



Society of
the Sacred Heart
United States - Canada

Muriel Cameron

Diane Roche <droche@rscj.org>

happy feast and....

1 message

Muriel Cameron <mcameron@rscj.org>
To: Diane Roche <droche@rscj.org>

Sat, Jun 24, 2017 at 12:09 AM

Dear Diane,

Happy Feast, and so many thanks for all the ways you assist the RSCJ membership to follow the JPIC calls...

For a while I have intended to write to add the following to the long trail of email conversations about one's commitments to justice and to better the lives of the marginalized...The following are several projects in which I was involved and/or instigated and then passed on to others.

I did not write all this in the emails because I felt it would be "tooting my own horn" but I realize that it might have been good to add my experience for the sake of Society history.

1) **Network Summer Service projects began** after I had proposed, designed and participated in immersion projects which were originally part of the Vocation Committee of the province in

(1985? '86?) Anyhow, I had seen the life-changing effects of immersion projects with Creighton University undergrad and grad school students. The projects were really a "secret" way to demonstrate and live out "apostolic spirituality" the RSCJ way, i.e. service with a marginalized group, academic preparation (some of it by teleconference before the actual project), group prayer and reflection each night, simplicity of life, and the formation of community. (The first university trip was to Grand Coteau at Christmas, and of that group persons with whom I am currently in touch, from , one is a professor/administrator/ chair of justice oriented committees at USD, and the other is a highly ranked MD here in Chicago, who is noted for pro bono medical care as well as that given to 'ordinary citizens).....

I might mention that after three years over 200 students went on service trips. The second year (1985) of my organizing them, I was asked to present at a conference for Jesuit Universities regarding the philosophy, planning, etc for this number of students....

Under the auspices of the US Province Vocation Committee, Imma DeStefanis and Maureen Glavin were young professed who worked with me to carry out the first two years of immersion projects with RSCJ and Network students... (even some international RSCJ ...Chizuru Hayashi from Japan and Fanny Martin from England) joined in the second year program at Grand Coteau. There was also a program in Houston).... By the third year these projects they were turned over to the supervision of the Network.....I continued

helping to organize, expand and staff these projects thru the years, right up until 2008 when I moved to Chicago.....

Several of the last programs of which I was a part collaborated with the Mexican Network and US Network, alternating US and Mexican sites. Sharon Karam was also involved in beginning this international service collaboration.

I might add that from 1970 (my first year as faculty in a Sacred Heart school) and following I was always involved in gathering students who would reach out to marginalized....such as visiting other children in the Charity Hospital of New Orleans, sharing arts classes with "orphans" in an orphanage near the Rosary..(Of course today, there would be numerous legal restrictions to even prevent such well intentioned ministries so Sacred Heart students could interact with children they would otherwise not meet. There was always *great* Sacred Heart parent support for these activities in New Orleans.

2) Another very significant involvement in my life, was spending **3 - 6 weeks for 12 summers in the Dominican Republic as a**

'pastoral resource and staff person' for about 70 Health Care students, professionals, and undergraduate students

connected with Creighton. This group, Institute of Latin American Concern (also having an arm with Georgetown) set up yearly clinics in the mountain campos of the Dominican Republic for persons who lacked basic health education and health care. Some sites were on the border where one did not really know where the Dominican Republic or Haiti began.....As time went on **Mary Pat Rives and I** arranged for **solar ovens and education projects** to be included while the clinics were simultaneously operating...

In **1998 I led an immersion experience for Network Faculty in the Dominican Republic.** (Mary Pat Rives and Kathy Dolan were part of this group). This opportunity did not really continue since I was primarily ministering in LaBelle at the time and Network sponsored international JPIC experiences were not so much in demand.

3) From **1995-2000 I lived in La Belle, Florida and ministered with Mexican migrant farmworkers** and directed the Spanish and English Religious Education programs. I lived with Madeleine Desloge and Bienvenida Velez, and later also Carol Bialock and Marie Louise Worffington.

4) **Duchesne House** was the result of my suggestion and my searching for a site along with planning assisted by several laity and New Orleans RSCJ. Finally after a visit with Bishop Morin, Paula Toner, Lynne Lieux, Mary Blish and myself, the New Orleans Archdiocese offered the present site of Duchesne to the Society for a rate between \$10.00 - \$1.00 a year as "rent"....Many articles were written about Duchesne House, so I will not write more....My ministry there was for 3 years, along with being employed at the Rosary during a time when there were extreme stresses following Katrina.

Diane, I hope all of this is not too long....but these are projects to which I committed myself with passion and probably much over-extension...but always with joy and gratitude....You also know I join the ranks of RSCJ who ministered at the Josephinum (4 years for me!)..

This sends gratitude for all you are doing to synthesize this part of Society history...SO MANY RSCJ have done MUCH more, but maybe these projects, experiences are bit unique in the sense of surroundings, and according to their times. and maybe I have given too much detail.....

LOTS OF LOVE,
Muriel