

# Provincial Team Report

*Ursulines of Central Province*

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## Team Meeting — April 23-25

This was our first team meeting since Rita Ann's return to the office following knee replacement surgery. Our agenda was long and spanned a wide variety of topics. We began each day with portions of a contemplative prayer experience received from the LCWR. We also held in prayer the sisters who celebrated birthdays and feast days this month.

We put some finishing touches on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> prioresses meeting and also finalized an assisted living policy which will be distributed by the end of May. We completed the next step of the province leadership discernment process: a reflection on our experience as a team and a list of issues & responsibilities that we foresee will need priority time and attention from the next team. This information was sent to you, together with a response sheet to be returned by May 3. We also spent time reviewing the March RULUSA meeting with Rita who could not be present.

Personnel and local government issues were discussed. Our alms this month was given to



the English Tutoring Project (ETP) in St. Louis. The ETP provides on-site assistance to children from refugee and immigrant families to acquire English language skills in an environment where all children experience respect for themselves and their culture. We spent time reviewing the Provincialate budget and making plans for the next fiscal year. Ellette Gibson met with us for a discussion of some of our province investments.

Sponsorship issues were discussed. We studied requests from four Academies for a total of sixteen new Board members and reviewed salaries for the new Sponsorship Team. We also shared about the recent meetings of the Ursuline Education Foundation (UEF) corporation and Leadership of Sponsored Schools held in New Orleans.

As we move deeper into the Easter season, we wish us all fresh vision and insight to recognize the Risen Christ in new and familiar places!



## General Chapter Update: Central Province Delegates

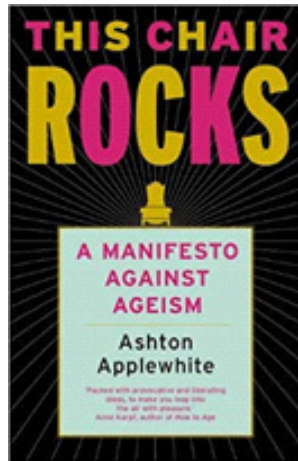
Susan Kienzler returns from her visit to Taiwan on April 29 and we look forward to hearing some of the highlights. Jean is the next to leave. She will visit the Province of France-Belgium-Spain from May 3-16. Jean will be part of a small group of three Ursulines, including Shirley Garibaldi (West) and Jayne Horsewill (England). Together they will visit Paris, Quimperlé, Nantes, Angers, Tours, St. Saulve

and Mons, Belgium. She's looking forward to being immersed in a new culture, experiencing Ursuline life in an unfamiliar context, and sharing with the sisters and Ursuline collaborators she encounters along the way. Due to Rita's surgery, she is unable to visit the Province of Poland in June as originally planned. She hopes to make alternate arrangements to visit later in the summer.

## Suggested Reading

We've all been there:

- Shocked, unhappy at the growing expanse of gray hair --- or maybe just the growing expanse!
- The dissatisfaction with hair that is getting thinner, the chin that is becoming a double chin
- The embarrassment that it is not always so easy to open that sealed jar of olives
- The embarrassment that it takes a little longer to get up that last flight of stairs



In *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*, Ashton Applewhite sets all these experiences around aging in perspective, showing how almost universally we respond to these physical changes as negative. She calls it “age shame”, seeded and nurtured through the false, negative myths of aging that we have absorbed all our lives. We have never assessed these suppositions about age; we have just believed them and have been taken in by them hook, line and sinker! Believing all these negative myths about aging is a profound prejudice against our future selves and is profoundly harmful to our well-being

When God looked at Creation on the seventh day, God said, “It is good, very good.” God did **not** say, “The first forty years or so of human life are very good, but after that it is pretty much downhill”. *This Chair Rocks* releases – without ever using a religious context - the Gospel News that God’s creation of us is “good, very good”, not just for the first half of life but throughout the lifespan. Read it and it will turn your ideas of aging on their head! **This** is the good news that we should be preaching today in our works of mercy through word and example!

This review was shared by Sr. Imelda Maurer, C.D.P.



## Appointments

**Mary Beisiegel**

Audit Manager,  
Zielinski & Associates  
(Missouri Cluster)



**Marianne Mullen**

Francis Place,  
Eureka, MO



**Mary Jacqueline Pratt**  
Mother of Perpetual Help  
Assisted Living Facility,  
St. Louis, MO

## Phone Directory Updates

**Margaret Mary Cain**

300 Forby Road,  
Eureka, MO 63025  
(636) 587-3912

**Mary Lapping**

314-637-7578 (new cell)

**Marianne Mullen**

300 Forby Road,  
Eureka, MO 63025

Email and cell remain the same

**Ann Marie Owen**

[annowen1746@gmail.com](mailto:annowen1746@gmail.com)  
(new email)

**Mary Jacqueline Pratt**

7609 Watson Road, Rm 1  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Email and cell remain the same

## Thank You . . .

. . . for the many prayers and well wishes sent to me during my recuperation from surgery. I am back at the office although not quite at 100% yet.

I am very grateful to Jean and Maria Teresa who valiantly carried on all province business while I was recuperating.

*Rita Ann*



## Welcome . . .

. . . to Mariana Ita, who is visiting our province from Indonesia. We hope you enjoy your time with us in the Central Province.

## Farewell . . .

. . . to Mateja Koršič, who returned to Chile after visiting our province in early April.



## Our Sympathy . . .

. . . to our sisters at Our Lady of Wisdom on the death of our sister, Mary Margaret Prenger, who died on April 9, 2019.

## Provincial Team Dates

### Rita Ann

April 30.....Francis Place Board meeting,  
Eureka, MO

May 15..... English Tutoring Project Board  
meeting, St. Louis, MO

### Jean

May 3-16.....Pre-Chapter visit to Province of  
France-Belgium-Spain

### Maria Teresa

May 7-14..... Our Lady of Wisdom visit,  
New Orleans, LA

### All

May 2.....Prioresses' Meeting,  
St. Louis, MO

**Next team meeting.....May 21-23**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 30.....Community budgets and Retirement  
requests due to Ellette

May 1.....Angela Merici Grant Requests and  
Evaluations due to Adele

May 2.....Prioresses' Meeting

May 3.....Evaluation of 3-person team due to  
Mary Ellen or Rita Ann

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

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

## Continuing to Share Our Story . . .

Elizabeth Susan Hatzenbuehler shares her experience.

In San Antonio, Texas, Elizabeth Susan Hatzenbuehler facilitates a Meditative Coloring group twice a week at Haven for Hope, an 11.5 acre campus for persons experiencing homelessness. Other volunteers now fill in the rest of the week. In addition, the staff offers a “checkout” system for coloring supplies/pages that Sister keeps filled. An Angela Merici Grant has provided supplies for the project for two years.



a bit. This simple gift of being able to ponder images and colors can be the planting of seeds of interior peace, while the depth of the quiet within the room becomes a special grace for all of us.

For participants these pictures are often a part of their stories and a way to share that with others. As a result we now have three bulletin boards in the area. One of our early participants so proudly kept a whole binder, a “portfolio” of her completed pictures, and wanted to have an art exhibit for everyone’s pictures. Before that could happen, she told me she would be moving into a senior living complex. I cherish what she shared with me, “Coloring helps me to understand my heart . . . .”



At Haven for Hope, in a lovely small Chapel stretched to meet multiple needs, I invite you to imagine the simple setup: a few tables, chairs, whimsical “free printable” internet pages, markers, pencils, crayons – oh, and don’t forget the gentle, soft music you will hear. Welcome! This is a Meditative Coloring group for adults.

Men and women know that here they will find quiet and space to just be and that their problems clamoring for attention might fade

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## Social Justice Notes

Please continue to advocate for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Here is a [link](#) to the Ignatian Solidarity Network information on the reasons people are exiting Central American countries. It is important that we be aware of the ways our US policy has impacted the present reality in those countries.

We continue to celebrate our earth. Monday, April 22 was Earth Day. You can use this [plastic link](#) to find programs and ideas that will help us move away from the use of plastic, especially single-use plastic.

Pope Francis’ Easter [“Urbi et Orbi”](#) message is sobering but a call to hope and to action.

