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THE URSULINE CONVENT

St. Angela's and St. Ursula's

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11th April

Staff Meetings
SA 9AM, SU 9:30AM

History

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE URSULINE SCHOOLS

Click here for a photo gallery of historical images from Ursuline Schools' history.

At the invitation of the Bishop of the time, the Ursuline Sisters arrived in Barbados on May 05, 1669. They were housed in the Sisters of Mercy located on the grounds of St. Patrick's Cathedral. These sisters had moved to British Guiana from the Sisters of Mercy and it was renamed St. Ursula's when the Ursulines took it over. It opened in 1670.

By the end of the first decade it was apparent that larger premises were needed and so the property was purchased with the help of Mr. de Creffit Harford and Mr. John Moran. At this time there was much religious persecution and the Ursulines were not permitted to buy the property themselves. However, within a very short time they had been able to purchase the property. School began shortly after this, when Grima Hoyos, aged 8, and her sister Adelita, aged 4 became the first pupils.

New classrooms were built on the site of the present classrooms in the 1930s and these included St. Ursula's and St. Angela's Barbados. Girls studied commercial subjects there after they had completed their other subjects.

In 1952 Merton Lodge, an adjoining property, was acquired from the Massiah family to be used as a school hall. The statue of Joseph and his statue, given to the convent by the parents of Lourdes and Ulsia Leon, was final. The statue had stood in the midst of a small orchard on the site of what is now the school Hall. Since while most of the trees were uprooted. The statue still stands in the same area of the school. The statue came on the market and since it bordered the convent property, the Ursulines bought it. The Infants' School opened in April 1955 and was called "Marianville"

In 1955 hurricane "Janet" destroyed or severely damaged many of the convent buildings. As a result the school hall, at that time located near the chapel, had been completely destroyed by "Janet" and the dormitories.

As a temporary measure, in 1956, three classrooms for the Secondary School were set up in the damaged dormitory section. These classrooms remained "temporary" for twenty years. A new block had been constructed in 1956 to house classrooms, and dormitories for the boarders. The campus could be traversed in rainy weather. The Home Economics Unit was opened in 1956 and a building of the swimming pool followed in 1960.

With the publication of a new Education Act in 1966 it became necessary to separate the Primary School from the Secondary School subject to certain regulations including the providing of audited accounts by the Governors of the Ursuline Schools. The Secondary School kept the name St. Ursula's while the Primary School was named after the foundress of the Ursuline Order, Saint Angela Merici.

A new block for the Preparatory School - St. Angela's - was erected in 1966. The foundation stone was laid in 1969 - in time for the 75th anniversary of the Foundation of the Ursuline community in Barbados as well as the subjects usually found in secondary schools, but with the addition of swimming.

At about this time the Parent Teacher Association was established. This functions vibrantly with the school.

The curriculum at St. Ursula's always extended to the Advanced Level. When the Barbados Corporation was formed in 1966 to maintain the Sixth Form since many students preferred to attend the newly formed Community College. Efforts were put into the five years of Secondary education.

In St. Angela's the children have always been well prepared for Secondary School with many of the subjects included in the curriculum is broad and has always included Art, Swimming, Drama, Spanish and Science as well as the music.

12th April

SU and SA - School re-opens
 School re-opens whole day for all students

In both the Secondary and Primary Departments Religious Education has always been a priority : their formation in values.

In the 1980s the school moved into the Computer age. In the beginning the girls had three comp was established with ten computers. By 2007 this had been greatly enlarged to the lovely laborat attendant machines for the modern age of technology. The Primary school, also, has its well pro have an opportunity to learn basic skills.

The Ursuline Schools have always recognised the value of the performing arts and numerous pre we decided it was time to stage a major pantomime. Mrs. Jill Otway, together with her faithful h This was a successful venture, small by the standards of future productions, and very well receiv write and produce our pantomimes over the years, each with its positive message. We have all r participating in them – learning team work, commitment, self confidence, trustworthiness and cre

In 1994 the centenary celebrations drew past students from the Caribbean, Venezuela, North Am Zealand.

In 2008 a new wing was added to the original building to provide the first convent ever built in B. realise a dream held for more than 40 years: to relocate the Chemistry laboratory in what had bec the laboratory had been housed in a small area built originally as a dressing room for the School I laboratory is up and running.



ST. ANGELA MERICI - FOUNDRRESS OF THE URSULINES

“Act. bestir yourself, make efforts, cry to God with all your heart and you will certainly see wonders.” These are the words of a woman of prayer, a woman of faith, a woman of action, a woman for whom JESUS was the one and only Treasure.

Angela, born in Desenzano, Italy, was orphaned at an early age, grew in faith and wisdom and firmly believed that she had been chosen by God for a plan He had in mind. She believed that she was someday to found a Company of women consecrated to the Lord – this she did in 1535 and Angela was accorded the title of Foundress.

The age in which Angela lived and worked saw great suffering which left people spiritually and materially powerless and hungry. The corruption of moral values left families disunited and hurting and many lives were ruined as a consequence of numerous wars. In response to these conditions, the Ursulines opened orphanages and schools. The Order spread rapidly and today there are communities across the world who pattern their lives on this wonderful woman whose spirituality was deeply rooted in the Word of God.

Angela Merici died on January 27, 1540 and was canonized a Saint of the Church in 1807. She was recognised as a woman of strength, a woman of vision and of peace, but most of all, a woman of God.

She truly lived and worked as the Ursuline motto declares : “Soli Deo Gloria – To God alone be the glory.”

ST. URSULA - PA

Historians between Ursula and her Cor of virginity.

It is told that they v sailed up the River pagan lovers. Final ambushed by the F and fidelity to Jesu students. Some of Poland and Italy de

As for popular dev each year on Octol stamped with the i Inspired by this co woman, chose to n

Today the school s the same courage i “Storm or cloud w

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