Under the leadership of Principal, Sr. Mary John O’Rourke, OSU, St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury, Connecticut was named a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School. This honor places them in the top ten percent of schools in the United States. St. Gregory’s is one of only fifty private schools in the country to receive the award.

The U.S. Department of Education recognized 304 schools as 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools. These schools were honored at an awards ceremony on November 15-16 in Washington, D.C. The nationwide Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools whose students achieve in the top ten percent of their state on state tests or nationally-normed tests.

Sr. Mary John credits many factors that contribute to the school’s success: Spanish classes that begin in kindergarten, technology used in every aspect of learning with computers and SmartBoards in every classroom, as well as the dedication of the teachers and the continued support of the parents.

After working for sixteen years to make the school the best it could be, Sr. Mary John is thrilled that the hard work of her faculty and students is being recognized. “Education is about empowering our students to be successful leaders in the 21st Century,” she said. “Schools honored with the Blue Ribbon Schools award are committed to achievement and to ensuring that students learn and succeed. We are proud of our teachers and students.”
Dear Friends,

The circle of Ursuline friends continues to grow. Although we as a Province are small, we have been truly blest. When I reflect even on my own life, much has changed in our Tildonk experience since I entered in 1964. Then we were on the edge of the changes in religious life. We were probably at our highest number in membership. I was a postulant among nine postulants.

Today our number is smaller. We don’t have candidates for new membership. However, we do have Associates and we do have countless friends among our former students and partners in ministry. Together we continue to work to make God known and loved.

I believe that one of the ways we work together is fostering each other’s life. This time of year gives us two very clear signs of new life: the season of Easter and the season of spring. Both seasons call us to renewal. The Easter Season is a time of spiritual renewal and reconnection or deeper connection with Jesus. During this season, we pray for all of our friends in a special way. The natural season of spring helps us all to renew our bodies and minds after the harshness of the past winter. We are personally encouraged by all the beautiful new life bursting around us.

In this publication you will read about the life we share with you and how your monetary contributions support us. For all you are I thank you and for all you have given to us I thank you. Let us continue to generate new life wherever we can. In the words of the first letter of St. Peter, “As generous distributors of God’s manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another each in the measure he has received.” (1 Peter 4, 10)

In unity and peace,

Sister Catherine Talia, OSU
Provincial
Sharing a Spiritual Journey

Associates are an integral part of the Ursuline community sharing in the mission, ministries and spirituality. They participate in prayer groups, social events and work with the Sisters in serving God’s people wherever the need is greatest. Currently the U.S. Province has twenty-one Associates. While Associates lead lives in which they are raising families and working, they incorporate the charism and spirituality of the Ursuline Sisters in their everyday life.

Many Associates have expressed that they were looking for a deeper connection with God and a desire to live a Gospel led life. What they found with the Ursulines is a connectedness. “I share in the history of the Ursuline Sisters from Our Lady of Grace school in Howard Beach,” said Associate Ann Torres. “Being an Associate feels as though I have come home to my roots. I share the vision and charism of the Sisters and have a deep sense of belonging and love with the Ursulines as my extended family.”

Men and women who feel called to become an Associate are invited to “come and see” by participating in the prayer group held on the first Friday of the month. This offers an opportunity to get to know the Associates and Sisters and to discover if they feel connected to the Ursuline mission. For those who feel called to become an Associate, they start on a spiritual journey which includes spiritual formation, understanding the history and charism of the Ursulines and coming to know St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursulines and Father John Lambertz, founder of the Ursulines of Tildonk.

If you are interested in more information on becoming an Associate, please call or email Winnie Valcancick at 718-343-1428 or trinitywv7@yahoo.com.

Our Lady of Victory School Honors Sr. Laurentine

Our Lady of Victory School of West Haven, CT celebrated its Sixth Annual Viking Honoree Mass and Dinner on February 19, 2011. Sister Laurentine received the Fr. Thomas J. McMahon Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the parish bestows, for her service as a faculty member for eight years and in parish outreach for eleven years. As a teacher she tirelessly worked to make her classes interesting for her students. She found great joy in teaching children and the children in turn loved her.

During her years in social and pastoral ministry she was instrumental in the start of “The Clothes Closet” and “Food Pantry,” a source of clothing and food for those in need. She was a coordinator of the Reach-Out program, a student service program initiated to assist the elderly of the parish. Student volunteers gave their time and talents to befriend older members of the community and assist them with tasks that they were no longer able to do on their own. She was also a participant in the “Rainbow for all God’s Children” program, a Diocesan bereavement program that helped children deal with the loss of a parent due to death, divorce or separation. In addition she facilitated the development of the Wellness Team to encourage people to become proactive in their personal health.

Today she ministers as a holistic therapist and a professional reflexologist working with stroke and cancer patients. “We always tried to minister with love so that those we helped could receive the gift with dignity,” said Sr. Laurentine. “We quite simply tried to do what Jesus would have done.”
Sr. Deodata - Rebuilding Young Lives

Sister Deodata Bunzigiye, a member of the Vice Province of Ursulines in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was recently invited to the United Nations’ General Assembly for interactive hearings on the topic of “Sustainable Development and Promoting Good Governance in the Least Developed Countries” held from April 1 – 4. The hearings are in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries which will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from May 9-13, 2011.

The invitation came as a surprise to Sister Deodata, but once you understand Alpha Ujuvi, the organization she founded and coordinates, it is clear why her contributions were sought out.

Alpha Ujuvi is a joint effort of several aid organizations in Goma and supported by UNICEF, UNDP, Action Aid, UNFPA and others. Alpha Ujuvi’s aim is to support vulnerable children, in particular survivors of sexual violence, orphans, abandoned children and children with HIV and AIDS. They also are directly involved in raising awareness of the societal problem of sexual violence through literacy classes.

“Everybody knows that the principle cause of sexual violence is the war; it is the same for the children. Many children were abused during the period of conflict. Many families were displaced and forced into poverty,” said Sr. Deodata.

The organization, whose full name is “Collectif Alpha Ujuvi” and translates to “Literacy and Curiosity,” implements and directs the Literacy programs throughout the Diocese of Goma. It also serves as a resource for many such programs throughout the North and South Kivu Provinces. Alpha Ujuvi is in the forefront of eliminating illiteracy and therefore is recognized as a leader in literacy training and has been called upon to present formation workshops in the capital Kinshasa and in neighboring Rwanda.

The program’s approach is multi-pronged, designed to intercede for those who have not been able to receive the education they deserve. Children, teenagers, and adults come into this program to learn basics of education, health, socialization and job skills. Many are refugees, victims of sexual violence or orphans.

The Furahini Center is just one success story of the programs that Alpha Ujuvi facilitates. The word “Furahini” means, “to be in joy/happiness.” Currently the Furahini Center is operating with 160 children from very poor families, orphans, children living on the street or with foster families. Children attend the Furahini Center to catch up to grade level. When possible the children are placed into a regular school system after getting up to speed with their peers. Based on the foundation of this school, and on subsequent primary schooling, some children have been accepted into good secondary schools, such as the Ursuline High School in Lycee Chemchem. But this is often not the case as many of the children are too old or too poor to attend regular school. For these children the program provides skills training so that they can find skilled work such as sewing, hair care, and cooking. “We are happy that the children attend the program; we are constantly encouraged by their energy and their motivation,” said Sr. Deodata.
Our Ministries

The following are ministries and organizations employing Ursuline Sisters or receiving subsidized or volunteer services from Ursuline Sisters.

Author, Children’s Books
Childcare, Vermont
Consultant, Corporate Responsibility
Eastern Farm Workers Association, Bellport, NY
Education Department, Diocese of Rockville Centre
Harvest House, Syosset, NY
New Ground, Hempstead, NY
NY State Assembly
Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation, Rockville Centre, NY
United Nations Educational Programs

Healthcare/Hospice/Holistic
Brookhaven Hospital Hospice, Patchogue, NY
Catholic Health Services, Melville, NY
Maria Regina, Brentwood, NY
St. Ursula Convent, Blue Point, NY
UST Holistic Therapies

Parishes
Maria Regina, Seaford, NY
Mary Immaculate, Bellport, NY
Nativity BVM, Ozone Park, NY
Our Lady of Grace, Howard Beach, NY
Our Lady of Victory, West Haven, CT
St. Camillus, Rockaway Park, NY
St. Gregory the Great, Bellerose, NY
St. Gregory the Great, Danbury, CT
St. John Nepomucene, Bohemia, NY
St. Margaret, Middle Village, NY
St. Michael, Greenwich, CT
St. Thomas the Apostle, Oxford, CT
St. William the Abbot, Seaford, NY
Weston Priory, Weston, VT

Schools
Divine Mercy Catholic Academy, Ozone Park, NY (formerly Nativity BVM School)
Fordham University, Bronx NY
Our Lady of Fatima, Jackson Heights, NY
Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Syosset, NY
Our Lady of Victory, West Haven, CT
Queen of All Saints, Brooklyn, NY
St. Gregory the Great, Danbury, CT

Spirituality
Tabor Retreat Center, Oceanside, NY
St. Ursula Center, Blue Point, NY

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Would you consider giving a gift today to help support our retired and infirm sisters?

Have you thought of including the Ursuline Sisters in your will?

Call 631-363-2422, ext. 2003
What are they up to now?

Sr. Regina Delaney - Enthusiastic & Devoted Educator

Sister Regina Delaney has dedicated her whole life to Catholic education serving as a teacher and administrator for over 50 years. She is a product of Catholic School education having attended Our Lady of Grace in Howard Beach, NY where she was taught by the Ursuline Sisters. Her experiences with her teachers inspired her to become an Ursuline and a teacher. She professed her vows in 1949 and returned to her roots, Our Lady of Grace, where she taught until 1952.

Her teaching career brought her to Nativity BVM, Ozone Park, NY; St. Thomas the Apostle, West Hartford, CT; and Holy Family High School, Huntington, NY. She also served as principal at St. Thomas the Apostle in West Hartford, CT; St. Gregory the Great in Bellerose, NY; and St. Mary Star of the Sea in Rockaway, NY. In addition she has served as a Religious Education Director and Librarian. She has helped prepare catechists in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Sr. Regina has also served her community as a Councilor in Provincial government. As Councilor, she worked on the Ministry Committee, assisting Sisters where she could and encouraging them in their particular areas.

Today, Sr. Regina is still very active serving as a part-time administrative assistant at Divine Mercy Catholic Academy where she assists the principal in many ways. She runs the prayer services, sets up meetings, and proctors tests. She also works on school programs and prepares the reports for The Catholic Identity Study; Preserving the Vision Study and the Middle States Accreditation. She loves working with the students and teachers. She assists the religious education department delivering talks to parents on the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. She works with the Nativity Alumni Association, assisting them with the alumni newsletters, fundraisers and programs.

At 82, Sr. Regina approaches life with much energy, creativity and enthusiasm. She is devoted to Catholic Education and concerned for its future.

Sr. Deodata continued from pg. 4

For adults the program provides knowledge and skills their children or grandchildren are learning in school, thus a support system for their families. Alpha Ujuvi also encourages and supports small enterprises such as raising bees for honey and selling handicrafts.

A major aim of the program is to rebuild young lives so they have a better future. With the help of the Ursulines, children are provided with food, clothing, and medical care. At present Alpha Ujuvi also houses over fifty children who have been abused. The children will return to their families after a period of rehabilitation and counseling is complete. “I am convinced if Angela Merici were in the Congo today she would be doing the same work,” said Sr. Deodata. “Angela is my guiding light.”

The Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk are a recognized NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) affiliated with the Department of Public Information at the UN. Sr. Jane Quinlan, the Ursuline NGO representative, invited Sr. Deodata to the RUN (Religious at the UN) meeting on April 6th, where she explained her work. “I am very proud of the work Deodata does and I encourage her by our support and prayers.”
Annual Holiday Craft Fair
On Saturday, November 6, 2010 the annual Holiday Craft Fair was held at the St. Ursula Center in Blue Point, NY. Many came to enjoy homemade crafts, delicious baked goods and raffle prizes.

At the baked goods table, Sr. Lisa Bergeron, (third from right) and Event Planner, Liz Wilson (far right) with some of our dedicated volunteers.

Sr. Margaret Gay, volunteer Eunice Benedetto, Associate Barbara Tubito-Megara, and Sr. Agnes Seebach.
Sister Mary Louise Grube, OSU who died November 23, 2010 at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip, NY. She was 92 years old. She entered the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on February 11, 1940. She was in the 71st year of her religious profession.

Sister Mary DeMontfort, OSU who died December 8, 2010 at the St. Ursula Center Convent in Blue Point, NY. She was 77 years old. She entered the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk on September 8, 1954. She was in the 57th year of her religious profession.

Gifts in memory of our deceased Sisters may be sent to:
Ursuline Provincialate, 81-15 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica, NY, 11432-1308

Saint Angela’s Legacy Circle

We are deeply grateful to the following donors who have named our community as the recipient of a planned gift. These generous donors are faithful stewards who will leave a legacy that enables our Sisters to serve in various ministries and provides for the needs of our retired Sisters.

Joan & Arnold Bellmer
Linda Cusati
Dennis Doherty
Joseph & Marilyn Monteith

For more information on the Saint Angela’s Legacy Circle call Hope Motreuil at 631-363-2422, ext. 2003 or email hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org
Joseph Stevens, Palm Bay, FL

Joseph Stevens is a long-time supporter of the Ursuline Sisters. A 1951 graduate of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ozone Park, NY, Stevens credits the Sisters who taught him for putting him on the right path in life. He admits that his record “wasn’t the best,” but the Sisters, instead of expelling him, put him “on trial.”

He is thankful for the education he received from the Sisters. He was taught to read, write and above all to be morally straight. “They gave me my faith - the greatest treasure I have.” He now sees this gift passed on to his five children and eight grandchildren.

“He could drive you mad, but you had to love him,” said Sr. Anna, 97, who developed a lifetime friendship with Stevens. “Anytime he had a job, he always bought something for the nuns.” Stevens says he remembers all the names and faces of those who were in his class and keeps them in his heart.

Today, Stevens runs a family business, working with his brother, sons and a grandson. He attends church and receives communion daily, studies the Catechism and supports many Catholic causes. He thanks the Sisters for instilling his faith. “I can’t stop thanking those great nuns who helped nourish this gift.”

Would you like to share your reason? Please call 631-363-2422, ext. 2003 or email hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org

Saint Angela’s Friendship Circle

We are deeply grateful to the following donors who have joined the St. Angela’s Friendship Circle by making a commitment to give on a monthly basis. Their commitment to our community helps us ensure the security of our retired and infirm Sisters, as well as provide our Sisters the ability to serve in various ministries.

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Patricia DeMerie  Barbara Tubito-Megara

For more information on the Saint Angela’s Friendship Circle call Hope Motreuil at 631-363-2422, ext. 2003 or email hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org
Thank You

Your support helped in maintaining our retirement home and enabling our Sisters to continue to serve in many capacities, mainly helping to meet the needs of people especially women and children living in poverty.

The following names represent those who donated during the 2010 fiscal year Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2010. If any information is incorrect please call or email Hope Motreuil at 631-363-2422, ext. 2003; email: hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org

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Edible Arrangements
Emerald Island Supply
EPS Systems
Ferrara Bros. Building Materials Corp.
Fiddlers Green Thrift Shop
First Actuarial Consulting Inc.
First United American/
LI Insurance Solutions
Floralia Decorators at the
Waldorf Astoria
Fritzche’s Bakery
Furci’s
Good Shepherd Farm
Good Shepherd Hospice
Grey Horse Tavern
Hair by Susan

Bequests

The following remembered the Ursuline Sisters in his will. He has shared God’s abundance with us, may he now share in God fully.

John Foley

Hennessy Family Gift Fund
Hornell Family Gift Fund
(Arizona Iced Tea)
Hotel Pennsylvania
Houdeks Wine
IBT Local 210
Image House
INN - Interfaith Nutrition Network
Intra Home Systems
Investment Consulting Services
Irish Crossroads
J & J Spirit Shop
James Romanelli-Stephen
Funeral Home
Jefferson L. Ford Memorial Foundation
Jim Rubin Associates
Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation
Jonathan Lord
Joseph Stevens Painting, Inc.
Knights of Columbus -
St. Virgilius Council 185
We have received support from the following organizations:

Knights of York
La Rage
Lion Star Consultant Services Group
LIV Vodka
Louis C. Ciliberti & Associates
Marc Anthony Pizza
Maria Regina Residence
Marita’s Hair Studio
Mazzola & Strunk, LLP
McGovern’s
Mickey Felice’s
Mondello’s Bakery
Mother Goose Toys
NCM Capital Management Group
Nativity Alumni Association
Nativity BVM Church
Nativity BVM Columbiettes
North Island Physical Therapy
Oppenheimer & Co.
Our Lady of Grace Church, Howard Beach, NY
Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Syosset, NY
Patchogue Councel, Knights of Columbus 725
Pine Grove Inn
Professional Nails

Pumpkin Patch
Restaurant Blue
Riemann Auto Body
Robertaccio Funeral Home
Rockingham Area Community Land Trust, Inc.
Rosemar Construction
Sal’s Food Market
Sammi’s Nails
Satellite Pizza
Sele-Dent, Inc.
St. Gregory the Great, Bellerose, NY
St. Gregory the Great, Danbury, CT
St. John the Baptist Church, Wading River, NY
St. Michael and St. Timothy, Greenwich, CT
St. William The Abbot School, Seaford, NY
Stacey Braun Associates
Starbucks
Steinberg, Steckler and Picciurro
Stop & Shop
Stuyvesant Capital Mgmt. Corp.
Susana’s Cleaning Angels
Syntonic Systems, Inc.
Tabor Retreat Center
Target
Teamsters Joint Council 16
Teamsters Local 111
Teamsters Local 237
Teamsters Local 282
Teamsters Local 456
Teamsters Local 550
Teamsters Local 553
Teamsters Local 584
Teamsters Local 802
Teamsters Local 808
Teamsters Local 812
Teamsters Local 831
Teamsters Local 854
The Fish Store
The Oar
Tocqueville Asset Management L.P.
Unified Windows & Doors
Villa Sorrento
Vision Sports Group LLC
Visionary Graphics & Marketing
Waldorf and Associates
Well Beyond Day Spa
Wenner Bread
WLNY TV 10/55

Donations were received in Memory of:

Sr. Paula Carey
Sr. Mary DeMontfort
Sr. Louis Grube
Sr. Margaret McKenna
Sr. Sheila Molloy

Sr. Winifred Monks
Kathryn Moulder
Sr. Lorraine O’Neil
Elizabeth Ann Preston
Sr. Joan Sirtowt

Donations were received in Honor of:

Sr. Anna Ardiff
Sr. Teresita Catalano
Sr. Philomena O’Brien

On February 18, 2011, Sister Kate Clancy of SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious, Inc.) visited the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk in Blue Point, NY to present a grant check of $15,000. The grant will go towards the installation of a chair lift for the suites side of the St. Ursula Center. Many of our elderly Sisters have difficulty navigating the steep narrow stairs of the convent. Having the lift will give the Sisters a safe way to stay mobile and active in their congregation and ministry. We are extremely grateful to SOAR! for this grant.
Statement of Accountability

Public Support and Revenue

Public Support
- Gifts/Donations: $239,259
- Bequests:
- Grants: 46,099
- Events: 125,056

Total Public Support $410,414

Expenditures

Program Services
- Support of ministries $10,200
- Support of retired/infirm 245,163
- Sacred Space 1,500

Total Program services: $256,863

Supporting Services
- Fundraising $20,259
- Events 57,442
- Administrative and General 75,850

Total Supporting Services: $153,551

Total Expenditures $410,414

Help Us Build Connections

If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter and our other mailings, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Development Office, Rm 121, Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, 186 Middle Rd., Blue Point, NY 11715

Name ______________________________________ Address __________________________________________
City: _______________________________________ State _____ Zip ________________________________
Referred by: _____________________________________________________________________________
Please help us to be efficient. If your address has changed or if you would like your name removed from our list, please call 631-363-2422, ext. 2003 or email: hmotreuil@tildonkursuline.org

Online Giving is Easy, Safe and Secure

The option to give online is available on our Mission Advancement website. The process is simple and secure. To make a donation online click the donate button on our website. This will bring you to a secure form and check out process. When you send your information it is encrypted and safely transmitted.

Visit our website at www.tildonkursuline.org.

The Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk is on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user, please find and become a fan of the Ursuline Sisters. This will keep you connected with the Ursuline Sisters and help us make new connections.