



# JOURNEYS

## URSULINE SISTERS

of the Roman Union † United States Provinces

December 2014

Dear Friends,

Advent is a beautiful time of *expectation*. And while many anticipate the parties and gifts of Christmas, the most important thing is to recognize the coming of God into our lives, over and over. The Indian born poet, Tagore, wrote:

### **Have you Not Heard His Silent Steps?**

Have you not heard his silent steps?

He comes, comes, ever comes.

Every moment and every age, every day and every  
night he comes, comes, ever comes.

Many a song have I sung in many a mood of mind,  
but all their notes have always proclaimed,  
"He comes, comes, ever comes."

In the fragrant days of sunny April through the forest  
path he comes, comes, ever comes.

In the rainy gloom of July nights on the thundering  
chariot of clouds he comes, comes, ever comes.

In sorrow after sorrow it is his steps that press upon my heart,  
and it is the golden touch of his feet that makes my joy to shine.

Watch and listen well for the coming of God this Advent and Christmas, as well as each and every day!

Peace,



Sr. Elisa Ryan

### **For Reflection**

When have you been aware of God *coming* to you? What were the signs of God's presence?

Are there aspects of your life in which you feel a need for God to be with you now? How might you bring these to prayer?



Angela Merici

## Scripture Helps

Slowly read [Psalm 139](#), and ask God to help you understand these words: “Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee? If I take the wings of dawn and dwell beyond the sea, even there your hand guides me, your right hand holds me fast.”

Ponder Matthew 1:23, “He shall be called Emmanuel, which means God-With-Us.” Share honestly with Jesus about how you need and want him to be with you in your life now.

## Other Resources



Be more aware of God’s presence this Advent by using this [online Advent calendar](#). It will make every day special.

Pope Francis has called 2015 a “Year of Consecrated Life,” and it begins tomorrow. There are almost one million religious sisters, brothers and priest in our world today. To learn more about this special year, [click here](#).

## Service Opportunities with the Ursuline Sisters

We are offering two wonderful opportunities for service this coming summer. Women aged 18-30 are invited to join us for a week of service, community, prayer and fun. There is no cost except your transportation to New Orleans or Laredo, and we even have financial help for that! Do consider joining Sr. Jean and myself for one of these:

### New Orleans, June 7-13, Art Camp

Assist in awakening a sense of community and artistic delight in children aged 5-10. Held on the edge of the French Quarter, we will join the children for painting, sketching, paper mâché, crafts, singing, and a healthy lunch.

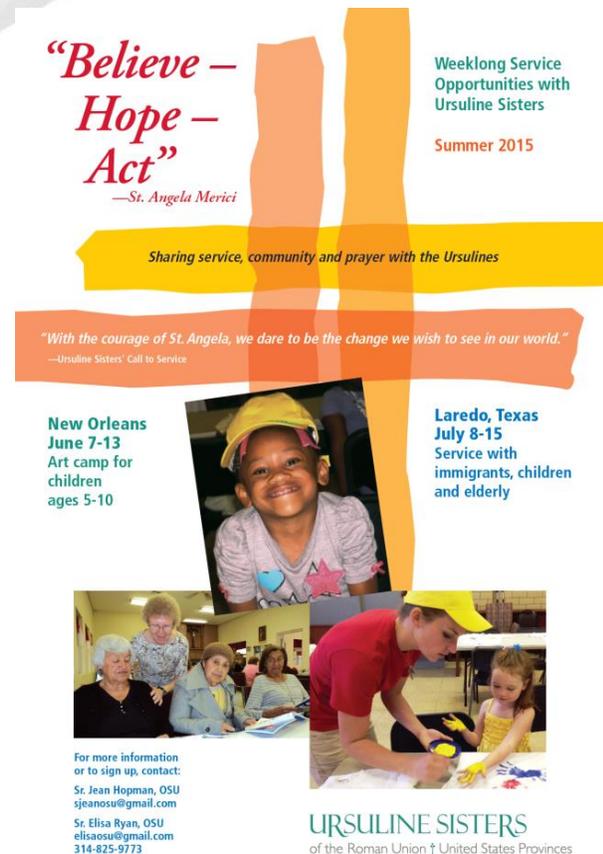
### Laredo, Texas, July 8-15, Service with Immigrants, Children and Elderly

Provide art activities for children and crafts and music for elderly at the diocesan sponsored Senior Center. Some activities will be inter-generational. There will also be opportunity to learn about immigration and border issues.

Contact Sr. Jean or Sr. Elisa by email (addresses below) or phone (314-825-9773) to learn how you can participate. We’d love to have you!

For more information, contact Sr. Elisa Ryan at [elisaosu@gmail.com](mailto:elisaosu@gmail.com) or Sr. Jean Hopman at [sjeanosu@gmail.com](mailto:sjeanosu@gmail.com). If you no longer wish to receive these e-letters, contact Sr. Elisa and she will remove your address.

Ursuline Vocation Office • 353 S. Sappington Rd. • Kirkwood, MO. 63122 • [www.usaosu.org](http://www.usaosu.org)



**“Believe –  
Hope –  
Act”**  
—St. Angela Merici

Weeklong Service Opportunities with Ursuline Sisters  
Summer 2015

Sharing service, community and prayer with the Ursulines

“With the courage of St. Angela, we dare to be the change we wish to see in our world.”  
—Ursuline Sisters’ Call to Service

New Orleans  
June 7-13  
Art camp for children  
ages 5-10

Laredo, Texas  
July 8-15  
Service with immigrants, children and elderly



For more information or to sign up, contact:  
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