

“The altar is the center of the Church.” ~ Archbishop Joseph Kurtz

LOUISVILLE, Ky (February 9, 2009) - The Ursuline Sisters began their ministry in Louisville at St. Martin of Tours Church on Shelby and Gray Streets more than a 150 years ago. On Sunday, February 8, 2009, the Sisters' service to the parish was recognized in an unusual way.



A relic of St. Angela Merici, who founded the Ursuline Sisters, was inserted into the altar. The altar was consecrated by Archbishop Joseph Kurtz then the relic was placed in the altar. Several Ursuline Sisters took part in the dedication. Sisters Jo Ann Jansing, Colette Kraemer, Bernadine Nash and Mary Anthony Wargel were in the procession to bring the relics into the sanctuary.

Sister Lynn Jarrell, president of the Ursuline Sisters, then took part in the signing of the proclamation and wrapping the relics in silk. Just before the dedication took place, Archbishop Kurtz told the hundreds who packed the church, “The Ursuline Sisters spread throughout Louisville, working to fulfill their mission. They have served as an inspiration of what Christian living means to so many throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville.”

A relic of a companion of St. Ursula was also placed in the altar. Angela chose to name the first Ursulines the Company of St. Ursula because Ursula and her companions were martyrs and holy women not in convents.

Those who took part in the procession had special ties to the parish. Sisters Colette and Anthony taught at St. Martin's School, and Sisters Jo Ann Jansing and Bernadine Nash are graduates of the old Ursuline Academy, located a block from the parish church.

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