

Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 47, No. 1

January 2017

Team Meetings — January 18-20

We met over three half-days and covered an expanse of topics. We always begin with prayer, calling to mind and heart the Sisters and situations within the province, as well as our nation and global community.

Collaboration was a focus for this meeting. We called on the expertise of Ellette Gibson and Renae Loveland for an update on the provincialate budget. We met with Susan Whelan to review the results of the fall / Christmas appeal. She presented a timeline for the spring 2017 issue of *Laurels* and invited our suggestions and contributions for articles. Sr. Madonna helped us to clarify some next steps for the Office of Sponsorship and the Ursuline Education Foundation. In the spirit of consultation you also should have received a request for your ideas and reflections on the topic of local leadership—particularly the upcoming need to appoint five prioresses. We count on your ideas and reflections to help us move forward at this time.

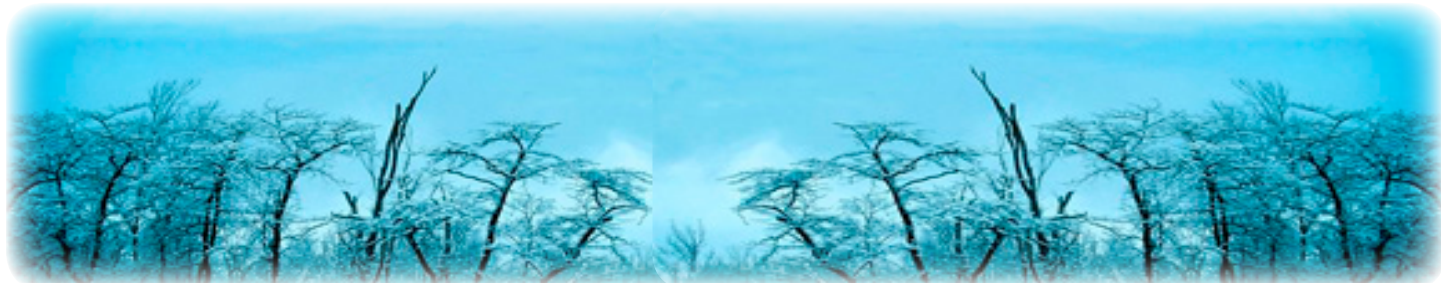
We reviewed plans and considered possibilities for Debbie Christopher our new Health Navigator who will begin her service on February 6th. We worked to firm up plans

for the March prioresses' meeting, and held two corporation meetings. We were happy to approve the distribution of alms to the following groups: Giving Voice, the Criminal Justice Ministry of St. Louis, UNANIMA International, and Missouri Interfaith Power & Light.

Our final day of meetings coincided with the Presidential Inauguration. We began our meeting after lunch, and spent some time debriefing what we had seen, heard and felt while watching or listening to the various inaugural events. We ended with a period of silent prayer for our country and elected officials. The reading chosen for our meeting was Pope Francis' 2017 address for the 50th World Day of Peace entitled [Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace](#). We were especially moved by Pope Francis' call to "make nonviolence our way of life" and shared together some ideas of what this might look like in our lives.

In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and building nonviolent communities that care for our common home.

~ Pope Francis, 2017 World Day of Peace



Social Justice Notes

February 8 is the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita the patroness of Sudan and of an end to human trafficking. It is also the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. The Center of Concern has produced a website ([against-humanity](#)) that provides a great deal of information on trafficking and ways to act to end it. Further prayers (from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange) for our country and our President will be sent as they become available. As the new administration begins its work, certainly prayer is a support we can offer. Each person is invited and encouraged to continue to be in contact with elected officials (this information is available at [the us government website](#)). Representatives, Senators and the President need to hear the voice of the people. February 20th is the UN's World Day of Social Justice. It is a call for us to act for all of creation that is treated unjustly and lacks the voice to speak.

Bon Voyage and Blessings...

Our thoughts and prayers are with Elisa as she prepares to leave for Ireland on February 7th. Elisa has been asked by Mother Cecilia to go to Ireland to share with the Irish Ursulines about our Roman Union as they continue to discern if they should join the Roman Union.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 1Requests to attend the Montana Experience due to Adele
Items for Prioresses' Meeting
Agenda due to Adele
- February 21Responses/ideas regarding local prioresses due to Rita Ann
- March 9-10.....Prioresses' Meeting
- March 24Responses about Structure due to Rita Ann
- July 17-24Montana Experience
- October 6-9USAOSU Roman Union Gathering

Appointments

Mary Evalyn House
Francis Place
Ministry of Prayer



Local Community Officials

Mary Anne Holmes
New Orleans
Prioress - extension of term
(until June 1, 2017)

Phone Directory Updates

Louis Marie Carter

4400 West University Blvd.
Apt. 11201
Dallas, TX 75209

Email and cell remain the same

Maria Teresa de Llano

work: 956-722-2443

Mary Evalyn House

Francis Place
300 Forby Road,
Eureka, MO 63025
636-587-3793

Jill Jaeb

Christus St. Joseph Village
1205 E. Sandy Lake Road,
Apt. 102
Coppell, TX 75019
469-630-0610 (land line)
469-999-7930 (new cell)

Congratulations to our January Jubilarians!

Golden Anniversary

Sue Anne Cole
Thomas More Daly
Anne Dorothy Schober

Diamond Anniversary

Mary Evalyn House
Donna Hyndman
Ursula McGann
Mary K. Milne
Marian Pelican

65th Anniversary

Miriam Patricia Faricy

70th Anniversary

Celeste Cour
Laurianne Michaud



Provincial Team Dates

Rita Ann

January 29 - February 5Retreat
February 9LCWR Region X Breakfast Meeting
February 10Meeting with St. Andrew's Senior Solutions
February 12-15Visitation, Our Lady of Wisdom, New Orleans
February 15-19Visitation, Laredo
February 22Francis Place Board Meeting

Ann

January 23-25Visitation, San Antonio
January 31.....Francis Place Visit
February 16Our Lady of Wisdom Visit
February 17Our Lady of Prompt Succor Shrine Board Meeting

Jean

January 29 - February 3 NUVO Vocation Presentations, New York
February 9LCWR Region X Breakfast Meeting

Mary Ann

February 3Finance Committee Meeting
February 17-19UA Trip, Chicago
February 22Francis Place Board Meeting

All

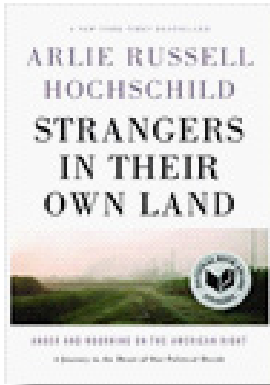
January 23..... RULUSA Zoom Call
February 23-24Team Meetings



Suggested Reading

Sister Elizabeth Susan Hatzenbuehler shares the following review and reflection on *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild (the New Press, 2016).

A few months before the election, I was listening to a fellow swimmer at the YWCA as she shared her very positive experiences of great diversity in a parish she visited. I made a comment that I was impressed by the openness that existed in a newspaper in that area, not at all the “red neck”/elitist response that I would have assumed. My companion’s expression changed, and very quietly she told me how she would be voting because of the value she put on right to life issues and the right to prayer in our schools. The incident has led to a lot of soul searching on my part. In being so “sure” (smug?) of the “rightness” of what I saw as the needs of our country, I was guaranteeing my own “bubble” of isolation.



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Ms. Hochschild’s book has helped me begin to look for common ground from the beginning and to listen in a very different way. As a sociologist, she has “a keen interest in how life *feels* to people on the right – that is, in the emotion that underlies politics.” Having spent years in California, she reached out to folks in the struggling areas of Louisiana, listening to “their ‘deep story,’ a narrative as felt.” She built, plank by plank, stone by stone, “empathy bridges” as she listened to people’s stories.

She points out that we really don’t have words in the English language to describe “the feeling of reaching out to someone from another world, and of *having that interest welcomed.*” If we can truly build and cross an empathy bridge, we will be able to find common ground. Unfortunately, we can also without thinking build an “empathy wall” -- “an obstacle to deep understanding of another person, one that can make us feel indifferent or even hostile to those who hold different beliefs or whose childhood is rooted in different circumstances.”

For anyone with the desire to find common ground with another, this book will offer a number of insights.

Happy Feast of St Angela!

As we prepare to celebrate Angela’s feast day let us pray together:



O God,
give us the courage of this woman,
that we may not hold on to the past
and may not fear the future,
but that we may live in the present
and face the questions and needs
of the people today,
and that together we may ask,
What would Angela do today?
Amen

(from *Praying with Angela Merici*)

