

Women of Providence in

COLLABORATION

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Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, served as keynote presenter at the 2012 Providence Event. He led 300 participants as they delved into the realms of mysticism and Providence.

Ron Rolheiser, participants explore **Mysticism and Providence** at Providence Event 2012

In Providence Event 2012, held June 15-17 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., Ron Rolheiser described Providence as “reading the signs of the times.” Trying to see the finger of God inside of our ordinary lives and events. He quoted James Mackey: “Divine providence is the conspiracy of accidents through which God speaks.”

He described Mysticism as trying to see the finger of God within our mystical experience. “Mystical experience is being touched by God at a

level that is deeper than language, thought, conceptualization, imagination, and feeling.”

Mysticism is an ordinary experience for everyone, Rolheiser said. Providence is being in touch with our deepest center and acting out of its nudges and imperatives. Providence is expressed as metanoia rather than paranoia; and, Providence is Trust — enough not to be anxious, to “roll all the dice” on the truth of the Gospel.”

Read more about Providence Event 2012 inside.



FROM THE DIRECTOR _____

Thank you for the privilege of serving all women and men of Providence during these last five years. The richness of our relationships with each other continues to grow and our quest for the passion of Providence deepens.

The Providence Event was a living experience of our looking together through the Mystical Window on the World, seeing with the eyes of Providence. We were enriched by Ron Rolheiser, OMI, a voice to be heard in our time. We were also enriched by the energy and reflections of each other. We shared some of those written reflections which will be posted on the WPC website next week: www.wpcweb.org

Of the 300 participants, 80 were associates and 25 were friends of Providence. Our collaboration is strengthened as we go forth to live our mission of Providence.

I leave my position as director but not my presence in this essential organization. I look forward to meeting all of you again.

In Providence,

Ann Margaret

Sister Ann Margaret O'Hara, left, outgoing director of Women of Providence in Collaboration, is recognized for her service to the organization over the past five years by Sister Kathleen Popko, chair of the governing board of WPC.

PROVIDENCE EVENT STAR GAZERS OFFER SYNOPSIS

Participants of the Providence Event reflected on Ron Rolheiser's words in the keynote presentation and their implications for Providence spirituality. The star gazers, Marie McCarthy, SP, and Irene Wilson, SP, reflected back what they heard in deep listening to the group.

We have been swimming in this sea of Providence and Mysticism, allowing the sea to wash over us, diving into the depths of this sea. We have identified some of the currents running through this sea:

Trust and Hope
Metanoia and Paranoia
Naming Properly
Providence – a conspiracy of accidents
Absorbing – Fleeing
Providence and the Cross

We have together remembered that kiss of God on our individual and collective being. We have

celebrated the conspiracy of accidents that has brought us together into this room at this moment in time.

As we have attempted to name properly this moment, this time, this experience, we learn again the abundance of God, the beautiful diversity, the multiple ways of seeing the richness of multiple meanings.

We know there is One Holy Mystery, and there are many, many revelations of that mystery. We know there is not just One Name of the Holy One, but many. And as we attempt to name properly what has moved among us, we know there are many ways to name this.

There is a lot of passion in this room, an energy for life, for good, for joy. One of the many ways we might name our experience is that we are in the midst of a people with an intense desire to live and act with integrity.

We desire to be compassionate as Holy Providence is compassionate; i.e., to suffer with and stand with, move with the pain and suffering and struggle of our world, to absorb the toxin and breathe out peace.

We desire to, are willing to, live in this conspiracy of accidents, listening for the word of Providence, naming it properly, and acting on

what we know.

Above left, Sisters Marie McCarthy and Irene Wilson serve as star gazers for the Providence Event.

Left, this painting by Sister Adelaide Ortegell served as environmental aid to reflection at Providence Event.



STATEMENTS OF PROVIDENCE ARISE FROM EVENT

Following the presentations and interaction with Ron Rolheiser, OMI, on Providence and Mysticism, participants in the Providence Event were invited to share the implications they saw for living the charism

of Providence. The table conversations were presented in statements on power point and are printed here along with images from the mid-June Providence Event. The statements will also be posted on the website: www.wpcweb.org.

“Trust is palpable in the charism. The day was energizing to continue in this trust. We are with persons who see, believe, and live it. A connection is to learn more about it.”



“It is essential and not easy at all. Allow God to have the last word. God leaves us free to be who we are and to respond to God’s love as we can.”

“Powerful moment to sit with 300 people in silence. Need time to connect value experienced by the music between segments.”



“Providence is the practice of living what we know and relying on the God that is within us.”

“PROVIDENCE— a hope-filled name. Response of praying together and PONDERING, modeling a peaceful action in the face of violence.”



“Give over freely; no one can take from us whether it be my seat in the plane or canonical status. Give freely — or an end to our community as we know it. Give freely.”



“Process of taking in stress and breathing out peace. “



“To make Providence more visible we need to ponder — hold, care and transform the tension that has been created.”

“It seems that we can properly name that the hierarchical church has defined religious life and that the current events ask that now is the time for Providence communities and associates to name who we are, define ourselves in the light of Vatican II as it has shaped us.”

“Providence people are called to find God’s kiss in our deepest selves and in the events around us to find how God calls us to more.”

“Hope is not wishing.”

“I feel the connection even though I don’t know.”

“Providence people stand — firm, with quiet strength.”

“There was **energy** in the image of the water purifier: we take in the toxin.”

“Our **understand-
ing of Providence is to name and frame the question around the signs of the times (LCWR and women), to transform.**”

“Before you put on Jesus, consider how you would look on wood!”



“Touched by the environment of the people here — you can see it, feel it, experience it. In health care, the kindness of the sisters to their caregivers, and the care of the caregivers given back.”

“All are here for the same reason. The **inside wake-up call — none of us will be the same.**”



“Future of religious life is in transition and those entrusted with it are to be pioneers—trusting, surrendering, and abandoning.”

“Jesus was not successful, but was faithful. This is really important for religious life — diminishment, aging, finances are not as important as faithfulness and being faithful within.”

“Providence people need to ponder events, etc. so that our response may be authentic: resistance, absorption, witness.”

“To practice daily the art of holding the tensions – to do it in little things, in big things – to do it without resentment, with unconditional love. Sort of “pay it forward.” We don’t have to do it alone. “

“Different missions but one heart.”

“Implication: We are challenged to think larger than we experience our charisms now.”

“Connections:
Standing – sitting
Waiting – acting
Absorbing – fleeing/rejecting abuse
Balance – we have a luxury and a privilege to witness to the truth for the benefit of the Church.”

“Choosing a big God – the cosmic God; not a rescuing God but a redeeming God.”

“I can connect dots only in retrospect. Can’t see in a given moment of experience.”



“In contemplative sitting we don’t overburden others with our own agenda. Shared silence can be supportive for others.”

“A blessing today is being with people who are not afraid to ask tough questions. We must learn to live with the questions. We, ALL of us, struggle together.”

“How can we know when to give something before it’s taken away.”

“Trust needs to be based on hope.”

"How can we gratefully absorb the pain, violence, evil, the excluded and marginalized, in such a gentle provident way that God can transform and heal with a compassionate Divine love?"

"Trust and you will not fear.
Fear and you have no **trust.**"

**"Connection between
our deepest center and
Providence in our lives."**

*"If we don't speak out
against evil, we enable it."*



"If we believe and
accept that we are
in God's image
then we can get in
touch with the love
and life which we
are to reflect to
each one."

*"Do what we do
every day but do it
freely."*



"Mysticism – the Kiss of
God. Nature – helps us to
know the kiss of God."

"Living without
the **answers.**"



*"Calling us to a deeper approach to LCWR/Rome
reality – calling us to metanoia, not paranoia."*



**"The big idea
from today –
WE can be
mystics."**

“What is God asking us today? Speak the truth – don’t hide it. Trust. Read the signs of the times. Wash the feet of one another.”

“Go to where all is precious in you – act from there – be true to who you are.”



“Let us live
with no strings attached.”

“All will be well” does not equal “Oh well!” We have to do what we are called to do.”



“Right here in this assembly to absorb some of the evil re:LCWR. What is done to one group is harmful to all the faithful.”



“We saw a big connection between Providence spirituality and the cross.”

“We can be **compassionate** even though we can’t be *perfect*.”

“Ponder the abundant tensions but not alone, rather in community.”

Sister Kathleen Popko, center, was recently awarded the national Catholic Health Associations Lifetime Achievement Award.



SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, HOLYOKE, MASS.

Sister Kathleen Popko honored for work

The national Catholic Health Association (CHA) recently awarded Sister Kathleen Popko, SP, its esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her 45-year record of extraordinary contributions to the Catholic health ministry. She received the award on June 4 during CHA's annual Assembly held in Philadelphia.

Sister Kathleen accepted the award "on behalf of all women religious who laid the foundation for Catholic health ministry in the U.S. Many of these women, and those who followed them over the past many years," she noted, "deserve Lifetime Achievement recognition. In their name, I accept this prestigious Award and am honored to

be numbered among them."

She received CHA's Sister Mary Concilia Moran Award in 1993. That award is given annually by CHA to an individual recognized for exhibiting creativity and breakthrough thinking credited with advancing the Catholic health care ministry.

Sister Kathleen is President of the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke and Chair of Women of Providence in Collaboration. A former President of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, she played major roles in establishing the Sisters of Providence Health System in Springfield and Catholic Health East (CHE) in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

From 1997 until 2009 when

she was elected President of the Sisters of Providence, she served for 12 years on CHE's Senior Management Team, eight years as Executive VP of the Northeast Division. In that capacity she oversaw Regional Health Corporations in five northeastern states, and then four years as Executive VP of Strategy and ministry Development.

Reflecting on her life, Sister Kathleen said, "I feel doubly blessed for having been engaged in leadership roles both in religious life and in the health care ministry — oftentimes simultaneously. This dual experience enabled me to be part of the rapid evolution of both religious life and the Catholic health ministry and to apply my learnings in either arena."

Congregation vocations grow in Asia

Asia vocations news

General Officer Sister Jenny Howard made a recent trip to Asia, to visit all the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Wood ministries in Taiwan and the postulants and novices. Representing General Superior, Sister Denise Wilkinson, Sister

Sister Jeanne Knoerle, below center, was recently recognized as a woman of influence in the Terre Haute, Ind. area.

Celebration of the Diocese of Taichung. Providence University is in this diocese, but the university pre-dates the diocese, having been in operation for 63 years.

Sister of Providence Jeanne Knoerle recognized by local community

Sister Jeanne Knoerle was named one of the eight Wabash Valley Women of Influence, women who have "made a difference while growing in their personal development and leaving a positive mark on their community." These eight women were the "inaugural class of honorees" chosen by the Women of Influence Committee of United Way of the

leadership for the establishment of Our Green Valley Alliance for Sustainability in the Terre Haute, Ind., area.

Human Trafficking efforts update

When Sisters of Providence were educating hotels prior to the Super Bowl about the

issue of human trafficking, Sister Donna Butler contacted a hotel in Greencastle, Ind. That gave her an opportunity to have lunch with former Providence Volunteer Minister, Dorothy Brown. Dorothy presented the Congregation's first antiracism workshops prior to a committee being formed. Sister Donna gave Dorothy an update on the Anti-Racism Team and invited her to join and she accepted. Also related to the SPs' social justice support, the General Officers served as hosts to over 170 women at the annual Women in Leadership Luncheon March 7. One of the guest speakers at the luncheon was Theresa Flores, a victim of human trafficking in her high school years, who is now actively involved in helping to free young women caught in a web of trafficking.



Jenny accepted Rosa Qiu into the postulancy and Theresa Lin into the canonical novitiate. Two canonical novices, Theresa Zhuo and Mary He, were commissioned as mission novices. Sister Jenny extended her stay in order to participate in the 50th Anniversary

Wabash Valley. Sister Jeanne was lauded not only for her work in education as president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and following that, as program director in the religion division of the Lilly Foundation, but also for her more recent



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

Two sisters recount visit to mission in Peru

Sisters Gayle Desarmia and Frances O'Brien meet with students who receive funds from the Marillac Mission Fund of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

BY SISTERS GAYLE DESARMIA & FRANCES O'BRIEN

From Dec. 28 until Jan. 12, Sisters Frances O'Brien and Gayle Desarmia had the privilege of visiting our mission in El Progreso, Peru. From the outset we were deeply moved by the warm welcome given us by the Sisters, the Providence Associates and the people of the parish.

The Sisters there had planned activities that would give us a flavour of the culture and the needs of the people they have been serving since 1967.

Sister Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, our Canadian Sister who has been in El Progreso for over 40 years, currently runs a clinic for people with mental health issues. She

supports them through monitoring their medications and providing workshops and training so that they can have a better quality of life. We were surprised at the high proportion of people suffering with mental disabilities among the poor. During our stay we visited her clinic several times and met the people she works with. She is also a strong Sister of Providence presence in the local parish of Christo Luz del Mundo.

Sister Sara Jiménez Angulo, our first native Peruvian Sister, is currently running the adjoining parish in the town of Torre Blanca because the pastor is on sick leave in England.

Sister Maria Chinchay Luca, our youngest member and second native Peruvian Sister, is currently studying

and doing catechetical ministry. We visited Maria's family home and the area where she does her catechetical work.

After Mass in the parish on New Year's Eve we were invited to the retreat centre for a celebration and a gourmet dinner hosted by Oblate Brother Lennie Rego. At midnight we went to the rooftop and were treated to a panorama of family fireworks on the surrounding hillsides, the likes of which would rival any professional fireworks display.

Our first formal gathering was with a group of post-secondary students who are supported financially for tuition, transportation, etc. from the Marillac Mission Fund. These wonderful young people gather monthly with one of our Associates for prayer and

faith sharing. We were so inspired by their gratitude, their faith and their desire to use their education to serve others.

One memorable day was spent touring Torre Blanca and the outlying areas of San Martin and Chocas where Sara does her ministry. In San Martin we visited the site where Sara intends to build a chapel with support from the Marillac Mission Fund. This will provide the people with a place to gather for worship and meetings. Travel to these areas is an experience Canadians would find hard to believe. We were very moved by Sara's presence and support of the poverty-stricken people of the outlying areas. She seems to attract young and old alike by her warmth and generosity.

A highlight of our time in Peru was an evening spent with our Providence Associates celebrating the Epiphany. They organized a wonderful celebration which included a prayer service, customs from the three regions from Peru and a social with refreshments and dancing. We presented each one with a laminated copy of the new Providence Associate Mission Statement. It was a joy to meet such vibrant and committed people partnering with us in mission.

One Sunday we joined the members of the Christian Workers Movement for their annual Family Day in a beautiful park. The air was fresh and breezy and provided a welcome relief from the prevalent dust which we had encountered in all our

other travels.

We had two opportunities to be tourists. One was the day we went to the beach at Ancon and the other was when we visited Lima. In Lima we saw a modern city with museums and many historical sites including those of two

Peruvian saints, Rose of Lima and Martin de Porres.

In course of our visit we witnessed first-hand the great work that is made possible by the Marillac Mission Fund. The money is used to support education, the mental health clinic, a school founded by one of our Associates, people with health needs and various other needs of the poor. We see the Marillac Mission Fund as a viable tool for others in Canada to partner with us in our work in Peru.

We could learn so much from these people who in spite of poverty, lack of opportunity and the obstacles they encounter daily continue to be hope-filled, faith-filled, grateful for God's Providence and for any gesture of kindness shown to them.



New vision for healing violence committee

On Oct. 11, 2011 members of the Healing Violence Committee met at Marillac Villa to reflect upon our 1994 mandate, and upon a new direction to which our Provident God is calling us at this time in our history.

We concluded that we no longer have the energy to offer conferences and workshops to the broader public, but will network with other organizations that identify with our mission of compassion and vision in addressing issues of violence in society at large. Some of the topics we considered important to address are: Violence in the Church, Bullying and Mental Health Abuse.

We continue to meet regularly and keep committed to

Above, Sister Frances, standing, visit Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, seated, who runs a clinic for people with mental health issues. She has been in El Progreso for over 40 years.

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SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, SEATTLE/SPOKANE, WA.

SPs receive 2010 Centennial Bishop's Medal

Above, Diocese of Spokane Bishop Blase Cupich presents the 2012 Centennial Bishop's Medal to the Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province

Bishop Blase Cupich presented the Bishop's Medal, the highest award the Diocese of Spokane (WA) can bestow, to the Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province. The occasion was the May 4 centennial gala of Catholic Charities of Spokane. In the past, the bishop said, the award has been given to individuals and key contributors. This year, the bishop said he wanted to give the medal to someone who has been an active participant in service to others for the past 100 years.

The bishop said Sisters of Providence have been serving "with grace and perseverance" in Spokane even before the diocese existed,

since Mother Joseph and four other sisters opened a small hospital in Spokane on April 30, 1886. He described the Sisters of Providence as "tireless, spiritual leaders, models of compassion and of unconditional love," and as "models of charity, service, collaboration and justice." Bishop Cupich thanked the sisters for their service and for being "the steady rock on which Catholic Charities has been built."

Attendees gave the Sisters of Providence three standing ovations. Provincial Superior Karin Dufault accepted the Bishop's medal "on behalf of every single sister who ever served in the Spokane diocese, living and dead." Provincial Councilors Judith Desmarais and Jo

Ann Showalter were present at the event, along with several Spokane-area sisters.

Historic landmark

Trust launches campaign to purchase/restore Providence Academy

The Fort Vancouver National Trust has launched a \$16 million capital campaign to purchase and restore Providence Academy (PAV), built by Mother Joseph in 1873, and its seven-acre grounds in Vancouver, Wash. Mother Joseph and four sister companions arrived at Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory, from Montreal, Quebec, in 1856. They built Providence Academy, their first foundation in the West, and

promoting awareness and healing in our congregation and in our diocese. Currently, we have been offering to facilitate healing sessions to help all those affected by allegations of sexual abuse in our diocese. This healing gathering has already been well-received by the congregation, by the Motherhouse Sunday Eucharistic Community by St. John's parish, Kingston and Holy Rosary Parish, Belleville.

We ask you, Sisters and Associates, to pray for us as we strive to be faithful to the following new mandate: Rooted in the words of our Mission Statement, i.e.

- in response to the needs of the times
- to empower others, especially the poor and oppressed, to achieve a quality of life in keeping with their human dignity
- through promotion of structures and relationships of equality and mutuality we move to concrete actions to eradicate violence, especially against women and children.

We aim to raise awareness, to change attitudes and to take action to promote healing at three levels: personal, congregational, and societal, through education, networking and bursaries.



*Members of the Healing Violence Committee
left to right, standing: Sisters Catherine Casey, Peggy Flanagan, Margo Shafer, Associates Carol Groten and Barbara Baker
left to right, seated: Sisters Marie Dundon and Frances O'Brien (Council Liaison)*

Seattle/Spoken news

continued

Mother Joseph's handiwork is evident in some of the building's furnishings. Lowell Hidden, founder of Hidden Brick Company, supplied bricks for the original construction. The building currently is owned by the Hidden family, which has listed it for sale with the caveat that it be preserved. "This is an exciting day for the Sisters of Providence and for Providence Health &

Services," said Sister Susanne Hartung, chief mission integration officer for PH&S. Sister Susanne has led pilgrimages to Providence Academy, bringing some 2,000 people to walk its halls.



Sister Susanne Hartung in the chapel at Providence Academy, Vancouver, WA.

Anniversary, space sharing for San Antonio CDP's

Anniversary Celebration

A major focus of the San Antonio CDP's this year is the celebration of the 250th anniversary of our founding in France by Blessed Jean Martin Moye in 1762. We and the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence shared a celebration on Jan. 15. The service included a procession with posters depicting the motherhouses of the seven con-

The week-long meeting led up to a commitment to an inter-congregational mission in Haiti. Many other regional celebrations have been and will be held around the world. Our own year of celebration will end with a liturgy on Jan. 13, 2013.

Sharing Our Space

Like many other communities, we are studying the future of our sizeable motherhouse building. We have more space than is required for our own needs. As we were evaluating the situation, Providence presented us with an opportunity. A local non-profit workforce development program called Project

generalate offices, sorting through decades of accumulation of "things," negotiating the details of a lease, and much, much more. Our guests moved in on April 23, and all seems to be going well.

We are very pleased to host an agency whose mission we see as in full harmony with our own. QUEST works with individuals to obtain the education and training they need to move from very low wage jobs into work that allows them to support their families. On average the wages of the participants are almost quadrupled when they complete the program. It's a great partnership for us.

New Membership News

We are very pleased to look forward to the progression of new members this summer:

Bianca Esquivel will become a pre-novice.

Kate Fitzgerald and Misty Garriga will enter novitiate.

Sister Maria Cruz de la Cruz will make first vows.

Sisters Joyce Detzel, Marjie Filler, Mariela Gil and My Hanh Tran will renew annual vows.



gregations which trace their roots to Moye and a voice from each of the congregations telling some of its story.

Another highlight of the year was a gathering in April of representatives of the seven congregations in St. Jean de Bassel, France. The congregations serve in every continent except Australia, and there were many countries represented.

QUEST was losing its lease in a downtown building, and we learned about it through its interim director, our Sr. Pearl Ceasar, CDP. There seemed to be an insurmountable zoning issue to bringing their offices to the convent, but the issue turned out to be surmountable, in fact! Within two months, a decision was made to lease space to QUEST. The next two months were packed with remodeling the second floor of the convent, moving the

Sharing the life story of Mother Joseph

On April 15, 2012, an exposition on the life of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart was inaugurated at Saint Martin Parish Church in Laval, Quebec, Canada. This exposition was prepared by Nancy Prada and Lorena Otero of the Emilie Gamelin Center at the General

From the exposition:

Esther Pariseau was born in Laval on April 16, 1823 and was baptized on April 17 at Saint Martin Church. She entered the young community of the Sisters of Providence in Dec. 1843, only 2 1/2 months after that

ful, prayerful, strong-willed, artistic, but above all, a woman of faith in Providence.

Sister Kathryn Rutan, SP

2012 General Leadership Conference held in Chile

The Provincial Leadership teams and the General Leadership team met in Santiago, Chile on March 22-24, 2012, to "take a loving look at local communities."

In order to share, appreciate and broaden our understanding of local community life in our Congregation, the Sisters of Providence, each provincial leadership team was invited to make a presentation on how local community life is organized and lived out in the various

provinces, as inspired and illumined by the Constitutions and Rules, Chapter V, and by the General Directory, Section 5.

The first day was spent listening to and welcoming each presentation. On the following day, we discussed and shared information on various topics that had been suggested by the participating sisters. These topics were: initial formation, congregational leadership, protocol for cases of sexual abuse and the congregational finances.

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The exposition above on the life of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart visits Saint Martin Parish Church in Laval, Quebec, Canada teaching parishioners about Mother Joseph and the Sisters of Providence.



Administration of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal.

At the two Sunday Masses on Aug. 15, Father Adam Klinkosz, pastor of Saint Marin's, welcomed the exposition and introduced Nancy Prada, who spoke on the life of Esther Pariseau/Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart. At the conclusion of the Masses, Nancy presented a short video on the Sisters of Providence.

The parishioners viewed the exposition and the video with great interest and some stayed after Mass to visit and to share memories of their experiences with the Sisters of Providence.

of the foundress, Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin. In 1856, Sister Joseph and four other Sisters of Providence arrived in the Oregon Territory to begin what were to become, under the direction of Mother Joseph, the works of Providence (health care, education and social services) in the American west.

On the occasion of her death in 1902, the General Superior, Mother Marie-Antoniette, wrote: "She has exercised an extraordinary influence on the Church of the West." Mother Joseph's compassion and vision were unlimited. She was many things to many people: intense, motherly, resource-

Marie de la Roche focuses on human trafficking

Break the Chains of Human Trafficking

In support of the Community's stance against human trafficking, the Sisters of Divine Providence, Marie de la Roche Province have become increasingly involved in local anti-trafficking activities and organizations. In St. Louis, they are part of Rescue & Restore Coalition, a partnership of agencies working to combat human trafficking. Sister Margaret Mertens is representing the Sisters in the coalition. Sisters and Associates have hosted several Human Trafficking 101 presentations to help raise awareness of this issue and have offered their unique facilities, via Room at the Inn, to support other coalition objectives.

A similar group is active in the Pittsburgh area. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition is comprised of representatives of local, state, and federal law enforcement, social service organizations, religious/church groups, university officials, and concerned citizens. Sisters Roberta Grzelak, Betty Sundry, and Pat Serafini in the Office of Mission Advancement represent the Community in the Coalition. Roberta, working in a local parish, has first hand information concerning some labor trafficked persons whom she has encountered and helped and Betty and Pat are part of the speaker's bureau to educate the wider community.

visible in our world. She will be presented the award at a reception and dinner event on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012 in Pittsburgh. In accepting the award, Ms. Grant will speak about her involvement in the fight against human trafficking and the work being accomplished by her foundation, Abolition International.

Pittsburgh will also host a day-long symposium, "Responding to Human Trafficking," at Kearns Spirituality Center on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2012. In addition to showing a film, there will be presentations from the FBI, Abolition International, the Project to End Human Trafficking, and the medical field. For information, call 412-635-5401 or email serafini.patricia@gmail.com.

Bicentennial celebrations come to a close

The 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) is drawing to a close. The formal celebration will take place on Aug. 1, 2012, with a celebratory liturgy at the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel in Pittsburgh. A number of special events and gatherings have been held since December 2010. Lots of giveaways were created as outward expressions of the founders, i.e., bookmarks, prayer cards, tee shirts, a double volume Book of Hours. A historical display was created and made available for public meetings and events. A traveling Providence Art exhibit was made available also, containing paintings, sculpture, writing, music, and ceramics created by Sisters. Reflection pieces were put together based on the writings of Bishop Ketteler and the life of Mother Marie. Reinforcing the Bicentennial theme, "Rooted in the past . . . Reaching toward the Future," the many activities and programs served to strengthen the bond between the Sisters and Associates and their co-founders and has energized them for the future. As the Bicentennial Celebration comes to an end,

Bishop Kettler Award to Christian singer Natalie Grant

This year's Bishop Ketteler Award for Social Justice will be presented to award-winning Christian singer and activist Natalie Grant for her passionate commitment to fighting the atrocities of human trafficking and the child sex trade, her dedication to living her faith, and her commitment to making God's providence more

Christian singer
Natalie Grant was
awarded
for her
efforts
fighting
human
traffick-
ing.



everyone is looking forward to the closing Mass. It promises to be a meaningful witness to the mission and ministry of the Congregation.



Bicentennial banner on display at Providence Center in St. Louis.

Montreal news, continued from pg 17

On the last day, we visited houses and works in Llo-Lleo and Valparaíso, where the SP's once again displayed the beauty and richness of Chilean hospitality towards "a friend who is a stranger." * For a number of sisters, this was a first experience, while others were renewing ties and recalling pleasant memories of previous visits to Chile.

* Chilean song: "Si vas para Chile"

Alba Letelier, SP





Catch Ron Rolheiser on DVD

The DVD of Ron Rolheiser's presentation will be sent to each Board Member who will distribute them as requested to their members and associates. Ron has allowed us to make the DVDs for our own use.

The reflections on the power point will be posted on the WPC website: www.wpcweb.org

COLLABORATION

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Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN
✕ Sisters of Providence of St.
Vincent de Paul, Kingston,
Ontario, Canada ✕ Sisters of
Providence, Edmonton,
Alberta, Canada

Upcoming WPC events

Nov. 19-20, 2012 - Executive Committee, Seattle, Wash.

March 13-17, 2013 - Vocation/Formation/Leadership Conference, Seattle, Wash.

March 19-20, 2013 - Governing Board, Seattle, Wash.

September 2013 - Directors of Associates and Leaders, Seattle, Wash.