New Leadership Team

LOUISVILLE, Ky (July 30, 2008) - Nearly 200 people filled the Motherhouse Chapel on Wednesday, July 30 for the Transitional Ritual, the official transition from one leadership team to the next. It's a day the Ursuline Sisters now experience once every six years.

As the first song began, the crowd, which overflowed into the balcony, stood as all five of the 2002-2008 Leadership Team members walked to the altar. Outgoing President, Sister Jean Anne Zappa, spoke to the crowd first, talking about the significance of the flames burning on the candles each of the five Sisters held.

"[During the Olympic games] the source of the flame in Greece lights the torch that is carried around the world," said outgoing President Sister Jean Anne Zappa, as Sisters Judith Rice, Anne Mary Lochner, Jo Ann Jansing and Sue Scharfenberger stood facing the crowd. "In 1535, the flame received by Angela Merici became visible in her life when she founded our [order]…. In 1858, the flame was brought to Louisville, Kentucky, and spread to South Carolina, Maryland, Nebraska, Peru and beyond."

The incoming Leadership Team members were then asked to come forward, facing the outgoing team.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and have kept the flame alive, the flame that is the presence of Christ," Sister Jean Anne continued. "Now, we pass this, the flame, to the new Leadership Team with our support and deep love."

One by one, each member of the outgoing team spoke words of love and encouragement to another Sister on the incoming team, handing over their flame with care, passing the torch to the five women before them. In those few significant moments, Sisters Lynn Jarrell, Martha Jacob, Rita Ann Wigginton, Ruth Ann Haunz and Rita Dressman became the five women to serve in the ministry of leadership from 2008 until 2014.

Speaking to the crowd of Sisters, Associates, friends and family, Sister Lynn, now the President of the Ursuline Sisters, said her first official act was a simple one, to thank the previous team for their six years of service in leadership. "No words can express our gratitude for the gifts of yourselves." She said, "May you be richly blessed." Applause filled the room as everyone stood in honor of the outgoing team's last six years of guidance and ministry.

Meet the Leadership Team at
http://www.ursulinesisterslouisville.org/ursuline.leadership.team.php