

Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 49, No. 5

May 2019

Team Meeting — May 21-23

Our custom is to begin each day of team meetings with contemplative prayer and sharing. This month we began with a reflection from Meister Eckhart which begins: “Above all else then, be prepared at all times for the gifts of God and be ready always for new ones.” We posed ourselves a question and offer it here for your personal reflection: What new gifts have you received from God?

The bulk of our three-day meeting was spent reviewing budgets—Provincialate, Department, Local Community and Retirement—together with Ellette Gibson. In addition, we were pleased to be able to award eleven Angela Merici

“What is best is to take God and enjoy God in any manner, in any thing. All my life, this has been my joy. God does not ask anything else of you except that you let yourself go and let God be God in you.”

—Meister Eckhart

grants. You will see the listing elsewhere in this PTR. Our alms this month will be given to the Institute for Peace and Justice, located in St. Louis.

Besides financial concerns, we made two appointments and approved six new and five returning board members for Mt. Merici Academy and the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Our on-going province healthcare needs and replacements for prioresses and delegates are something we’re looking at carefully with a view to present and future needs. We currently are seeking to consult a variety of groups and individuals as we continue to piece together a vision.

As we approach Pentecost, we ask God for an outpouring of the Spirit on all of us and on our world!

Social Justice Notes

Please continue to respond to the needs of immigrants (especially those along our southern border) in whatever ways you can. Email Mary Ann at madooling@ursulinesl.org if you would like to know of specific groups that you can financially support. There is a new act supporting “dreamers” and those on TPS (temporary protected status), it is being called the American Dream and Promise Act. Please encourage your representative to support it. Please also encourage the decriminalization of refugees and a more humane handling of both children and adults who seek asylum or refugee status.

The challenge of plastic pollution becomes ever greater. A scientist speaking on BBC left the audience with two particular quotes/insights while speaking of the really dire problem of plastic waste: “in our throw-away society – there is no ‘away’ ” and the “greatest cause of climate change and environmental degradation is our demand for convenience”.

As we begin summer and time for spring cleaning it might be a good time to downsize. JustFaith Ministries has a simple lifestyle inventory which we have permission to use. It will be emailed as an attachment in early June.



Angela Merici Grants

We thank all of our sisters who submitted requests for grants from the Angela Merici Fund. The province is happy to support each of these important and valuable projects and the many people who benefit from them.



- Marian Middle School, St. Louis, for academic programs, professional development and technology.
— Pauline Lorch and Madonna O'Hara.
- Salary supplement for service with volunteers engaged in rebuilding homes destroyed by flooding in New Orleans.
— Regina Marie Fronmüller.
- Salary supplement for services at Haven for Hope, San Antonio, TX.
— Elizabeth Susan Hatzenbuehler.
- St. Anthony Food Pantry, St. Louis, to purchase personal care items.
— Diane Fulgenzi.
- Bridges Foundation, St. Louis, for low-income persons wishing to participate in the 19th Annotation retreat program.
— Thomas More Daly.
- Montana Experience, Great Falls, to be used to help with travel and registration.
— Rosemary Meiman.
- Hands On Summer Art Program, New Orleans, for art materials and field trips for economically disadvantaged children.
— Regina Marie Fronmüller.
- Kumler Outreach Ministry, Springfield, for assistance with medication expenses.
— Theresa Davey.
- TEAM food pantry, St. Louis, to help purchase meat for holidays.
— Mary Ellen Neeves.
- Haven for Hope, San Antonio for supplies for the adult art program.
— Elizabeth Susan Hatzenbuehler.
- Support to purchase personal items for a prisoner.
— Brendan Jacoby

Appointments

Sue Anne Cole

Assistant to Archivist
(part-time)
(Missouri Cluster)

Diane Fulgenzi

Co-Director of
Sponsorship Office
(Missouri Cluster)

Farewell . . .

. . . to our pre-Chapter visitor from Indonesia, Mariana Ita, who was with us for two weeks visiting our province.

And thanks to every one who helped make Ita's and Mateja's visit possible.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



Thank You . . .

. . . to Madonna O'Hara for 13 years of dedicated service as Director of our Central Province Office of Sponsorship. Madonna completes her service at the end of June and will begin a new chapter of life. We're deeply grateful to Madonna and wish her all the best as she moves forward!



Phone Directory Updates

Betty Carpentier
618-600-1063 (new cell)



Our Sympathy . . .

. . . to our sisters at *Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center* on the death of our sister, Barbara Becnel, who died on May 3rd.

Provincial Team Dates

Rita Ann

June 17 Reception with Archbishop Carlson

Jean

June 6-12 Institute of Law & Religious Life, Year 2, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Maria Teresa

June 4-13 Visit to Mère Marie Community

Next team meeting.....June 17-19

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 15.....Recommendations for Provincial and Team due to Mary Ellen

July 25-28 Ursuline Convocation in St. Louis

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

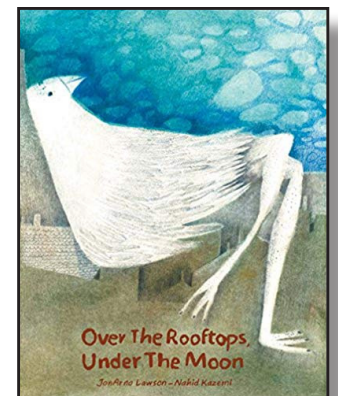
Suggested Reading

—from the blog of Barbara Becnel, written March 11, 2019

O*ver the Rooftops, Under the Moon:* A lyrical, illustrated meditation on loneliness, otherness, and the joy of belonging found.

Alone with himself, even among his flock, a unique young bird finds an unexpected connection in the eyes of a little girl. He begins to wonder about the nature of life: What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to be a bird? Swept up in his exploration of the human world, he doesn't notice that his flock has already migrated south for the season.

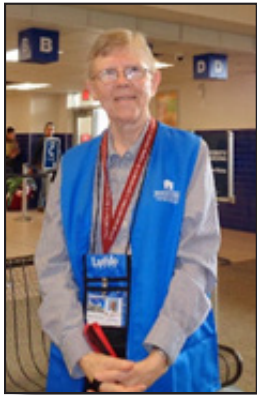
Written by JonArno Lawson and beautifully illustrated by Nahid Kazemi, this sparse, lyrical children's book is about community lost and found, and what it means to know one's self. It's a good read at any age.



Continuing to Share Our Story . . .

Karen Schwane shares her experience.

Every Thursday I've been going to the Greyhound Bus station to volunteer with IWC, Interfaith Welcome Coalition. (<https://interfaithwelcomcoalition.org>) I catch a city bus



for downtown, then find Karen Sacre, Ursuline Alum, my coordinator, bringing a trolley of 25 backpacks from a nearby Methodist Church; we unload them to our space in the corner. Twenty – twenty five mothers with children from the Dilley Detention Center are the first to arrive. Their faces reveal anxiety and wonder of what's next as they

clutch the papers confirming a family member has paid for their ticket. We greet them at the entrance with a warm smile and “bienvenidos” then show them to the ticket counter; the children respond quickly to “hola!” with a big smile. After receiving tickets, a volunteer checks the destination and departure time, writing it on a sticker which we can see on their jackets. They join their companion travelers and we begin helping them decipher the small print of their itinerary. On an 8.5x11 paper we write the cities where they will change busses with arrival and departure times. I sit beside the parent (or older child) to enlist help reading the small numbers and trace the route on the map printed on the back side of the paper. I feel that gives them some understanding of how the ticket works. Each family receives a backpack containing a

blanket, some toiletries, snacks, water, and a coloring book with colors. Also available are telephones to call family, medicines, extra food for long trips, diaper packs with wipes, and other helpful items.

Recently the City opened a resource space nearby to take care of the overflow of Immigrants. I went over there to see if everyone had maps and found a woman with a strange bus ticket. I asked her to come with me and as we started to the door her little toddler began to cry. Mom picked her up and her little boy did not hesitate to take my hand when I said “dame la mano”. That was one experience that really touched me.

Every Thursday I encounter warm, joyful, generous individuals who share God's love and concern with our sisters and brothers seeking asylum. When our



travelers line up for the bus they now have smiles on their faces. It is the highlight of my week and I always have an inspiring story to share with community at our evening prayer.

RAICES is another agency (<https://www.raicestexas.org>) that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees. They also volunteer their services to families at the Greyhound station.

