

# Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 47, No. 11

November 2017

## Team Meeting — November 6-7

**W**e began our days together in contemplation around the theme of the communion of saints. This quote from Natalie Goldberg spoke: “Whether we know it or not, we transmit the presence of everyone we have ever known, as though by being in each other’s presence we exchange our cells, pass on some of our life force, then we go on carrying that other person in our body . . .” As we recalled those who have gone before us and shared stories, there was a felt sense of being strengthened and consoled by their presence.

Much of our business was related to finances. Our alms this month goes to Bethany Hospitality House in Bartlett, Illinois. Bethany is a new project of a consortium of 12 different religious communities serving young women 18-22 years old who’ve come here as unaccompanied youth immigrants and are aging out of youth detention centers. We also made a monetary gift to Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis to

help defray the costs of their inaugural *Women Living Theology* seminar to be held in the summer of 2018. This gift was made in gratitude for the education that our Sisters have received at Aquinas Institute over the years. More information about the seminar will be shared as it becomes available. We approved the sale of the Laredo house, and are happy to share that it was bought by a single mom with children. Ellette joined us for a review of the first quarter budget and to share about her recent experience at the RCRI meeting in St. Louis. We also reviewed and approved several recommendations from the Finance Commission.

On the lighter side, we joined the staff on Tuesday in celebrating two birthdays: Rita Ann (4th) and Cheryl Vambaketes (15th) with cake, ice cream and laughter! In addition, we made plans for our annual province office Christmas party which will take place on December 15th.

## *Happy Thanksgiving and Feasts of the Order*

*Our gratitude goes out to each of you at this time of “giving thanks.”*

*We wish you a blessing-filled Thanksgiving and joy-filled celebration of the Foundation of the Company of St. Ursula and the Foundation of the Order.*



## Phone Directory Updates

**Mary Ellen Neeves**

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St. Louis, MO 63119

(314) 942-9861

Email remains the same

## RCRI Conference

Recently Sr. Rita Ann and Ellette Gibson attended the RCRI (Resource Center for Religious Institutes) Conference held here in



St. Louis from November 1-3 at the Hyatt Regency. This conference is for finance personnel and congregational leaders. The theme for this year's conference was "Changing Times: Challenges and Transitions".

Topics for the conference try to cover areas of interest to both finance personnel and leadership. The Keynote address given by Dr. Carolyn

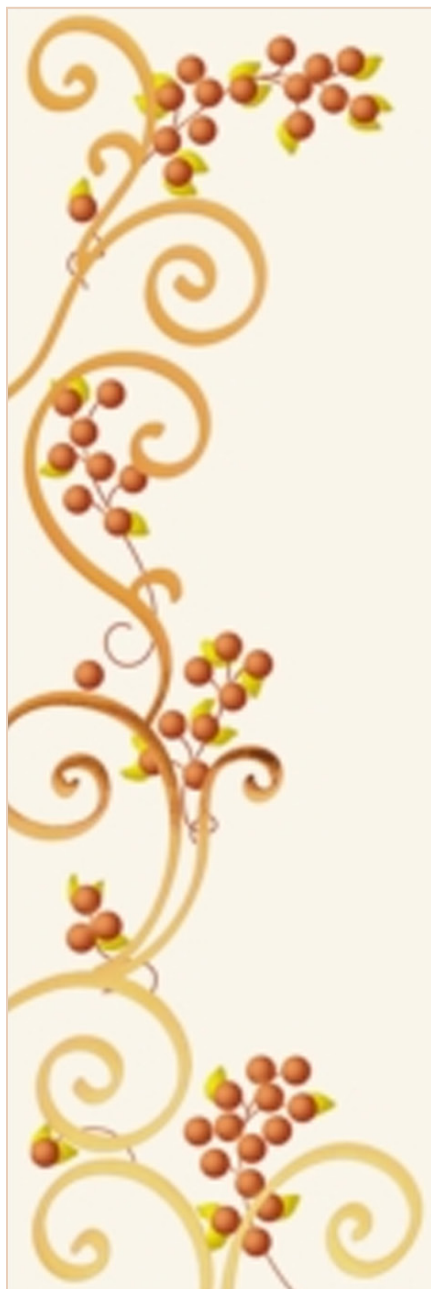
Yauyan Woo focused on transformation and posed the question "Are we ministering where we are needed?" She spoke of having a passion for our ministry whatever that may be, given the present day realities of religious life. Dr. Woo emphasized that people come first and our work is God's work.

The remaining days of the conference were given to break out sessions with several offerings at each time slot. This allowed everyone to choose topics of interest given their ministry. These break-out sessions were very good and provided valuable insights and information that can be shared with others.

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## Social Justice Notes

- The November issue of "Stop Trafficking" is available [here](http://www.stopenslavement.org). (<http://www.stopenslavement.org>.)
- Moms Demand Action for Gun Safety and Everytown for Gun Safety have a petition seeking legislation that would keep stalkers and dating partners with a history of domestic abuse from purchasing guns. You can access the site [here](#).
- As of November 7, the only member of the UN that has not agreed to or has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement is the United States of America. The Catholic Climate Covenant group ([link](#)) provides information on ways to work for earth justice.
- Please continue to contact members of Congress asking for support of comprehensive immigration reform. The Dreamers (young undocumented persons brought to the US as children) have only a matter of months for Congress to act and now many people who have come to the US because of natural disasters or dangers in their home countries face the end of their Temporary Protected Status and face deportation.
- Members of Congress also need to hear that equitable tax reform is a goal, not slashing programs that aid those in need. A simple way to find more information on tax reform as well as other issues is to visit the website [Network](#). This site also provides an easy way to contact your members of Congress.



*The Province Offices will be closed  
November 23-26 for Thanksgiving.*



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 1.....Annual Report due to Rita Ann



**Provincial Team Dates**

**Rita Ann**

- November 9..... St. Louis, MO  
LCWR Region X Breakfast
- November 11 – 14..... New Orleans, LA  
Nuns' Build,  
UEF Board Meeting
- November 21..... Springfield, IL  
Bishop's Meeting  
for Major Superiors
- November 29..... Eureka, MO  
Francis Place Board Meeting
- December 2 – 9..... Rome, Italy  
English Speaking  
Provincials' Meeting

**Jean**

- November 13 – 14..... New Orleans  
UEF Board Meeting
- Nov 27 – Dec 1 ..... Alton, IL  
St. Clare Community,  
Visitation

**Maria Teresa**

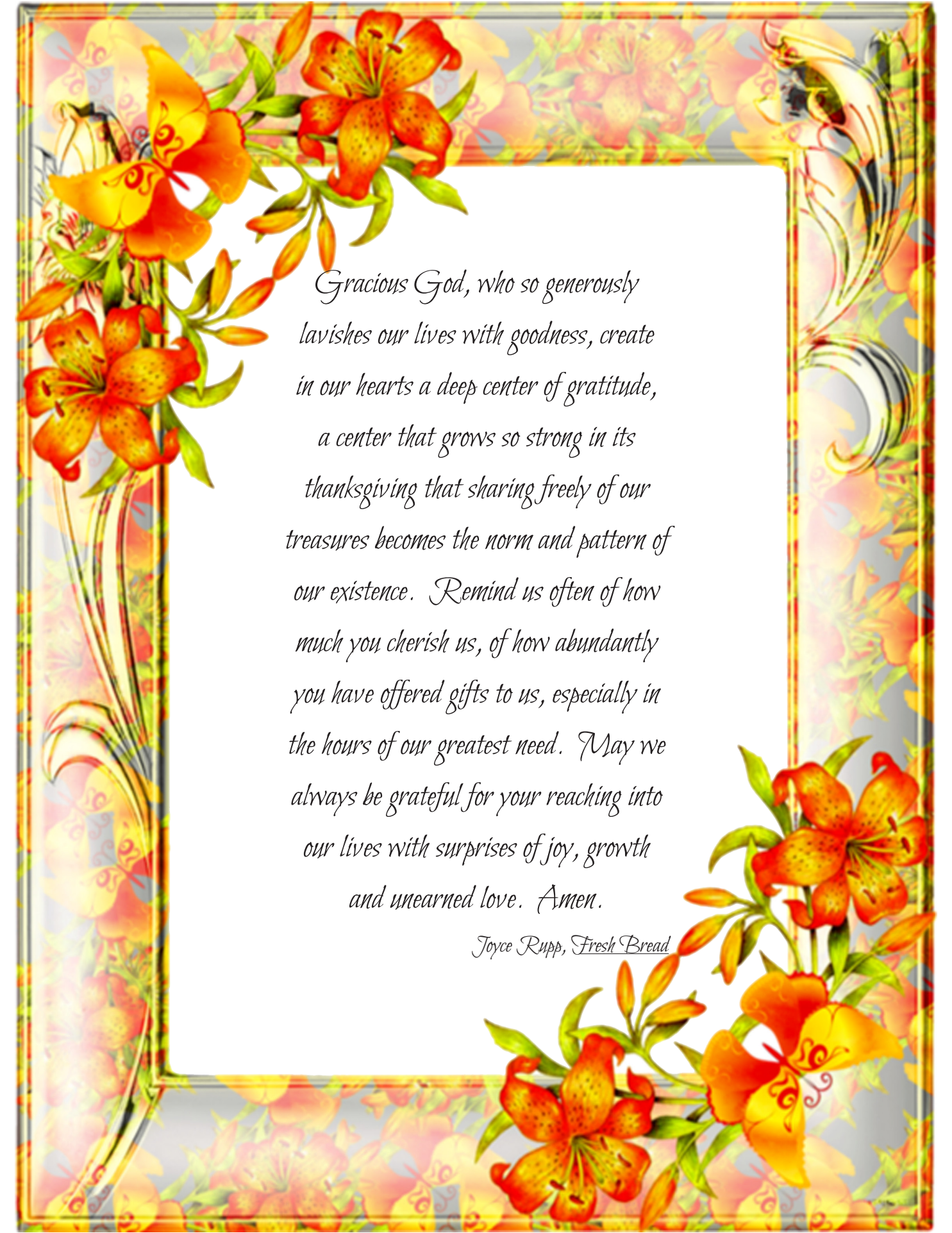
- November 8 – 13..... New Orleans, LA  
Our Lady of Wisdom,  
Visitation
- November 14..... New Orleans, LA  
UEF Board Meeting
- November 27-29 ..... Visitation:  
Ann Marie Owen
- December 7 – 13..... New Orleans, LA  
Visitation: New Orleans  
Community

**All**

- November 15 – 19..... Chicago, IL  
RULUSA Meeting
- December 15..... St. Louis, MO  
Christmas Staff Party

**Next Team Meeting.....December 18 – 20**





*Gracious God, who so generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude, a center that grows so strong in its thanksgiving that sharing freely of our treasures becomes the norm and pattern of our existence. Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hours of our greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth and unearned love. Amen.*

*Joyce Rupp, Fresh Bread*