

Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 47, No. 2

February 2017

Team Meetings — February 23-24

As we celebrate Black History month and begin our journey of Lent, we are aware that we are challenged to consider ways in which we “lift our voices” for a diversity of justice concerns.

We made one appointment which is listed in this PTR. We discussed local community government needs. We are grateful to the sisters who sent responses to share ideas concerning models for local leadership.

The agenda for the Prioresses’ Meeting was finalized. The meeting will be held on March 9-10, 2017.

Alms were allocated to Catholic Mobilizing Network—which proclaims the Church’s unconditional pro-life teaching and its application to capital punishment and restorative justice; the Center for Women in Transition which assists women in the criminal justice system in making a successful transition to their families and communities through practicing restorative justice; the Food and Water Watch, an organization that advocates for common sense policies for health, safe food and affordable drinking water; and Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, a coalition of

organizations that advocates for the basic rights of all immigrants.

Permission was given to the New Orleans community to accept a monetary gift.

Future planning for the shared responsibilities between the Sponsorship Office and Ursuline Education Foundation were discussed with Madonna O’Hara.

Recommendations from the Finance Commission were reviewed and discussed. See the article in this PTR for more details.

Property updates regarding the Villa Maria Property and Crystal City Property were discussed.

In preparation for inclusion in the Ursuline Education Foundation, bylaws for our sponsored schools were reviewed.

The annual meeting of the Villa Maria Retreat and Conference Center corporation was held.

We ended our meeting with a discussion of the article “Contemplative Reflections of ‘Younger’ Members” by Ted Dunn. The article can be found in *LCWR Occasional Papers*, Winter, 2017.



Congratulations to . . .

. . . Marie McCloskey on her 103rd birthday!



North American Ursuline Experience

We are happy to announce that three of our sisters will be sponsored by the province to attend the North American Ursuline experience in July. Rita Ann Bregenhorn, Marian Pelikan and Maria Goretti Hotop will be traveling to Montana and we hope they will have a wonderful experience!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 9-10.....Prioresses' Meeting
- March 24.....Responses about Structure due to Rita Ann
- April 30.....Community Budgets due to Ellette
- May 1.....Angela Merici Fund Evaluations and Applications due to Adele
- October 6-9.....USAOSU Roman Union Gathering

Appointment

Patricia Couture

Residence at St. Angela Way
(Mère Marie Community)
Ministry of Prayer

Phone Directory Updates

Susan Barry

New Apartment number: 208

Debbie Christopher

Health Navigator
dchristopher@standrews1.com

Miriam Teresa Graczak

618-600-5035

Maria Goretti Hotop

618-600-3447

Mary Evalyn House

636-587-2771

Colette Jokerst

618-600-7524

Marianne Mullen

mariannemullen34@gmail.com
(new email)

Marian Pelikan

618-600-2447

Joan Ann Springman

618-600-7535



Social Justice Notes

Please continue to find ways to speak up for immigrants and refugees in your local community and with your state and federal elected officials. There is an excellent article [“For I was a stranger and you welcomed me”](#) in the February 15 online edition of NCR by Christine Schenk. If you click on the link, it will take you to the article and links there will provide a great deal of background information on immigration and the Church’s position. It also describes the vetting process for refugees to this country.

Pope Francis in his message for the 50th World Day of Peace proclaims: “The politics of nonviolence have to begin in the home and then spread to the entire human family.” He also encourages us in his Lenten message to find ways to support our sisters and brothers in need in our communities and throughout the world



Finance Commission

The Finance Commission, at the request of the Team, will begin working on further simplification of the chart of accounts for communities. The commission will also investigate the possibility of moving to a system using a central checking account and/or centralized financing for the communities. Local treasurers will be involved in the discussions and planning. It is hoped that these tasks will be completed in time to be in place for fiscal year 2018-2019, that is, July of 2018.



Nazareth Living Center

We learned at the end of December that Nazareth Living Center will be closing this spring. Their plan, as we know it, is to tear the building down, rebuild and reopen in two years. As a result, we are in the process of working with St. Agnes Home in Kirkwood to provide assisted living for our Sisters. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Provincial Team Dates

Ann

February 27-28Springfield visitation

Jean

March 2-6.....New Orleans visitation

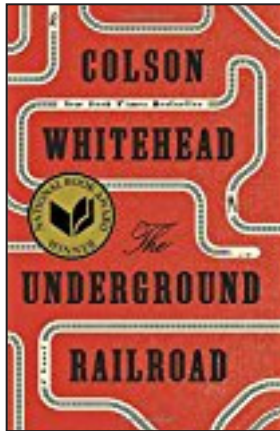
All

March 9-10.....Prioresses’ Meeting

March 11Team Meeting



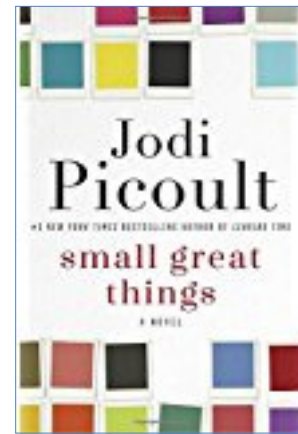
Suggested Reading



Two novels published in the last year call us to engage with the questions of racism, and white privilege. *The Underground Railroad* (Doubleday, 2016) by Colson Whitehead is historical fiction. The fiction begins with the idea that the underground railroad is an actual subterranean rail line, with engines and cars, etc. It follows two enslaved persons as they seek their freedom. The experiences they encounter include elements not only of the culture of slaveholding, but also experiences during the Jim Crow era of racial discrimination. The author provides many more questions than answers.

In *Small Great Things* (Ballantine, 2016), Jodi Picoult invites readers into a seeming legal procedure. It follows Ruth Jefferson, a labor room nurse as she faces the justice system. The book is far more than that. It describes the deeply ingrained racism that is so much a part of our culture. It is difficult to read without giving thought to “white privilege” and implicit bias.

Both books call us to examine our history and culture.



“No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor.”