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NEWS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Launch Interactive Pilgrimage Map to Celebrate Catholic Sisters Week and the 2025 Jubilee Year**

LOUISVILLE, KY – February 27, 2025 – In celebration of [Catholic Sisters Week](#) (March 8-14) and the 2025 [Jubilee Year](#) declared by Pope Francis, the [Ursuline Sisters of Louisville](#) have created an innovative digital experience that brings to life the historic pilgrimages of their foundress, St. Angela Merici.

This [interactive map](#), commemorating the 500th anniversary of St. Angela's pilgrimage to Rome, allows users to virtually follow in her footsteps through five significant historical sites. The project aligns perfectly with Pope Francis's Jubilee Year theme of "Pilgrims of Hope," highlighting the continuing relevance of St. Angela's spiritual journey in today's world.

The Ursuline Sisters partnered with the [Office of Catholic Identity and Ursuline Charism of Sacred Heart Schools](#) on this project to create a meaningful resource for students and the broader community.

"We wanted to honor Catholic Sisters Week in a unique way that connects our spiritual heritage with modern technology in a virtual pilgrimage," said Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Director of Communications Kathy Williams. Sacred Heart Schools Director of Mission Formation Jane Cruthirds, adds, "This interactive experience allows people of all ages to discover the remarkable journey of St. Angela Merici, which ultimately led to her founding of the Company of St. Ursula in 1535. The Company evolved into the Ursuline religious order we know today."

The virtual pilgrimage begins at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Louisville before taking users to Italy, where they explore Brescia, Mantua, Varallo (with a connection to the Holy Land), Cremona, and Rome. At each location, visitors can access videos narrated by Ursuline Sisters who share insights about St. Angela's experiences in each city she visited and their significance, as well as questions for reflection.

Adding a touch of modern creativity to this historical journey, the map features "Young Angela Merici," an anime-inspired character created especially for this project using Adobe Firefly and Photoshop. In Rome, she is joined by Luce, the official Jubilee mascot.

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville President Sister Jean Anne Zappa reflected, "I believe it is a gift for us, as followers of Angela, that the 2025 Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome is also the 500th anniversary of St.

Angela's pilgrimage to Rome and the 490th anniversary of the founding of the Company of St. Ursula. I am impressed by the creativity of this project and how it brings St. Angela's pilgrimage to life."

Sister Jean Anne added, "Despite losing her sight during her pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee year, Angela's deep trust in God enabled her to continue her journey. She learned to let go of expectations and see with her heart and the eyes of faith and hope, perceiving what God was revealing to her."

The map is designed for educational use in Ursuline-sponsored institutions, including [Sacred Heart Schools](#) and the [Ursuline Education Network \(UEN\)](#) of schools. It is also available via the Ursuline Sisters website to Ursuline Associates, friends, and the general public who wish to deepen their understanding of St. Angela Merici's legacy.

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Link for map experience:

<https://ursulinesisterslouisville.org/walkwithangela/>

About the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville

The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville are an apostolic religious congregation of women religious in the Roman Catholic Church who, in the spirit of Vatican II, follow a life of consecration and prayer united with good works.

Three Ursuline Sisters from Straubing, Germany, established the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1858. Today, we minister in Kentucky and in Peru, in South America.

About Sacred Heart Schools

Sacred Heart Schools, a Catholic community rooted in the Ursuline tradition, inspires diverse learners to become globally minded, compassionate leaders.

About Catholic Sisters Week

Catholic Sisters Week was launched in 2014 as a way to honor women religious. It is celebrated annually from March 8-14.

About the Jubilee Year 2025

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Jubilee Years are special times of grace and spiritual renewal in the Catholic Church.

Coverage in the press on our Catholic Sisters Week project

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<https://www.osvnews.com/catholic-sisters-week-marks-10-years-celebrating-women-religious-dynamic-mission/>

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/catholic-sisters-week-defies-stereotypes-telling-real-stories-sisters>

<https://therecordnewspaper.org/ursuline-sisters-of-louisville-launch-interactive-virtual-map-commemorating-st-angelas-pilgrimage/>