

# Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 49, No. 1

January 2019

## Team Meeting — January 15-16

It seemed to us as if the New Year began like a race horse leaving the gate! Consequently, it felt important to enter into our meetings by pausing to reflect on the new year. Our prayer and sharing centered on two questions: *How do I come to this first team meeting of the new year? What gifts and / or needs do I bring into the year before us?* As we shared together, it became clear that a predominant theme for each of us was gratitude.

As always, time was spent on personnel issues, and we continue to plan for our spring priorities meeting. This meeting was the first in a very long time that the Crystal City property has

not been on our agenda. We paused to give deep thanks to God, to our realtors and legal team, our Finance Office, and all the sisters who have worked over these past 12 years to arrive at this moment.

We spent considerable time looking at all that needs to happen as we prepare for our post-

Chapter conference and leadership discernment October 31- November 4. We've begun a timeline for our work and will meet with the conference planning committee next month. You'll be hearing more about this in early February.

We sent our alms to the Center for Women in Transition. The Center, located in St. Louis, assists women involved in the justice system in making a successful transition to their families and communities

through a variety of programs which operate under the principles of restorative justice.

Time was spent evaluating our province driver policy which we instituted one year ago. One change was made,

and you will receive notice of it soon. We also began work on a policy for sisters moving into assisted living.

As we near the feast of St. Angela, we pray in thanksgiving for each of you and for our call to walk together as her daughters.

"Guardian of this new year, we set aside our fears, worries and concerns. We open our lives to mystery, to beauty, to hospitality, to questions, to the endless opportunity of discovering you in our relationships, and to all the silent wisps of wonder that will draw us to your heart."

[*Out of the Ordinary*, ©2000 Joyce Rupp]



DO SOMETHING  
GET MOVING  
RISK NEW THINGS  
STICK WITH IT  
GET ON YOUR KNEES  
THEN BE READY FOR  
BIG SURPRISES.

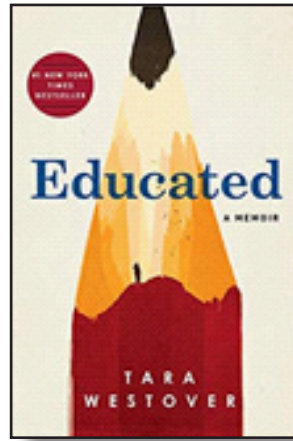
SAINT ANGELA MERICI  
FOUNDERESS OF THE URSULINES

## Suggested Reading

*Pauline Lorch shares her reflections on **Educated**, A Memoir by Tara Westover.*

I need to tell you that of all the different genres of books, memoirs are my least favorite but this memoir by a woman raised in a survivalist Mormon home reads like poetry at times, a novel at others as well as a documentary. Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom at Brigham Young University. Her homeschooling was extremely sketchy, bordering on nothing at all. Her father taught her skewed history filled with anti-government rhetoric. She had a few lessons in trigonometry from her brother. But, basically, she was self-taught at least in the formal sense. The story of how she came to BYU, how she received a scholarship to Cambridge University and finally a fellowship to Harvard is a harrowing one, even more unbelievable than the fact that she succeeded in the academic world with so little formal schooling.

Tara's love for her family, and her mountain home was deep and rich in wild chaotic experiences. Her father's radical fears of government, the medical "establishment" and the intellectual pollution of public education filled her mind and her days. Her father's dominance of the family was combined with the frequent danger in which he placed them. Tara's mother was erratic in her understanding of and support for her children and inevitably she sided with her husband's twisted views. Tara's story is one of constant struggle to survive physically and to become a truly new person other than the one who emerged whenever she crossed the threshold of her father's house. Her efforts to find a different self, a freer self leads her to eventually cut her family ties. She ends the memoir with this reflection: " You could call this selfhood many things. Transformation. Metamorphosis. Falsity. Betrayal. I call it education."



## Social Justice Notes

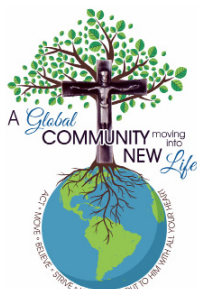
As we begin the new year, it would be good to consider where and how each of us can be effective agents of change. Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of political involvement. Congress has passed the First Step Act which provides modest improvement in the federal criminal justice system. Most people who are in prison/jail in the US are not in the federal system, they are in state or local prisons and jails. These systems are often described as forms of modern day debtors' prisons or revolving doors. What do you know about local jails or prisons in your area? Are they government owned and operated? Are they privately owned and operated? What are the costs involved? How does the bail operate in your community? What are possible alternatives? This is simply one area you might look into and seek ways you can personally impact the situation. Maybe your concern is access to health care or availability of food or fair trade products. Pope Francis calls all of us to be active citizens.



## Roman Union Chapters

Please remember in prayer  
our sisters who are meeting  
in Chapter this month:

CHINA.....January 26-28, 2019



*Thank You . . .*

. . . to everyone who sent in a response as  
follow-up on our chapter experience. The team  
is collating the responses received and will be  
sending out in the near future a listing of the  
ideas that came forth on ways that we can con-  
tinue to stay connected.

*Our Sympathy . . .*

. . . to our sisters at Francis Place on the  
death of our sister Colette Jokerst who died  
on December 22, 2018.

. . . to our sisters at the Mère Marie Community  
on the death of our sister Saint Martin Drouin  
who died on December 29, 2018.

## Phone Directory Updates

**Celeste Cour**

No phone, email only

**Ann Mangelsdorf**

5550 Harvest Hill Road, W201  
Dallas, TX 75230

469-865-4704 (cell only)  
Email remains the same

## Provincial Team Dates

### Rita Ann

January 22.....St. Louis, Ursuline Sisters  
Trust Meeting

January 29..... Eureka, Francis Place  
Board Meeting

February 12..... St. Louis, Rigali Center,  
Incarnate Word workshop: "Role of Laity  
in Working with Women Religious"

### Jean

No dates

### Maria Teresa

January 18..... St. Louis, RULUSA executive  
committee ZOOM call

January 22.....St. Louis, Ursuline Sisters  
Trust Meeting

February 12..... St. Louis, Rigali Center,  
Incarnate Word workshop: "Role of Laity  
in Working with Women Religious"

### All

February 7..... Team out of office  
to do post-Chapter work

February 11..... St. Louis, Team meets with  
Province Gathering planning committee

**Next team meeting ..... February 13-15**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

March 1 .....Requests to attend the  
Montana Experience due to Adele

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

October 31 — November 4.....Province  
Conference



## *Continuing to Share Our Story . . .*

**T**heresa Sarich volunteers at the YWCA. Most Thursday afternoons between three and five pm you will find me welcoming between 15 and 20 energetic youngsters to the Alton YWCA after school program for children whose parents are working.

First on the program is free play. Sometimes I am welcomed into a game or puzzle, while another time a child just wants to be seen, to be noticed, like Charlotte, for example who was so eager to share her time with the dentist.

Next, we all gather on the large carpet and Bianca, the director of the program, and I listen to what each child wants to tell about him or herself that day. Then comes music time and I go to town with new and old songs, the scales, and, most recently, a Christmas Carol Kazoo Band!

What a blessing it is for me to spend time with these precious children, and I hope and pray that my brief encounter with them is a blessing for them, too!



---

## **Women Religious at the Border**

**D**id you know that more than 145 Catholic sisters and their colleagues are volunteering along the U.S.-Mexico border? Volunteers are serving meals, cleaning rooms, providing rides to bus stations and airports, and making care packages for travelers. They help with medical needs and communication with family in the United States, assisting with interpretation and travel arrangements. In a few cases, congregations are also opening their convents to migrants in need of longer-term housing. In addition, religious congregations have been very generous in their financial

support. To date congregations have contributed more than \$280,000 to help purchase food and supplies, provide legal assistance and help hire staff to assist asylum seekers.

The USA Ursuline vocation ministry is organizing a summer service opportunity in McAllen, Texas for women ages 18-30 in late June. Service will be with immigrant families at The Humanitarian Respite Center of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Contact Elisa ([elisaosu@gmail.com](mailto:elisaosu@gmail.com)) for more information about this crucial and timely opportunity for young women.