

Advocating for Your Own Slice of the Pie

Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting 2023

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Session Outline

- Intro:
 - What is advocacy?
 - What are the types of advocacy?
 - Why is advocacy important?
- Michelle: Intersectional Advocacy
- Kayla: Statistics & stories
- Sarah: Mental health
- Questions



What is advocacy?

- From the Alliance for Justice:

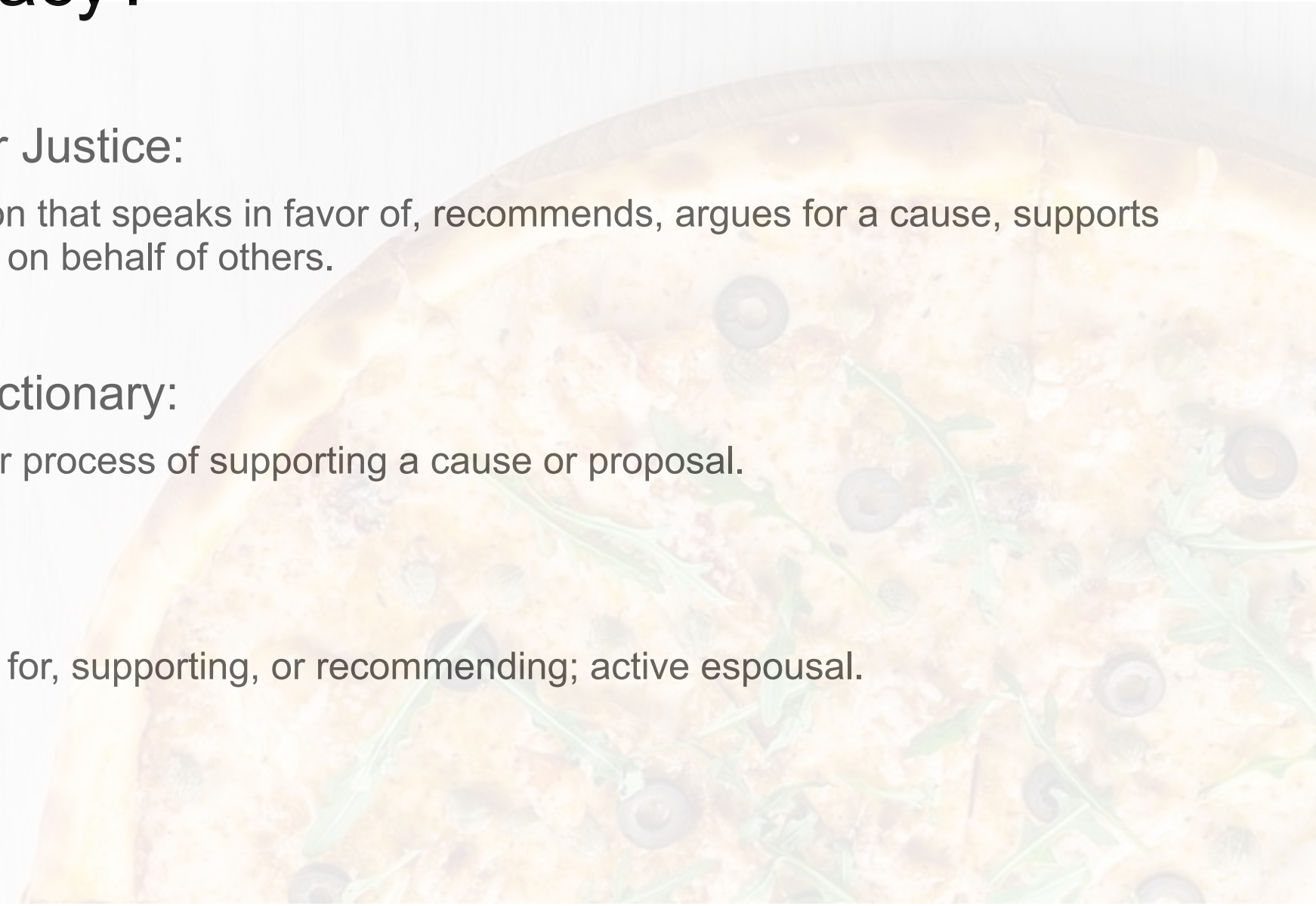
- Advocacy is any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

- Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

- Advocacy is the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal.

- Dictionary.com:

- Advocacy is pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal.



What are the types of advocacy?

General (outside the Archives)

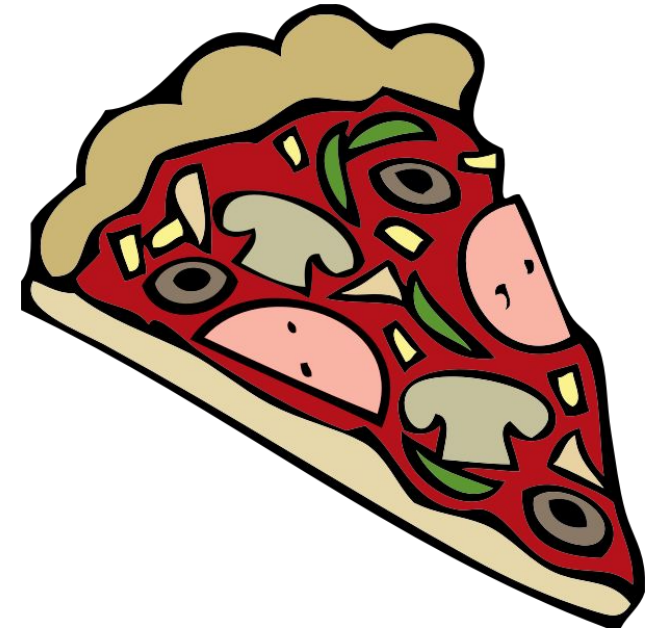
- Legal Advocacy - Appealing to lawmakers about immediate needs
- Educational Advocacy - Using public tools (like social media) to educate people about specific topics
- Institutional/Systems Advocacy - Working to enact long-term changes through policy change or raising awareness
- Self-Advocacy - Advocating for yourself through asking for better working conditions, medical decisions, personal protection, etc.

Archival

- Legal Advocacy - Appealing to lawmakers about archival needs (usually money)
- Educational Advocacy - Archives Week/other endeavors
- Institutional Advocacy - Presentations to organization heads or boards about the Archives
- Self-advocacy - Advocating for yourself through asking for better working conditions, boundaries, etc.

Why is advocacy important?

- Gives underrepresented people a voice
- Influences public policies and laws
- Promotes peaceful resolution to conflict
- Educates people about current issues (archival and not)



Advocacy in the Archives: Broad to Focused



• Advocacy in archives usually means:

- Increasing public awareness
- Targeting public leaders
- Within archival organizations

• What we mean:

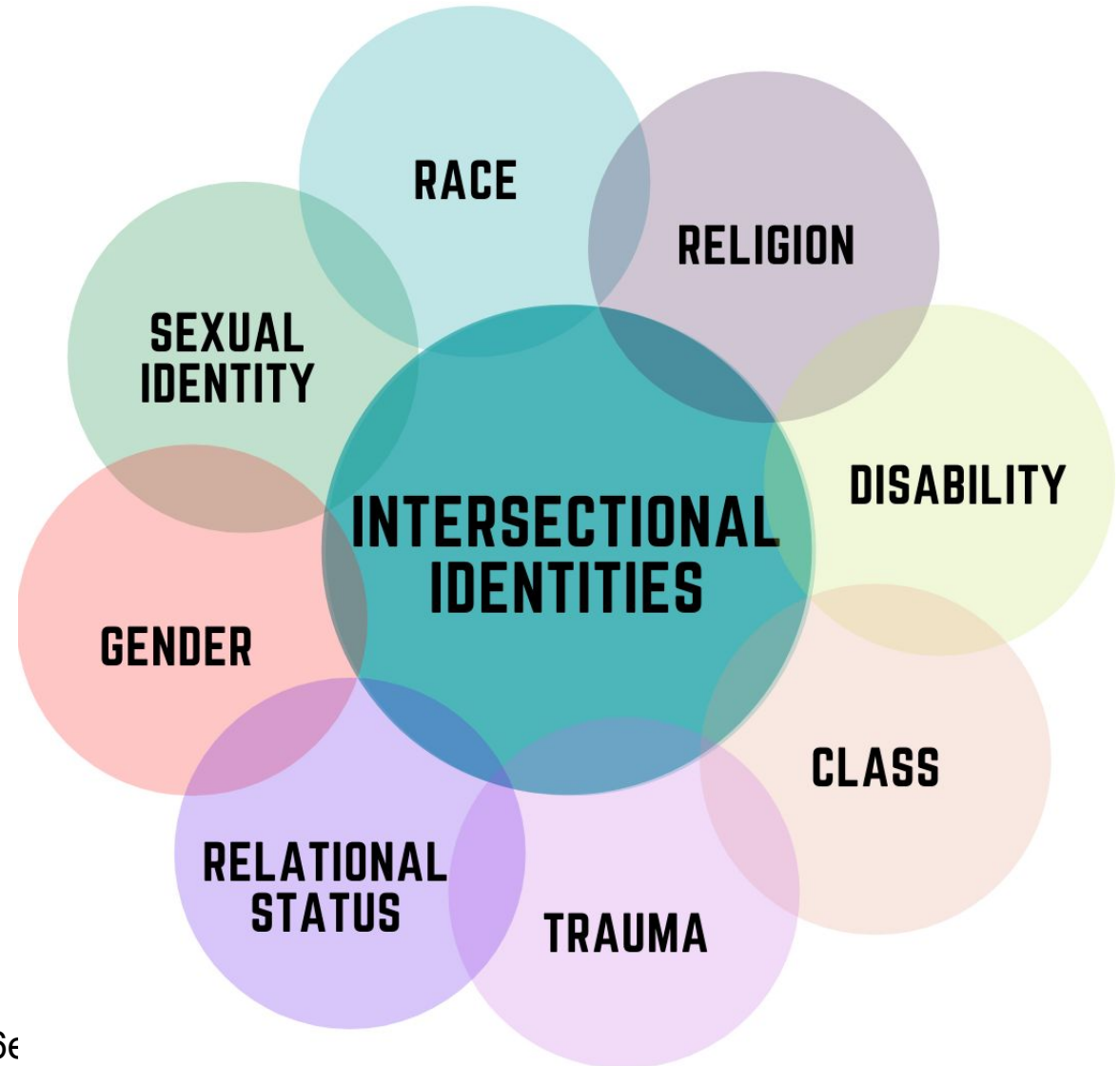
- Speaking up for yourself
- Communicating your needs
- Finding out who will support you
- Targeting leaders in your organization
- Finding support in archival organizations

Intersectional Advocacy: making space for everyone



Intersectional Identities

- All the ways you are you



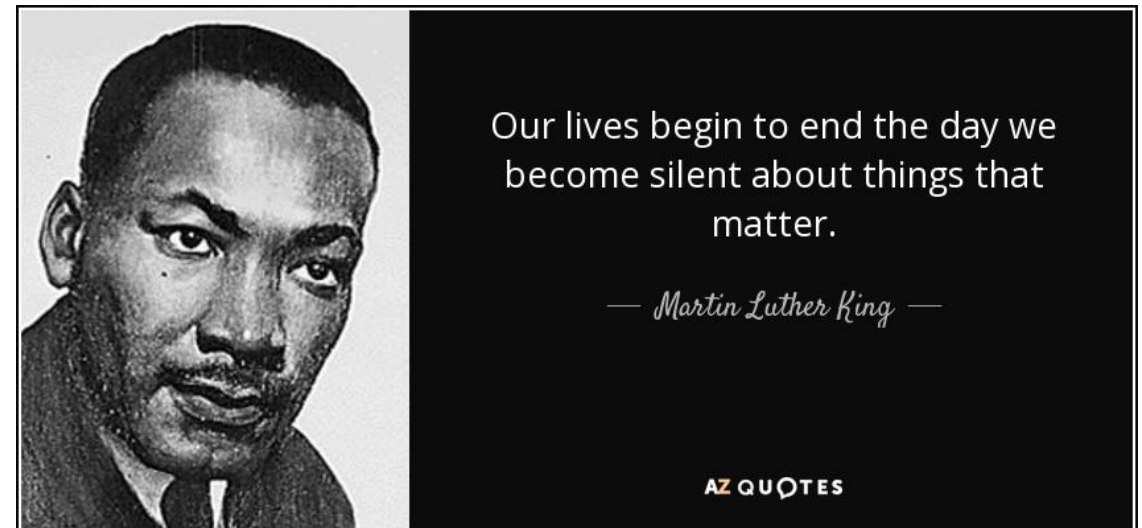
How do I make advocacy work?

Advocating for Yourself

Advocating for Others



<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/showing-your-weakness-new-advocating-yourself-april-tsuei/>



<https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/advocacy.html>

Advocating for Your Archival Spaces

Why Advocate?

“Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot, Nothing is
going to get better. It's not.”

- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

Making a positive impact



When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

-- Fred Rogers

Modeling Behaviors





Statistics & Stories



University of Dayton
University Libraries

**2019-
2020**
 AT A GLANCE



BUILDING CLOSED FROM MARCH 21 TO AUG. 9

21.5 hours during
a typical day

24 hours per day the last two
weeks of the first semester

385,892 visitors through
March 20

FACULTY AND STAFF SHIFTED TO REMOTE SERVICES DURING BUILDING CLOSURE

10,231 questions answered

Materials used   

- 18,704** physical items borrowed
- 4,144** books and articles supplied to other libraries
- 8,332** items borrowed from other libraries
- 827,874** e-journal articles downloaded
- 201,095** e-books read
- 554,526** eCommons downloads
- 383** Special Collections material requests

Classes taught
358
 7,392 total attendance
 Presentations Given

Research Guides
 Librarian-curated websites of library
 resources for course-based research projects
402 guides
163,512 views



Library rooms reserved
24,093
 times through March 20

ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics

The [ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey](#) is administered annually by the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey Editorial Board and is designed to gather information at the national level from all types of academic libraries (**including their archives and special collections**).

It is the largest survey of academic libraries in the country and therefore provides one of the most comprehensive portraits of the impact that academic libraries have across the U.S.

- Information Services to Individuals
 - Total # of reference transactions (Line 64)
 - Total # of reference consultants (Line 65)
 - Virtual reference (Line 67)
- Information Services to Groups
 - # of synchronous tours and one-time presentations (Line 70)
 - Total attendance at synchronous presentations (Line 71)
 - # of asynchronous tours and one-time presentations (Line 72)
 - Total attendance at asynchronous presentations (Line 73)

An Example: Linear Feet Processed

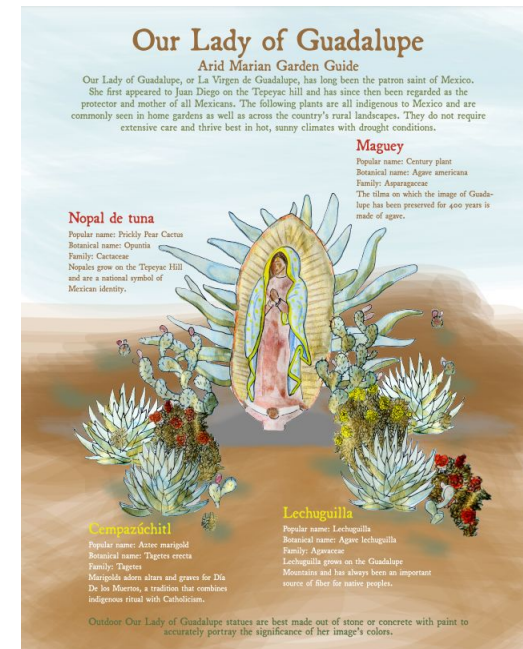
220+ linear feet → 60 linear feet



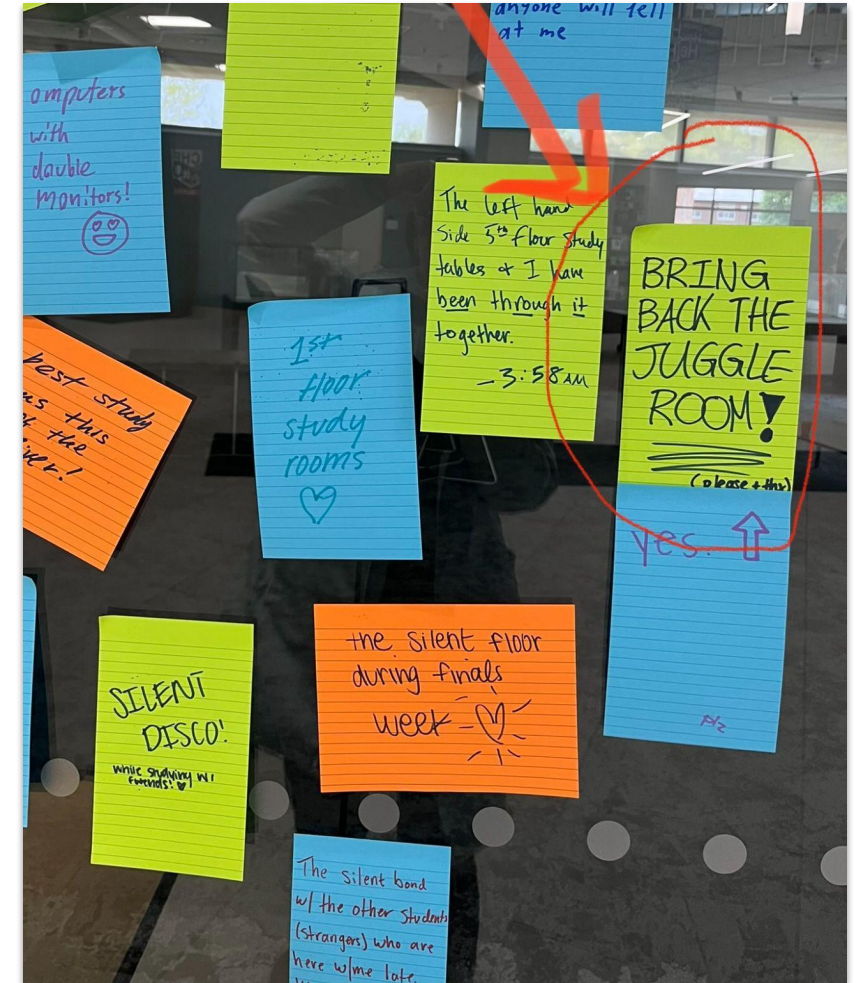
Additional Reporting

- Archival Collections (Physical)
 - processed in linear feet
 - unprocessed in linear feet
 - # of accessions
 - # of accruals
- Archival Collections (Digital)
 - # and size of new digital items accessioned
- Web Archiving
 - Collections, seeds, crawl frequency
 - # of new seeds, data size, documents
- Exhibits (Physical and Digital)
 - Opening and closing dates
 - # of page hits / views

- Internal Annual Report
 - Summary
 - Highlights
 - Challenges
 - Goals



An Example: Exhibit Attendance







Research Sanctuary

Resident scholar Liz Hutter reflects on her fellowship in the Marian Library, her research on therapeutic and spiritual healing in Lourdes, and how it all led to an experiential learning opportunity for her first-year writing students.

[LEARN MORE](#)



More Than a Job

Student's expertise and curiosities in maps, genealogy, Catholic culture and the Italian language bring new insights to several Marian Library exhibits and collections.

[LEARN MORE](#)



E is for Everyone

Librarian Zachary Lewis helped select 82 inaugural titles to establish OhioLINK's diversity, equity, and inclusion e-book collection.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Advocate for Yourself: How to Prioritize Mental Health in the Archives





Be kind to yourself.





Acknowledge your feelings.





Take time to heal.





Gather your “board of advisors.”



Archival Resources

- Katie Sloan, et al, “Not ‘Just My Problem to Handle’: Emerging Themes on Secondary Trauma and Archivists,” *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*, 2019. - Open Source
- *Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies* Special Issue on Radical Empathy in Archival Practice, 2022. - Open Source

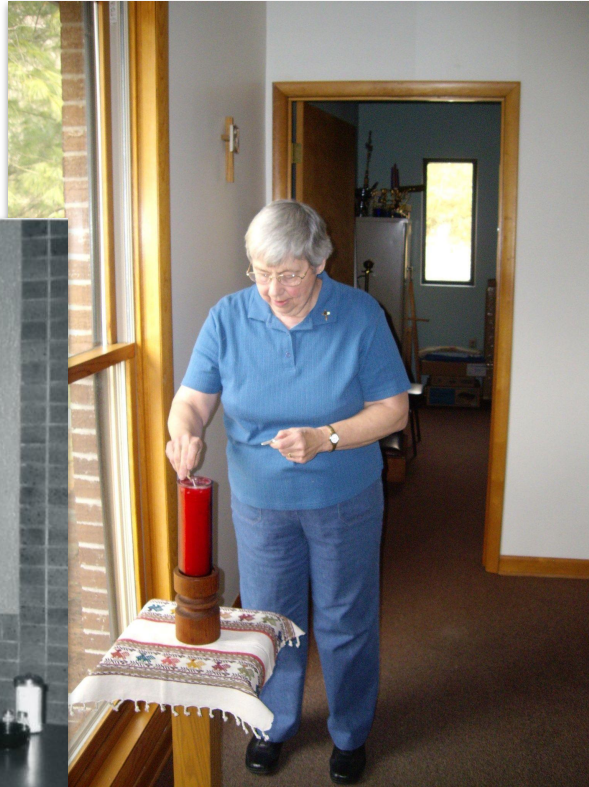
General Resources

- Eleanor Haley and Litsa Williams, *What’s Your Grief? Lists to Help You Through Any Loss*, 2022.
- Alexandra Elle, *How We Heal: Uncover Your Power and Set Yourself Free*, 2022.
- Katrina Spencer, “The Comprehensive Guide to Resisting Overcommitment,” *up//root*, 2022. - Open Source





Be kind to yourself.





Questions?