

# Glimpses of Artisans of Change

It is wonderful to experience how our Ursuline Grads remember the importance of SERVICE. I have a few who send to me a variety of things that they feel our people around here may need. This allows me to reach even beyond our own Residence. A recent opportunity to share with our neighbors was on New Years Day morning. It was a very cold day. After Mass I had the pleasure of driving around our neighborhood to distribute new hats, mittens and scarfs. People were surprised and delighted. What a grand way to start the New Year!

I also had the pleasure of giving people coffee vouchers on the subzero days in February. One response I received I will not forget. Two young men were walking down the street, and I pulled over and asked them if they would like a nice hot coffee. One fellow said to the other, "I told you that God would help us." Then he looked at me and said, "You are a blessing!" As I gave them the voucher, I said, "God helps you and me, now promise me you will help someone today." I received great assurance from them that they would do so. At least they know they are not forgotten.

Angela Krippendorf, osu Lewiston, Maine

Sonoma County's homelessness crisis became even more severe with the fires we have had over the past 3 years. The homeless are now having to compete with the fire victims for what little housing there is. Housing and rent prices have gone up by an average of 30% since the Tubbs fire.

Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa, in conjunction with the City of Santa Rosa, took a big step in making a small dent in the number of chronically unhoused by converting an older hotel, called The Palms, into 130 studio apartments. This hotel conversion is a new concept and is being modeled throughout the country.

Many of the tenants had been on the streets for decades and needed instruction on how to make their own coffee or use a microwave. Though, as could be expected there have been incidents where people not used to living near others either implode or explode, we have been amazed at the cooperation and energy of the new tenants. They initiated an AA group, a garden, and a dog park. One couple in the program had been homeless for years, primarily due to the wife's health, which required the supervision of her husband so he could not work. Once they had a safe place for her to stay, with neighbors willing to look in on her, the husband was comfortable getting a job. Today, they have gained enough financial stability that they have moved on to a private house rental.



Denise Dixon, Board Member of Santa Rosa Catholic Charities, Windsor, California

The Working Group on **Racism** of the Eastern Province has listened to LCWR's direction of recognizing the reparation due to so many people of color who have suffered violence, poverty and lack of opportunity. Because of our white privilege, we have been part of the systems that have caused this terrible inequity. We focused on two organizations that are trying to bring about this reparation and brought donations for each to the two main parts of our Province Chapter.

The first of these organizations is **Soul Fire Farm**. This wonderful organization works to end racism in the food system by these strategies:

- **End inequity in access to land, sustenance, and power in the food system.**
- **Reverse industrial agriculture's damage to the planet and harm to vulnerable communities.**
- **Heal from a history of oppression that has disconnected our communities from land.**
- **Feed people and soil – survival programs.**
- **Train Farmer-Activists through “skill up” programs.**
- **Build the movement and bring about systemic change.**



The second recipient of our offering is a special program at **Bedford Hills Prison for Women**.

Mary Sullivan, OSU has been in touch with Sr. Dorothy Maxwell from Blauvelt who is chaplain at the prison. She told us of the program offered for Women at Bedford through Marymount Manhattan College. They offer inmates the chance to acquire a college degree while they are in prison.



Another program was started by Sr. Elaine Roulet. Sr. Elaine has been instrumental in the prison reform movement and established the precedent of connecting imprisoned mothers with their babies that many United States prisons now use as a model.



After eight years in the prison nursery, Sr. Elaine Roulet founded the Children's Center to strengthen the bond between mother and child. It includes a parenting center, children's playroom, nursery, infant center, prenatal center, child advocacy office, summer program and taping room.



You can learn more about how the program here helps women to bond with their children, supports them in their efforts to reform their lives and successfully re-enter society.

Alice Marie Giordana, New Rochelle, New York

Just click on the links below:

Mothers of Bedford - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKdQ7Dc6eEk>

Miranda's Story - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXZ5qEZGdOE>

Mons Scrapbooking - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qhj8tyMjlxo>



**What can you do?**