

## Ky. CDPs clean water, transitions



### Congregation builds wells in Madagascar

For the past three years, the sisters from our USA province have focused on a project to provide potable water to areas where our sisters serve in Madagascar. This project titled "Give a Dime" has collected enough money to finance more than five wells and support two other projects to access clean water. Support for this project has spread to our Associates and places where our sisters are in ministry. It has helped make our sisters and others more aware of the issues around clean water and has proven a way to really support our sisters as members of an international congregation.

This year the members of the Enlarged General Council will meet in Madagascar for their annual gathering. The group is comprised of the General Superior with her council, and the provincials from Europe, Madagascar and the United States. They meet once in each province and twice at the Motherhouse in France over a five-year period.



These wells were constructed in Madagascar from monies raised by the Kentucky Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence's "Give a Dime" project. The program has raised awareness in the US while funding access to clean water for residents of Madagascar.

### Good-bye's make way for new construction

St. Anne Convent, Provincial House for the CDPs of Kentucky, and Moye Spiritual Life Center have been leased to the Diocese of Covington as of Oct. 1, 2012. The diocese will finalize the purchase

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*From your new director ...*

## a grateful heart

When I wrote in the Spring 2007 issue of Collaboration of leaving the WPC position, who knew I'd be back after five years! In that issue I quoted a song: "Because I Knew You," from the play, "Wicked" and it said, "because I knew you, I have been changed for the better, I have been changed for Good." That is so true. I enjoyed the WPC ministry greatly. I left only because I felt called to leave my name in nomination for leadership in my own community, and was thus elected. In these past five years, I have been changed by many experiences. I am sure you have too!

First of all, I want to thank Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP for her five years of wonderful leadership as the Executive Director of the Women of Providence in Collaboration. She served us well and we experienced most recently her organizational gifts at the Providence Event this past June. What a wonderful event where we looked at Providence through the Mystical Window! Ann Margaret and I had a transition day in late August at the Woods where I brought back the WPC "office" that she had so prepared to be moved! She graciously continues by phone to be available for support.

Now we begin anew and it is wonderful to be back in a ministry I so enjoy! Willa Cather once wrote: "This is happiness: To be dissolved into something completely great." This is the month of Thanksgiving, and so I return with a grateful heart to this organization and am happy to once again serve as your director. You, Women and Associates of Providence, were, and are, definitely a handprint on my heart.



**Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP**  
WPC executive director

Plans are in place for the Vocation/Formation/Leadership conference in March. Members will gather in Seattle, Wash. at St. Joseph Residence. Mary Kay Nealen, SP is the presenter and will explore the theme: "Providence: Prophetic Call for Today and Tomorrow." The Governing Board will meet immediately after the conference in Seattle.

Watch for the ad toward the back of this newsletter. It tells about a new and exciting project in the works....a reflection booklet on Providence spirituality with a Lenten lens. Providence writers from our various communities will do daily reflections on a Providence quote through a Lenten lens. Plan to get your book. See the order information with the ad.

In this edition you will find wonderful articles on celebrations, anniversaries, awards, projects, and all the many ways each of you makes Providence visible today. May you, with ever grateful hearts, be dissolved into something you love with a passion.

*Barbara*



## Kentucky news, continued from pg. 1

of the buildings and property in Jan. 2013. The province will retain ownership of the cemetery, the houses at the bottom of the hill, and everything to the right of the main road. Although it is difficult to make this step, it is truly a blessing as the retreat center will continue and the buildings be used!

We have sold some property near the farm in the back and are in the process of selling the farm as well. The woods to the left of St. Anne and Moye Center will be purchased by the Kentucky Heritage Society and placed into a conservancy. The wetlands have been in conservancy for the past five years and will be purchased under the same agreement.

We are building a new structure connected to our Holy Family Retirement Home. The new building, St. Anne Province Center, will house the provincial administrative offices, a conference room, heritage room and a large assembly room. The locality of this new space will allow easy access for the retired and infirm sisters to participate in functions they have been unable to attend due to the distance between buildings. The new building should be ready for occupancy in mid-December. If all goes as planned, the amount from the sales will cover the cost of the



new building. Indeed God does provide!

### New postulant enters

In September we welcomed Echo Perry as a postulant. She has been in discernment with us for about two years. Echo began her discernment with one of our sisters who lived in Lexington KY. When that sister moved to take a new position, Echo moved closer to continue discernment with us. She has lived in a local community since February.



Top: Construction is underway on the new Province Center, which will connect to the Holy Family Retirement Center. Below: Sister Frances Moore, provincial, extends a blessing over new postulant Echo Perry.



The newly reconstructed log cabin chapel, at left, was dedicated Oct. 3. Below Postulant Joni Luna knocks on the doors of Providence Hall as part of the entrance ceremony.

## Log cabin replica set up, postulant enters

### Log cabin replica dedicated Oct. 3,

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. had a log cabin chapel replica built during 2012, which is representative of a structure that was available when Saint Mother Theodore Guerin came to Indiana, from France, and founded the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. This cabin was dedicated and blessed Oct. 3, on her feast day.

The log cabin chapel was built during the course of several months, initiated by the donation of logs from a cabin in southern Indiana owned by Da-

vid and Faye Masterson of Owensville. Some of those logs date back to the middle 1800s, the time when Mother Theodore landed at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The cabin sits on the motherhouse grounds and is available for visitors to tour.

The building of the chapel was made possible by Keith Ruble, superintendent of the Vigo County Parks Department, retired Vigo County Extension Agent Max Miller and local contractor Earl Rodgers. The THC&VB provided support to ensure the log cabin chapel is an historical site that appeals to visitors. For more information or to tour the chapel, contact Tina Soules

at 812-535-2952.

### Joni Luna enters Postulancy

Joni grew up Catholic in San Antonio, Texas, but didn't learn much about her faith after the fourth grade. She was in Corpus Christi, Texas, at St. Pius X parish when she met Sister Barbara Bluntzer through the RCIA program. Joni went through RCIA to learn more about her Catholic faith. After talking with Sister Barbara, Joni decided to become a Providence Associate and took her first commitment in November 2011. After discerning that

she wanted to become a Catholic sister, Joni entered the Sisters of Providence Sept. 17. She has been a volleyball coach and enjoys training students. She'll renew her Providence Associate commitment for one additional year as she completes her postulancy. Her first year consists of getting to know the SPs and visiting different ministry sites as a volunteer. She is also part of the Intercommunity Pre-novitiate Program where she meets other women and men who are postulants or candidates in their congregations.





# Two enter novitiate of Texas CDPs

Celebrate with us as we welcome two women, Kate Fitzgerald and Misty Garriga, into the Novitiate of the Sisters of Divine Providence. The entrance ceremony took place Aug. 12, 2012, in Regan Hall Community Room. It was a private ritual, followed by a mass of thanksgiving with family and friends in our newly renovated Annunciation chapel.

Misty comes to us from Bridge City, Texas. After graduating from Lamar University with a B.A. in Education, Misty spent the next years teaching in both middle school and high school. During her pre-Novitiate, Misty taught at Providence High School and lived with a community of CDP's on the campus of Our Lady of the Lake. She says that she had some interest in religious life since high-school and even back to middle school. "I was interested in

knowing the "why" of the Catholic faith and searched out books, resources, correspondence courses and attended workshops and retreats when I could. Church was always the center of my life," Misty said. The last sentence of her auto-biography seems to resonate with her decision to seek entrance into the novitiate: "I know I'm in the right place and am interested to see how God unfolds the next part of my path with the Sisters of Divine Providence."

Kate joins us from Des Moines, Iowa. She attended public school in the small town of Earlham, where kindergarten through twelfth grade were in the same building. She graduated from Mt. St. Clare College in Eastern Iowa with a B.A. in Education. She has worked as a Day Care teacher, tutor and pre-school teacher. Kate also taught in a special educa-

tion classroom with children who are on the autism spectrum. She says that she especially enjoys her teaching career. Kate also lived in community with CDP's this past year and is excited to enter into novitiate. She states in her auto-biography: "...I remind myself how God has always provided for me; my hope surges forth, and excitement grows to experience the delightful and strange surprises God has in store for me, for God is love and God loves me."

The two novices are grateful for this special time in their lives. Please pray with all of us that this year will be GIFT for them, for our congregation and for the larger church community.

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Sisters Misty Garriga and Kate Fitzgerald at their entrance ceremony to the novitiate of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence from San Antonio, Texas.

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# SPs open up their homes and hearts

By Christine Ross

It's been more than 80 years since siblings Julia and Mary Hamilton lived together on the family farm in Elgin with their parents, brothers and sisters in the 1920's. The sisters were unaware that their life journey would reunite them under one roof again, so many years later.

Sisters Julia and Mary are also religious sisters who belong to different congregations. This summer, Sister of Providence Julia Hamilton and the rest of her SP community welcomed into their home 27 women religious from two different orders, CND (Congregation of Notre Dame) and RHSJ (Religious Hospitallars of St. Joseph). Their permanent move to 1200 Princess Street, dubbed 'Project Hospitality' is now complete.

The Hamilton sisters now reside footsteps from each in bedrooms across the hall in the Sisters of Providence Motherhouse.

"The Sisters of Providence have been so

welcoming and kind," says Sister Mary, CND, who has made the move from her community's home on Wright Crescent in Kingston. The RHSJ Sisters left their Amherstview, Ontario house.

"We understand how difficult it is for them to leave their homes," says Sister Julia. "Especially as seniors."

Sister Margaret Morrissey is in new surroundings and settling in quite well. The affable RHSJ Sister also resides just down from the Hamilton sisters. But change is easy for

the former nurse and pharmacist, having worked in Chicago, Wisconsin and Ottawa. It's a brisk September morning, Sister Margaret has just returned from an early morning hair appointment just down the hall from her

new room. She settles in to talk about her life and her new home. "It's been a small adjustment with lots of walking in this big building, but I don't mind," Sister Margaret says.

For Nursing Director Amy Litchfield, it's





## Kingston news, continued

been a hectic summer of preparing for the new residents and hiring 23 new staff to accommodate their needs.

Amy admits it's been chaotic at times with the increase in volume and activity, but adds the new residents are settling in better than she could have hoped.

"The hardest part has been orientating the Sisters so they don't get lost in this big building. I should give them all a GPS," said Amy with a smile. Amy sends a

big thank you to Motherhouse staff and says they've been "running at full tilt."

Amy and Activities Director Nancy Stevens had an opportunity to meet with the Sisters in their Kingston-based homes prior to their move. "We are enjoying the new buzz around the Motherhouse and hope that everyone in the house feels included," said Nancy.

Sister of Providence Una Byrne spent her summer

overseeing the project along with other members of the Transition Team. "I believe this has been an enriching and stretching experience for us all! The cooperation of everyone, Sisters from all three communities and our ever generous and gracious staff, has made the move smooth and exciting in spite of an essential elevator being out of commission at the time. Our Sisters continue to help the new Sisters learn the ropes and find their way

around our beautiful but big home!"

The new Sisters were

formally welcomed at a special liturgy in the Chapel in early October. It was highlighted by a poignant moment when the symbolic flowers of all three congregations came together to make one bouquet. A lovely souvenir booklet was given to each congregation featuring a poem penned by a few Sisters of Providence.

In her remarks, General Superior Sister Sandra Shannon acknowledged that the experience came with a human cost, causing turmoil, loss and grief for all three communities. But, she adds, this transformation is a positive move. An excerpt from her welcoming address appears here.

"Sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph and Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, you entered

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Top left: Biological sisters, Sister Mary Hamilton, CND and Sister Julia Hamilton, SP. Bottom left: RHSJ Sister Margaret Morrissey. Above: St. Vincent de Paul SPs formally welcome to their home Sisters from two congregations during a Rite of Welcome Oct. 2.

# Vows, bicentennial end, award, more

## Sister Bertshabé professes first vows

Sister Bertshabé Palomino Montalvo professed first vows July 29, 2012 at a liturgy at Mother of Divine Providence Chapel in Pittsburgh. Sister Bertshabé came to the Marie de la Roche Province from Abancay, a city in the southern mountains of Peru, where she was educated by the Dominican Sisters. She attended the University in Cusco, earning a bachelor's degree and professional license in business administration.

She began to think that she was called to religious life after graduation. She was employed in business for two years and during that time, she was longing for spiritual nourishment. She found it with Sisters and priests who were her friends. "They always filled the gap in my spirituality," she said, "Until I found the Sisters of Divine Providence in Peru."

She decided to enter to the convent in 2007. Sister Bertshabé will continue

her journey with the community, living for at least three years under first vows before professing perpetual vows. She will begin studies at La Roche College in the fall, working toward a master's degree in human resources. She encourages women who might be considering religious life with these words: "If you feel the call, take the risk. There is always the freedom to decide your vocation. Don't be afraid, God is always with us, if we follow him what-

ever state of life we choose."

## Bicentennial draws to a close

For the past two years, the province has been celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founders, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Marie de la Roche. There were many joyous occasions as well as presentations, educational opportunities, a traveling historical exhibit, and a Providence art exhibit featuring



Below right: Sister Bertshabé Palomino Montalvo, pictured at right with Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, professed first vows in July.

Above: the banner from the bicentennial celebration, which recently came to a close.



the work of Sister-artists. Banners were designed featuring the theme, “Rooted in the past . . . reaching toward the future.” They were displayed on the properties in Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Kingston.

Throughout the two-year celebration, many things, great and small, were done to keep the theme alive. It has been an exciting time for the province. Many friends and family members participated with Sisters and Associates in the special events and spiritual growth opportunities that enriched their understanding of Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie and their legacy to the Community.

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Below : 2012 Ketteler Award for Social Justice honoree Natalie Grant receives her award from Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, provincial director.

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The time has had a profound effect on individual Sisters and Associates and has reinvigorated them for mission as the Sisters of Divine Providence, Marie de la Roche Province reach toward the future. On Oct. 28 each area will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mother Marie’s birth. Each local area will gather and celebrate the life and legacy of Mother Marie. This will be the official province closing event.

### **2012 Bishop Ketteler Award for Social Justice**

Today, throughout the world, there are an estimated 27 million slaves – more than during the trans-Atlantic slave trade of the 1700s and 1800s. Every country in the world is a source of and destination for these slaves. This is human trafficking and it is an “industry” that generates \$32 billion in yearly profits.

The Sisters of the Marie de la Roche Province adopted a corporate stance to work toward the eradication of human trafficking and are committed to raising awareness of the issue. Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, known as the “Worker Bishop,” responded to the signs of the times and needs of his day. He was taught from early on to notice the poor, and as an adult he worked to alleviate suffering, increase better working conditions and just wages, begin education for girls in the rural areas of his diocese, and change unjust systems.

Working toward the eradication of human trafficking is one of the many ways the Sisters strive to be faithful to the call of Divine Providence in their lives and live the legacy of Bishop Ketteler.

This year’s recipient of the Ketteler award for Social Justice was DOVE award-winning and Grammy-nominated Christian singer, Natalie Grant, founder of Abolition International.

With courage and compassion Natalie began this foundation to offer restoration and healing to victims of human trafficking. Just like Bishop Ketteler she works to alleviate suffering and change unjust systems. With others like Natalie Grant, the Sisters of Divine Providence also hope to partner in this most important work of raising awareness and ending human trafficking.

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# Congregation welcomes the future

A General Chapter is an event of great importance in the life of our Congregation because it is during the General Chapter that we make decisions about the Providence life and mission for the future.

The 29th General Chapter of the Sisters of Providence took place July 8-28, 2012 in Montreal. It was a major event where the Orientations for the next five years were formulated and new General Leadership Team elected.

The 2012 General Chapter elected a new Superior General and Council/General Leadership team. Responsible to lead the Congregation in the implementation of the 2012 Orientations, their term of office will begin Nov. 1, 2012 and will end on Oct. 31, 2017.

The new General Leadership team is composed of: Sisters Alba Letelier, general councillor; Rollande Malo, general councillor/treasurer; Linda Jo Reynolds, general councillor/secretary; Karin Dufault, general superior; Mary Kaye Nealen, general councilor; and Josefina Leros, general councilor.

“We move forward, enlivened by the Spirit who invites us as a congregation to weave together the threads of our intercultural reality for the sake of the Mission. With Blessed Émilie Gamelin, Mother Bernarda Morin and Mother Joseph of Sacred Heart, we want to live without borders and to be interconnected, attentive to the needs of the poor and of creation.” General Chapter 2012

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The new General Leadership team, left to right below: Sisters Alba Letelier, general councillor; Rollande Malo, general councillor/treasurer; Linda Jo Reynolds, general councillor/secretary; Karin Dufault, general superior; Mary Kaye Nealen, general councilor; and Josefina Leros, general councilor

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### La Roche College: 50 Years

In 1963, a time when the Pittsburgh Diocese did not want a new Catholic college in the northern suburbs, members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence boldly embraced a dream of higher education for women religious. Fifty years later that dream still resonates for La Roche College, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters. Born out of determination and a tract of Pennsylvania farmland adjacent to the motherhouse, La Roche College is a flourishing institution with students from around the corner and around the world.

In recognition of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the College plans a year-long series of celebratory events for the College community and the community at large. Congratulations to the Congregation and the College on providing 50 years of quality Catholic education.



**La Roche College**  
*Fifty Years of Education and Service*

### Sacred Heart School Receives Endowment Gift

Edward Santos, president of the Plymouth Indus-

trial Development Corporation (PIDC), recently presented Sacred Heart School (preschool through grade 12) in

Kingston with a leadership gift of \$100,000 toward the establishment of the Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund. School President Pamela Desmarais and Finance Director Sister Lydia Steele (pictured with Mr.



Santos) accepted the gift on behalf of the school. President Desmarais stated, "We are tremendously grateful to the Plymouth Industrial Development Corporation and Mr. Santos for their remarkable generosity. This gift is an investment in the future of Sacred Heart and enables our school to establish an endowment fund that will help provide tuition assistance to deserving students and their families."

Above: Edward Santos, right, recently donated \$100,000 to create a Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund. Here he is pictured with Sister Lydia Steele, the school's finance director and Pam Desmarais, school president.

## Kingston news, continued from pg. 7

among us as strangers. Matthew 25 says: "When was it we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?" Well that was the last two weeks of August. But as strangers you gift us. You are pearls of great price – treasures. Why? Because you bring to us the gift of diversity, a gift that colours our world, brightens it with many hues. It's the gift of seeing life from a different perspective. Diversity keeps us from boxing ourselves into tiny spaces with little room to breathe and expand. The routine of same old, same old which brings staleness and lack of meaning to our lives is out the window. Your presence has instilled new routines and the opportunity to practice

ministry right here at home. Your presence calls us to practice the gift of Hospitality of the Heart for which the Sisters of Providence are well known. Hospitality of the Heart is more than lip service; it urges us to open our hearts, to show patience, kindness and graciousness. Hospitality of the heart causes us to set aside estrangements, fear, and hostility to do our best to approach the stranger as a creation of God and therefore one with us.

We welcome you in the spirit of

Hospitality of the Heart. We trust that as time goes by we three groups of Religious women will live the life St. Paul in Ephesians 4 describes: "I urge you to live a life that measures up to the standard God set when he called you. Be always humble, gentle and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together."

# Leadership shift, vows and awards

## Leadership changes in Mother Joseph Province

November brought changes in leadership in Mother Joseph Province. Sister Karin Dufault headed to Montreal to succeed Sister Kathryn Rutan as general superior of the international congregation for a five-year term. Sister Mary Kay Nealen also went to Montreal to serve as a general councilor. Sister Judith Desmarais took over as provincial superior for the remainder of Sister Karin's original term of office that ends Dec. 31, 2014. An additional provincial councilor will be named shortly.

Mother Joseph Province is blessed to have so many able and willing leaders who can step up to the challenge of leadership in such rapidly changing times. Providence of God, we thank You for all!

## Two sisters profess perpetual vows

With prayer and joyful celebration, Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, family and

friends in Mother Joseph Province recently congratulated two sisters who professed perpetual vows. Sister Jessica Taylor, a native of Seattle, Wash., made her vows in a liturgy at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Seattle on June 30. Sister Vilma Franco, of Angela Montano, El Salvador, made her vows at St. Aloysius

Catholic Church in Spokane, Wash., on Oct. 7.

Sister Jessica holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and special education from Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash. She recently completed a two-week intensive pastoral counseling course at Seattle Uni-



Above: Karin Dufault moves to Montreal as the newly elected general superior. At right: Sister Mary Kay Nealen joins her as a member of the general council and Sister Judith Desmarais, far right, takes over as the provincial superior.





versity and has two more years left in a master's degree program. She then will complete an assistantship to receive her license as a mental health practitioner.

Sister Vilma is in her second year of community college studies in Spokane and will complete a degree and a certificate next spring in child development. She has loved serving as a volunteer in the school's day care program and for the L'Arche community, and she

plans to serve in ministry with the disabled.

## Providence Associate receives international honor

Providence Associate Transito Ruano Castro's ministry in El Salvador, PASSOS Education and

on mission in El Salvador.

The theme for this year's awards was "Overcoming Violence: the New Human Rights Agenda." The awardees were "brave individuals and organizations that are working on the frontlines – often at great risk – to prevent violence,

expose corruption, and build effective police forces and systems of justice." PASSOS Education and Training Center does outreach to at-risk youth to prevent violence in the most marginalized communities of San Salvador. Other awardees were Helen Mack,

an activist for 20-plus years who is working to improve the professionalism of the police and the judicial system in Guatemala; and El Faro, whose investigative journalism raises awareness of corruption and organized crime.

Training Center, received a 2012 Human Rights Award from the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) on Sept. 19.

Transito and her husband Anibal, also a Providence Associate, made the trip to Washington, D.C., to receive the honor at the French Embassy. They were

joined there by Provincial Superior Karin Dufault and Sister Fran Stacey, who served 16 years



Clockwise from bottom: Sisters Jessica Taylor and Vilma Franco both professed perpetual vows this year. At right: Providence Associates Transito Ruano Castro (right) and her husband Anibal show off the WOLA Human Rights Award with (left) Provincial Superior Karin Dufault and Sister Fran Stacey.

# Anniversary celebrations in Holyoke

The Sisters of Providence of Holyoke held three major events over the weekend of Oct. 13-14 to celebrate significant milestones in the Congregation's history: the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our years as an independent Congregation in the Springfield Diocese in 1892 and the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Providence Sisters' arrival in western Massachusetts in 1873.

The weekend opened Saturday morning with a prayer service and procession to the statue of Mother Mary of Providence, the Community's Foundress, located in front of Providence Place. After reflecting on Mother Mary's "life, courage and zeal for God's people," the procession moved to the "Kingston tree," a gift of the Kingston Sisters at their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2011. The procession paused to commemorate the shared heritage binding together the Canadian Congregations represented in the procession—the Sisters of Providence of Montreal, Quebec, and the Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul of Kingston, Ontario—with their descendants, the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke. The procession then moved to the Holyoke Congregation's newly planted "Anniversary Tree" for a tree blessing ceremony and closing comments by Sister Kathleen Popko, president.

That afternoon the Holyoke SPs, Associates, and Canadian SPs gathered with local city and state dignitaries, board members and leadership of their sponsored ministries for an Anniversary Celebration at Mercy Medical Center in Springfield. Among the program's highlights were a brief review of the Congregation's history and the announcement of three initiatives the Holyoke Sisters are funding in support of three Community's priorities: Women, Earth, and Those Who Are Poor. Also,

copies of the Sisters' new book, entitled "140 Years of Providential Caring" were distributed to the guests.

The weekend closed following a Sunday morning Liturgy of Thanksgiving celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell in the Sisters' chapel at Providence Place. The Congregation presented offertory gifts emblematic of their history and heritage, including a portrait of Mother Mary of Providence and the Community's original Constitution and official Congregational Seal.

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Below: Sisters of Providence, Associates and guests assembled in the Congregation's magnificent Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at Providence Place for the Sunday Liturgy of Thanksgiving that brought the weekend celebration to a close.

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Above from left, Kathleen Popko, SP, President of the Holyoke Sisters of Providence, looks on as Kathryn Rutan, SP, and Sandra Shannon, SP, respective Superiors General of the Sisters of Providence of Montreal and the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul of Kingston, respond to their gifts from the Holyoke Sisters: trees and tree markers they will plant back home as remembrances of the shared heritage binding them so closely together.

Above: The statue of Mother Mary of Providence (Catherine Horan) served as a fitting backdrop for the Community to reflect, with gratitude, on the life and vision of the Holyoke Foundress.

# Lenten Providence Journey reflection booklets coming soon

Announcing a new Lenten Providence Journey reflection booklet from Women of Providence in Collaboration!

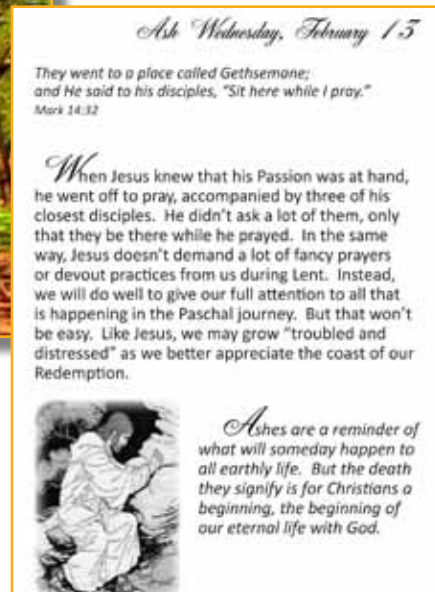
The upcoming booklet will have reflections on quotes from our Providence publications, written through a Lenten lens. Reflections are written by our own Providence Sisters and Associates. The booklet will have daily reflections from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week and is a handy size that fits easily into your purse or pocket. Be sure to tell your friends! An order form to be completed and returned to the WPC office will be sent to all congregations for distribution via email. The booklet will be mailed to you in early February.

In order to know how many copies to print, we need to know how likely you are to purchase this booklet. We are making every effort to keep the cost down. Watch for more details coming soon from your congregation.



These Lenten Providence Journey reflection booklets are in the works.

Reserve your reflection booklet now!



## WPC Dates:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Nov. 18-20, 2012  | WPC Executive Committee meeting - Seattle, Wash. |
| March 13-17, 2013 | VFL meetings - Seattle, Wash.                    |
| March 18-20, 2-13 | Governing Board meeting - Seattle, Wash.         |

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Executive Director: **Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP**

3415 Bridgeland Drive St. Louis, MO 63044 314-209-9181 [bmcullen6650@aol.com](mailto:bmcullen6650@aol.com)

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

Newsletter Design: **Amy Miranda**

