

Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

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June 2019

Team Meeting — June 17-19

Our June meeting began with prayer using a poem from Wendell Berry entitled “Our Real Work”. His words in the poem “that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and when we no longer know which way to go, we have come to our real journey” gave us much to reflect on as we began our work at this June team meeting. Our agenda did not seem lengthy but the items on it required much discussion and input.

This month we are sending our alms to Catholic Charities in McAllen, Texas. This is the location where Elisa and Maria Teresa will lead the service trip. The money will help to buy necessities for the refugees who are being housed at the center where the volunteers will work next week. Please keep Elisa, Maria Teresa and Pat Schiffini in your prayers as they work with the volunteers Hope, Cameron, Kayla, Faith, and Chloe who are going with them on this service trip. They will be in McAllen, TX from June 22 -June 29 being the face of compassion for so many.

It is that time of the year when budgets need approval. We are very grateful to Ellette Gibson and Renae Loveland for all their work in our finance office. We reviewed and approved community budgets, the Provincialate budget and the Province Community Asset budget. Retirement fund requests were also granted.

We had several personnel issues to discuss as well as local government needs. We spent time discussing preparations to aid Maria Teresa

during the time that both Rita Ann and Jean will be in Rome for the General Chapter. Please be aware that Maria Teresa may be calling on individuals to help in various ways during this time.

Several corporation meetings were held and we met with Madonna and Diane to discuss Sponsorship office issues.

Soon each sister in the province will be receiving a “data protection” form from your local prioress

or delegate which has been sent to us from the Generalate. We ask your cooperation in signing and returning this form to your prioress or delegate.

*“It may be that when we no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.
The impeded stream is the one that sings.”*

—Wendell Berry, “Our Real Work”

We began discussing ways to move forward with the need for greater lay involvement within our current structures. We’ve chosen to begin with the health delegates who assist our sisters living in care facilities. We are forming a focus group to help us with resources and a role description. Our next step was to ask Cindy Dauner, our New Orleans health navigator, to assume responsibilities at Chateaux Notre Dame in addition to her regular duties. These are both initial steps as we work with the bigger picture of our province reality. We’ll keep you all informed as we move forward.

We hope that the summer months afford everyone the opportunity to relax and enjoy some of God’s beauty in creation.

Celebrating Madonna's Re-Focusing



Social Justice Notes

Amid threats of mass deportation, it is important that we find ways to support migrants who are in our country. Please contact your members of Congress, both House and Senate, and ask them to demand that there be fair, just and legal treatment accorded to each person and that families not be separated. Your local Catholic Charities should be able to put you in contact with people in your area who are working to protect the rights of immigrants there.

Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* was published four years ago. Air and water quality regulations in much of the US have been weakened since then. The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act which would return the US to the Paris agreement. A similar bill, the International Climate Accountability Act, has been introduced in the Senate. Please contact your senators calling them to support this legislation.

Please continue to pray for peace and to speak up against the use of violence to settle disputes whether local or international.



Province Office News

- The office will be closed on July 4-5 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
- During the summer months, the office will close at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays.



Phone Directory Updates

Sue Ann Cole

sacoleosu@gmail.com (new email)

Congratulations . . .

...to Mary Troy who will be celebrating her 65th Jubilee on July 16, 2019.



Provincial Team Dates

Rita Ann

June 21 Personal Day
 July 7-13..... Retreat
 July 25-28..... Ursuline Convocation,
 St. Louis
 July 30..... Francis Place Board meeting,
 St. Louis
 August 2..... Personal Day

Jean

June 24 - July 1 Retreat
 July 17-31..... Home Visit,
 California

Maria Teresa

June 22-29..... Ursuline Summer Service,
 McAllen, Texas
 July 18-23..... Family Visit
 July 25-28..... Ursuline Convocation,
 St. Louis

Next team meeting..... August 6-8



DATES TO REMEMBER

July 25-28..... Ursuline Convocation in St. Louis
 September 2..... Conference Registration will be due
 to Adele
 September 30..... Signed forms for Protection of Personal
 Data due to Adele
 October 31 — November 4..... Province Conference

Continuing to Share Our Story . . .

Rosemary Skelley shares her experience.

Since completing 53 years in Catholic Education in June 2018, I have found ministry outreach in Saints James and Patrick Parish, Decatur. St. Patrick School, entering its 165th year, is accurately called “a parish outreach ministry” in its present student population. I serve as teacher aide in the PreK3 class of 13 very active students. (See photo.) They represent families from Argentina, China and Indonesia, as well as Decatur! I also tutor, teach, test, etc. as needed throughout the school. Working with teachers, parents, and other school personnel affords a very broad outreach.

As a member of the parish RCIA Team, I teach and also enjoy many contacts in the

families, friends, and members of the parish who are participants. Being a lifelong member of the parish myself definitely helps in making connections. I am often asked about particular Ursuline Sisters who staffed St. Patrick School over many years past. This Easter we welcomed 14 new members into the Catholic Church. The program has been strong and successful for many years.

In conclusion, my ministry in the school and the RCIA brings me into contact with the many young and not so young in this venerable and vibrant parish and beyond!

