



The rosetta at left is taken from a stained glass window commissioned for the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Kingston, Ontario congregation celebrates 150 faith-filled years

By Christine Ross

It's been a remarkable journey for the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. The pioneering spirit of the only religious congregation founded in Kingston, Ontario endures to this day, 150 years after its foundation. The milestone anniversary is being celebrated in Kingston, across Canada and in Latin America.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the congregation was devoted to service to forgotten people — the homeless, poor, orphans, aboriginal people, aged and sick in their homes and later hospitals. Eventually, Sisters moved into education, social and pastoral ministry. This dedication has taken Sisters to the poorest regions of Peru and

Guatemala. Their Mission resonates "Serving with Compassion, Trusting in Providence, We Walk in Hope."

Since 1861, the Sisters have worked diligently to address the root causes of poverty. This has resulted in them being not only leaders in charity, but also a strong voice for justice. Make Poverty History has been the rallying cry for the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Office. For over 15 years, Sisters and their supporters stand shoulder to shoulder at Kingston's City Hall in a silent vigil to protest social cuts and advocate for the poor.

In 1994, the Sisters recognized their responsibility to the environment and created an organic garden on the grounds of

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

I wish you blessings of this Holy Season as we go deeper into a time of reflection on our Providence charism. I want to share with you several experiences of our collaboration since our last newsletter.

PROVIDENCE EVENT:

"PROVIDENCE: MYSTICAL WINDOW ON THE WORLD"

Begins 9 a.m. June 15, 2012 and concludes at noon June 17, 2012

Ron Rolheiser, OMI, key note presenter, provided content and process suggestions for the core committee. The committee and facilitators will meet May 10-11 to further develop the program and the brochure. **Registration brochures will be sent in the fall. Mark your calendar now for June 15-17, 2012.**

The initial formation members will meet a day prior to the Providence Event and for one day following the Event to integrate the experience.

The Board also approved opening the one-day portion of the event when Ron Rolheiser is presenting to the general public. Spread the word to all who may be interested in joining us.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

The WPC is offering Lenten reflections again this year. WPC members are reflecting on quotes from Providence spirituality presentations made in the past in the context of Lent.

VOCATIONS/FORMATION/LEADERSHIP

The VFL members met March 2-6 in San Antonio. Michele Bisbey, CDP, of Allison Park, was the presenter on the topic: "Providence and Prophecy: Bringing Good Things to Light."

DIRECTORS OF ASSOCIATES AND LEADERS

There will be a gathering of directors of associates and leaders who relate to them at Kearns Spirituality Center, Allison Park, Pa. The theme is: Partners in Providence Spirituality. The purposes of the gathering are:

- reflecting on Providence spirituality and charism in a layperson's context
- sharing of experiences and resources
- planning for shared opportunities across geographic areas



Watch your mailboxes

Registrations will be coming soon for the gathering of directors of associates and leaders who relate to them (for more details see letter at left). Start making plans now for this great opportunity!

Ann Margaret

Upcoming retreats at White Violet Center for Eco-Justice

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Wilderness Fast *June 2-5, 2011*

Presented by Jan Novotka, this retreat involves fasting for about eight hours while spending solo time at Saint Mary of the Woods. This is for anyone discerning, wanting to make a significant life passage or seeking purpose in life. Cost is \$325 (\$75 deposit) Registration deadline is June 2.

Medical Herbalism Course *June 17-19*

With Matthew Wood, registered herbalist: learn plant identification, self-care, wild crafting, and basic applications. Cost is \$250 (includes meals). Registration deadline is June 10.

Retreat/Workshop *July 17-23*

Presenters: Sister Mary Lou Dolan, CSJ, and Sister Toni Nash, CSJ.

Religion: the Need to Rethink and Re-imagine What It's All About

August 20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Presenter: Michael Morwood

A Spirituality for the 21st Century Retreat *August 22-26*

Presenter: Michael Morwood

*To register or for more information,
contact Sister Maureen Freeman at
812-535-2930 or
mfreeman@spsmw.org or visit
www.WhiteViolet.org*

WPC hospitality

Traveling to San Antonio, Texas; Seattle, Wash.; Massachusetts or New York City? How about Edmonton, Kingston, or Montreal in Canada? Would you like to stay at a hermitage in Indiana?

If so, you may want to consider staying with your Women of Providence in Collaboration counterparts across North America.

The congregations which make up Women of Providence in Collaboration are preparing hospitality information on how they could welcome WPC members as guests. The common fee would be \$30 per night and would include bed and breakfast. Information about the various hospitality spaces will be available soon on the website at www.wpcweb.org.

GENESIS Spiritual Life Center Westfield, Mass.

Awakening From the Deep Sleep *June 17-19*

Leader: Don Bisson, FMS

Mysticism of Sacred Earth and Cosmos *July 1-8*

Leader: James Profit, SJ

The Heart of Creativity: Contemplation, Art, & Mystery *August 15-21*

Leaders: Michael Moran, CP; Elizabeth Oleksak, SP

"Come! Give Yourself A Gift": Genesis Autumn Institute *October 2-9*

Sabbatical at Genesis *individually arranged*

A relaxed, unstructured and flexible environment with time for prayer, reflection and more.

53 Mill St, Westfield, MA 01085
413-562-3627 genesiscenter.us

Sister takes stand against bullying

Sister of Providence Senga Fulton of Holyoke knows first hand the deep pain school bullying engenders on its young victims. She knows, too, that all too often that pain can lead to a young person taking his/her own life as it did for sixth-grader Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover of Springfield.

Carl died on April 9, 2009. From that day to this Sister Senga has been involved, doing whatever she can to offer support to Carl's family. That support includes helping to plan and staff fundraising events and serving on the Executive Committee of the "Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover Foundation."

The Foundation grew out of the hugely successful anti-bullying road race and walk in Carl's honor last September. Not surprisingly, Sister Senga was there staffing the



At left, Sister Senga Fulton volunteers at the anti-bullying road race and walk fundraiser.

brightly ballooned information table. The event drew over 1,000 participants and raised close to \$7,000. Those monies and funds raised earlier allowed the Foundation to set up a scholarship fund for high school seniors with hopes of going to college.



Charter class of associates emerite, from left, Mary Niedzielski, Joseph Niedzielski, Viola Mish, Ralph Ferraro, Anne-marie Ferraro

New lay associates emeritae level established in Holyoke

Within its nearly 30-year old Associate program, the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke recently established an honorary level of lay Association known as Associate Emerita or Associate Emeritus. The new distinction recognizes Providence Associates with long histories of faithful and active participation in

the life of the Congregation and its mission and who, due to illness or other circumstances, find themselves unable to be as active as they were in the past.

In conferring the title, the Congregation emphasizes that the longstanding bonds of prayer, spirituality and friendship between the honorees and the Sisters of Providence remain intact. At the same time, Associates Emeritae are no longer obli-

gated to attend Congregational events or meetings unless they are able and desire to do so.

The Congregation's Executive Council's decision to confer Associate Emerita/us status requires the Associate under consideration meet specific criteria and receive the recommendation of the Associate Co-Directors and Associate Core Committee.

One World art project for senior sisters

The art project 'One World' represents the far-reaching spirit of the Sisters of Providence. Prominently featured on Marian II at Providence Motherhouse, the art piece depicts the global story of the SP's. Activities director Nancy Stevens, who has also travelled the world extensively, dreamed up the idea 'One World' after learning about the many countries touched by Sisters' spirit and charism.

"We decided to create a painting of the world and

mark all of the places representing the Sisters,' Nancy said. "It was a pleasure to take part in this and to see the participation of some Sister who cannot communicate through voice."

The message attached to the world map "We breathe the same air; we look at the same sky. One World."



Activities Director Nancy Stevens, center, with two of the sisters who helped create 'One World'.

150 years, continued from page 1

Providence Motherhouse on Princess Street. A century-old barn began its new purpose – storing seeds and hosting workshops. Thousands of visitors have toured the award-winning Heirloom Seed Sanctuary to learn about the sanctity of seeds and seed saving. The annual August Tomato Day is a perennial favourite.

Today, almost half the congregation live at Providence Motherhouse in Kingston, a stately limestone building on 33 acres of farmland in the heart of the city. "Thou Shalt Not Park" signs along the laneway serve to remind visitors that this oasis, right beside one of Kingston's busiest intersection, is a different kind of place. Today, the Sisters continue their ministry of prayer as well

as their hands-on work; pastoral care with the sick and with inmates, outreach to schools and community, facilitating and sponsoring retreats and workshops at Providence Spirituality Centre. Sisters are no longer on the front lines of education and health care, but schools and hospitals carry on the legacy first established by the congregation over a century ago.

"It's been a grace and a blessing to have been called to be a part of and to serve within this small religious congregation," says General Superior Sister Pauline Lally. "With simplicity, competency and trust, our Sisters have given their lives to promote the Reign of God's justice, love and peace in various 'pockets of Providence' in Canada, Guatemala, Peru and even, for a time, in Uganda."

Just four Sisters strong in 1861, the numbers peaked at 382 in the mid 1960s, just as the Second Vatican Council helped to inspire their present vision. With diminishing numbers comes an unknown future for the congregation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. They face it with hope and trust in Providence.



Sister speaks out against death penalty

Sister Carmen González Arias recently attended the Kairos Conference: Discerning Justice and Taking Action in Atlanta, a national conference marking this kairos moment for the religious community and all concerned people in the United States to learn, discern, pray, and choose to act on the death penalty. The Kairos Conference was organized to foster prayerful dialogue around the moral questions of the death penalty, practical ways to deal with the issue in communities of faith, and help faith communities become engaged in promoting the values of restorative justice. Sister Helen Prejean, conference chair and featured speaker, was joined by leaders of national, state, and local faith communities and groups at this inspirational and educational experience. Sister Carmen spoke on the topic at a press conference announcing the launch of the Kairos Campaign to mobilize faith-based opposition to America's death penalty. This press conference featured the leaders of dozens of faith communities, faith-based organizations, and abolition organizations.

Justice for life blog

The Social Justice Committee has launched a

new blog—Justice for Life, found at <http://justiceforlifecdp.wordpress.com/>. Although launching the blog was initiated by the province's recently announced corporate stance against human trafficking, it also serves as a forum for the various concerns adopted by the Social Justice Committee. The Justice for Life blog features articles, links to other organizations, and the opportunity to share comments. Our hope is that this new way of reaching out will inspire us to create communities of joy and love; promote justice; and seek to advance the cause of all people, especially those in need. Won't you join in the conversation by registering on our blog?

Opening event

The Sisters hosted a Prayer Service and Dessert Reception in Pittsburgh on Jan. 9, 2011, as the first public event to mark the bicentennial year of the birth of Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler (Dec. 25, 1811), co-founder of the Congregation. During the next two years, the Sisters will celebrate the 200th birth anniversaries of

Below top: Sister Carmen Gonzalez speaks at Kairos Conference. Below bottom: Sisters host an opening reception for the bicentennial celebration of founder's birth.



both their founders, Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie de la Roche (Oct. 28, 1812). The opening event in Kingston, Massachusetts was held on March 20, and the St. Louis event will be May 1. As the Sisters begin the Bicentennial Celebration of their founders, they reflect on the founding spirit of the congregation as well as the legacy of the founders, which challenges them to be

open to the ever present Providence of God. The theme of the Bicentennial is, "Rooted in the past . . . reaching toward the future." This two-year time of celebration provides an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the call to mission, to justice, peace and compassion lived in their daily lives.

There will be many special events, exhibits, and gatherings to mark the celebration. Friends and benefactors are invited to celebrate at the public events and, when this

the Mother of Providence Chapel at Providence Heights. Their mentors, Sisters Juanita Torres Acevedo and Roberta Grzelak for Sally, and Donna Tracy for Karina, have walked with these two women during their pre-novitiate time. The Novitiate will be in the Springfield, IL diocese where Sally and Karina will have the opportunity to participate in the intercommunity program established in the greater St. Louis area by the Religious Formation

ministry, formally acknowledged the indelible contributions of the women's religious congregations of the Diocese of Pittsburgh by honoring them with the Ad Lucem Award, presented at the College's Founders Gala on March 19, 2011. The Ad Lucem Award is presented annually by La Roche to individuals or a group of individuals whose vision, leadership and determination transformed their dream into reality. The recipients of this award epitomize the meaning of

the Latin words Ad Lucem — to light. The recipients of the Ad Lucem Award exemplify the mission of La Roche College to educate future leaders and to promote peace and justice in a constantly changing global society. They also serve as role

Photo at left: Sally Vega Alvarado (center) and Karina Conrad (right) will enter the novitiate on April 2.



is not possible, to join in prayer for the continuance of the mission and legacy of Bishop Ketteler – to serve the needs of the times.

Two enter novitiate

Sally Vega Alvarado (center) and Karina Conrad (right) will be received into the Novitiate at a ritual on Saturday, April 2, 2011 in

Conference (RFC). With their Novice Director, Sister Kathleen Angel, these two women will deepen their understanding of their call to religious life in the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Ad Lucem award

The Board of Trustees at La Roche College, a sponsored

models for the power of education and the dissemination of knowledge. The Board bestowed this prestigious award on 28 congregations for the sisters' devotion to education, caring for the sick and elderly, fostering children, helping the homeless and the many other ministries in which they are engaged.

Sister honored for vocation ministry

Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP was recently honored for her contribution to vocation ministry by the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC). NRVC is a professional organization that provides resources and support for those in vocation ministry.

Born in Beaumont, Texas, Georgia Mae Gilbert entered the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, Md, in 1949 and made her final vows as Sister Mary Magdala in 1957.

Having spent most of her religious life in Catholic education as a primary school teacher and director of religious education, Sister

Magdala Marie has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Spring Hill College, in Mobile, Ala., and a Masters of Science Degree from Towson University, in Towson, Md. She also has a nursing assistant certificate and is a certified catechist.

Sister Magdala Marie was appointed vocation and formation director of her congregation in 1992, and although her term completed in 2001, she has been involved in vocation ministry ever since. A member of the National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) since 1972, she has served as co-chair of the NBSC vocation/formation committee since 1982. In this capacity, she was instrumental in developing a mentoring program for black and African-American women discerning religious life and for their vocation, formation, and leadership personnel. She also assisted in the organization of roundtable discussions with clergy, religious and laity on the promotion of vocations within the black community. In 2006 the NBSC presented

her with their Harriet Tubman Award and in 2007, a scholarship was named in her honor at her home parish in Beaumont, Texas.

Having served as chair of the NRVC committee for Black Religious from 2001 to 2009, Sister Magdala Marie provided Come and See Retreats for men and women in the Mid-Atlantic States and helped develop workshops and resources for vocation directors working with black and African-American candidates. She is an active member of Ladies auxiliaries of the Knights of Peter Claver and has mentored many men and women discerning religious life and priesthood and continues this service today. In addition to her vocation interests, Sister loves to dance and to listen to Christian and Zydeco music. She has written numerous articles on ministry within the black community and has published two books of her original poetry.

A devoted daughter of the Church, Sister Magdala Marie is also a devoted daughter of Mother Mary Lange, the Foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence and presently serves as the director of the Mother Mary Lange Guild, an organization that promotes her virtue and cause of canonization.

Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP, below, was recently honored by the National Religious Vocation Conference.



Pictured with Daughters of Mary who have lived with the religious community in Seattle are Sisters of Providence (front row at right) Provincial Councilor Judith Demarais; (second row, second from left) Provincial Superior Karin Dufault; (back row, second from left) Jacqueline Fernandes, and (back row at right) Mary Wilson.



SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, SEATTLE/SPOKANE, WA.

Celebration in Uganda

Sisters of Providence join Daughters of Mary for 100th anniversary events

In the early 1960s, two Daughters of Mary, the first indigenous religious community of women south of the Sahara, made the journey from Uganda to Seattle. They traveled across continents, communities and cultures in search of a better future for their country. In the five decades since then, approximately 20 Uganda women have followed in their footsteps. Sisters of Providence have provided room, board and the support of community life while the Ugandans pursue their educational goals. The Jesuit community at Seattle University has offered full scholarships for tuition and books.

In Jan. 2001, for the first time, a contingent from Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province, visited the Daughters of Mary in Uganda. Five more Sisters of Providence made the journey to Uganda in Dec. 2010, to join in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of Mary. They also visited the Sisters' ministries in Cameroon.

To learn more about the trip, go to the website for Mother Joseph Province (<http://www.sistersofprovidence.net>).

Fire in DeSmet, Idaho

On Feb. 3, the historic boarding school of the Coeur d'Alene Native Americans in DeSmet, Idaho, where our Providence Sisters ministered for many years, burned to the ground. The fire began about 2:30 a.m. Sister Dolores Ellwart, SP, who continues to minister in DeSmet, woke and saw the flames over the top of the mission church which is between her house and the school.

Mary Immaculate School was founded by the Sisters of Providence in DeSmet, Idaho, in 1878, on the site of Sacred Heart Mission which had been established among the Coeur d'Alene tribe by the Jesuits in 1842. Sister Dolores and Sister Imelda Flynn saw to the school's closing in 1974.

Sister Dolores (Sister Camilla) was born in DeSmet in 1929.

Sister Dolores Ellwart, SP, below, witnessed the fire that burned the historic boarding school to the ground.



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Newly elected leadership for the CDP's include, left to right: Sisters Ann Petrus, Lourdes Leal, Helen Marie Miksch and Theresa Anne Billeaud



CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

New leadership for CDPs in Texas

The Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Texas held their Chapter of Elections Jan. 26–30, 2011. They elected Sister Ann Petrus as their Superior General. Sister Ann is from Alexandria, Louisiana. She is a Professor of Mathematics at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

Members of the General Council are Sisters Lourdes Leal, Helen Marie Miksch, and Theresa Anne Billeaud. Sister Lourdes is a native of San Antonio. She currently serves as Deanery Resource Coordinator at the Northwest Urban Deanery in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Sister Helen Marie is from Schulenburg, Texas. Presently, she is Director of Faith Formation at St. Ignatius, Martyr Church in Austin, Texas. Sister Theresa Anne is from Broussard, Louisiana and is currently

living in New Orleans where she is involved in Mathematics tutoring.

The new Council will assume their responsibilities in June.



photo by Sister Barbara Fry

Historical society presents award

In the presence of Sister Jane Ann Slater, Superior General of the Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Sister Mary Christine Morkovsky (above center), and through her the

Congregation, receive the Paul J. Foik, CSC, Award from Texas Catholic Historical Society President, Rev. Bob Wright, OMI. In writing the community's latest history, *LIVING IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE*, Morkovsky draws on 300 oral histories of the Sisters, their co-workers, and associates along with archival materials to create the Congregation's account from 1943–2000. The TCH Society recognized the book as "the most important recent publication relating the Catholic history of the Southwest."

Moye celebration

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller celebrated Mass with the Leadership Council and other Sisters of Divine Providence, as well as song longtime friends and benefactors of the CDPs at Moye Retreat Center in Castroville, TX, on Feb. 21. Following the Mass those present joined the Archbishop for

Celebrating the Moye Retreat center are, from left to right: Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Rev. Tom Ovalle, OMI, Sister Jane Ann Slater, CDP, and Rev. David Klaker, OMI.



dinner in the auditorium. Sister Charlene Wedelich, Director of Mission Support for the CDP's, talked to the crowd about the history and rich culture of the Retreat Center. She also announced the completion of the "Sharing Our

Sacred Spaces Campaign," noting the money raised will provide the necessary upgrades and repairs the 150- year-old-facility needs. The Archbishop's religious order, Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, once ran their seminary at Moye during the Mexican persecution in the early 1930's, and the Archbishop was personally responsible for the care of the rector of that time during his last years.

DeSmet fire, continued from page 8

Her father was foreman of a farm owned by the Sisters of Providence, and her mother, a nurse, was an enrolled member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe because her family was adopted by the Coeur d'Alenes as full members in gratitude for helping the tribe.

Sister Dolores entered the religious community in Seattle after graduation in 1947. Assigned to teach, she returned in 1965 to DeSmet, where she taught all of the grades at Mary Immaculate School and also was superior and principal. When the school closed in 1974, she moved across the road to Sacred Heart Mission as parish minister. She also was chairperson of the school board for a number of years at the tribal school started by the Coeur d'Alenes.

Sister Dolores has lived in the same trailer on the reservation, 14 miles south of Coeur d'Alene, for 37 years. She teaches religion to youth and adults, prepares children for First Communion and Confirmation, and makes home visits to the elderly and the homebound in Worley, Plummer and DeSmet, Idaho.

WPC meet-up

Sisters of Providence from the Montreal Congregation were delighted to see each other in San Antonio, Texas, in March at the Women of Providence in Collaboration meeting of vocation, formation and leadership liaisons. Pictured are (top from left) General Councilor Alba Letelier and Sister Magdalena Chan; (middle row from left) Sisters Isabel Cid and Marilyn Charette, and Provincial Councilor Maureen Newman; and (front row from left)) General Councilor Betty Kaczmarczyk and Sister Joan Gallagher.



Year of the Rabbit (Kung Hei Fat Choi)



Sister Loreto León Soto from Chile and Sister Mimose Jean from Haiti are in Holy Angels Province in Western Canada for their international experience. On Jan. 29, 2011, they celebrated the Chinese New Year festivities at the carnival held at Mary Help of Christians (Chinese) Parish in Edmonton, Alberta. This carnival is held yearly with dragon dances, drumming, tai chi performances, traditional dancing and music, games and lots of Chinese New Year goodies. This is a big family affair with old and young people, grandparents, couples, children and babies coming together to bring in the Year of the Rabbit. A few weeks before the carnival, Sister Loreto and Sister Mimose helped prepare some of the Chinese goodies with the parishioners at the Chinese parish. It was an experience to remember! Wishing you good health, peace and joy for the Year of the Rabbit!

Above: Sister Loreto León Soto and Sister Mimose Jean ring in the year of the rabbit.

At right: Sisters Hélène Mamert Nga Amogo, Loreto León Soto, Sandrine-Aimée Tsélikémé and Amélie Béatrice Ngoudjou



Renewal of vows

Sisters Sandrine-Aimée Tsélikémé and Amélie Béatrice Ngoudjou renewed their vows on Feb. 18, 2011 with a simple ceremony at Providence Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. The two temporary vowed sisters are in Western Canada on their international experience. Both are from the Cameroon. It has been quite an experience for them with temperatures below 35 degrees.

Providence
mystical window on the world

Providence Event 2012

June 15-17 2012 (start time 9 a.m. end time noon)

Location: Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Key note presenter: Ron Rolheiser, OMI



Sister Anna Ho's ceremony for the transfer of her vows to the Sisters of Providence.

SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, IND.

Sister Anna Ho transfers vows to SMW

Sister Anna Ho, a native of Vietnam, has transferred her vows as a woman religious to the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Anna was born in Ban Me Thuot, Vietnam. She currently lives in Maternity BVM Convent at Chicago.

She graduated from Providence College in Taichung, Taiwan, where she earned a bachelor's degree in youth and child welfare and Chinese literature. Providence University was founded by the Sisters of Providence.

During her transition, Sister Anna ministered as a teacher's aide at Woods Day Care/Pre-School at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, and studied at the DePaul University Language Institute in Chicago. She now is tutoring part time at Providence Family Services Chicago. She is also a student at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in the master's in art therapy program.

"When I came to the Woods for the first time, I knew it was the right place for me

to stay. I could see and touch the legacy of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin. I could see that each Sister of Providence has a different ministry, but they focus working in the same spirit. This spirit is always stirring my heart," Sister Anna said.

New shrine staff



Sister Jan Craven, a member of the Sisters of Providence for nearly 32 years and a

member of the Youngstown Ursulines for 10 years, has been named coordinator of the Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Sister Jan has ministered as a teacher, director of religious education, pastoral associate, provincial councilor, and tribunal advocate at various locations in Indiana, Illinois and California, and also as direc-

tor of postulancy at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Sister Jan will work closely with the staff at Providence Center to arrange visits and tours of Saint Mother Theodore's shrine. Her responsibilities will focus on sharing Saint Mother Theodore's story with various audiences, as well as answering requests for information which come from around the world. Since Saint Mother Theodore's canonization in Oct. 2006, the Sisters of Providence have had inquiries, prayer requests or visitors from all 50 states and more than 60 foreign nations.

The temporary home for the Shrine is now located in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on the grounds of the Motherhouse. Plans for a new Shrine are well under way. For more information about embracing the Providence legacy, and learning more about the Shrine, contact Sister Jan at 812-535-2925, or e-mail jcraven@spsmw.org.

Maison de la Providence: 122 years of history

On Nov. 13, 2010, Sisters of Providence of Emilie-Gamelin Province gathered together at Maison de la Province on Fullum Street in Montréal. They assembled for a ritual of farewell and to celebrate this beloved house, so dear to the hearts of the Sisters of Providence, which has been with us for 122 years of our congregational history.

We wanted not only to pay tribute to a house that is so unique in the history of the Sisters of Providence, but to acknowledge the valuable contribution of all the women who made their postulate, their novitiate and pronounced their vows in this house, as well as all those who worked in this former Sisters of Providence Mother House. For many generations, these women gave proof of their courage, strength and determination as they walked in the footsteps of our foundress, Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin.

Maison de la Providence was built between 1884 and 1888. It was the second Mother House after the Asile of Providence which was founded by Émilie herself. The House on Fullum Street "was home to the General Administration, the postulate and novitiate, the infirmary, a drugstore and an operating room for minor surgeries." Other important services included: a printing and book-binding shop, making hosts and the production of the famous 'Sister of Providence Syrup'.

The house, located in the very heart of a working class area, served the less fortunate population. On the first floor, the Salle d'Asile was inaugurated in Sept. 1890 in response to a need of the parish, with first and second grade classes being taught there



until 1961. At the same time, the novices made their teaching apprenticeships there.

One event that many of our Sisters will remember was the August 14, 1962, move to the new Mother House located on the corner of Salaberry and Grenet Streets in Cartierville, Montreal. On that same day, the sick and elderly persons who had been living in the Asile of Providence, on Berri Street, were moved to the Fullum Street House, which then became known as Foyer de la Providence. In 1963 the Provincial Council of the former Our Lady of Seven Dolours Province established their offices there.

From 1963 to 1973, at the request of Montreal's Archbishop, Paul Grégoire, elderly priests lived at the house on Fullum, some until their death. In 1973, the Community adapted the work of the Care Centre for elderly people in order to accommodate the province's aged and sick sisters in the provincial infirmary. In 1986, the sisters of this provincial infirmary were transferred to the infirmary in the Mother House in Cartierville.

Our Lady of Seven Dolours Chapel, above: The Maison de la Providence chapel was built between 1884 and 1888 by Montreal Architect Benjamin Lamontagne, in a neo-renaissance style. However, its external form, like the rest of the house, belongs to the French Second Empire style. "In this magnificent chapel, 3857 Sisters made their religious profession as Sisters of Providence, going out into the world to proclaim Providence and the compassion of Mary."

The Montreal sisters bid farewell to an important piece of their history in the Maison de Providence, below.



In 1982, when it was renamed Providence House, six distinct local communities lived in the Fullum House. In 1983, the Soup Kitchen was created to serve the needy residents of the area. "The work was completed with clothing service and a workroom... going back to the beginnings..." In 1989, following a study regarding the relevance of a soup kitchen, a new work was launched: Chez Émilie - Maison d'entraide Populaire (neighbourhood house), which aimed at collaborating and participating in giving life to individuals and popular institutions of the area. This new work generally responded to different needs of the people of the neighbourhood.

Following the restructuring of the Eastern Provinces in January 1987, Maison de la

Providence hosted the provincial administration offices for the new Notre-Dame Province. Finally, in June 2005, the Eastern Provinces and the Providence Infirmary Sector were reconfigured, into one single province: Emilie-Gamelin Province, with its provincial administration offices located at 12227, Grenet Street, in Montreal.

In spite of all the changes that the house and the sisters have experienced, the dedicated women of Maison de la Providence never stopped living the Sisters of Providence Mission wholeheartedly. "Emilie used to walk down the streets of the Centre-South District to visit homes. Following her example, our sisters of Maison de la Providence have continued to take care of the refugees and the poor of all kinds that they have met over the years in their society.

Maison de la Providence on Fullum Street will remain engraved in the hearts of the Sisters of Providence, wherever and however far they may walk in the footsteps of Emilie, responding to the cry of the poor and the under-privileged.

Credits: Sister Pauline Massicotte, Sister Bibiane Thériault and the Providence Historical Archives.



International formation program

On April 3 - July 15, at the Sisters of Providence International Centre in Montreal, nineteen Sisters of Providence in initial formation, temporary-vow Sisters and apostolic novices, will participate in the 2011 International Formation Program.

Prior to the Program, during the year 2010 and the beginning of 2011, the sisters were invited to carry out an international experience in a province of the Congregation other than their own. Spending a determined amount of time



in another province has given the Sisters the opportunity to experience a different cultural reality while, at the same time, taking up the challenge of learning a second or a third language. Also, this privileged time has allowed them to deepen

and enrich their formation as Sisters of Providence and to develop their understanding and appreciation of the life and Mission of the Sisters of Providence as an international, multicultural and intergenerational congregation.

All of these aspects will surely be emphasized during days and weeks of the Program.

New leadership for Women of Providence



At their March meeting the WPC governing board approved new officers for the Women of Providence in Collaboration. The new officers named are: back row left to right: Fran Moore, CDP, vice-chair; Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, secretary; Karin Dufault, SP, treasurer; front row left to right: Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP, executive director; Kathleen Popko, SP, chair. A big thank you to our outgoing officers: Jane Ann Slater, CDP; Pauline Lally, SP and Fran Moore, CDP.

Calendar of Events

May 10-11, 2011 Providence Event Core Team meets, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Sept. 13-15, 2011 Directors of Associates and Leaders who relate to them meet in Allison Park, Pa.

March 14-18, 2012 Vocations/Formation/Leadership at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

March 27-28, 2012 Governing Board meets in Westfield, Mass.

June 13-14, 17, 2012 Initial Formation Gathering, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

June 15 beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at noon on June 17, 2012 Providence Event: Providence: Mystical Window on the World, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

COLLABORATION

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the Sisters of Divine
Providence: Melbourne, KY
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