

# Provincial Team Report

Ursulines of Central Province

Vol. 49, No. 3

March 2019

## Team Meeting — March 19-21

Spring is in the air and we are more than happy to welcome it after such a hard winter. With Rita Ann at Francis Place recuperating from knee surgery, Jean and Maria Teresa met to address personnel issues first and foremost. Rita was able to join us several times by phone.

We reviewed the recommendations from the prioresses for their May 2 meeting, the applications for the Montana Ursuline Experience and the upcoming North American Ursuline Convocation. We also reviewed the recommendation made by the committee we formed to revise the Angela Merici Fund guidelines. There is further information in this PTR.

Our province continues to be blessed with generous benefactors. We approved one bequest for the New Orleans community and two for the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Our alms this month was given to Marian Middle School in St. Louis for their annual fund raiser. We also held several corporation meetings.

We continue developing a province policy for sisters in assisted living and are grateful for the thoughtful feedback received from the prioresses and delegates we consulted. Thanks to the generosity of Regina Marie we are working on a short province video which will be posted on

“... we must break our habits of apathy and indifference and break the culture of turning a blind eye to those in need, breaking through to a better world by looking inside our heart, speaking out and speaking up for our brothers and sisters in Christ who need our help. Let us renew ourselves this Lent and break away from a culture of indifference to one that cultivates encounter and welcome.”

—Sr. Norma Pimentel, M.J.,  
recipient of the 2019 LCWR  
Outstanding Leadership Award

the new General Chapter web site. The video will include key challenges in the province such as political/economic issues

of the country that impact our life and mission as well as demographics, community life, etc. Regina Marie is working with Susan Whelan and a professional to produce the video.

*Happy Easter!*

*We wish everyone a blessed Triduum and Easter season.*

*May the Risen One fill our hearts with joy  
and our spirits with new life!*

## Pre-Chapter Visitors to the Central Province

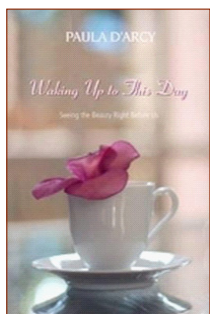
We are happy to announce that we will receive two of our sisters for a visit before the General Chapter. Sister Mateja Koršič, originally from Slovenia, presently serves as local prioress in Santiago, Chile and does pastoral work in the school. Sister Anastasia Mariana Batmomolin is Indonesian. She serves as principal and coordinator of *Dhira Bhakti* campus.

Both sisters are in the process of acquiring a United States VISA—a long and difficult process. Our original plan was for both sisters to visit from April 6–16. However, these dates may not be possible depending on when they get their VISAS. As soon as plans are firmed up, we will notify you.

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## Suggested Reading

*Julie Hickey shares the following:*



**W**aking Up to This Day – Seeing the Beauty Right Before Us, by Paula D’arcy, is not a recent book, but it is one I find myself returning to often. It is a small book, and yet unexpectedly dense. Paula’s poetic, reflective style invites a slow read. She suggests taking a walk in nature after finishing a chapter. It is as if you are taking a meander through nature as you read the whole book. If you do read it, I would encourage a contemplative read.

The following is Paula’s hope and my hope, too, as you read her reflections . . .

“It is my hope that you will learn, as I am learning, to see the day before you with new eyes. Beneath the superficial appearance of things lies a deeper force and a greater purpose—life’s own intrinsic meaning.”

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## General Chapter Update Central Province Delegates

Our delegates are in the process of planning their pre-Chapter visits. Susan Kienzler will visit the Province of China. She leaves for Taiwan on April 12<sup>th</sup>. It takes two days to get there, and one very long day to return! Susan is part of a small group of three Ursulines which includes Marie Harper (Caribbean) and Elizabeth Markham (South Africa). Together they will visit Kaohsiung, Taipei and Hualien. Susan is looking forward to seeing sisters who have been here for exchange programs over the years and meeting other sisters for the first time. Please keep Susan in your prayers. She will return home on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Jean will be the next to go. She’ll share the details in next month’s PTR.

## Appointments

**Peggy Stovall**

Mother of Perpetual Help,  
Assisted Living  
St. Louis



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## Angela Merici Grants

The guidelines for use of the Angela Merici Fund have been expanded to include the possibility of grant applications for projects which do not necessarily involve an Ursuline being in ministry. Alumnae projects or projects in which Ursulines were formerly involved are examples of projects for which application might be made. The request for this change came from table conversations at our recent Province Chapter.

Please send application and evaluation forms to Adele Brennan at the province office or [adele@osucentral.org](mailto:adele@osucentral.org) no later than May 1. We encourage you to request funding for worthwhile projects that will improve the lives of those in need in your community, neighborhood, etc.

All of the forms can be found in the Province Directory on pages I-11, I-12, I-13. We will also send out a replacement page for I-5 so that you will have the revised guidelines.

The Team thanks Pauline Lorch, Regina Marie Fronmüller and Mary Ann Dooling for their willingness to work on the revision committee. Great job!

*The Province Offices will close  
at noon on Holy Thursday  
and reopen on Easter Monday.*

## Phone Directory Updates

**Pauline Lorch**

[paulinefairdale@gmail.com](mailto:paulinefairdale@gmail.com)

**Mary K Milne**

(210) 716-8022 — new cell

**Elisa Ryan**

(314) 625-7584 — new cell

**Springfield Convent**

No landline – use cell numbers

**Peggy Stovall**

7609 Watson Road Apt. 31  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Phone and email remain the same



## Provincial Team Dates

### Jean

March 28-31 ..... Chicago, RULUSA

April 1 - ff ..... Jury duty

April 14-17 ..... New Orleans, UEF and  
Sponsorship meetings

### Maria Teresa

March 28-31 ..... Chicago, RULUSA

April 15-21 ..... Retreat

**Next team meeting ..... April 23-25**

## Montana Ursuline Experience

We're happy to announce that the Province will sponsor the following three lay colleagues: Renae Loveland, Finance Office; Cheryl Vambaketes, Medical Insurance Coordinator; and Leah Schlieff-Freese, UA Dallas, Visual Arts. We are pleased to be able to introduce them to the rich heritage of our early Ursuline missions in the West, as well as provide the opportunity to make friendships among the broader Ursuline family of attendees.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

March 31 ..... Responses to questions about a direction for our future due to Mary Ellen Neeves

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

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

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

*Our Sympathy . . .*

. . . to the Francis Place  
Community on the death of  
our sister, Wilma Wittman.



## Continuing to Share Our Story . . .

Pauline Lorch shares her experience tutoring refugee women.

Because St. Louis has a well-organized and many-faceted International Institute, many refugees are sent here. Mary Lapping has volunteered for one program which teaches English to refugee women in their homes. There are presently 250 tutors teaching English to refugee women. Another 227 women are on the waiting list for a tutor, so I volunteered. There are a variety of reasons why these women have not learned English. Some do not understand a very different culture. Some are uncomfortable or even fearful of going out alone in a strange city, and some need childcare.

Since joining the project about a year and a half ago I have worked with a Bosnian woman who had been here for 16 years and knew no English. I have also tutored a highly educated Afghan woman whose husband was a government official there. From Mina I learned much about the situation in Afghanistan and the extended family with whom she lived. The family came to the US because a young family member had been a translator for the Marines and he had been invited to immigrate.

Kelly, originally from Greece, is the woman with whom I am presently working. Kelly's story is complicated by the fact that her husband, who is a US citizen, divorced her fraudulently



despite her efforts to contest, and as a result she was left homeless. Through Catholic Charities, she was able to get a job at a nursing home sponsored by Cardinal Ritter Senior Services. If you can believe it, most recently I have been working with her on finances. Due to her lack of understanding what was told to her, she is now dealing with two collection agencies. Despite all this, Kelly is a very positive and enjoyable student and now she has the goal of becoming a US citizen.

So over the past year and a half, I have learned a lot about the desperation of the homeless, the fear experienced by refugees, and the joy and determination of women as they try to learn to function in a culture not their own.



here is the [link](#) to the Earth Day website where resources are available. Rachel Carson wrote: "In nature, nothing exists alone." It is all of a piece. We need to continue to be concerned about the devastation caused by our use of

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## Social Justice Notes

It may seem a long way away, but Earth Day 2019 is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The theme for this year is "Protect Our Species" and

disposable plastic goods which are a danger to the environment and various species. Plastic pollution was last year's theme.

Please continue to pray and to advocate for an end to violence on so many levels including xenophobic speech, incivility and gun violence. The New Zealand response to the dreadful attack there is one to emulate. Immigrants at our borders and in our country continue to need our prayers, our support and our advocacy.