



# JOURNEYS

## URSULINE SISTERS

of the Roman Union † United States Provinces

January 2013

Dear Friends,

As we stand at the threshold of another year, our thoughts often turn to what it will hold. We hope for big things like more peace in troubled places and more consensus around divisive issues. We also hope for smaller things like doing well in school or work and the opportunity to travel. For those actively discerning their vocation in life, a new year offers hope for deeper awareness, clarity, and acceptance.

This issue of *Journeys* highlights two events that may help you in your discernment. The Feast of the Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, is a feast for discerners. The Magi were guided by a star, which meant they could travel only in darkness. There are moments in any discernment process when we feel as if we walk in the dark. The Epiphany reminds us to look around in order to find and follow the small points of light that lead us to Christ. The other event is the feast of St. Angela Merici, the foundress of the Ursuline Sisters. January 27 is her feast day. St. Angela was skilled in the practice of listening to the Holy Spirit. Ask her to help you as you move through your own time of discernment. You won't be disappointed!



As the year 2013 dawns, we wish you a happy and holy New Year!

*Fr. Jan Hopman, OSU*

### For Reflection

*“Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to God with all your heart.”*

– St. Angela Merici

- At the dawn of a new year, what do I hold in my heart that I want to cry out to God?
- How does my belief in God challenge me to act . . . move . . . hope at this time??

*Angela Merici*

## Scripture Helps

**Matthew 2:9-12** Travel by starlight with the wise men. Listen to their conversation. Follow them into “the place where the child was.” Stay there awhile and offer your own gift.

**Luke 3:21-22** Be present as Jesus prays after his baptism. Listen to the voice that “came from heaven.” Place yourself next to Jesus and hear God speak those words to you. Be still and let this reality take root in you. Offer a prayer of gratitude to God.

## Other Resources

Before you make any New Year’s resolutions, read this article entitled [Making and Keeping New Year’s Resolutions: A New Beginning, with a New Relationship with Jesus](#)

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the *World Day of Prayer for Peace*. Consider reflecting on Pope Benedict XVI’s latest message, [Blessed Are the Peacemakers](#)

To get to know a little about St. Angela Merici and her daughters today, watch this [short video](#).



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Angela Merici