rural area. Sister Xavier had faith that if we built the building, students would come. Indeed, they did and continue to do so today. Aware of the changes in our community, city, state, and world, Ursuline continues to adapt the curriculum to prepare young women for the challenges and needs of our fast-paced interdependent universe. In 2026, Ursuline will celebrate 130 years of continued nurturing of the souls, intellect, hearts and imaginations of Ursuline students.



WE ARE PROUD OF THE URSULINE WOMEN WHO HAVE CARRIED THE URSULINE LEGACY WITH THEM WHEREVER THEY ARE IN THE WORLD—THEIR VOICE AND VALUES SPREAD THE VISION OF ST. ANGELA MERICI



In 1971 Chatfield College became an accredited institution offering a two-year associate of Arts degree. Open to the public, Chatfield served not only the members who entered the community but the local population, anxious to have college courses nearby. In the early 1990's a campus of Chatfield was opened in the inner city. For both campuses, the population was primarily first-generation college students who needed support and encouragement. Chatfield College provided individual attention for students so they could thrive and succeed.

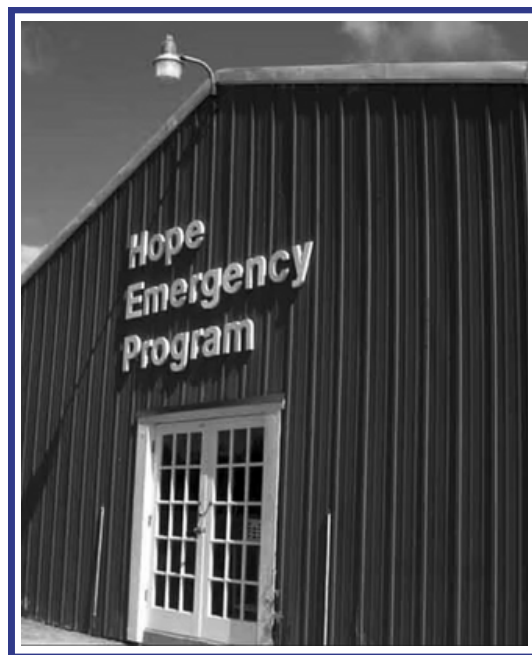
In 2022 the College closed, transitioning to Chatfield Edge in 2023. The Chatfield Edge fosters the same mission evident at



Chatfield College, Ursuline Academy and the School of the Brown County Ursulines. Our mission provides support for each student and empowers them to envision a better life for themselves and their families through educational opportunities. The Edge works with individual needs, by assisting students in choosing programs of interest to them, registration processes, financial gap assistance and mentors to encourage and support success.

WE BELIEVE IT IS "THE INVISIBLE HAND" THAT HAS BLESSED THE URSULINES OF BROWN COUNTY AND OUR MINISTRIES THROUGH GOD'S LOVE AND COMPASSIONATE CARE

Through the years we have assisted the pioneer families and members of the local community. Immediately the education of the children in the local area was addressed; initiating the beginning of public education in Northern Brown County. The natural creek that was on the property was dammed to create a supply of water for the Convent campus and St. Martin Village. Plays and concerts were presented for families, friends, and neighbors. Religious education in the local parishes was undertaken by the sisters, traveling weekly to instruct the students from first grade through high school. Food, clothing and household goods were provided for those in need. Hope Emergency program was born from Sisters Miriam and Dorothy Thompson's initial collaboration with various partners to assist families in need in the 1970-80. Separately incorporated in 1993, the organization has grown, both in the number of families served weekly, and the donors and volunteers who provide invaluable service.



Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Col. 3:17)

Remembering Sisters Agatha, Roseanne & Ellen

This year, we lost three incredible Ursuline Sisters who all were deeply committed to our mission and served as catalysts for leadership in ministry. As we continue to mourn our Sisters, we pray for their families and loved ones to find peace during this difficult time.

Sister Agatha Fitzgerald



Sister Roseanne White



Sister Ellen Doyle



Please visit www.ursulinesofbc.org to read their full obituaries.

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New & Improved Web Experience

We invite you to explore, reflect and be inspired by checking out our redesigned website!

The Ursulines of Brown County website celebrates the rich legacy of our congregation and invites visitors to experience our story in a fresh way. The new site offers a closer look at our legacy and the women who shaped our community. You'll also find information about visiting our archives. It is a reservation-only, immersive experience, where you'll discover the history, stories and legacy of The Ursulines of Brown County through artifacts, books, photos and more!



Please visit www.ursulinesofbc.org to check it out!

The Ursulines of Brown County