

Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 49, No. 2

February 2019

Team Meeting — February 13-15

As always, we began our meetings with prayer. This month we spent time each day with a Gospel passage—Luke 12:22-30—using the version from *The Message*. We also used resources created by the LCWR as we reflected on our dependence on God’s providential care and unconditional love for us. We asked ourselves what keeps us from recognizing God’s love and care, and we looked for ways to remain grounded in grace and trust even in the midst of a demanding day.

Personnel issues were on our agenda, and we continue to plan for our early May prioresses’ meeting. We spent a good amount of time working on information needed for our post-Chapter conference and discernment of new leadership, October 31 – November 4. You will receive information from the Planning Committee in March, and in early April the Team will send out our reflections on leadership and an evaluation of how it has been for us as three, full-time team members. We also did some long-range planning, trying to juggle

calendars and responsibilities with our various up-coming absences. In addition to Rita Ann’s absence in March for knee replacement surgery, both she and Jean will be doing pre-Chapter travel in the coming months—Jean will visit the province of France/Belgium/Spain in May and Rita will visit the province of Poland in June.

We gave our alms this month to Mary’s Pence, which provides funding and holistic support to women on the margins working for justice in Central America, México, the United States and Canada. We had two corporation meetings which focused on our schools and considered other issues related to sponsorship. We continue our work on an Assisted Living policy.

“Wholeness is the goal, but wholeness does not mean perfection. It means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life.”

~Parker Palmer, Quaker elder, educator and activist

As Valentine’s Day fell in the middle of our meeting, we remembered to give thanks for the gift of friendship. We also are grateful to each one in the province for the expressions of care and kindness you offer. We thank our God for you!

Montana Ursuline Experience

This is just a reminder that the Ursuline Retreat and Conference Centre in Great Falls, Montana is once again hosting the Montana Ursuline Experience. It is scheduled for July 8-15, 2019. As you recall, we will sponsor three people and are extending the invitation to participate to co-workers

or associates besides our own sisters. The deadline for applying is March 1. If anyone is still interested or knows of a lay collaborator who might want to attend please contact Adele Brennan at adele@osucentral.org by the March 1 deadline.

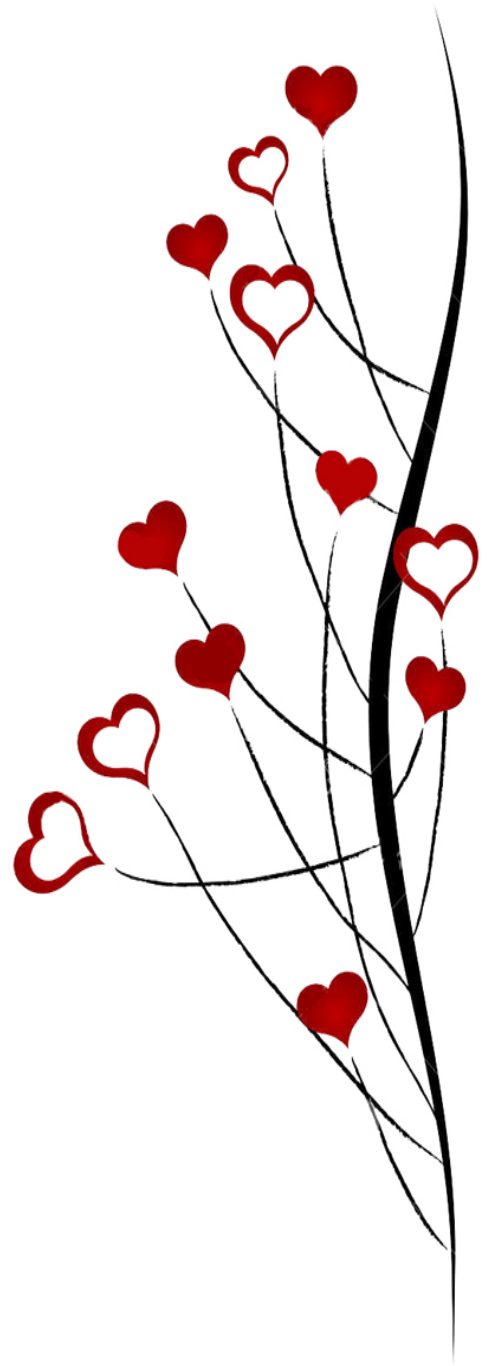
Suggested Reading

Mary Ann Dooling shares the following:

O*pen Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism* was approved by the USCCB at its November 2018 meeting. While this is certainly not the first time our bishops have condemned racism, (e.g., their earlier pastorals, *The National Race Crisis* and *Brothers and Sisters to Us*), it is the strongest statement and the most far reaching statement to date. The bishops are clear in their condemnation of both overt racism and the sins of omission when we fail to speak out against racism in all of its forms. They are clear in their recognition and condemnation of social structures that continue to cause disparity in housing, education and justice before the law. Many of the structures and practices are so imbedded in our culture that it is difficult to recognize how insidious they are: "This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts."

Some have described the pastoral as not being strong enough, of not moving from an "us/them" to a "we" point of view. Before we can get there, it is important that we are in dialog and have looked carefully at insidious racism that is part of our lives rather than simply finding peace in condemning the outrageous actions of self-proclaimed racists. This pastoral does that. It is an invitation to each of us to listen to the voices in our society that are calling out – to be heard, to have the inequities addressed and to have their human dignity affirmed. The bishops lay claim to the practices that have been a part of our church history, including segregated parishes and the refusal to admit persons of African American descent to seminaries and religious communities, and recognize the wrong involved. They also encourage steps to real reconciliation.

The full text of the pastoral can be found at ["Open Wide Our Hearts"](#).



Congratulations . . .

. . . to Maria Teresa de Llano who was honored for her commitment and passion in ensuring a Catholic education based on a tradition of excellence by St. Augustine High School during the Knights Gala on January 26, 2019 in Laredo, Texas.



Upcoming Surgery

Rita Ann will have knee replacement surgery on March 4. During her time of recuperation, Jean Hopman will be in charge of the province.

Congratulations . . .

. . . to Mercedes Videira as she celebrates the 50th anniversary of her religious profession on March 16th!



Welcome . . .

. . . to Margaret Mary Cain who is in the United States visiting family. She will be visiting our province February 18th to the 23rd.



Phone Directory Updates

Peggy Hill

2830 Burdette
(Address correction)

Mary K Milne

214-258-6664 (land line)

Mary Lapping

Mary Jacqueline Pratt

No land line – cell phones only

Provincial Team Dates

Rita Ann

February 18-22Waterville, Maine

February 26 Alton, appointment

March 4Surgery

Jean

March 12-14 Dubuque, Iowa
LCWR Region X Meeting

Maria Teresa

March 12-14 Dubuque, Iowa
LCWR Region X Meeting

All

February 26-27 NAULC (via ZOOM)

March 1 Francis Place,
ACT II Service Project

Next team meeting March 19-21



DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1Requests to attend the
Montana Experience due to Adele

July 25-28Ursuline Convocation
in St. Louis

October 31 – November 4.....Province
Conference

Continuing to Share Our Story . . .

Mary Frances Judge continues sharing about her ministry.

This photo of a sister artist reveals a multi-talented genius who is a painter, a writer, a musician, and a professionally trained vocalist. Here, surrounded by her paintings, she accompanies me with music as I peruse a novel, she is writing in a large sketch book.

Shelley is a disabled artist traumatized by physical abuse as a toddler, forced abduction by a person she had a child with before escaping, and now a victim of a genetic disease that has paralyzed her stomach and prevented her from eating any food. She now can drink only a fluid normally administered through tube feeding. She suffers from PTSD, agoraphobia and insomnia that cause her to rarely leave her studio apartment.

She feels I am the only person here who can relate with her and understand her serious health problems. I try to do what I can such as deliver packages to her, leave my offerings at her door, and check in with her regularly to offer encouragement. She was abducted shortly before finishing an advanced degree in writing. She also has a piece of music at the Smithsonian.

Shelly feels my support and prayers are crucial and would appreciate prayers from other Ursulines. Shelley McNamara: dollyeyesforever@gmail.com

UPDATE ON SHELLEY:

"I found out that because of a recent surprise finding of Fabry's disease, Mayo has fast-tracked a lot more lab tests called full gene analyses and other appointments with two other specialists in genetics and neurology! We are very hopeful that a life-changing enzyme replacement therapy can soon begin! There are other treatments also like bone marrow transplant and stem cells.... we will see."



Social Justice Notes

The first steps have been taken to address border security. Congress seems to have reached some compromise on how much money should be made available and how it should be used to address security issues along the southern border. That is only the beginning of addressing the complex questions around immigration/refugees/asylum seekers and the undocumented people living in our communities. These are complex issues and require sober, compassionate consideration, discussion and legislation. Congress needs to take the lead on this. Please contact your Representative and Senators, thank them for the work thus far and encourage them to continue to work toward bipartisan compromise on comprehensive immigration reform.

Urge legislators to actually perform their constitutional responsibilities and to seek to protect the weakest among us.

Congress also has the duty to protect our environment and to act to reverse climate change. There is a growing concern over the contamination of ground water by chemicals leeching from landfills. Do you know the sources of drinking water in your locality? What steps are taken to protect the source? What are some threats to the safety of your water source? What agencies or groups in your region are working to protect your water sources?

Please continue to pray for the people of Venezuela and their needs.