

Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 48, No. 8

September 2018

Team Meeting — September 11-13

As we began our team meeting, our thoughts and prayers were with the victims of the 9/11 tragedy and their families. We also prayed for the many people who are once again facing possible destruction from the oncoming Hurricane Florence. During our prayer times together these days we prayed the different phrases in the Chapter prayer inserting the names of each sister in the province. It was a lovely way to connect all and to pray for our upcoming Chapter.

This month our agenda was full but not overwhelming which is nice to be able to say.

We made several local community appointments which are listed elsewhere in this PTR. We also had several personnel issues to discuss. We made appointments to the Ursuline Education Foundation Board and spent time reviewing bylaw changes submitted by one of our schools. We also approved a resolution as Members of the corporation for Francis Place. With a growing need becoming evident in the St. Louis area the team looked at assisted living sites and made the decision to have Mother of Perpetual Help Facility run by the St. Louis archdiocese, as an additional assisted living site in the St. Louis area.

This month our alms donations will go to the

Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants which responds to the needs of communities and individuals affected by immigration detention and deportation. We also sent a donation to the Oscar Romero Project sponsored by the archdiocese which will have a weeklong celebration leading up to the canonization of Romero.

With our province chapter only eight weeks away, the team spent time discussing different aspects of the chapter and, in particular, the

different parts which we are responsible for. At the end of this month, the team is spending three days at Ruma, IL at the convent of the Adorers of the Precious Blood, where our focus will

be on composing the province sexennial report. We took some time during this team meeting to finalize some plans for that weekend.

The highlight of these days of meetings was the phone call from Mr. Tim O'Donnell, lawyer for the Mère Marie community, telling us that the grant funding has been approved for the proposed project of converting the convent building into a senior citizen housing site. ALLELUIA, praise God!

Go gently in this coming season of autumn beauty.

*"The world is the abode of God,
and God truly lives in the world."*

(Guru Angad)



Social Justice Notes

September 21 is the International Day for Peace. October 4 is the Feast of Francis and the culmination of the Catholic Climate Covenant's program on "Who is my neighbor in a Climate-Threatened World". Pope Francis's prayer (in *Laudato Si*) is a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of the challenges we face:

A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace. Amen.

The September issue of ["Stop Trafficking"](#) is available. Simply click on the title. As the political climate continues to heat up, please invite all candidates to engage in civil discourse and avoid negative campaigning.

Appointments

Local Community Officials

San Antonio Community

Karen Schwane
(Councilor and secretary)

Springfield Community

Brendan Jacoby
(Councilor and secretary)

Rosemary Skelley
Councilor

Nancy Vandever
Councilor

Provincial Chapter Ballot Results

Thanks to all the Chapter delegates for sending in your ballots. The results of the voting are:

Tellers: Mary Beisiegel and
Louis Marie Carter

Facilitator:
Ellen Doyle, O.S.U.

Chapter Secretary:
Adele Brennan

Steering Committee:
Elisa Ryan, Peggy Moore
and Mary Ellen Neeves

English Tutoring Project

Congratulations to the English Tutoring Project (ETP) as it enters its 20th year of operation. The project began in 1998 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing on-site tutoring in English for children of refugee and immigrant families. Today 17 different congregations are active and participate in the mission and activities of the program. Since its inception, over 1,500 students from 33 countries have learned English thanks to this program. Thank you, Peggy Moore, for helping create the program that has helped so many children build language skills as well as self-confidence!



Provincial Team Dates

Rita Ann

September 25.....English Tutoring Project
20th anniversary celebration

September 27.....Meeting in preparation
for RCRI

October 15Missouri Bishops Meeting
with major superiors

Jean

October 3Springfield, Loretto Home
care conference

All

September 25.....Province audit report

September 28-30Ruma, IL - Team Days

Next team meeting.....October 16-18

Phone Directory Updates

Bernadette Fronmüller

New email: BernadetteFronmuller@gmail.com

Mercedes Videira

New email: srmercedes118@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 21.....Sexennial Reports due to Rita Ann

November 9-13Provincial Chapter

December 1.....Annual Report due to Team



July 25-28, 2019Ursuline Convocation in St. Louis

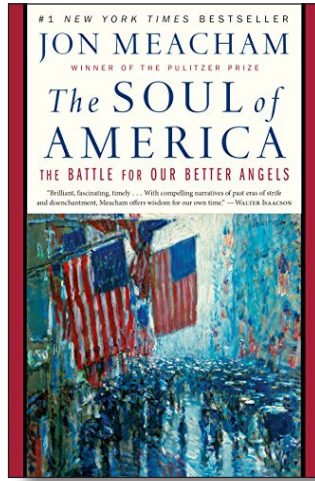
Oct 31 — Nov 4, 2019....Chapter follow-up meeting



Suggested Reading

*Pauline Lorch shares her reflections on
The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels
by John Meacham.*

In his first Inaugural Address, President Abraham Lincoln appealed to the better angels of our nation to preserve the Union, a value of our nation above all others. John Meacham, a Pulitzer Prize historian, reminds us that the present political turmoil has any number of precedents and that we have survived times worse than today. He claims that even prior to the adoption of our constitution there was a fight for the soul of America, a soul which is fierce, not timid in its advocacy for “all are created equal.”



Meacham is not afraid to state that the Confederate States of America were the modern world’s first experiment in building a nation founded explicitly on racial supremacy and that we are still dealing with this “dark strain” in our politics and our lives. Racism, the demonization of immigrants and the promotion of virulent politics have emerged at any number of times in our history from the imperialism of Theodore Roosevelt, to the scourge of McCarthy’s spiteful anti-communism, to the government’s deception around the Vietnam war.

Over all, despite giving us a litany of our nation’s dark side, Meacham shows that we can and have tended to replace fear with hope, reverse injustice and expand equality, though the struggle’s success is never automatic and that great effort and great, though inevitably flawed, leaders are needed. I found the book both hopeful and challenging, well worth reading.

Roman Union Chapters

Please remember in prayer our sisters who are meeting in Chapter in the coming weeks:

- USA EAST6 - 8 October 2018
- PERU8 – 12 October 2018
- SOUTHERN AFRICA19 – 20 October 2018
- HUNGARY20 – 23 October 2018
- GENERALATE22 – 25 October 2018

