



As I turn my calendar over to the month of October, I am always excited about the special days it holds – Thanksgiving, the Feast of St. Ursula and my birthday!! Since I was asked to reflect on St Ursula, I decided to take a ride to Ursuline College. As I walked around the campus on a lovely fall day, I spent time looking at the beautiful mural of St. Ursula and some of her companions. In my memory I thought of what I had learned about St. Ursula. As the Ursuline Office Book describes and the mural depicts the legend surrounding this fourth century figure Ursula, was said to be a committed Christian virgin, of royal birth and martyred in Cologne for refusing to marry an invading tribal leader. Ursula was invoked as patron of young girls throughout the middle ages. She also became the patron of learning and teacher of young girls. Our own foundress Angela Merici named her followers “The Company of St. Ursula”, making Ursula the patron of the Ursuline Sisters who began the school. While continuing to view the mural, many of the students passed by. I was reminded how we celebrated St Ursula’s Day in my time. A field day was organized during the day and a dance in the “Nuns’ Refectory” in the evening. How things have changed! (see pictures) However, the Ursuline spirit is still very much alive in the students at Ursuline College today. What a pleasure it is for us to interact with them at various events.

In this challenging year of 2020, as we celebrate 160 years in Chatham, we are called like St. Ursula, St. Angela and Mother Xavier, to remain faithful to our commitment to serve with courage and hope

“O great St Ursula our heavenly patron,
Pray for us and grant us your aid”

Sister Mary-Ellen Kenny, osu

