

# Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 49, No. 7

August 2019

## Team Meeting — August 6-8

Our August meeting days began on the 6<sup>th</sup> with time for prayer and sharing. We focused on the increasing gun violence in our country which weighs so heavy on our hearts. Then we moved into personnel issues and made appointments which are listed elsewhere in this PTR. We reviewed material that was given us by the Healthcare Focus Group. More information about this group is in this issue as well. The group provided us with a timeline, a draft of the role description for Lay Collaborators and the minutes of their first meeting.

We dealt with some financial matters such as a request for money from the Retirement Fund, possible investment in renewable energy, acceptance of a bequest and the Mercy Loan Fund that we have invested with since 1994.

We considered how best to distribute our alms for the months of August and September. Donations will be made to Catholic Climate Covenant, St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Louis, Giving Voice and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).

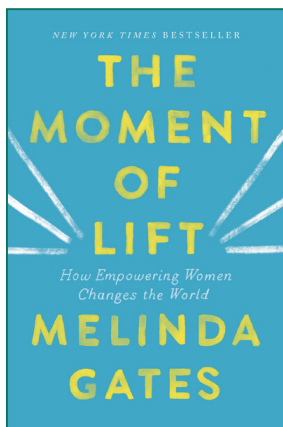
We spent time on several items related to our sponsored ministries, including evaluations of the President, self-evaluations by some Boards of Trustees, and the possibility of Ursuline Sisters as Trustees into the future. We reviewed our Province Corporation officers and we held one corporation meeting.

Several other items on the agenda were discussed including the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor and a request from our province Archivists.

---

## Suggested Reading

Review from Lois Castillon, osu



In Dallas Texas on May 30<sup>th</sup>, with an audience of 800, Melinda French Gates, a graduate of Ursuline Academy of Dallas, shared about her new book, *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*. I treasured being there!

Her book is about how Melinda became passionate in her journey of philanthropy to focus on women's needs around the world. She tells us: "Every issue in this book is a door women must walk through, or a wall we must break through, to become full contributors." (p. 261).

The book is filled with Melinda's personal journey and with inspiring stories. She shares of her global trips which focus on the women and families she has

met, talking with them about their joys, sufferings, and needs. The issues of child marriage, unpaid work, girls in schools, global health, and women in the work force that Melinda writes about include substantial data witnessing to inequalities which call us to help however each one can. The resources listed in the back of the book give us concrete ways we can help.

I was struck by Melinda's closing chapter when she said, "The supreme goal for humanity is not equality but *connection.... When people are connected, they feel woven into each other.... If either of us suffers, we suffer together. This blurs the borders between human beings, and what flows through those porous borders is love.*" (p. 263)

I hope reading this book will lift your heart as it did mine. As an Ursuline sister it made me proud to read her words on page 9: "My teachers at Ursuline taught us the values of social justice and pushed us hard academically."



## Province Office News

The Province offices will be closed on Labor Day, September 2.



## General Chapter News Central Province Delegates

Our three delegates, Rita Ann, Susan and Jean, will leave for Rome on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. These next weeks are full of preparations on every level in order to be prepared for the Chapter as well as leave things in our ministries ready for others to help while we're away. Right now, we're working together on our province contribution to the "marketplace" which will take place during the first week of the Chapter. It involves presenting key trends about our country and province, as well as statistics, in a visual, easy-to-understand format. We count on your prayers for us and for all of the capitulants before, during and after the General Chapter. Maria Teresa will be in charge while Rita is away.

## Social Justice Notes

- There have been over 250 multiple injury shooting incidents thus far in 2019. It is far past the time for realistic, appropriate and enforceable gun legislation to be put in place on both the state and federal levels. Everytown is the best known and most effective organization calling for reform. You can access it at this [link](#). Some legislation has passed the US House. Information about calling for the Senate to take up the House bill is available on this site.  
Another good source is <https://momsdemandaction.org>. This site calls for action to put universal background checks in place, to ban the sale of assault rifles, and to create processes for removing guns from those reported to be dangerous to themselves and others. All of these actions can lead to legislation that will begin to deal with the challenge of violence in our society. We are all called to respond to this danger.
- It is most important that we continue to argue for compassionate treatment of immigrants. White supremacy must be called out for what it is: another way to reinforce the racism that is so ingrained in our structures. Language matters, words matter, and people of conscience need to speak up.
- As schools open for another term, there are many children who lack the basics for the beginning of school. There are many options to donate school materials. Get involved in an opportunity in your area.
- The August edition of the *StopTrafficking* is available at this [link](#).

## Appointments

**Susan Barry**

Francis Place, Eureka, MO  
Ministry of Prayer

**Mary Beisiegel**

Alton Community Prioress  
(non-resident)

**Margaret Mary Cain**

St. Clare's, Alton, IL  
Ministry of Prayer

**Lorene Griffin**

St. Joseph Village, Coppell, TX  
Ministry of Prayer

**Anne Therese Mayol**

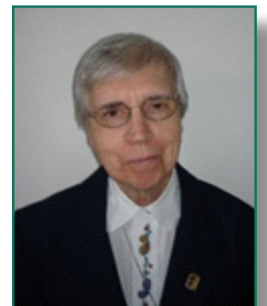
Francis Place, Eureka, MO  
Ministry of Prayer

## Focus Group

The Team has asked Pauline Lorch, Chabanel Mathison, Mary Lapping and Susan Kienzler to begin a study of ways to involve more lay collaborators in the area of Health Care. We are grateful for their willingness to do this very important work for the province.

## Congratulations . . .

...to Patricia Couture who will celebrate her 70th anniversary of religious profession on September 7th.



# Phone Directory

## Updates

### Susan Barry

300 Forby Road  
Eureka, MO 63025  
Email and Phone remain the same

### Margaret Mary Cain

*Alton Community*  
St. Clare's Villa - Apt. 412  
915 East 5th Street  
P.O. Box 340  
Alton, IL 62002-0340  
(636) 587-3912  
Email remains the same

### Lorene Griffin

1203 East Sandy Lake, Room 1209  
Coppell, TX 75019  
(469) 630-0466

### Anne Therese Mayol

300 Forby Road  
Eureka, MO 63025  
Email and Cell remain the same

### Madonna O'Hara

moharaosu2@gmail.com

### Magdalita Roussel

(504) 493-5162 (cell)

# Provincial Team Dates

## Rita Ann

August 13-17 ..... Scottsdale, AZ,  
LCWR National Assembly  
August 20..... St. Louis,  
ACT II Gathering  
August 23..... Vacation Day  
August 26..... St. Louis,  
Ursuline Trust meeting  
August 29..... Springfield, IL,  
Memorial Mass for Ann Smith  
September 3 - October 16..... Rome, Italy,  
General Chapter

## Jean

August 13-17 ..... Scottsdale, AZ,  
LCWR National Assembly  
August 24..... St. Louis,  
Discernment Day for leadership  
September 3 - October 16..... Rome, Italy,  
General Chapter

## Maria Teresa

August 13-17 ..... Scottsdale, AZ,  
LCWR National Assembly  
August 24..... St. Louis,  
Discernment Day for leadership  
August 26..... St. Louis,  
Ursuline Trust meeting  
August 29..... Springfield, IL,  
Memorial Mass for Ann Smith  
October 21-23 ..... Personal Days  
Next team meeting ..... **October 24-25**

## *Our Sympathy . . .*

...to our sisters in the New Orleans community on the death of our sister, Rosemary Meiman, who died on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

...to our sisters at Francis Place on the death of our sister, Ann Smith, who died on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

August 20.....Phone Directory Info due to Adele  
September 2.....Conference Registration 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 . . .*

Theresa Davey shares her experience.

**K**umler Outreach is Kumler Methodist Church's ministry to people of Springfield IL. The church is a few blocks from where the Ursuline Convent, Springfield College in Illinois, and Ursuline Academy were located. This church with about 100 families has been assisting families with food and clothing for more than 30 years. Theresa Davey volunteers at Kumler two mornings each week.

When I moved to Springfield, I wanted to volunteer in areas similar to my ministry in Cape Girardeau. [Kumler Outreach](#) is a great fit. On Wednesdays I assist individuals in paying for their medicines. Along with filling out the necessary form, I often hear something of their story. As I write down the person's age, I may be aware that they look older than their years and realize that he or she did not have access to regular medical care. Another task on Wednesday is mundane but important. I file the client's intake papers and their folders and make folders for new

clients. If a client's folder can't be found the process is significantly delayed.

On Thursdays I am the receptionist at the front desk helping people with questions, answering the phone and assisting those needing medications. When the Thursday volunteers discovered I was a sister they asked me to begin the morning with prayer. We gather in a circle for a moment of prayer before the doors are open. It has bonded us together. The volunteers are from all around. Most of them are near my age and older. Some have volunteered for more than 25 years.

Volunteering at Kumler is a gift to me. I meet people who carry burdens with grace, young people determined to beat their addictions, and staff and volunteers who are full of kindness, joy, and faith. It has also made me aware of how governmental regulations directly affect a person's health needs.

