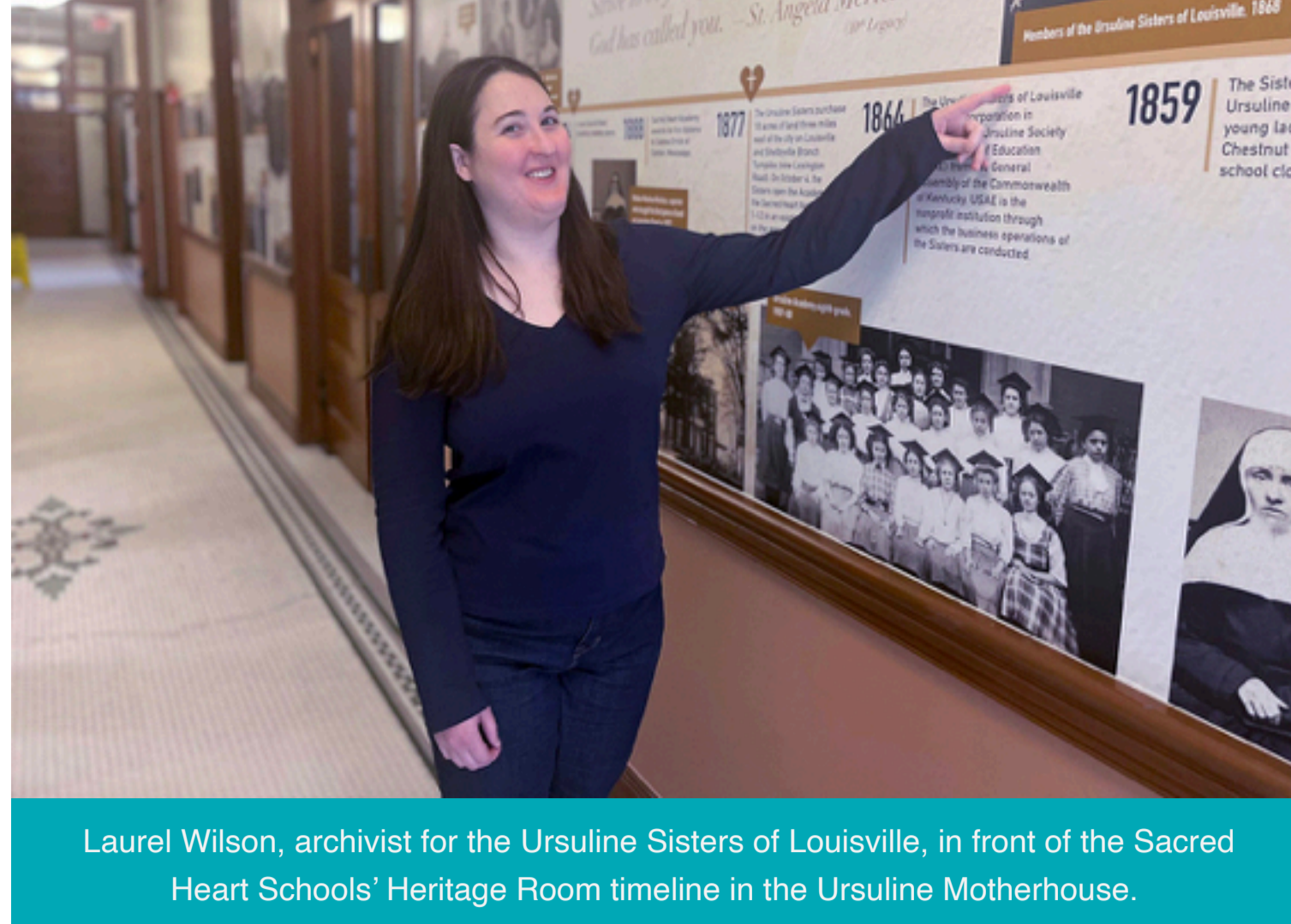




March 2023

## Newsletter



Laurel Wilson, archivist for the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, in front of the Sacred Heart Schools' Heritage Room timeline in the Ursuline Motherhouse.

### Capital Campaign Strategy Committee

WRAC has secured the services of American City Bureau (ACB) to assist with the Capital Campaign. Bob Hotz of ACB will serve as Project Counsel. We have completed a feasibility study and the group is now focusing on creating materials to use with potential grant funders and donors. We will share the *Case for Support* with each congregation once the document is finalized. Those serving on this work group with Bob are all individuals with fundraising experience and expertise. We are grateful to Mark Cotleur (Sisters of Charity Health System), Sister Mary Jerome, OSU (Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati), Sister Ruth Westmoreland, OSF (Clinton Franciscans), and Margaret Eigsti (Sisters of Charity Foundation) for giving their time and expertise so generously.



As a part of the funding strategy, WRAC is in the process of submitting applications for federal and foundation grants to support portions of the project including but not limited to pre-construction, construction, consultants, and salaries. Due to the generosity of pledges from participating congregations, we are able to submit proposals for challenge grants. These opportunities allow us to double our money! We ask for your prayers as we seek various means of funding.

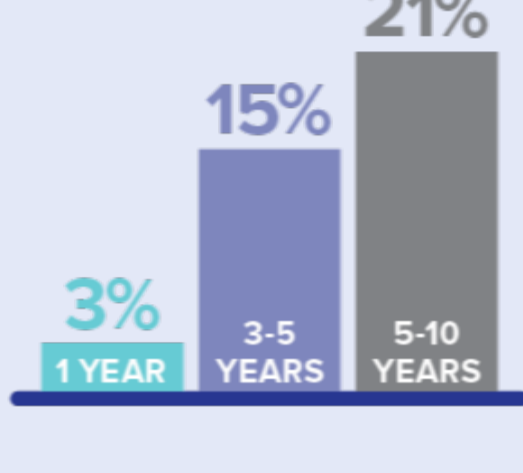


### Road Trip!

Lead Archivist Ellen Pierce and Sister Susan will be taking their show on the road in March and June to visit archives of member congregations. During the visits, they will also meet with congregational leaders to give updates, outline plans and answer questions. We look forward to meeting with everyone in person!

### ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL CARA SURVEY:

Only 3% of respondents indicate transferring their archives to a repository within this year. Fifteen percent may transfer in three to five years, and 21% within five to 10 years. One in five plans for a transfer outside of the next ten years.



### Affiliations

Sister Susan and Margaret Eigsti recently visited Felton Thomas, Director of the Cleveland Public Library, Felton also serves as Board President for the Digital Public Library of America. The Cleveland Public Library recently renovated its digital space and has been instrumental in assisting other organizations with digitization and preservation needs. During the meeting we toured the space and met with the library's lead archivist and head of the preservation lab. We will continue to meet with key individuals to learn from their knowledge and experience and to help us refine public/private partnerships that will ultimately offer visibility on more national platforms. Felton and his colleagues are eager to share their expertise. Even more, they have invited our future archivists and interns to utilize the library's digitization space in the future at no cost. This not only provides us with a great partner but also cost savings on the use of large scanning equipment we would not need to purchase for WRAC.



### Archive Moment

This monthly feature will highlight something about a member congregation's archive, providing some insight into the uniqueness of the congregation. Thanks to the archivists for preparing their submissions.

This month we highlight the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville with a submission from their archivist, Laurel Wilson.

### Louisville Campus a Living Legacy

In 1858, three sisters from the Ursuline Motherhouse in Straubing, Bavaria set out to Louisville, Kentucky to start a new Ursuline Kentucky. Within 10 years, the congregation had grown to more than 30 sisters and they had established a boarding school, day school, Novitiate, convent, and chapel. By 1877, the community had expanded their facilities on E. Chestnut St. in downtown Louisville as much as they could, but they were still running out of room for the ever-growing enrollment of their academy and Novitiate.

That year, Mother Superior Martina Nicklas found a solution to the space problem. She bought 10 acres of land three miles east of the city on the Louisville & Shelbyville Branch Turnpike, which is now called Lexington Road. At the time, the property was on a stretch of farmland that offered enough room for a new academy and Novitiate, with plenty of room to expand further.

Mother Martina had great foresight in acquiring the land, but even she probably could not have realized just how fruitful her purchase would be for her community. In the nearly 150 years since she bought the first parcel of land, the Ursuline Campus on Lexington Road has grown to 48 acres and housed eight Ursuline-founded schools, four of which are still on campus today as Sacred Heart Schools. In 1917, the campus became home to the congregation's current Motherhouse and Chapel.

The evolution of the Ursuline Campus and Sacred Heart Schools is detailed through a timeline installed last October as part of a new Heritage Room in the Motherhouse. The opening of the Heritage Room corresponded with the 145th anniversary of Sacred Heart Academy, the first school on campus.

While the archival collection of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville will ultimately have a home at the Women Religious Archives Collaborative, the history of the congregation and the schools they founded will be showcased permanently on campus through the Heritage Room.

— Laurel Wilson, Archivist  
Ursuline Sisters of Louisville



### Participating Congregations to Date:

- Carmel of the Holy Family
- Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine
- Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH
- Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
- Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis
- Sisters of the Holy Spirit
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati
- Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
- Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
- Ursuline Sisters of Toledo

Credits:

Fundraising icon by Berkah Icon from Noun Project (CCBY3.0)

Map icon by Made from Noun Project (CCBY3.0)

Cleveland Public Library Photo: Cards84664, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Copyright © 2023 Women Religious Archives Collaborative, All rights reserved.

Women Religious Archives Collaborative  
2475 E. 22nd Street • Cleveland, Ohio 44115

216-287-5176

sdurkin@archivescollaborative