

TWO CONGREGATIONS CELEBRATE MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARIES

Puerto Rico mission celebrates 75 years

Last September, a celebration was held to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Puerto Rico. The many Sisters who accepted the call to missionary work in the early days shared common character traits. They were adventurous, welcoming challenge and opportunity. They were willing to step into the unknown and place their trust in our Provident God. They were hard working and selfless. Their hearts were filled with their love of God and their dedication to the mission of the Congregation. Their example and the legacy they have left has inspired those who have followed them



into ministry in Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo. The pioneering spirit is alive and well in the women to whom they have passed the torch.

Above: Missionary sisters in Puerto Rico in 1934. Sister Floretta Hoerster, far left, the sole surviving sister, celebrates 83 years of religious life this year.

continued on page 5

Missionary sister: 40 years ago in Peru



Sr. Rose Healy, Sr. Josephine Doiron, Sr. Winnifred Callary, Sr. Rose Marie Bokenfohr and Sr. Shirley Morris; front row, kneeling, from left to right: Sr. Julia Hamilton, Sr. Rita Moran and Sr. Irene Macdonnell in 1967, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kingston, during a blessing before they began their Latin American Missions.

By Sr. Rose Healy

I am reading the newly published history of the congregation, *Walking in Hope*. In the account of the opening of the Latin American missions, there are references to the lack of faith and religious practices in this area. When I look back now, I realize that the people of this area were as uprooted and disoriented as we were. The great majority left the provinces where they led a simple life, much more structured than here. In the towns and villages, the early missionaries had constructed large churches. The migrants did not

continued on page 9

Women of Providence in

COLLABORATION

VOL. IV ISSUE 2 • SPRING 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I wish you much peace and joy this Easter season. You can find the spirit of this season in the stories that are shared from our congregations in this newsletter. What signs of hope for all of us!

PROVIDENCE EVENT 2008

Registrations are still being accepted for the Event. There is room for a few more participants in PROVIDENCE EARTH PLUNGE, June 8 - 12. And PROVIDENCE PEOPLE TREAD LIGHTLY ON EARTH, June 13-15, has space available. All members of WPC congregations and their associates are invited. We hope



WPC Executive Committee

From left: Jane Ann Slater, CDP, chair, Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP, executive director, Mary Lou Barbara, MCDP, secretary, Elizabeth Oleksak, SP, vice-chair, Fran Moore, CDP, treasurer.

to come to some shared commitment together as Women of Providence in Collaboration. We are also opening June 13 to guests for the one-day program with Brian Swimme for a fee of \$75.

During the Providence Event, there will be opportunity to gather with affinity groups – persons serving in the same way in different congregations: higher education faculty, justice ministers, associate directors, associates, communicators, artists.

WPC GOVERNING BOARD, March 31 – April 1, Kingston, Ontario

The Board designated funds for a limited number of scholarships to be available to member congregations for attendance at the Providence Event. Please contact your congregation's board member if you are interested or know of someone in need.

The Board also began a conversation about the most effective form, place (regional/national) and date of bringing members of our congregations together for Providence activities. They also discussed possible gatherings of associate directors with leadership liaisons similar to the VFL annual meeting.

The Board approved the budget for the next fiscal year. They also agreed to have congregations pay dues in dollars of their country and pay for programs in dollars of the country in which the programs are offered. They discussed a permanent place for WPC archives and office address.

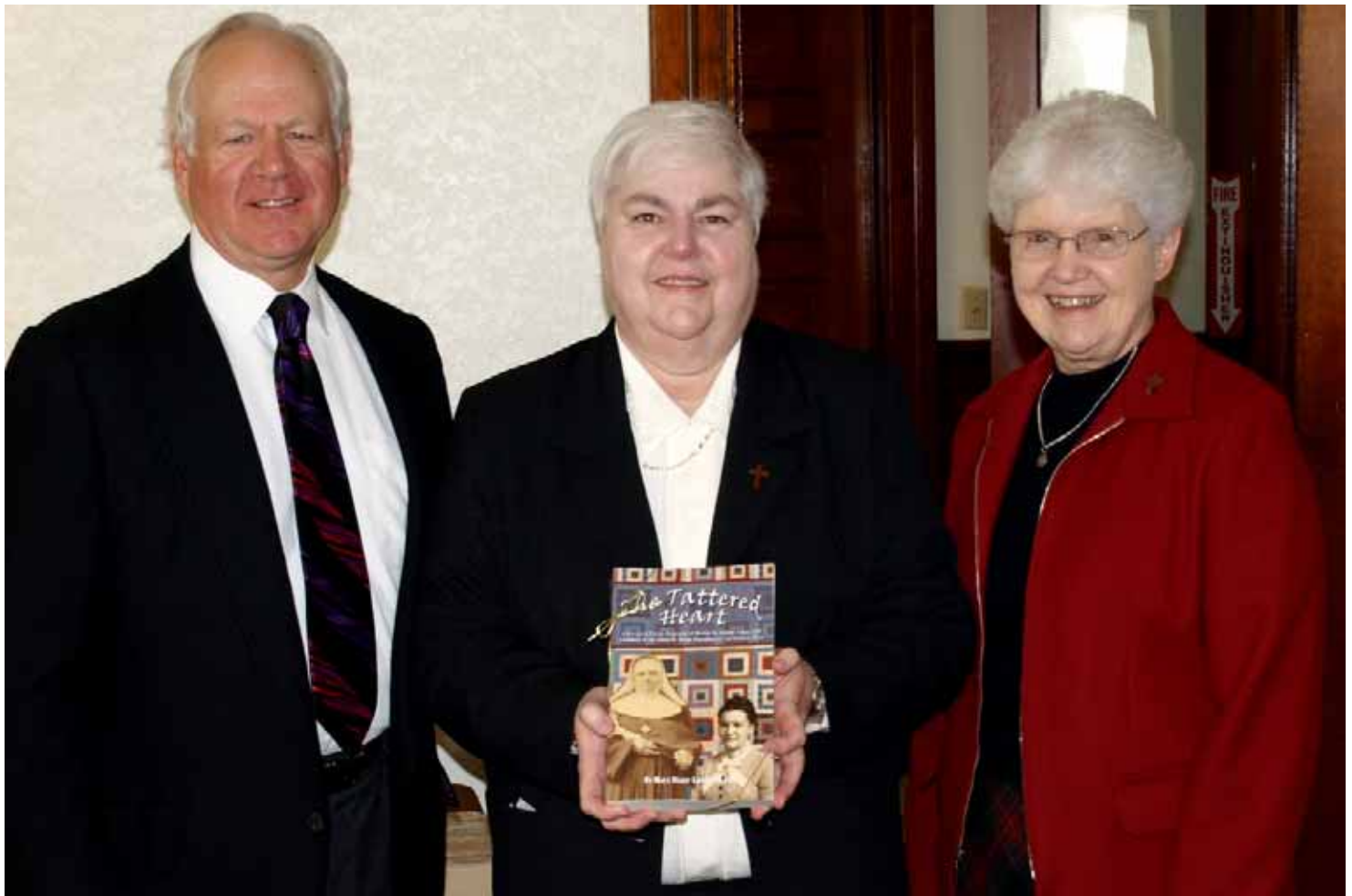
VOCATIONS/FORMATION/LEADERSHIP, March 26-30, 2008, Kingston, Ontario

The VFL gathered to reflect on "Contemplation: Opening to Providence," presented by Nancy Sylvester, IHM. (See story on page 10.)



WPC Governing Board

Board members present are left to right, back row: Pauline Lally, SP, Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, Betty Kaczmarczyk, SP, Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP, Jane Ann Slater, CDP, Elizabeth Oleksak, SP, Fran Moore, CDP; front row, Denise Wilkinson, SP, Mary Lou Barbara, MCDP, Margaret Botch, SP



CONGREGATION OF SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, SAN ANTONIO, TX **Congregation Releases Historical Fiction**

In December 2007, the Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP) celebrated the release of *The Tattered Heart*, a historical fiction by Sister Mary Diane Langford, CDP. Based on the life of Mother St. Andrew Feltin, a French Sister who founded the CDP in Texas in 1866 and who established the first parochial school system in Texas, *The Tattered Heart* relays a fascinating story of Mother's unyielding reliance on Providence and love for God in spite of hardships and failures.

The *Tattered Heart* was officially released at Our Lady of the Lake University, a venue Mother graced when she was alive. The guest of honor was Mr. Jim Sarrail, the great grand nephew of Mother St. Andrew Feltin.

Sister Mary Diane Langford, CDP, has ministered as a Sister of Divine Providence for more than 25 years and presently writes,

consults and provides retreats and workshops. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, her background includes teaching history in high school, ministering as a hospital chaplain, providing supervision for residence halls at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, providing pastoral services to several midwestern parishes and Congregational administration. Her personal love of history led her to write *The Tattered Heart*, her second book and first historical fiction.

All proceeds from the sale of *The Tattered Heart* benefit the care of the aged and infirm Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Texas. Books can also be purchased through www.iuniverse.com, www.Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble book-sellers and Our Lady of the Lake Convent Gift Shop, 515 SW 24th Street, San Antonio, Texas 78207.

Jim Sarrail, Sister Mary Diane Langford and Sister Jane Ann Slater, CDP superior general.

Two Profess Perpetual Vows

Sister Veronica Kim professed perpetual vows on Dec. 8, 2007, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, at the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel in Pittsburgh. Sister Veronica came to the



Left, Sister Veronica Kim

Marie de la Roche Province from Seoul, South Korea. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Chodang University there and worked in the field at Ujungbu St. Mary University Hospital and Chungju St. Mary General Hospital, a diocesan facility. Sister Veronica is ministering at La Roche College in Pittsburgh where she is International Student Coordinator.

Right, Sister Gladys with Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, Provincial Director



On Feb. 9, 2008, Sister Gladys Segovia León professed perpetual vows at a Eucharistic Liturgy at Sacred Heart High School Chapel. Sister Gladys, a native of Abancay, Peru has been in Kingston since July 2000. In May 2007, Sister Gladys earned her RN from Caritas Labouré College. She is currently pursuing employment in a hospital in the Boston or Kingston area.

New Early Childhood Center Dedicated

A dedication ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Early Childhood Center at Sacred Heart Elementary School in Kingston, Massachusetts, took place last fall. Ann Therese Connolly, CDP, principal of Sacred Heart Elementary School, welcomed guests and area dignitaries.

"Together," explained Sister Ann Therese, "we have designed for children a place of quality being and learning, while the mission of spirituality and education continues, so as to create a better world."



(front row L-R) Reverend Bryan Parrish, Will Gerstmyer, Joe Drown, Sister Ann Therese Connolly, Sister Lydia Steele, Sister Marilyn Bergt, Inge Kelleher, Dean Kelliher, Richard Sautter, Anna Marini. (back row L-R) David Finney, Sheamus Kelleher, Jim Pitts, Jim Kelleher, Randy Hodge

An after-school program is also provided at the new facility for Sacred Heart stu-

dents, K-6. The Early Childhood Center is located

continued on page 5



SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, HOLYOKE, MA

Heritage Day celebrates 10 years

Holyoke Sister of Providence Ruth McGoldrick lights candles in honor of Catholic Health East's sponsors during the major health system's January 8 celebration of Heritage Day at CHE headquarters in Newton Square, Pennsylvania. This year's Heritage Day marked the health system's 10th Anniversary. The Holyoke Sisters of Providence are among the 10 religious congregations and Hope Ministries, a Public Juridic Person within CHE, sponsoring the Maine to Florida system. Sister Ruth was the SPs Congregational President at the time of CHE's foundation and represented the SPs on CHE's Sponsors Council.

Continued from pg. 4

adjacent to Sacred Heart Elementary School. Sacred Heart Elementary School (K-6) is an independent Catholic elementary school that is part of the K-12 educational ministry of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Sacred Heart Elementary School (K-6) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Puerto Rico,

continued from pg. 1

From the beginning, the Sisters were actively involved in education not only at the elementary level, but they also were in administration at several school systems: Colegio San Miguel in Utuado, Colegio San Felipe in Arecibo, and San Juan Bautista elementary in Orocovis (closed 1978), and in the later years, teaching at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Nursing. Their leadership and vision, coupled with their dedication and hard work, contributed to building a strong foundation and the assurance that these institutions would survive to serve the people of Puerto Rico for the future.

Dedication of Statue at National Basilica



The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., have announced plans for a major celebration May 10 in Washington, D.C., in honor of the dedication of a statue of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, the Congregation's foundress.

The statue, sculpted by Terre Haute artist Teresa Clark and carved by Oberlein, Ohio, artist Nicholas Fairplay, has been placed in Mary's Garden outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The statue was carved in Indiana limestone. It is in commemoration of the life and legacy of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, canonized a saint in the Roman Catholic Church Oct. 15, 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will preside at the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy at 2 p.m. May 10, prior to the statue blessing. The Liturgy will be in the Crypt Church of the Basilica, or the Upper Church if the number of guests warrant.

After the Liturgy, pilgrims will walk the short distance to Mary's Garden for the blessing and dedication of the statue, after which there will be a reception in the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, a short drive from the garden. The Eucharistic Liturgy, the dedication and the reception are open to the public.

The Indiana Society of Washington, D.C. is hosting the reception.

If you'll be attending the Eucharistic Liturgy, the statue dedication and reception, please let us know so we can offer our best hospitality. You may contact Connie Gualano at 812-535-2827 or at cgualano@spsmw.org Information can also be found at www.SistersofProvidence.org

SPSMW display at L.A. Religious Ed Congress

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods had two adjoining booths at the 2008 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress at the Anaheim Convention Center Feb. 29-March 2. Vocations, White Violet Center for Eco-Justice and Designs of Providence, the Sisters of Providence arts ministry, were represented. The Sisters of Providence also announced WoodsUp.com, a new Web site for 4th-8th-grade children, teachers and parents. The conference was successful for each ministry represented, with steady attendance by the estimated 40,000 participants.





SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, SEATTLE/SPOKANE, WA

Two Retire from Hospital Ministries

Sr. Dorothy Klingele retires in Everett

Sister Dorothy Klingele was recognized for her many years of service to Providence Everett (WA) Medical Center in January. This octogenarian has been serving in health care since 1953, most recently as sister representative with offices at both the Colby and Pacific campuses. She has been a champion for the medical center's midwife program, the community health clinic and the children's center. "Sister Dorothy was our spiritual leader and a remark-

able presence at Providence Everett for nearly 60 years," says CEO Dave Brooks. "One of the things Sister Dorothy has done, along with other Sisters of Providence, is to recognize that lay leaders are going to help run the ministry."

Sister Mary Clare Boland says "farewell" to Swedish, but not goodbye

A reception was held in Seattle in December at the Swedish Medical Center-Cherry Hill campus to wish Sr. Mary Clare Boland well as she retired from pastoral

care ministry. For 17 years she was a familiar presence at the former Providence Seattle Medical Center. Typically, Sister Mary Clare rose each workday at 4 a.m., beginning her rounds at the medical center at 6 a.m. Though she planned to leave by 3:30 p.m., she often found herself visiting patients, offering comfort, solace, prayer and companionship, well into the evening. While her official duties are over at the end of this month, she intends to continue to be a regular presence as a volunteer.

At left, Sister Dorothy was recognized for her many years of service at an Amazing Services luncheon for employees.

At right, Sr. Mary Clare Boland tells those gathered: "I bless you with the God of Providence. Go forward; it's your job."

For more updates from Seattle/Spokane, see page 9.

Formed by Service to the Poor in Peru

by **Carmen Alomia Guia,**
Coordinator Peruvian
Associates

*To Remember is to Return to Live
Go and make disciples of all the nations.
-Mt. 28,18*

These words resounded clearly in the minds and hearts of the sisters: Irene MacDonell, Rose Healy, Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, Joey Doiron and Shirley Morris in 1967. For this reason they took their luggage and left for South America.

Here in Peru, Dec. 8, 1967, a Peruvian girl brimming with energy and hunger for God formed part of the committee for the reception of the Canadian missionaries who were arriving in Progreso-Carabayllo-Lima. That was Clementina Torres (today an associate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul) who together with other poor families inhabited the dry arid hills to the north of Lima.

Walking with Peruvian flag, flowers and much happiness along the road to Canta (there were no streets nor well-built houses, no running water, no electricity nor vegetation) they received the Sisters who would live among them. And so with Clementina, we associates, were part of the lives of the Sisters during the 40 years of their presence here in Carabayllo. Our lives intertwined; we formed a town together, struggled for a life of digni-

ty, for human living conditions and we suffered social injustice as we worked to become aware of our situation and to change it with the strength of our faith in a liberating and just God.

During the years 1970-1980, we (Gricel Arroyo, Alfonso Acero, Carmen Alomia, Teresa and Edelmira Marquina and Ignacio

cerned for the poor, a God who asked us to look out for our brothers and sisters, a God who asked that we practice justice and love tenderly, and that we walk humbly before God.

For this reason, when we had the possibility of being Associates of the congregation, we thought this was the most natural thing to



Tavara) were young adolescents without much future in life, without possibility of advanced studies or suitable work — we were excluded by the Lima Society because we were from the provinces who had invaded Lima. Our lives were transformed as we were accepted by the Sisters. With this experience, we came to know from studies, prayer and the example of the Sisters' lives, a loving but exacting God. A God who was very con-

do. When we came in contact with the documents of the Congregation, in which is outlined the Spirituality and Charism, with one voice we exclaimed — this is what we have been doing for some time: to serve the poor, trusting in Providence! We had learned this from the example of our Sisters.

And so, like us, hundreds were formed by the witness of service to the poor shown by our Sisters. We have seen and followed

Ministries Celebrate Milestones

University of Great Falls (MT) celebrates 75 years

"Through an act of hope, a private Catholic college was established in 1932 on the high plains of Montana during the early years of the Depression," University President Eugene McAllister said in December letter of invitation to a gala celebration marking the institution's 75th anniversary. "The founding of this institution of higher learning was due in large part to the dedication and sacrifice of the Sisters of Providence who came before you. The continued success has been due in large part to your ministry and prayers."

Sojourner Place turns 20

Two decades ago, Sisters of Providence opened the doors of a transitional shelter for women in Seattle. Today Sojourner Place, supported solely through community donations and grants, has offered a temporary home to more than 350 women transitioning to independent living. It also offers life-skills classes, onsite counseling and resources to help women deal with other life issues like drug use, domestic violence, mental health concerns or poverty.

*continued
from pg. 8*

their example. This experience has made us feel and act as Christian citizens with one mission — that of Christ's.

"... to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour!" Luke 4,18

Thanks be to God for this grace received!
Thanks be to God for our Sisters!

40 years ago in Peru

continued from pg. 1

find that here with us. We had a small structure of three walls and a roof — the front was open to the elements. It housed a wooden altar of planks attached to uprights. A small chapel occupied part of the newly built convent. It was simple but had the necessary altar, prie-dieu and the Blessed Sacrament. I remember an elderly peasant lady visiting us with flowers for our capilla. When I invited her inside, she looked around and turned to me said, "Pero no hay nadie." (But there is no one here!) She was accustomed to something different, colourful statues, glittering gold decorations and soaring walls.

Others came from the extreme remote areas, high in the mountains or deep in the jungle. A priest visited these people once or twice a year, if at

all, to attend their patronal feast celebrations. We arrived as part of the influx of missionaries from North America. There was mixed reaction to what has been dubbed "Religiosidad Popular" (Popular Religion) — dancers in colourful costumes, fireworks, statues of Christ mounted on a platform and carried in procession. Some viewed these traditions as semi-pagan, superstitious practices. Others were intrigued. A decade after our arrival, there was great interest in this popular religion. What was authentic? What did it mean to the indigenous population? I recall groups of specialists who studied the phenomenon and published their findings. We were fortunate to attend conferences facilitated by these academics. I have always questioned the origin of these devotions. Before Pizarro landed in Peru, the inhabitants knew nothing of Jesus, Mary or all our host of saints. Through the missionaries, the church introduced these practices. Where is Popular Religion after 40 years? Flourishing. Each Sunday, groups bring images of their special patron to the church. This year, over 30 were represented at the Feast of the Cross of May.

VFL Contemplates Providence

The Vocations/Formation/Leadership members of the WPC gathered for their annual meeting in Kingston, Ontario, March 26-30. Nancy



VFL participants reflect on "Contemplation: Opening to Providence." Pictured from left: Monica Whalen, SP, Elsa Garcia, CDP, Alba Letelier, SP, Carol Stenger, CDP.

Sylvester, IHM, engaged the group in "Contemplation: Opening to Providence." She gave input, led the group in periods of contemplation and periods of discussion. Her three sessions were titled: "Communal Contemplation: To take a long loving look at the real...together;" "Awakening Consciousness: To be

freed for nonviolent, selfless, liberating action;" and "Opening to Providence: To become the space for the Holy to rise in our midst."

Participants joined others in like ministries for focus group times of sharing, mutual support and discussion of common interests in their ministry.

In a large group session, VFL members agreed to have conversations with their leadership teams about the possibility of a common novitiate for canonical year. They will be discussing whether there is a need for research on the demographics, countries included, languages, numbers, etc. Leaders will also be asked about persons who might serve on the research team. Responses are to be given to Ann Margaret by September 1.



Dates to Remember:

- VFL Gathering -** March 12-15, 2009, Spokane, WA
March 17-21, 2010, Montreal, Quebec
- Governing Board -** March 29-31, 2009, CDPs. San Antonio, TX
March 24-26, 2010, CDPs, Melbourne, KY
- Executive Committee-** October 18-20, 2008, Genesis, Westfield, MA
October 16-18, 2009, St. Mary of the Woods, IN

COLLABORATION

is published by the
**Women of Providence
in Collaboration**

One Sisters of Providence
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN
47876
812-535-2502
aohara@spsmw.org
**Sister Ann Margaret
O'Hara, SP —
Executive Director**
www.wpcweb.org

Member Congregations:

Congregation of the Sisters of
Divine Providence: Allison
Park, PA ✕ Congregation of
the Sisters of Divine
Providence: Melbourne, KY
✕ Congregation of the Sisters
of Divine Providence: San
Antonio, TX ✕ Missionary
Catechists of Divine
Providence, San Antonio, TX
✕ Oblate Sisters of
Providence, Baltimore, MD ✕
Sisters of Providence,
Holyoke, MA ✕ Sisters of
Providence, Montreal,
Quebec, Canada ✕ Sisters of
Providence, Seattle/Spokane,
WA ✕ Sisters of Providence,
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN
✕ Sisters of Providence of St.
Vincent de Paul, Kingston,
Ontario, Canada ✕ Sisters of
Providence, Edmonton,
Alberta, Canada

VOL. IV — ISSUE 2
SPRING 2008