

# Women of Providence in COLLABORATION

VOL. VII ISSUE 2 • FALL 2011



## International formation experience builds community

*“When you dream alone, it is just a dream. When you dream with others, it is the beginning of a reality.”*

From April 4 to July 15, 2011, the Sisters of Providence International Center in Montreal hosted the 2011 International and Initial Formation Program. Fifteen temporary vow sisters, three apostolic novices and four sisters on the formation team lived as a community this rich time of learning and sharing.

The choice of activities, courses and presentations followed specific objectives: to deepen knowledge of our international/multicultural/intergenerational Congregation; to strengthen a sense of belonging and identity as Sisters of Providence; to know each other; to integrate initial formation and international experience; to live cultural integration; to continue a dis-

cernment towards a commitment within consecrated life.

During this period of formation, challenges were met successfully. Basically, the richness of the different languages and origins was used to build community. Our sisters from Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, the United States, Haiti, the Philippines, El Salvador and Vietnam succeeded in building relationships by sharing—and not imposing—their customs.

The topics discussed during the sessions were diversified while keeping the focus on the initial objectives. Valuable contributions were made by these Sisters of Providence: Kathryn Rutan, Gloria Keylor, Madeleine Leblanc, Beverly Dunn, Elizabeth Kaczmarczyk, Rolande Malo, Claudette

*This summer's three-and-a-half month international formation experience brought together sisters in formation from 10 different countries for a time of growth, sharing and community building.*

**Montreal news continued on pg 5**

*Read Washington sisters' account on pg 11*

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

I wish you many blessings in this time of celebrating our saints and loved ones all held in the Providence of God. I want to share with you several experiences of our collaboration since our last newsletter.

## ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The WPC is offering Advent reflections again this year. WPC members are reflecting on quotes from Providence spirituality presentations made in the past in the context of Advent. These will be sent to each congregation via email for distribution.

## PROVIDENCE EVENT: “PROVIDENCE: MYSTICAL WINDOW ON THE WORLD”

Begins 9 am June 15, 2012, and concludes at 10:30 am June 17, 2012

Ron Rolheiser, OMI, our keynote presenter, continues to be involved in the planning process. Registration materials are being distributed among our congregations this fall. Please return your registration and check by March 1.

In addition to the three-day program for members and associates, other persons may be invited to attend the first day program when Ron Rolheiser, OMI, will be presenting. They may register using the one-day brochure which was also sent.

Information will be posted on the web site. Scholarships are available.

## INITIAL FORMATION GATHERING

Members of the Initial Formation Group and directors will be gathering a day prior to the Providence Event, June 14, and will continue on through Sun., June 17. This will allow time

to reconnect and to integrate the experience of the Event. Planners for the gathering are: Dina Bato, SP, Hannah Corbin, SP, Mary Beth Klingel, SP, and Patty Wallace, SP.



## DIRECTORS OF ASSOCIATES AND LEADERS

WPC Directors of Associates and leaders who relate to them met for the first time September 13-15 in Allison Park, Penn. The members and associates explored the theme: “Partners in Providence Spirituality.” Michele Bisbey, CDP gave the keynote address and Ellen Rufft, CDP, offered her reflections. They will continue sharing the richness of their experience the day prior to the Providence Event at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. See article on p. 3

## VOCATIONS/FORMATION/LEADERSHIP

Planning has begun for the next VFL Conference to be held March 14-18, 2012 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Marie McCarthy, SP, will give the keynote presentation on the theme “Refounding of Religious Life.” The planning committee is: Joan Gallagher, SP, Jenny Howard, SP, Mary Beth Klingel, SP, and Ann Margaret O’Hara, SP

## HOSPITALITY PLACES

Women of Providence in Collaboration communities have places of hospitality that would welcome WPC members as guests. You may wish to plan visits to different areas using these shared spaces. A nominal fee for bed and breakfast averages \$30 per night. Please see listing of hospitality sites in this newsletter. Others will be published in later newsletters.

*Ann Margaret*



# HISTORIC ASSOCIATE, VOWED MEMBERSHIP LEADERSHIP GATHERING HELD IN PENNSYLVANIA

*Submitted by M. Joan Coultas, CDP*

Just prior to the release of the National Catholic Reporter's article citing the growth in Associate programs in religious communities across the country, twenty-five lay and vowed Congregational leaders of the Women of Providence in Collaboration (WPC) Associate relationships met at Kearns Spirituality Center in Pittsburgh, Penn., from Sept. 13-15, 2011. This meeting, titled, "Associates and Religious: Partners in Providence Spirituality," was a famous first of its kind!

Almost a year prior to the meeting, Ann Margaret O'Hara SP, the Director of the WPC, assembled a planning committee composed of Joan Coultas CDP and Ellen Lavender CDPA as co-chairs, Michele Bisbey CDP, Donna Esposito ACDP and Diane Heinrich CDP. The group, meeting entirely by phone and e-mail, planned the agenda, program, speakers, etc. for this historic event. Barbara McMullen CDP also joined the group to develop the ritual and reflection pieces.

The highlights of the meeting were the keynote address on the theme by Michele Bisbey CDP, as well as a panel led by Dianne Heinrich CDP, entitled "Seeds of New Growth" which explored collaborative ventures featuring the following subjects:

- "Young Adult Associates," Gloria Ann Fiedler CDP
- "Potential Parish Associates," Esmeralda Cervantes PA
- "Orientation Program and Changes," Talya Shen PA
- "Ongoing Formation and Spiritual Journey Book," Barbara McMullen CDP
- "Connecting Geographic Areas with or without Sisters," Suzanna Harland PA

Given the richness of these topics, the discussion that followed included all existing programs, new directions, and what worked or did not work for various groups.

The closing session, "Carriers of the Charism," was primarily a group process facilitated by Donna Esposito ACDP, to explore new ways to collaborate in nurturing and carrying forth the charism into the future. The idea-laden discussion led into the final reflective ritual, "May You Be Blessed."

The group also had time to socialize and to enjoy an evening tour of the city of Pittsburgh. Thus, many new friends and important linkages for the future were established. Also, attractive fact sheets and historical time lines helped acquaint all participants with the mission and details of each Associate relationship.

WPC leadership and the Associate leaders wish to come together for an abbreviated session at the Providence Event at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on June 15-17, 2012 and again in 2013 for a full meeting in Spokane, Wash.

*Sabbatical: a time and place for new beginnings*

## GENESIS Spiritual Life Center

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# Welcome

## WPC COMMUNITIES OFFER HOSPITALITY

Women of Providence in Collaboration communities have places of hospitality that would welcome WPC members as guests. You may wish to plan visits to different areas using these shared spaces. There is a nominal fee of \$30 for bed and breakfast.

### NEW YORK CITY - Manhattan

#### Jeanne d'Arc Residence

253 West 245th Street  
New York, New York 10001

Contact: 212-691-0257

Residence for women with limited guest space;  
\$30 bed and breakfast fee.

### SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

#### Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center

515 SW 24th Street  
San Antonio, TX 78207

Contact: Sister Laverne Mettlach, CDP – 210-557-8749 (cell) [lavernecd@gmail.com](mailto:lavernecd@gmail.com)

Located on the west side of San Antonio, about 20 minutes from the airport. The city has many interesting sites and it also is a two-hour trip to the Gulf of Mexico beach. Bed and breakfast is \$30 per day or \$40 for all three meals.

### WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

#### Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center

53 Mill Street  
Westfield, MA 01085

Contact: Sister Ann Horgan, SP – 413-562-3627 [ahorgan@sisofprov.org](mailto:ahorgan@sisofprov.org)

Located in the foothills of western Massachusetts Berkshire hills 10 miles from Springfield and within 2 hours of most major New England cities. On 19 acres of natural landscape

with peaceful blooming gardens, comfortable lodging and home-cooked meals. It is a half hour by car from Bradley International Airport in Hartford, CT. Make reservations well in advance. Bed and breakfast is \$30 per day.

### SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

#### St. Joseph Province

4800 37th Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98126-2724

Contact: Jacqueline Fernandes, SP – 206-937-4600 [jacqueline.fernandes@providence.org](mailto:jacqueline.fernandes@providence.org)

Located on a hill overlooking downtown Seattle and the bay. Visitor sites include Pike Place Market, Space Needle, waterfront, zoo, gardens. Good bus transportation from the Residence to downtown Seattle; 30 minutes by car from the airport. Guest rooms are in residence which also includes infirmary and supportive care floors, library and archives. Not available between July 30 – August 7. Bed and breakfast \$30 per day.

There also are three houses in the Seattle area that can accommodate 2-3 visitors. Contact: [Judith.desmarais@providence.org](mailto:Judith.desmarais@providence.org), 425-525-3391

### SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

#### Mount St. Joseph

12 West 9th Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99204-2309

Contact: Sr. Lily May Emert, SP with cc to Sr. Sue Orłowski, SP – 509-474-2300

[lily.emert@providence.org](mailto:lily.emert@providence.org),  
cc to [susan.orłowski@providence.org](mailto:susan.orłowski@providence.org)

Located in eastern Washington with surrounding rural area; downtown River Walk; Mount Spokane 30-40 minute drive north; Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho 30-40 minute drive east. It is 20 minutes from airport. Guest rooms in residence for elderly sisters on separate side. Includes library and offices for Providence Health and Services. Bed and breakfast \$30 per day.

There also are two houses in the Spokane area that can accommodate 2-3 visitors. Contact: [Judith.desmarais@providence.org](mailto:Judith.desmarais@providence.org), 425-525-3391

## International formation, *continued from page 1*

Chenier, Yvette Demers, as well as by members of the formation team: Sisters Margaret Botch, Josie Ramac, Diane Sarrasin and Bibiana Saavedra. People from different backgrounds came to complete the roster of speakers. In addition, Sister Alba Letelier, as liaison person between the General Leadership Team and the program, was also responsible for the logistics and served as interpreter in the meeting of the Formation Team.

Towards the end of the meeting, our sisters, visibly strengthened, presented their dreams for the future:

"Hearing the inspiration of the Spirit, we dream of

becoming more mystic and prophetic women who know that to be a Sister of Providence is not only about what we do but also about who we are; and, given the signs of the times, we choose to risk our security for a stronger engagement with the poor in our milieus.

We dream of freeing ourselves from the structures that limit us as we move into one entity for mission and of working toward new ways of formation at all levels, developing an international novitiate and congregational formation for mission for this new entity.

We dream of forming small living groups among the

poor, comprised of sisters from different countries, cultures and ages who share life, prayer and mission.

We dream of continuing to increase our collaboration with Providence Associates and others as we work together for justice, peace and the Reign of God."

The program ended with a six-day retreat, which permitted the participants to reap the fruits of these three and a half months. Strong bonds were formed, weaving a tapestry of Providence colors capable of radiating and sending forth the vibrations received into infinity.



*The international formation experience was a time of sharing and growth for the 18 sisters in formation who participated.*





# WPC collaboration on speaker benefits all

"It is not enough to feed and clothe a few poor people, we must become the bridge over the vast abyss that yawns between the rich and poor," was just one jewel of wisdom offered by guest speaker Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP, Ph.D, at this year's Missioning Day Celebration for the Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Aware of the rich resource of Providence theologians among the Women of Providence in Collaboration (WPC), Sister Kathleen Popko, SP, President of the Holyoke Congregation and Chair of the WPC Board, invited Sister Michele to serve as key speaker at this annual ceremony at which Sisters of Providence renew their vows and their Associates, their annual commitments.

Sister Michele is a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence in Allison Park, Pennsylvania. She is a leading lecturer on the evolving theology and spirituality of Providence and occupies the Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology at La Roche College in Allison Park where she is a Professor of Religious Studies and heads the Humanities Division.

During her presentation, Sister Michele challenged her listeners to persevere in

their call to live out their charism to reveal the Mystery of Providence through ministries of hope and healing.

"Making God's Providence visible can't be about quantities," she emphasized, "or about how much we have or about how many we are. We can't be too few, too old, too busy, too tired, too over committed. Remember

Commenting on her remarks, Sister Kathleen said, "Sister Michele struck the proper notes in her presentation on "Prophesy through the Lens of Providence" that resonated with all present by naming clearly the realities of our times and challenging all of us, lay and religious, to be God's Providence to others wherever we are."



our founders, many times only one. History is replete," she assured, "with stories of only one founder who stood up to make Providence visible."

"Whatever we have, whatever we are is enough," she said. And closing, she stressed, "The moment for us to be the bridge over the abyss is now. This is the only moment we have."

*Photo shows Michele Bisbey, CDP, center, and at left, Ann Horgan, SP, of the Holyoke Sisters of Providence Executive Council, and Associate Co-Director Patricia St. Amand, ASP, just prior to Sister Michele's presentation, "Prophesy through the Lens of Providence."*



# Sister Mary Caritas, SP, honored by LeadingAge

With age comes wisdom, and for some a continuing engagement, not merely in the welfare of one's own life, but, more impressively, in the lives of others. Such is the case with Sister Mary Caritas, SP, currently vice president of the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke. More than twelve years ago, Sister Caritas played a pivotal role in the planning and transitioning of her Congregation's former Mother House into Providence Place at Ingleside.

Providence Place is a 120-unit rental apartment retirement community for active, independent elders. More recently, she was dubbed the "Hard Hat Sister" by building contractors as she worked tirelessly to oversee the construction of Mary's Meadow, modeled on the "small house" concept, a social rather than a medical model of care, where Sisters of Providence and lay persons received skilled nursing and rehabilitation care.

Over the years Sister Caritas has received numerous honors including honorary doctoral degrees. Her most recent distinction came from LeadingAge, an association of 5,600 not-for-profit organizations dedicated to making America a better place for seniors. Just this past October, LeadingAge identified Sister Caritas as a woman who serves others by using her creative talents to make her part of the world a better place to live. To celebrate her contributions in this regard, her photograph was included in the national "Celebrate Age" Exhibit displayed during the organization's 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, DC.

Richard Pelland, Providence Place's Executive Director since its opening in 1999, said he didn't have to look further than Sister Caritas when LeadingAge asked for nominations for the exhibit. According to Pelland, "Sister Caritas followed her role in transitioning Providence Place by spearheading the building construction of Mary's Meadow." Mary's Meadow opened in 2009 and is an innovative, skilled nursing care facility. "Mary's Meadow was the first of its type to open in Massachusetts," Pelland was quick to point out.

What does Sister Caritas have to say about her most recent honor? "I always get enthusiastic when I have a project and see opportunities to do something. I get a lot of energy doing that."

Though her latest honor recognizes persons age 65 and older, she said she doesn't even think of age, much less feel hers. Somebody else is celebrating my age," said the 88-year old.



*In this 2009 photo above, Sister Mary Caritas stands in what was then the future chapel space for Mary's Meadow at Providence Place with three other members of the Construction Committee (from left) Mark Sullivan, Randall Locklin and John Fleming. Sullivan and Fleming represented D.A. Sullivan & Sons of Northampton, the firm responsible for the building construction of Mary's Meadow. Locklin served as the Owners' (Sisters of Providence) Representative.*



*Participants from across the Americas gathered in July in Ecuador to celebrate the sestercentennial of Father Jean Martin Moyer's founding Congregations of women religious.*



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

## Moye sestercentennial celebration

Yes, "sestercentennial"! It means 250th anniversary. The date when the first young woman was sent by Father Jean Martin Moyer to teach in a small village in eastern France was Jan. 14, 1762. Three WPC member congregations trace their roots back to that date: The CDP's of Kentucky (a province of St. Jean de Basel), the MCDP's of San Antonio and the CDP's of San Antonio. Altogether, there are six Moye congregations around the world and a 7th related congregation whose founder used Moye's writings and spirit in establishing the group.

Throughout 2012 there will be celebrations in Europe, Asia and Africa, and the first celebration, for the Americas, took

place in July 2011 in Ecuador.

Representatives from all three U.S. Moye congregations joined others from Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Congo, France, Peru, Chile, India, Bolivia, Belgium and Poland in studying the theology of Providence, sharing mission experiences and celebrating their common heritage. The theme of the Encuentro was "Theology of Mission for the Providence Family in the Context of Globalization."

The Ecuadorians were amazing hostesses, and provided a wonderful example of spreading a love of Providence to young people. The Sisters there from the Champion, Belgium congregation have a very active lay missionary group; these young people have a three-

month full time formation program and then live and work with the sisters for a year. Many sisters have come through this program. The province has also started a group of Priests of Divine Providence and another of Brothers of Divine Providence. Both groups are formed by the sisters and are considered members of the family.

A love of music and dancing was evident throughout the meeting as very lively liturgies and parties went late into the night. Opportunities for learning about the cultures of Ecuador and the other countries represented abounded. A highlight was a trip to the equator, La Mitad del Mundo. Participants left a little tired, and very delighted.





# San Antonio CDP's renovate chapel

Annunciation Chapel was built in 1960 as the worship space for our senior Sisters. It had a very simple, rectangular design enhanced by a number of works of art.

Over the past several years, there had been discussion about making the Chapel more accessible and welcoming to Sisters who use walkers and wheelchairs. Removing the two-person pews that did not have central arms and replacing them with chairs with arms was discussed. Another need was better lighting. The altar, ambo, and lectern were all located on a raised platform, and the community wanted everything on the same level to allow all Sisters who wished to participate as lectors and Communion ministers to do so without climbing steps.

The above discussion led to surveys and meetings to come up with a workable plan. The Annunciation Chapel Renovation Committee, ACRC, was set up and began its work with a retreat which was focused on the USCCB Guidelines, Built of Living Stones—Art, Architecture and Worship. As the ACRC did its work, it kept our 2005 and 2011 Chapter Statements as the basic spirit which would guide all of its deliberations and decisions. It was also committed to staying in close communication with the community.

A majority of sisters concluded that the statues and crucifix should be replaced. An architect/artist from Monterrey, Mexico was selected to oversee the carving of wooden statues of Our Lady of Providence and St. Joseph, the Worker, as well as the crucifix. These statues are seven feet tall and are lightly tinted in earth-tone pastels. The chairs and liturgical furniture were produced by New Holland Church Furniture. The vessel for the Oil of the Sick and its pedestal were

designed by a local glass artist. The bowl for the font was also specially designed by a local artist.

The stark, rectangular lines of the Chapel have been softened by wooden battens around the pillars. The stained glass windows and stations which have graced the Chapel all these years are even more spectacular in their newly renovated setting. The original tabernacle on which five loaves and two fish are beautifully depicted has a prominent place on a specially designed pedestal in the apse. Also retained but refinished are the six original candlesticks.

The Chapel renovation is complete. A rededication is planned for Nov. 20, the Sunday closest to the Nov. 21 57th anniversary of the beatification of our Founder, Blessed John Martin Moyer. As we move into our "new" chapel, we give thanks and praise to our Provident God for journeying with us during this year-long process, for guiding us in our decisions and for bringing to us "just the right" artists, architects, contractors, and benefactors. We are wonderfully blessed! Praised and blessed be Divine Providence!



*Annunciation Chapel before, at top, and after, at bottom, the recent renovation to allow for better access for all sisters.*

# Medical Center unveils Sisters' memorial wall

Sister Rosalie Locati, the only remaining Sister of Providence to serve full time on the staff at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, believes in the power of the sisters who have come before her to keep the Providence legacy and heritage alive. On Sept. 23, anniversary of the death of Blessed Emilie Gamelin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence, SHMC unveiled a memorial wall honoring the sisters who have served in ministry there over its 125-year history.

Their legacy began with Mother Joseph, who literally designed the first Sacred Heart building on a tablecloth and broke ground within three weeks, to Sister Peter Claver, who faced the reality of closing an aging hospital or undertaking the daunting task of building a new one. The legacy continues with Sister Rosalie, director of mission and values for Providence hospitals in Spokane. "I feel extremely grateful and sometimes overwhelmed with what little part I can play in representing the Sisters of Providence in this incredible ministry," she said.

At the dedication of the memorial wall, Sister Rosalie served as emcee. Among those she thanked was Sister Pam White, who headed up the research required to identify the more than 420 sisters involved. "In them, we see the commitment of the sisters to always meet a need, fill a role, collaborate with others to ensure that our ministries were as stellar as we want them to

be," Sister Rosalie said.

Despite the fact that SHMC no longer has many sisters at the helm, said Elaine Couture, Sacred Heart chief executive, "their wisdom still guides us every day . . . I believe that so long as we never forget the poor, we will accomplish what the Sisters of Providence have commissioned us to do."

The yearlong anniversary celebration at SHMC was preceded by a begging tour by



*Sacred Heart Medical Center's memorial wall honors Sisters of Providence who have served in ministry there over the last 125 years. Sister Pam White led the effort to research the names of the more than 420 sisters on the wall.*



sisters wearing the traditional habit to raise funds for the events, which included a picnic for the homeless.





*International Formation Experience participants gather around the familiar statue of Blessed Emilie Gamelin at the Metro station in Montreal.*

## Washington sisters reflect on international formation

Fifteen Sisters of Providence in temporary vows and three apostolic novices came together from spots around the globe to spend 3 ½ months together in Montreal beginning in April 2011. They came from different backgrounds, different province experiences and different languages for a unique opportunity to get to know other new sisters who are part of an international, intergenerational and intercultural family. The new shorthand coined for international, intergenerational and intercultural is the "3 I's".

Five young women from Mother Joseph Province and two Formation Team members participated in the experience. The youngest in attendance was Loreto León Soto, a 21-year-old novice from Bernard Morin

Province in Chile. The oldest was 73-year-old Novitiate Director Margaret Botch, SP, from Mother Joseph Province.

"It was all work of the Spirit," said Sister Josie Ramac, who recently ended her term as candidate director in Mother Joseph Province. "The experience was filled with many blessings and with quite remarkable, life-giving moments."

Sister Margaret said the congregation clearly is in a new era that requires sisters to be able to communicate, listen and hear across languages, cultures and differences. "The work we did together, the intercultural living, was very hopeful for the future, but also very challenging . . . Like Jesus, we all have to be strangers in this work."

At the Provincial Chapter in August, sisters in formation in Mother Joseph Province shared some of the following thoughts about the experience.

"Living fully the '3 I's' is not easy, but it is possible." – **Sister Rosa Nguyen**

"We passed through the desert and then we got to a dessert." – **Sister Margarita Hernandez**

"We planted the seed, but now we have to water it." – **Sister Vilma Franco**

"We are different because of the experience. It was a rewarding, touching, transforming experience." – **Sister Hong Nga Nguyen**

"Most of us entered as one person, but now we finally have a class. We're in the novitiate together now." – **Sister Jessica Taylor**

Learn more about the International Formation Experience and the thoughts of some of the sisters in formation who participated at the Mother Joseph Province website at [www.sistersofprovidence.net](http://www.sistersofprovidence.net)

# New leadership, celebrations and more in Penn.



*Above: Sister Mary Francis Fletcher presents the Ketteler Award to Sister Carol Keehan*

*At right: Recently re-elected as the Congregation's leadership are from left Schwester Monika Mrosek, Sister Martha Yang and General Superior Janet Folkl.*

## **Social Justice Award Presented to Carol Keehan, DC**

Fittingly, the Ketteler Award for Social Justice was presented to Sister Carol Keehan, D.C. on Labor Day 2011. The award, named for the co-founder of the congregation, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, is presented to an individual who reflects Bishop Ketteler's justice work for the marginalized and oppressed in Germany in the 19th century. Invited guests and Sisters joined in honoring Sister Carol for her service as Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, her long-standing commitment and advocacy for healthcare reform — often being the voice for the voiceless —



and her contribution to the successful passage of the Obama Administration's Health Care Reform Bill.

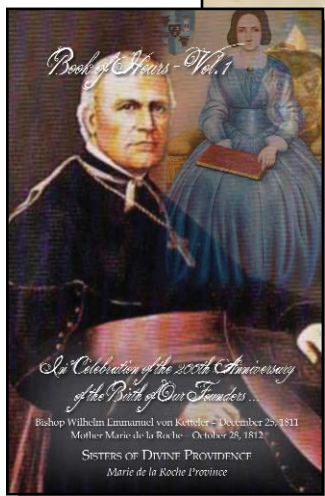
## **General Chapter and Chapter of Elections**

In the summer of this year, Pittsburgh hosted two Chapters, the 22nd General Chapter and the Marie de la Roche Provincial Chapter of Elections. The theme for the General Chapter, Loaves and Fishes: The Dream and Practice of Interdependence, was addressed by presenters Nancy Schreck, OSF, who presented the gospel of the loaves and fishes as a providence story, and Fr. Jim Hug, S.J., director/president of the Center of Concern

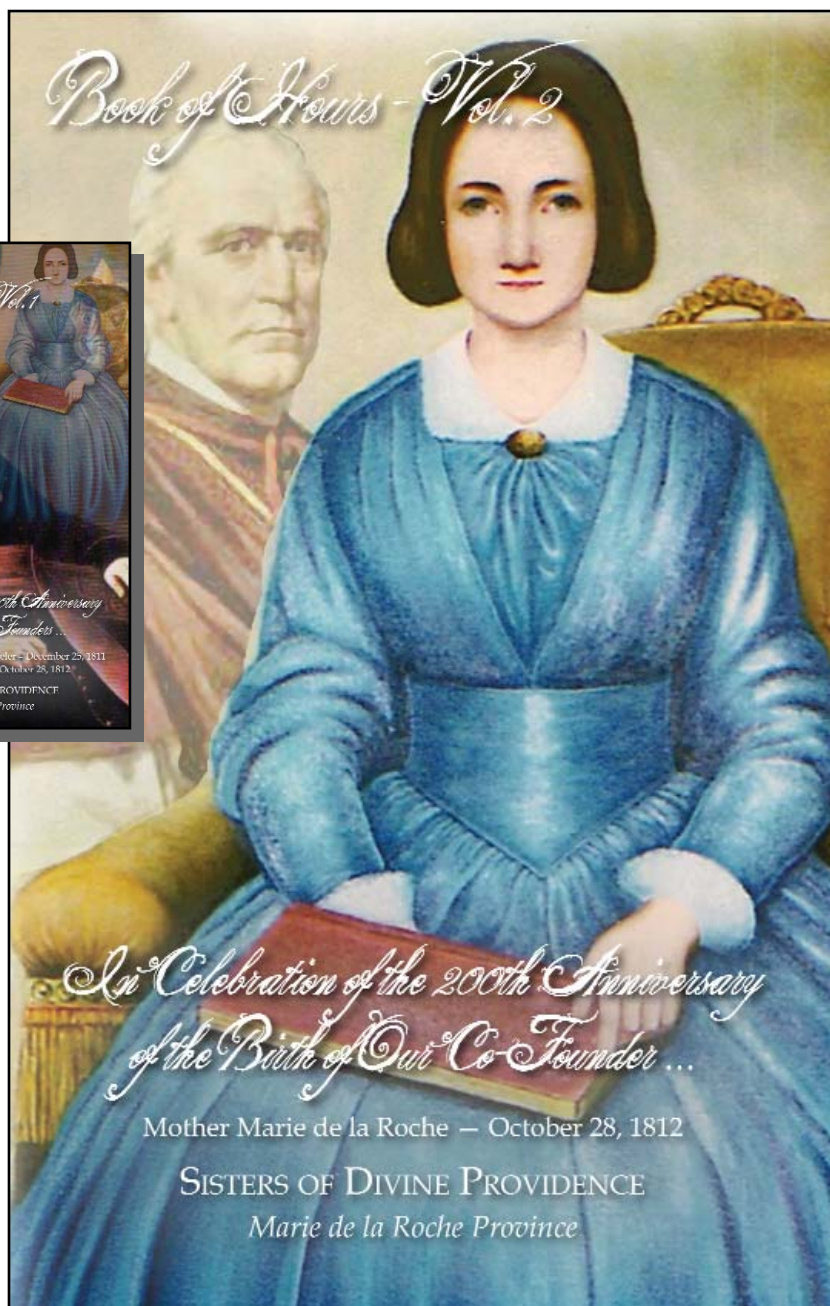
(Washington, D.C.). During the Chapter, the present congregational leadership team of General Superior Sister Janet Folkl, and General Councillors Schwester Monika Mrosek, and Sister Martha Yang Soonyonim were re-elected to a second five-year term. The Marie de la Roche Province re-elected Sisters Mary Francis Fletcher as Provincial Director and Sister Maria Fest, who will serve as Assistant to the Provincial Director. Also elected Councillors were Sisters Donna Marie Gribshaw, Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, and Mary Traupman. All terms will commence on Jan. 1, 2012.

*Continued on next page*





These two volumes of the Book of Hours were produced in conjunction with the Bicentennial Celebration of the founder's birth.



## Bicentennial Celebration – Year Two

Many activities, both internal and external, have been taking place as we move into year two of our two-year Bicentennial Celebration of the birth of the Community's co-founders, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler (Dec. 25, 1811) and Mother Marie de la Roche (Oct. 28, 1812). In 2010, Community Christmas cards were designed featuring Bishop Ketteler; Mother Marie will

be featured this Christmas. Opening events were held in all the geographic areas (Kingston, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Puerto Rico). There were special prayer services celebrating Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie, with an anniversary prayer bookmark given as a remembrance. Following the prayer services, guests were treated to a dessert reception. Founders' tee shirts and sweatshirts were designed, and people have been encouraged to wear

them on the 25th of each month. A Jesus Series of classes has also been offered, which includes film discussions and faith sharing. The celebration will conclude with a closing Mass celebrated in August 2012 by Bishop David Zubik at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

## Commemorative Books of Hours Produced

As part of the Bicentennial celebration, two volumes of the Book of Hours were compiled by Sister-writers. The first honors Bishop Ketteler and was presented as a Christmas gift to Sisters and Associates in December 2011. The second volume will focus on Mother Marie and her legacy to the religious community and will be this year's gift. It will include a litany to recognize women in the Community who embodied the virtues that are closely associated with Mother Marie (compassion, patience, faith). The Hours refer to times of the day that provide natural pauses to be more mindful of God's presence. Living mindfully is the art of living awake and ready to embrace the gift of the present moment. The Hours may be prayed in private or be used as communal prayer. The task of the writers of the Hours was to gather together historic reflections from our founders, Scripture readings, and excerpts taken from articles, poems, and presentations about Providence

Continued on pg 19



SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

## Chapter brings new leadership in Kingston

*Above: Newly elected general council members from left, Sister Sandra Shannon, general superior; Sister Frances O'Brien, general assistant; Sister Gayle Desarmia, councillor; and Sister Una Byrne, councillor*

**By Christine Ross**

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul elected a new leadership team to a four-year term during the congregation's 37th Chapter gathering. The council members, Sisters Sandra Shannon, Frances O'Brien, Gayle Desarmia and Una Byrne were officially installed on June 19.

Sister Sandra brings experience to the role of general superior having spent nine years on the Leadership Team in the past. Her background is nursing, initial formation ministry for the congregation and most recently, Spiritual Care at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital.

"We leave our Chapter gathering full of life, hope and joy for ourselves and for those we serve," said Sister Sandra.

General Assistant Sister Frances O'Brien previously served on council for two terms. The former teacher and current pastoral counselor and process facilitator with experience in conflict resolution, plays a key role in the congregation's ongoing commitment to eradicating violence against women. Sister Frances is also a member of the Healing Violence committee.

Sister Gayle Desarmia marks her inaugural term on Council. A former school librarian, and current Archivist for the congregation, Sr. Gayle has also served as Chair of the Catholic Archivist Group. In June 2008, she received the Alexander Fraser award given by the Archives Association of

Ontario for the national impact of her efforts to preserve the records of the Sisters of Providence.

This marks Sr. Una Byrne's second consecutive term on Council. She moved back to Kingston in 2007 to serve on Council after spending eighteen years ministering in northern Ontario and Manitoba. While based in Moosonee, the former teacher travelled extensively through the north working with the First Nations.

In addition to the election, the 66 sisters gathered at Chapter also examined the congregation's direction for the future.

"Chapter is a sacred time, a holy time, a time of renewed friendship and sisterhood, a time of examining and planning, a time of questioning and dreaming, a time both of doubt and delight, a time of some anxiety and fear, of challenges and hopes," said outgoing General Superior Pauline Lally during her opening address. Despite advancing age and diminishing numbers, Sr. Pauline believes the future is bright.

"Women get bolder as they get older. Being smaller has potential for being more intimate in our own relationships which sustains us. Relations are so necessary now, perhaps even more so, than our works, as the strong, large labour force of the Church, once were," said Sr. Pauline.

The Chapter's unifying resolution was reached with direction from two experienced facilitators, Sr. Barbara Valuckas and Sr. Jeannette Blatz.



# Vigil reflects commitment to poverty reduction

By Jamie Swift

"Together in this vigil we bring before us injustices affecting our world ..."

The Rt. Rev. Michael Oulton had to raise his voice above the hum of traffic in front of City Hall. But most of the 150 supporters gathered to mark the sixteenth anniversary of our Silent Vigil could hear Kingston's new Anglican Bishop as he led us in prayer.

The Sept. 16 gathering was also part of the ongoing celebration of 150 years of Sisters of Providence service in Kingston.

The two anniversaries underlined a longstanding commitment to addressing both the symptoms and causes of poverty in a land of plenty. As Kingston Senator Hugh Segal noted in a letter of recognition: "Your vigil on Sept. 16 reflects in its consistency and the determination of your Order and its many supporters to bear witness to

the scourge of poverty and homelessness that still weakens our city, our neighbourhoods, our province and country."

The anniversary vigil was remarkable for its ecumenical nature. Not only did Bishop Oulton lead the prayer, the other faith communities represented included people from the United Church, the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship, the Society of Friends and of course the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston. Local Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations participated in the Faith to End Poverty campaign by displaying signs reading Let's Vote for a Poverty Free Ontario.

We made a special effort to invite candidates from the four main political parties, all of whom stood holding the lawn signs that became familiar around town during the recent campaign.

In 2009 all political parties in the Ontario Legislature supported a new Poverty Reduction Act. By passing this historic legislation unanimously, the three parties at Queen's Park recognized that "a sustained commitment to work together to develop strong and healthy children, youth, adults, families and communities is required to effectively reduce poverty."

Of course, such an Act needs to be backed up by the political will to put words into action.

"Thus, we stand in hope," concluded Bishop Oulton, reading the verse recited by the vigil keepers every Friday.

*Sisters joined other religious groups in the community for the sixteenth annual silent vigil to address the causes and symptoms of poverty in Ontario.*



# Chapter brings changes in leadership

## New leadership council begins five-year service

Sister Denise Wilkinson, a native of Chicago, was re-elected to her second term as general superior of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., during the Congregation's summer General Chapter. The newly elected General Council consists of Sisters Lisa Stallings, as vicar, Jeneen (Jenny) Howard, Dawn Tomaszewski and Mary Beth Klingel. Sisters Lisa, Jenny and Dawn were classmates at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. The general officers were installed during a Eucharistic Liturgy on Sept. 10. The election of officers was the culmination of the Congregation's General Chapter, which occurs every five years. During General Chapter, the Congregation set its direction for the next five years and elected its leadership.

Visit YouTube to see a video of our general council's installation ceremony, at <http://www.youtube.com/user/spsmw>

## Providence Associates update

According to Sister Diane Mason, director of Providence Associates for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the SPs currently have 145 Associates who are in relationship to the Congregation. In addition, there are 17 candidates who will be making their first commitment by Nov. 19. Looking ahead, there are 22 new candidates for the 2011-2012 year who are beginning a program of Spiritual Integration (generally 11 months) followed by a time of mutual discernment. The candidate is paired with a sister or associate as a companion through the process. The program consists of personal and shared reflection, and prayer with a companion and other sisters and associates (as feasible) on the topics of Providence mission, charism, story, practices, spirituality, commitment

and ministries. The program is open to women and men who are called to be in a formal, non-vowed relationship with the Congregation for period of time.

## New Sisters of Providence Vocation Director

The Sisters of Providence welcome Sister Editha Ben as the newly appointed Vocation Director, filling the position that Sister Jenny Howard, who was elected as a General Officer during the Congregation's General Chapter, previously held. Sister


*SPSMW's leadership team from front left: General Superior Sister Denise Wilkinson; Sister Mary Beth Klingel; back row: Sisters Dawn Tomaszewski; Lisa Stallings and Jenny Howard.*

*Below right: SPSMW's new vocation director Sister Editha Ben.*

Continued on next page







## Upcoming events at

# White Violet Center for Eco-Justice

### Caring for Earth: Climate Change as Moral Choice

March 24, 2012

Our actions reflect our values. Climate change is a complex issue that can be used to explore our values about the environment. After introducing climate change as an issue, we will use the framework of the recent book *Moral Ground* to examine the varied moral stances that underlie and support choices we make about our planetary home.

Presenter Sister Mary Lou Dolan, CSJ

Cost \$35, includes lunch. (The book "Moral Ground" will be available for purchase.) 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. Registration deadline: March 20.

### The Cosmic Walk

May 26, 2012

This is a ritual experience to awaken in us a deeper consciousness of the Divine. Delve into the amazing beauty and age of the unfolding life process of the Universe. Come away with a richer sense of mystery, awe and reverence for the mystery of the Divine.

Presenter Sister Paul Bernadette Bounk, CSJ

Cost: \$35, includes lunch. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. Wear comfortable shoes. Registration deadline: May 17.

### Praying Peace: Harnessing the Energy of Creation retreat

June 3-9, 2012

During this time we will ask

ourselves who the God of our prayer truly is and what the human role is in "presencing" the divine. We will explore the meaning of energy as it relates to prayer and healing and explore more deeply what it means to be held in the power of the resurrection and to experience the incarnation. We will look at the meaning of sin, redemption and the unconditional forgiveness that we are called to as Christians.

Presenter: Barbara Fiand, SNDdeN

Cost: \$450 for resident or \$250 for commuter. Check-in is 3-5 p.m. EST on Sunday. Workshop concludes with lunch at noon on Saturday. Registration deadline: May 21.

**Continued on pg 18**

## SPSMW news continued



Editha spent the last five years in Taiwan, studying Mandarin, Chinese, and for the past two years, she also ministered as a manager for the Informational Corner, a part of the Office of International Affairs at Providence University. Prior to Sister Editha's time in Taiwan, she served as director of Religious Education in Marquette, Mich., and Bensenville, Ill. Sister Editha can be reached at [eben@spsmw.org](mailto:eben@spsmw.org) and 812-535-2895.





# White Violet Center events cont'd from pg. 18

## WPC Calendar of Events

**June 15-17, 2012 -**  
Providence Event  
"Providence: Mystical  
Window on the World"  
keynote - Ron Rolheiser,  
OMI. Begins 9 am Friday, June  
15 and concludes 10:30 am  
Sunday, June 17.

**June 15, 2012 -** first day  
Providence Event pres-  
entation open to public

**June 14 and 17, 2012 -**  
Initial Formation  
Gathering

**June 14, 2012 -**  
Directors of Associates  
and Leaders Conference

**March 14-18, 2012 -**  
Vocations/Formation/  
Leadership Conference

**March 27-28, 2012 -**  
Governing Board  
Meeting

**April 15-16, 2012 -**  
Providence Event Core  
Planning Committee

### Faith Empowered by Justice

July 6-8, 2012

This public event is a Sisters of  
Earth pre-conference event  
that takes place in Reilly  
Auditorium at Owens Hall,  
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods,  
Ind.

*Presenter Diarmuid O'Murchu*

Cost: \$325 for resident or \$210  
for commuter. Check-in is 3-5  
p.m. EST on Friday. Workshop  
concludes with lunch at noon on  
Sunday. Registration deadline:  
June 20.

### Body Prayer — More to Us Than Just Words

Aug. 24-26, 2012

Working with our breath, Tai  
Chi, Chi Gong and Shibashi,  
we can learn to pray in a phys-  
ical way. Honor creation,  
honor our Chakras (energy  
forces within us), and honor  
the senses that act as the medi-  
ators of the Divine.

*Presented by Sister Paul Bernadette  
Bounk, CSJ*

Cost: \$100 for commuter or  
\$240 for resident. Workshop  
begins at 9 a.m. EST Friday and  
ends at 11 a.m. EST Sunday.  
Registration deadline: Aug. 12.

### Quiet directed retreat

Sept. 2-8, 2012

The personally directed retreat  
provides the opportunity for  
time away from the usual activ-  
ity of life to be quiet, pray and  
reflect. The atmosphere of  
peaceful quiet allows you to  
enter into a sustained silence  
in order to pray more deeply,  
listen more carefully, and  
respond more fully to God's  
movement within. Each  
retreatant meets daily with a  
spiritual director.

*Presenters: Sister Jeanne Knoerle, SP,  
Sister Paul Bernadette Bounk, CSJ, and  
Sister Mary Polutanovich, DC*

Cost: \$400, includes room and  
meals. Check-in 3-5 p.m. EST  
on Sunday. Retreat concludes  
with lunch at noon on Saturday.  
Registration deadline: Aug. 27.

For more information contact  
Sister Maureen Freeman, CSJ,  
at 812-535-2930 or  
mfreeman@spsmw.org or visit  
[www.WhiteViolet.org](http://www.WhiteViolet.org) for more  
details.





written by our community members. It is hoped the Hours will be prayed during the bicentennial years in celebration of the common heritage as Providence people, blessed with the example of our holy founders.

### **New Vocations/Social Media Position created**

Both research and our own (CDP) daily experience was pointing to the increased need for a staff person with expertise in the creation of social media connections (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs, etc.) and the maintenance of such connections. Blending the skills required of a person in this position with the needs of our current vocation ministry will result in the ability to reach and stay connected with a younger audience, an audience that is using social media as a means of researching their topics as well as the way they connect with others. Rose Beauclair Radkowski began working in Vocations/Social Media for the Sisters of Divine Providence in August. She is very excited to be laying the groundwork for the Vocation Office to take greater advantage of new media (like Facebook and other interactive web-based platforms) to enhance the Sisters' and Associates' connections with women discerning religious life. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, she ministered for two years as an apprentice catechetical

leader in a parish near Indianapolis through Notre Dame's Echo: Faith Formation Leadership Program. As part of the Echo service-learning experience, she worked toward an MA in theology and lived in an intentional faith community with four other people. After graduating from Notre Dame again, Rose moved to Minnesota and at Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary, a Benedictine school, first as the director of marketing and communications and then as a development associate. In 2010 she and her husband moved to Pittsburgh so she could attend the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences; she completed the Master of Library and Information Science degree program in August 2011. "When I saw the position announcement for the vocations/social media outreach role, I experienced God's providence. Could there be a better way for me to combine all my studies, experience, and interests? The Holy Spirit led me to the Sisters of Divine Providence!" Rose believes that "Sisters, Associates or friends of the community have an important role to play in the process of calling forth future Sisters. Vocational discernment, like the beginnings of discipleship, often happens because of a personal invitation."

### **Justice for Life Blog**

The Sisters of Divine



*Rose Beauclair Radkowski has joined the vocations team and will be working on making social media connections.*

Providence Social Justice Committee has launched a new blog—Justice for Life, found at <http://justiceforlifecdp.wordpress.com/>. Although launching the blog was initiated by our recently announced Corporate Stance Against Human Trafficking, it will also serve 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 for sharing information/comments. Hopefully, this new way of reaching out will inspire others to "create communities of joy and love; promote justice; and seek to advance the cause of all people, especially those in need. We invite you to visit our Justice for Life blog and join the conversation."

# Register now!!



## COLLABORATION

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