

Collaboration

Sisters of Providence, Montreal

175th Anniversary of the Sisters of Providence

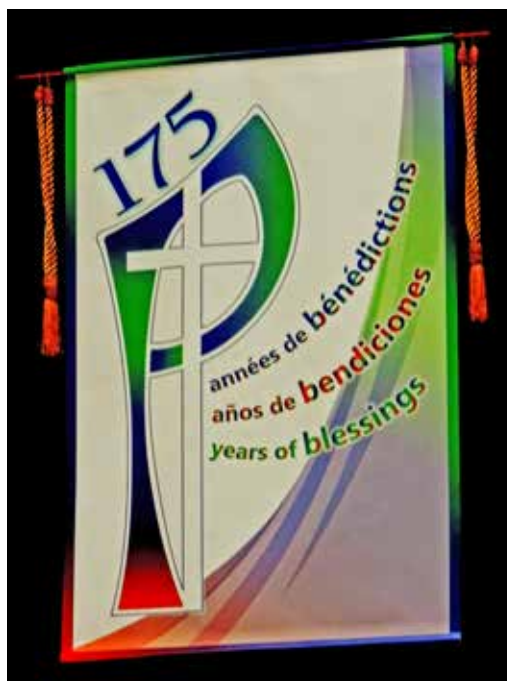
The Creation allowed the Sisters of Providence to experience 175 years of blessing in several countries of the world. The 175th anniversary of foundation is intended to reflect the multiple actions and experiences of so many

Sisters of Providence who, with the help of Providence Associates and collaborators in various moments since 1843, succeeded in building the Community we have today. With hope, let us open our hearts and lives to the encounter and renewal emerging from this 175th anniversary.

With joy the Sisters of Providence began the commemoration of their 175th anniversary. On March 24, 2018, the four provinces of the Congregation began, each of them in their corresponding countries or regions, the celebrations and activities that will end on March 29, 2019.

The General Leadership Team participated in the celebration organized by Émilie-Gamelin Province at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal. More than 250 people, including Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates and collaborators, gathered in Providence Hall to attend this beautiful ceremony, which was transmitted live on Facebook. Watch the video: <https://www.facebook.com/Providencetnt1843/>. To date, nearly 500 people from different countries have watched these images steeped in union and thanksgiving for all those years of blessings.

In every age, the cultural, economic and political context in which the population lives requires that the Sisters of Providence adapt to meet the urgent and multiple needs of the poor.



The foundress of the Congregation, Emilie Tavernier was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 1800 and grew up in a city rapidly changing. She was raised by her mother and an aunt to take care of the poor. As an adult, the importance of this drew her to Jean-Baptiste Gamelin who shared her vision of charity; they married in 1823. The happy household had three children. Two died very young, then Mr. Gamelin in 1827. Their third child died the following year.

After her widowhood and the loss of her children, Emilie Tavernier Gamelin found comfort in the contemplation of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, and

chose to devote her efforts and her love to assisting the most in need. In addition to the activities she carried out with charitable organizations, such as visits to poor families, collection and distribution of alms and food, care for the sick, and visits to prisoners, she gathered and sheltered elderly infirm women without resources, always trusting that Providence would cater for the needs of those she protected.

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The new publication, *Providence and Peace: Connecting and Co-Creating for Justice*, will make its debut at the Event as well. Many of the latest publications from WPC and other "oldies but goodies" will also be on hand for purchase. And look for some "freebie specials at the "book sale room" too!

The board spent significant time discussing the future of the organization and how and what will enable us to advance the message of providence theology and spirituality to a wider circle. Lots of good brainstorming took place and new ideas surfaced and began to grow. We also elected a new Treasurer: Alice Marie Lyon, CDP, who joins the other members of the Executive Committee: Sandra Shannon, SP (Chair), Dawn Tomaszewski, SP (Vice-Chair), Judy Desmarais, SP (Secretary). Just as one of our prayers for the meeting day said, "we move forward into a future filled with possibility...we walk with hope, because we have chosen to be light for each other on the way."

The other articles in this newsletter certainly depict those signs of new life, growth and possibility. The women and men of providence are instruments of God's providential care and love and continue to reflect that we are on the journey together.

Spring is in the air...but not quite so much for the WPC Governing Board who met in Kingston, Ontario, on April 4th and 5th. We were treated to the warmest hospitality and surrounded inside by beautiful yellow tulips, painted easter eggs, flowered candles and pastel cloths in our meeting room environment. Outside, however, the wind howled, trees bent over, and snow flurried across the windows. Though at times we were treated to some sunshine!

The sunshine and the spring newness however was in abundance within the discussions in our meeting. We certainly took a long look at all the wonderful plans being made for our Providence Event, June 15-17 in Allison Park, PA, at Kearns Spirituality and Conference Center. Sisters and Associates are getting excited to come and re-connect with other women and men of providence whom they have met at other events! People are eager to see how Megan McKenna, keynote speaker, will connect our Scripture stories with the echo of peace theme. Others are pleased to know that Bishop Thomas Gumbleton will be present with us and receive a "Providence Award" for his untiring years of work in the peace and justice arena.

Photo: Pictured from left to right: back row: Anne Hemstock, SP; Pearl Ceasar, CDP; Claire Houde, SP; Karin Dufault, SP; Alice Marie Lyon, CDP; Kathleen Popko, SP; Alice Gerde-man, CDP; Maria Fest, CDP. Front row: Esther Guerrero, MCDP; Sandra Shannon, SP; Barbara McMullen, CDP; Judy Desmarais, SP; and Dawn Tomaszewski, SP.

May spring be in your step and within your heart as you experience resurrection moments!

Providence blessings!

Barbara



175th Anniversary of the Sisters of Providence

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Madame Gamelin, affectionately nicknamed the “Providence of the poor”, and her work were well known to the people of Montreal. As her various shelters expanded, Emilie Gamelin partnered with family and friends to form a corporation to assist her. In 1832, she also welcomed orphans of cholera in her home.

In 1836, Madame Gamelin received a bigger house; Emilie and her 24 charges moved to the “Yellow House”. This new home was named Providence House.

In 1841, the Yellow House received its civil incorporation under the name of Asile of Elderly and Infirm Women of Montreal Corporation and Emilie Tavernier Gamelin was elected director.

Bishop Ignace Bourget, as Bishop of Montreal, became Emilie’s collaborator and counsellor in 1840. He was familiar with the work of Madame Gamelin and her ladies of charity and considered their work as something that would play an important role in the implementation of his vision. Bishop Bourget tried to bring the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul from Paris, France, to undertake the work of Madame Gamelin and ensure its sustainability. When that failed, he quickly decided to found a community of Canadian women religious: the Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor.

On March 29, 1844, Bishop Bourget canonically erected the Congregation. Seven novices, including Madame Gamelin, pronounced the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and to serve the poor, in the chapel of the Providence Asile. Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, who was then called Sister Gamelin, was elected superior of the community, a position she occupied until her death on September 23, 1851.

The Communication Office of the Providence International Centre offers three sections on its website about the 175th anniversary. The first is Providence Voices, which offers a weekly reflection from a Sister of Providence about the Sunday Gospel: <http://providenceintl.org/en/2018/03/01/providence-spirituality/>. The two other sections are historical flashes and news about



Tomb of Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin.



Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates and some “members of the Sisters communities” were among the 250 participants in the ceremonies.



the actions related to the 175th anniversary: <http://providenceintl.org/>.

Remembered with Fondness 75 Years After Her Death

It has been 75 years since the Sisters of Providence Foundress Mother Mary of Providence, formerly Catherine Horan, passed away. On the second anniversary of her January 25, 1943 death an unidentified Sister of Providence expressed the Community's continued feelings of loss: "Two years have elapsed since we laid her to rest...and it seems but yesterday...so close has she been to us in the interval. Every day brought us some reminder of her...her nobility of character...her understanding heart...her sympathetic and tolerant disposition, and her maternal solicitude for those in trouble."

Mother Mary of Providence was only a 25-year-old when she first stepped foot in Holyoke. She arrived in 1875 while a member of the Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence in Kingston, Ontario. She initially was assigned to teach a classroom full of young, rambunctious boys at the all-boy St. Jerome's Institute. The next year she was named school principal and in 1880 appointed superior of the mission. When in 1892 the Vatican acquiesced to the Springfield Bishop's petition for Sisters based in his Diocese rather than the Kingston Diocese, 30 of the mission Sisters became an independent Congregation in the Springfield Diocese with Mother Mary as their Major Superior. In the first 15 years of her 18-year tenure, she led the Sisters in establishing 20 works of charity.

Her accomplishments were many. In addition to teaching and nursing, she saw to it that the Sisters were well educated as nurses and other health professionals, and that the hospitals and nursing schools they established adhered to the highest medical procedures and stan-

dards. She and Mother Ann Valencia, CSJ, the Sister charged with opening St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, advised and supported one another in both women's

efforts to make their respective Congregations' hospitals second to none. Today, those two hospitals are members of Trinity Health of New England.

Mother Mary was instrumental in founding the New England Conference of Catholic Hospitals Association serving as its first president for seven years. When her term as Major Superior ended at her own request in 1910 she remained as first assistant to the new Major Superior as well as Congregational treasurer so was involved in the Sisters' new projects including the building of Providence Mother House. As local superior of St. Luke's Hospital in Pittsfield, she helped plan its new facility and helped nurse during the devastating flu epidemic of 1918.



Mother Mary of Providence in 1892, Sisters of Providence Foundress and first Major Superior.

"Retired" in 1932, she became heavily involved in dedication plans for the new Mother House, taught novices, and responded to Major Superior Mother Mary Consilli's request that she write the Congregation's history and her own autobiography. She titled that document—"A Memoir."

Upon her death, the local press printed this tribute. "There has been no one just like her among religious orders in Holyoke. There will not be one because the day of the pioneer is gone. Springfield can scarcely count its debt to her...While bishops and priests planned, the actual work...uncompensated [sic] labor of Christian charity fell to her and her sisters in religion."

Bringing a Ministry of Presence to Sisters Living at Mary's Meadow

In April of 2016 Sister Senga Fulton, having “retired” from 36 years of ministering to the Springfield area’s homeless population, took up a new ministry focus. As a new member of the Sisters of Providence Council, Sister Senga assumed responsibility for overseeing and supporting the care of Sisters of Providence living at Mary’s Meadow and Providence Place.

A licensed clinical social worker, Sister Senga now serves as the Executive Council’s liaison to Mary’s Meadow and works with the Sisters at Providence Place who are dealing with transitions in their lives. She is able to facilitate the flow of information among and between the SP Administration, the Congregation’s Health Care Office and the Sisters in general.

Regarding Mary’s Meadow, Sister Senga says, “I communicate the Sisters’ needs and make sure they have what they need. My role as liaison ensures the Sisters living there continue to be well connected to our entire SP Community.”

Anyone who knows Sister Senga knows she takes her responsibilities to heart. So she makes sure she is a regular presence in Mary’s Meadow’s long-term care and short-term rehabilitative therapy houses, primarily to spend time with the Sisters, but with the lay residents, patients and staff, as well.

She generally works most weekdays at Mary’s Meadow, and makes herself available to work weekends, when needed.

When asked to reflect on what surprised her most about her new role she quickly responded, “Myself... and how well and quickly I adapted” to such a change in work environment. She added, “I didn’t really know much about taking care of the elderly or working in a nursing home. But being a social worker with the skills of caring for people, I found it a natural progression to use those skills in this different area.”

She went on to say, “Social work doesn’t define you to work with only one population because people are people—no matter who you are, what age you are, or what problems you have.”



Sister Senga Fulton (right) visiting with Sister Doris Exford (left) and Sister Caroline Smith in Mary’s Meadow’s Cloister House.



Sister Senga Fulton at her desk in the SP Administration corridor at Providence Place.

Sister Senga said she is enriched by the time she now “gets to spend with the retired Sisters,” and knowing she is “helpful to them” is one of her new ministry’s biggest rewards. “We have staff who have worked with us for years, and newer staff, as well,” she noted. “They are just so good to the Sisters. They know the Sisters they are caring for inside and out. They tell me, ‘The Sisters were good to us,’ and that ‘The Sisters are our family,’ and you know they mean it.

As for Sister Senga herself—she says she hopes she is making a positive difference “just by being there.”

Holy Family Hospital Remembers its Roots

In March 2000, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul transferred sponsorship of Holy Family Hospital in Vancouver, BC, to Providence Health Care. Even though the Sisters haven't been involved with the governance of Holy Family Hospital for 18 years, and the last Sister to live in British Columbia returned to Kingston five years ago, it is lovely to hear that Holy Family Hospital still remembers and values its roots.

The 70th anniversary of the founding of the hospital was marked in 2017. The three founding Sisters, Sr. Mary Dolorosa (Sr. Rose Bekar), Sr. Mary Catherine Dooley and Sr. Mary Ita (Sr. Hannah Coleman), arrived in Vancouver in April 1947. The new hospital for the chronically ill was to be located in an old house (pictured) on three acres in the Fraserview area of

Vancouver. By the time the hospital officially opened in October 1947, there were twelve aged women patients at Holy Family Hospital and this number soon increased to the maximum of eighteen. The original house served as a hospital and residence for the Sisters for five years before a purpose built hospital was opened in March 1954. The house continued to serve as a residence for the Sisters until 2005 and was demolished in 2012.

Every few years the Sisters of Providence Archives receives requests from Holy Family Hospital in an effort to keep the connection to the Sisters alive for staff and patients. In October 2017, I was happy to fulfill a request for information and prayer cards about Catherine McKinley to be used at an event celebrating the hospital's founders. Catherine McKinley is considered to be the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul as she was the first Sister to enter the new congregation in 1862 and was appointed the first General Superior in 1866. She died in 1904.

Lucy Luongo, Coordinator of Mission Services of Holy Family Hospital writes the following about the hospital's connection to the Sisters of Providence: *"Every November 21, Holy Family Hospital of Vancouver celebrates the life and legacy of Sister Catherine McKinley who founded the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. We are thankful for our Founding Sisters who provided compassionate, hands-on care towards the*

orphaned, the suffering, the dying and the aged. Seventy years later, we continue to provide caring compassion to all in our care."



Holy Family Hospital celebrated Catherine McKinley and the Sisters of Providence with an event on November 29th, 2017. The event included a song of tribute to Catherine McKinley, and a speaker talking about the

early days of Holy Family Hospital, the hospital's contributions to rehabilitation and the hospital's successes. A wonderful display board about the history of Catherine McKinley and Holy Family Hospital, using information provided by the Archives, was prominently displayed in the room. Catherine McKinley prayer cards and medals, also provided by the Archives, were given to attendees.

As archivist, I always appreciate seeing the history of the Sisters of Providence remembered and celebrated and am always happy to help in any way I can.

--By Veronica Stienburg, Archivist

50th Anniversary Celebration in Peru

Today is December 10, 2017 and the temperature is 24°C, hot and sunny. How can this be? It is possible as I am in Peru. Today has been a long anticipated day by the Sisters, Associates, people of El Progreso, Carabayllo and yes by Sisters Gayle Desarmia, Joey Doiron and myself, Sister Sandra. We are here to celebrate with everyone the 50th Anniversary of our Sisters coming to this area of Peru.

Our Associates took responsibility for organizing and planning of the Mass which was the principle celebration to mark this pivotal event in the lives of the Sisters and the people of Carabayllo.

José Ignacio Távara Castillo known to us as Pepe, one of our original Associates, prepared large wooden structures covered with pictures depicting the history of the Sisters, starting with St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, to the various Sisters who were missioned in Peru. These structures stood out in the entrance area (a sort of square) of the Church. People milled around talking about the Sisters they had known like Sisters Rose Healy, Irene MacDonell, Jean Higgins, Theresa Moher, etc.

The Mass was a true celebration in the Lord. Carmen Alomía Guía, Associate contact for Peru, had written a script which again told the story of the Sisters. Sister Sara Jiménez Angulo welcomed the very packed Church – standing room only. With the sound of loud clapping from the Assembly the Sisters walked up the centre aisle to their places.

At the time of the procession of gifts, Carmen began the narrative of the Sisters coming to El Progreso starting

with Pope Paul VI in 1966 requesting that religious congregations come to Latin America to serve the poor. The elders of the community, long-time friends of the Sisters, carried large photos which they panned across the assembly. Adults with the names of the different Latin American Bishops' Conferences came next. Youth carrying signs and photos of the various social justice and humanitarian works followed the adults. Three little children, dressed in typical costumes, came next. They carried the Bible and small flags of Peru and Canada signifying our close relationships based on the Word of God. At the very last Sister Joey and I carried the bread and wine. How important it was to the Sisters that the people they have come to know intimately took part in the celebration.

The Mass continued as usual with lively music. The whole assembly sang along with gusto. Two Associates proclaimed the readings.

At the end of the Mass, Sister Gayle spoke in Spanish on behalf of the Congregation. She emphasized the great partnership that has developed between the Sisters, the Associates and the people. Sister Rose-Marie followed with her words of gratitude to those who came to celebrate the occasion and special gratitude to the Associates for their work.

We could barely move out of the Church. People flocked to us giving us embraces and expressions of their gratitude for the presence and work of the Sisters. I felt very humbled to be shown such honour but I took it in on behalf of all the Sisters who had ever worked in Peru as well

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Family Affair at The Parish Kitchen

The Parish Kitchen is a ministry of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington. Opened in the '70's as an inner city parish's response to an ever growing population of homeless families, the Parish Kitchen serves thousands of meals each year.

Every Wednesday Sister Joan Marie Boberg, CDP, and her brother, Jack and his wife, Gerry, and their sister Rose have volunteered together for many years. Gerry and Rose volunteer at "first spoon" serving guests the main dish and vegetable. Jack rolls forks with a paper napkin and Sister Joan servers desserts. She says, "My favorite part is giving the guests a choice of dessert. Most of them have so few choices they can make in their lives."

Sister Joan has been a part of the kitchen for over thirty years. As Executive Director of Catholic Charities and the Parish Kitchen, she began serving once a month so she would have hands on experience of the minisry.

When Sister Joan retired, she was able to serve more often and truly loves and appreciates being a part of

this ministry. She says, "I am always impressed with the gratitude the guests express and their smiles no matter what's going on in their lives."



(left to right) Sister Joan Marie Boberg, Gerry Boberg, Jack Boberg

Anniversary Celebration

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as the Sisters in Canada who have supported our Peruvian Missions in one way or another. Joy, happiness, gratitude and pride filled my heart. Sisters Sara, Rose-Marie and Joey were lost in a sea of people trying to get to each one for personal hugs. All in attendance were pleased to receive souvenir pens, keychains and a book of the history of the Sisters in El Progreso beautifully written by Pepe.

As people drifted away after a long time of socializing, I was left with feelings of pride for the influence the Congregación de las Hermanas de la Providencia de San Vincente de Paúl has had on these beautiful people. I am grateful for the respect and acceptance the people have for our Sisters. Also I feel confident in our Associates' ability to carry forward the charism and presence of Providence in this one, very important part of the world.

--By Sister Sandra Shannon



Sisters Joey Doiron (left) and Sandra Shannon carried the wine and the bread.

Statement on Gun Violence

Our statement was sent to local media, dioceses where our sisters minister, legislators and the young people of Parkland, FL.

“We, the Leadership of the United States Province Sisters of Divine Providence, grieve the loss of life through gun violence in Parkland, Florida and in countless other cities and towns across this nation.

We are horrified at all senseless deaths but especially of children and young persons.

We call for respectful dialogue in churches, civic centers, states, and in Congress about the proliferation of guns and pervasive violence in our culture.

We believe that together we can find ways to stop the killing.

We challenge our elected officials to immediately take up legislation that:

- requires universal background checks and mandatory waiting periods for all gun purchases;

- bans civilian ownership of high-capacity weapons and magazines; and
- makes gun trafficking a federal crime.

We commend the young people of Parkland for taking up the important work of gun violence prevention.

We stand with them in their efforts to put an end to violence and follow a path to peace.

We place ourselves willingly in the hands of Divine Providence so that we may be instruments of peace and nonviolence on Earth.

We call upon all people of faith and good will to join us in prayer and action.

Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP, Provincial Superior

Sr. Barbara Rohe, CDP, Vicar

Sr. Margaret Verhoff, CDP, Councilor

Sr. Lucy Zientek, CDP, Councilor

Sr. Margaret Stallmeyer, CDP, Treasurer”



Sr. Lucy, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Alice, Sr. Barbara

International Associate Pilgrimage

One of the decisions made during our 23rd General Chapter held in July 2016 was to convene an international gathering in Germany of our Associates of the Congregation by whatever name they are called—Associates, Providence Family, Companions of Divine Providence, or Circle of Friends—and their appropriate directors. The Pilgrimage took place from April 20-27 and included participation by ten Associates from each of the three Provinces and their Directors. Added to the group were translators and staff. The experience allowed our Associates to get to know the “places of our Foundation” and experience the Founders of our Congregation in a deeper sense as they visited the places where our Founders ministered and where their spirit is still alive.

The Associates stayed at the Evangelical Marian Sisters’ Retreat House in Darmstadt which is located close to the Marien Hospital, a hospital that had belonged to the Sisters of Divine Providence until recent times. There they enjoyed a welcome reception and dinner. The Hospital’s Conference Room was also the site of Spiritual input and orientation for the pilgrimage. These two places became a “home base” for their many day trips.

The pilgrims visited the places that were important in the lives of our Founder, Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, and our Foundress, Stephanie (Fanny) de la Roche-Starkenfels. Ketteler was a lawyer before he entered a seminary. Ketteler was a priest for six years before being named Bishop of Mainz. Ketteler, aware of the plight of the poor and the worker, became known in Germany as the Social Concerns Bishop. He was also aware that the Catholic Church was practically enslaved by the government. It is little wonder that his numerous published sermons and pamphlets included writings such as:

“Freedom, Authority and the Church,” and *“The Labor Question and Christianity.”* Ketteler wanted to address unmet needs of the poor and sick of his diocese.

He invited Stephanie de la Roche-Starkenfels, whom he had met before he was ordained a priest, to collaborate with him in this endeavor. Thus, a new Community of Sisters was born and Fanny, later known as Mother Marie de la Roche, became the Co-Founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

The Pilgrims traveled to Munster, where young Ketteler was raised. There they also met members of the Ketteler family who still reside in the area. And, they participated in Sunday liturgy at the Cathedral of Mainz and had a guided visit at the tomb of Bishop Ketteler.

The pilgrimage included a trip to Neustadt. There they visited St. Mary House, now occupied by the Sisters of Mercy of Alma. This facility was St. Mary’s Orphanage where Mother Marie ministered during the last year of her life. Our Pilgrims were able to see the bedroom occupied by Mother Marie which serves as a “mini archives” related to her. They prayed at her burial site behind the orphanage which is well maintained by the Sisters of Mercy.

They also went to Finthen, the first motherhouse of the Sisters of Divine Providence, which was constructed through funds that came from Mother Marie’s maternal inheritance. At Finthen, they visited the General Archives of the Congregation.

Along the way, the Pilgrims stopped at the Convents. There they experienced the hospitality of the Sisters as they joined them for meals or 3:00 pm Kuchen and Kaffee.

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The pilgrimage included Associates from the United States, Germany, Korea and the Caribbean.

Associate Pilgrimage

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The Pilgrims enjoyed a "free" day in Darmstadt where they met the Senior Mayor of the Science City. Besides taking a city tour, some Pilgrims chose to tour the Heavy-Ions Center, a state Museum.

On the final day of the Pilgrimage, the Associates were back in the Conference Room at Marienhospital where Prof. Dr. Hermann-Gross-Knacht, theologian and sociologist presented *"As long as the financial power is able to trample underfoot the social human right,"* based on Ketteler's and the Catholic Social Teachings. As the day wrapped up, the Pilgrims had a final reflection and shared ways that they could carry on with the inspiration they gained from participation in the Pilgrimage. They discussed the possibility of international spiritual networking. The last day also included an international liturgy together in the chapel of the Marienhospital and a closing dinner. Sister Maria Fest, Congregational Leader, greeted the pilgrims with closing remarks during the dinner.

On April 27 the Pilgrims departed for various places around the world. They left with full hearts, grateful for all they shared together and a strong resolve to carry on in the spirit of Marie de la Roche and Bishop Ketteler.



At the mass at Marien Hospital, the altar display included Bishop Ketteler's chalice and a piece of Mother Marie's crinoline slip.



Marie de la Roche Province Associates on the Pilgrimage included (front, l - r) Joan Fabisher, Shelley Johnsen, Mary Ann Kreutzman, Linda Hoefflin and Kathy Lenahan. Back (l - r) Pat Montongomery, Cathy Cassy, Annamarie Sullivan and Erin Middleton, Director of Associates. Missing is Sally Stevenson.

Catholic Sisters Act to Inspire Change With Billboards in Western Pennsylvania

To highlight Catholic Sisters' presence in western Pennsylvania for over a century, the Sisters of Divine Providence, in collaboration with 16 congregations of Catholic Sisters, began a month-long billboard campaign featuring Catholic Sisters in ministry, inviting all to "Pray. Act. Be the Change."

Showing glimpses of Catholic Sisters living their missions of peace, mercy and compassion, the billboards ran from February 11 through March 11 during National Catholic Sisters week. Stories behind the images were shared on the collaborative website sistersof-wpa.org, where resources were available for persons inspired to action through prayer, service and support of efforts that align with the change they hope to see in the world. The Sisters also engaged in a collaborative social media campaign using the hashtags #Pray-ActChange and #NCSW.

The project's intent was to inspire others through increasing the visibility of Catholic Sisters as they



Sister Veronica Kim, CDP, with La Roche College students.

continue to serve as leaders, collaborators and advocates for peace, justice and care for creation.

To view the billboards and their stories, visit sistersof-wpa.org/pray-act-change

Sisters Promote Non-Violence

In concert with the congregation's concerns for global non-violence and its mission of co-creating a world of compassion, justice and peace, the Leadership team of Marie de la Roche Province sent the following letter of commendation and support to Edward Stack, Chief Executive Office of Dick's Sporting Goods, for his significant steps toward ending gun violence:

"Dear Mr. Stack:

We commend you on the very brave stance you have taken with respect to gun sales.

The Sisters of Divine Providence have a strong tradition of educating in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and other dioceses in the United States. It is beyond the imagination of any Sister that someone could enter her classroom with a weapon of mass destruction and slaughter students, faculty and staff. What you have done should make this far less likely.

Thank you for taking the position of immediately ending sales of all assault-style rifles, raising the minimum age to purchase firearms to 21, banning high capacity magazines and bump stocks, requiring universal background checks that include relevant mental health information and previous interactions with the law, ensuring a complete universal database of those banned from

buying firearms, and closing the private sale and gun show loophole that waives the necessity of background checks.

We congratulate you for taking this very strong pro-life stance."



On March 24, Sisters Karina Conrad, Ana Lydia Sonera Matos and Marise Hrabosky (right to left) joined March for Our Lives and took to the streets of downtown Pittsburgh to protest the gun violence plaguing American schools.

Sisters Featured in St. Louis Exhibit and on the Radio

The St. Louis Public Library celebrates religious sisters' history and impact on St. Louis with an exhibit at the library's central branch from March 3 to April 28. The exhibit in the Carnegie Room, "Catholic Sisters: The Spirit of St. Louis," was planned to mark National Catholic Sisters Week.

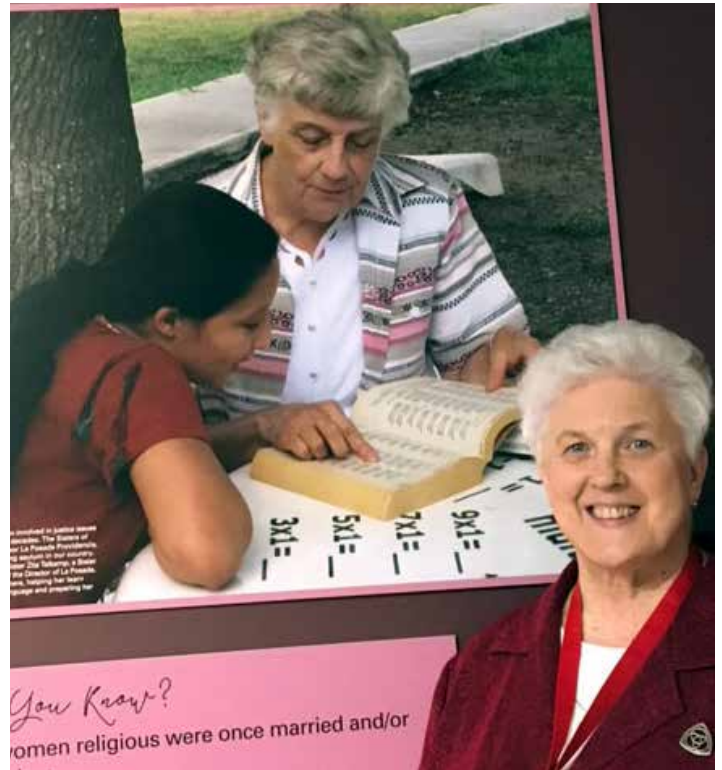
The exhibition was an outgrowth of the Sisters' Communicators group discussing how to celebrate National Catholic Sisters week this year. It is also the 200th anniversary of Catholic Sisters in the St. Louis archdiocese. St. Rose Philipe Duschene came to St. Louis in 1818 and began schools there.

Though there are about 40 congregations of women religious in the St. Louis archdiocese, this exhibit was the work of 15 congregations whose communicators meet each month. Sr. Barbara McMullen, CDP, meets with this group.

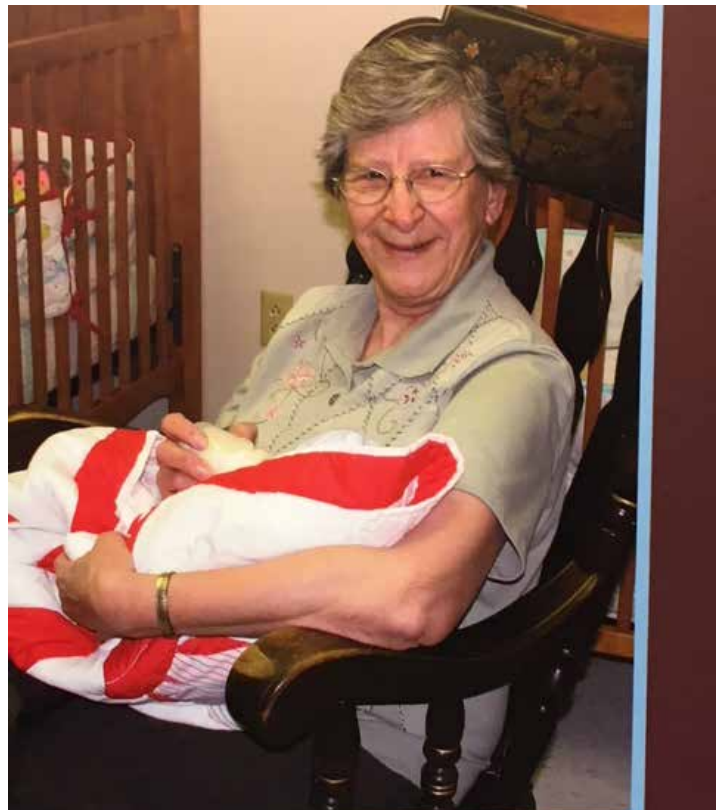
In conjunction with the exhibit, Sr. Barbara was also one of three Sisters who had the opportunity to be interviewed by Don Marsh of KWMU 90.7 FM, in his program, "On The Air." She and two other Sisters answered questions about the exhibit as well as some about religious life then and now, the church, and their personal calls to become Sisters.

"The exhibit has appeal for not only Catholic St. Louisans familiar with the sisters' back-story but non-Catholics learning about sisters for the first time. Some people don't realize they have been impacted by sisters through health care in our community," said Jenny Beatrice, communications director for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

In addition to historical photos and artifacts, the exhibit also covers present-day ministries. Women religious in St. Louis remain committed to doing God's work in collaborative efforts such as Marian Middle School and the English Tutoring Project, and in individual ministries such as social justice, music and art.



Sister Barbara McMullen stands by the featured image of CDP Sister Zita Telkamp assisting a girl with math.



Another panel features Sister Joan Wolf, CDP, holding one of the babies at Room at the Inn homeless shelter sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence in St. Louis.

Sisters Celebrate 25 years of Ministry in Dominican Republic

For 25 years, the Sisters of Divine Providence in Las Cañitas—an impoverished neighborhood along the Ozama River in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic—have embodied the spirit of the Congregation's founders to help the poor by committing to live among them.

In February 1993, the late Sister Mary Providence Kriley, CDP, along with Sister Myriam Colón Cruz, CDP, followed the call to live the Gospel message and minister to the poorest of God's people in Santo Domingo. They lived among the people, encouraging their sense of community and belonging and sharing in their joys and sorrows.

While working at the local parish senior center, Sister Mary Providence made sure the more than 30 people who attended daily—the elderly, the infirm, the blind, the mentally challenged and those who were alone—received breakfast, a hot lunch, medical treatment, socialization and the sharing of faith. She extended her ministry to the larger community, traveling by foot or bus to bring her kind words, faithful presence and the Eucharist to the homebound. For 20 years, Sister Mary Providence's trusting and faithful presence brought the light of God's Providence to her neighbors, helping to satisfy their physical, social and spiritual needs. Today, the mission work in Santo Domingo for the sick and elderly continues, along with pastoral outreach, educational and support programs for children and teens, Associate formation, and vocational discernment.



Sister Myriam Colón Cruz and one of the children.



Sister Mary Providence Kriley serves Communion to a shut-in (left) and talks with residents (above).



Three years as a missionary and evangelist stretched into 26

Sister Leaves Hispanic Ministry, Returns to Chile

Sister Silvia Troncoso (Sister Maria Silvia de Jesus) came to Washington State's Yakima Valley from Bernarda Morin Province in Chile in 1992 as a missionary. Today, she is 86 years old, has been a Sister of Providence for 68 years, and has now returned to Chile.

She traveled to Yakima when Diocese of Yakima Bishop Francis E. George, OMI, asked the council of Bernarda Morin Province to send sisters to minister to the burgeoning Hispanic population there. The province leadership missioned Sister Silvia, who brought to her new role as a missionary a background in education, catechetical work and leadership development, as well as optimism, joy and a zest for life.

Sister Silvia arrived in the former Sacred Heart Province in Seattle and began living at St. Joseph Residence as she prepared for her new ministry by enrolling in intensive English classes at Seattle University. Bishop George wrote the fathers, deacons and sisters of the diocese to let them know Sister Silvia was preparing to come and work out of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima and St. Peter Claver Parish in Wapato. The thrust of her ministry was two-fold: home visits with Hispanic families and religious formation of parents preparing their children for reception of the sacraments. She would live with sisters from her religious community and was expecting to stay for three years.

Sister Silvia has been a force in motion ever since, working in evangelization and catechesis of adults, adolescents and youth. She began ministering to the Hispanic population at St. Joseph Church in Yakima and

St. Aloysius Church in Wapato through the catechesis and evangelization programs. For the first year she worked for the Diocese of Yakima, but when economic conditions in the parish no longer made that possible, the Sisters of Providence sponsored her ministry.

For 26 years she has touched countless individuals, thousands through her classes to prepare for Bap-

tism, First Communion and Confirmation; her counseling of couples preparing for marriage; her insights shared with 15-year-old girls readying for their traditional Hispanic "coming of age" celebration, Quinceanera; her fundraisers and events like the annual Valentine's couples dinner and dance she initiated; and thousands from all over who have returned to Yakima each year for the Congreso, a three-day Hispanic charismatic conference that fills Yakima's Sun Dome the weekend following Easter. She initiated and led the Congreso until it became an independent non-profit corporation, supporting it by collecting donations and

selling food, books, tapes and religious articles. Her efforts were so successful that each year's collections for the free event brought in money to pay the bills, to donate to the parish, make a down payment for the facility for the next year, and put money in the bank.

That just touches the surface of her reach and influence. Sister Silvia has delighted countless people with her amazing culinary skills, turning out mouth-watering dinner rolls, Chilean treats like flan, empanadas and Afajol (candy) to gourmet meals for celebrations. In addition to cooking, she has shared with members of Grupo Emilie, a group of women ages



Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais (left) came to Yakima to join those saying goodbye to Sister Silvia Troncoso at a Valentine dinner-dance held in a school gym.

Sister Returns to Chile

Continued from page 14

16 to 35 to further evangelize and to foster vocations, her love of sewing, knitting and gardening. And, she has been the embodiment of Providence for the area's Spanish-speaking Providence Associates and a tireless community volunteer.

In September 2007, Sister Silvia made a perfect score on her oral exam for citizenship and was sworn in as a US citizen on September 28, while still retaining Chilean citizenship.

Sister Silvia truly has been blessed and has blessed others in her time in the Yakima Valley as "one sister who would do the work of three. Most of all, Sister Silvia has been a friend – to the Sisters of Providence who

have lived and ministered with her through the years, to the Hispanic Providence Associates who have come to know the mission of Providence through her, and to the people for whom she has been a friend, a confidant and champion as they struggle through issues of poverty, family life, immigration and deportation fears, illness and death. She never took a day off and grateful people with little else brought fruit for canning and making jam as a thank you.

"I love my work," she has said. "This is not a job to me; it's my life."

A number of events were planned in Sister Silvia's honor before she returned to her native Chile near the end of February.



Sister Silvia Troncoso is surrounded by some of the Hispanic youth who grew up in the Yakima Valley under her influence.

Sister Rita Ferschweiler Celebrates Her 100th birthday

Sister Rita Ferschweiler, the last Sister of Providence to serve as a hospital administrator in Portland, Oregon, celebrated her 100th birthday at a liturgy and luncheon in Seattle on March 16. This year she also marks her 75th year of religious life.

Celebrant for the Mass was Rev. James Eblen; Father William Treacy and Rev. Msgr. Tim Murphy were concelebrants. Luncheon guests included sisters, former Providence administrators, relatives and friends.

Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais said the key to Sister Rita's work was "person to person, which is why she loved bedside nursing, and zeal for the mission, caring for people who are poor."

Sister Rita views her longevity as a gift from God. "I have had excellent health all my life. I worked in a lot of hospitals, but I never have been a patient." She stays active, exercising with the sisters each morning, walking a mile each day, weather permitting, bypassing the elevator to climb the stairs, and treating herself to an apple rather than a donut. She also keeps giving, reading to others with failing eyesight and reaching out to help.

She never expected to live to be 100, but said, "100 is like yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that. It just is."

Born in St. Louis, Oregon, the eldest daughter of Oregon pioneers, Rita and her siblings grew up on the family farm near Gervais in the Willamette Valley. After graduating from Mount Angel Academy, she worked on the farm and at a local cannery be-

fore moving to Portland. She entered the Sisters of Providence in 1943 and made her novitiate at Mount St. Vincent in Seattle. She professed first vows in November 1944 and was given the name Sister Mary Lauren.



Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais (left) joins guests applauding Sister Rita Ferschweiler at a luncheon in celebration of her 100th birthday.

After nurse's training at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Yakima, Washington, she served primarily as a medical-surgical nurse in Seattle, Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska, and Yakima. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Seattle University and was sent to St. Louis University for a master's degree in nursing service administration.

Sister Rita arrived at Portland's oldest hospital, St. Vincent's, as a nurse in 1956 and then was director of nursing services. After becoming its adminis-

trator in 1964, she guided construction and the move to its new 451-bed hospital and medical center. She left St. Vincent's in 1972 and served in ministry at St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington, at Mount St. Vincent in Seattle, and later on the Provincial Council. She eventually returned to the Providence Portland Medical Center campus and volunteer ministry to patients, serving on boards and reading books for visually impaired people. She moved to St. Joseph Residence in Seattle in the fall of 2011.

Communal Discernment and Circle of Leadership

If the Chapter opening for the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence was any indicator of what was to come, this was going to prove to be an exceptional experience. We wanted to do things differently than before, so we placed ourselves in the capable hands of our Chapter planning committee, loaded up our Sisters in a bus and drove to the center of our city of San Antonio, Texas. Accompanied by our fellow consecrated Brothers and Sisters representing various religious communities, we filled the cobblestone plaza grounds in front of the Archdioceses' San Fernando Cathedral.

The friends who joined us came close and spoke comments such as "We know you are going into Chapter soon—we will be praying for you." Our response to these prayers was "Thank you—we are trying to do some things creatively—so welcome to the opening of our Chapter." And thus, we began Chapter—with a rally and public march in the streets of San Antonio—bringing awareness and uniting our voices in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters.

From February 28 through March 2, 2018, we gathered in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel at our convent to complete the Chapter journey we began one year before. (See Spring 2017 issue of *collaboration*.) During the year we met during several sessions to pray, reflect, and dialogue about what it means to be community, the power of partnership, and being in-it-together. We studied different structures of governance and spoke about what struc-

Notice to all Sisters in Initial Formation

There will be no gathering of those in initial formation either before or after the Providence Event this year.

The WPC Board thought that perhaps those in initial formation might like to gather at the Friday night dinner.

If you are interested in doing this, please let Sr. Barbara McMullen know, and tables can be set aside for you to gather with one another.



At the beginning of Chapter in 2017, over a hundred people marched in silence for several blocks.

tures would best fit us. We held any needed discussions about structures of governance before moving into the next steps. We reflected, wrangled, cried, laughed, discerned and came together to begin to create a new future for ourselves.

Our Sisters in discernment for leadership who had walked together in communal discernment shared their experience of discernment and their vision for the future. We then listened to the responses, hopes and prayers of all the community members. When the community was ready to move into the election we proceeded with the process in the sacred space we created in the Chapel. The results were that the seven

Continued on page 19

Notice to all Vocation/Formation/ Leadership Liaisons

The 2018 VFL conference that was scheduled for April had to be cancelled this year for lack of attendees. No expenses were incurred for presenters or from the facility.

However, this means that now there is no planning committee in place for your 2020 conference year.

The WPC Governing Board has asked me to send out a survey to all on the VFL mailing list—so look for that survey to come in the future.

Sister Barbara

Communal Discernment and Circle of Leadership

Continued from page 18

sisters remaining in discernment were elected/affirmed into a circular model of leadership. While each sister holds a title i.e., Congregational leader, councilor, leader, it was agreed that they would function as a team, each with equal voice and with distinctive areas of authority and responsibility.

The community continued in Chapter by returning to the work of crafting our vision for the following years. We worked at tables and then shared our plans in an open forum. We listened with one heart as we called ourselves to support, work together, be patient and accountable as we live into this new governance structure of congregational leaders. The journey together has not been an easy one; however, we know we are listening to our deepest longing and

God's call to transformation. These times have been grace-filled and sacred indeed. Together in our charism, mission and heart, we continue on this shared journey of transformation.

With a grateful heart to our Provident God and all who offered prayers during our Chapter of Elections, the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence have a new leadership team for 2018-2024. We will embrace a new model of governance. Circular model leaders: Sisters Carmen Therese Lazo, Delia M. Herrera, Anne García, Mary John Trevino, Guadalupe Ramirez as congregational leader, Esther M. Guerrero who will join the circle of leadership after a year sabbatical, and Elizabeth Ann Guerrero (affirmed to be a leader within the circle). We go forth trusting in our Provident God.



(Right to left clounter-clockwise from bottom) Sisters Carmen Therese Lazo, Delia M. Herrera, Anne García, Mary John Trevino, Guadalupe Ramirez as congregational leader, Esther M. Guerrero who will join the circle of leadership after a year sabbatical, and Elizabeth Ann Guerrero.

Providence Associate Relationship, Leadership Continues To Evolve

"Our Providence Associates are carrying the Sisters of Providence charism of love, mercy and justice to places we are not. Our associates are sincerely and intentionally living out the mission of the Sisters of Providence, honoring Divine Providence," said Sister Diane Mason, who retired in December from her ministry as director of Providence Associates of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Sister Diane had ministered with Providence Associates nearly 10 years, seven of those years as director.

"This ministry as director of Providence Associates | has indeed been a privileged one for me," she said.



**New Co-Director
Debbie Dillow.**

"Together as Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates, the charism of Providence is being shared with a world that is starving for positive energy. I sincerely feel this is what is evolving in this place in time of our history."

Providence Associate Debbie Dillow, who has served as assistant director of Providence Associates alongside Sister Diane for six years, is now serving as co-director of the Providence Associates.

"Being a Providence Associate has enriched my life and how I see the world. I am very grateful for the progressive thinking of the Sisters of Providence that has helped change how I look at the universe and my part in it," Debbie said.

"I believe the Providence Associate journey helps to feed our spiritual hunger and guides women and men to a closer relationship with our Provident God, one another and the world.

"I see a new community evolving within a community. I see the associates stepping forward in life and mission with the Sisters of Providence not only here at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods but also in other locations. We, the associates, are the face of the Sisters of Providence in our daily lives. We can take the mission of love, mercy and justice into areas of our lives and be the hands, feet and face of Providence to others, whatever our work or living situation. This is what is exciting — I see the mission of Christ spreading because the associate relationship is growing and spreading," Debbie said.

Starting in June, Sister Sue Paweski, who currently ministers as a fine arts teacher at St. Genevieve School in Chicago, will join Debbie as the co-director of the Providence Associate relationship.

Currently 252 women and men of faith walk with the Sisters of Providence as Providence Associates. The



Sister Diane Mason is blessed by gathered Providence Associates and sisters upon her upcoming retirement from her ministry as director of Providence Associates.



Newly named Co-Director of Providence Associates Sister Sue Paweski receives a hug of welcome from a Providence Associate.

relationship celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2017. Guided by God's Providence, we look forward to continued life and growth as the Providence Associate relationship moves into the future.

--By Amy Miranda,
publication and
marketing manager

Sister My Huong Pham Transfers Perpetual Vows

Sister My Huong Pham finally feels at home. “I feel bold and official,” she said, “a Sister of Providence.” For Sister My Huong, a process that began three years ago came to completion on Sunday, February 25.

On that day, Sister My Huong transferred her perpetual vows to the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, during liturgy in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Sister My Huong is a native of Bien Hoa, Vietnam. She entered the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters Congregation in 1991, and professed perpetual vows in 1999. During her time with the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters, Sister My Huong ministered as a teacher, school administrative assistant and a missionary to poor suburban and rural areas.

She eventually traveled to the United States where she received a bachelor’s degree in theology at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Her time at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods with the Sisters of Providence had a profound impact on her. “I was led by God’s Providence into a foreign land,” Sister My Huong said. “I discovered God’s love, mercy and justice exemplified in the life and ministries of the Sisters of Providence.”



General Superior Sister Dawn Tomaszewski leads My Huong through the vow transfer ceremony [in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

In 2015, Sister My Huong expressed her desire to transfer her vows to the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence and the process began. For two years, she ministered in health care at Providence Health Care. In

September 2017 she began residency in Clinical Pastoral Education at Deaconess Hospital, in Evansville, Ind.

Sister My Huong said the transfer of vows was a “tremendous experience.” “I feel my life anew,” she said. “The whole process helped build a sturdy bridge that enables me to be genuinely transformed and to be carried over into a totally new, different person – a woman of Providence.

“The completion of this transition is also significantly an invitation to a new transition as it is part

of life – bringing forward the more fullness in my life by spreading love, mercy, and justice to the brokenness of this world. And this is what I anticipate in my forthcoming transitions.”

Sister My Huong added she was very grateful for everyone who helped her during the transfer process.

“I cannot disregard those who have had great impact on this process,” she said. “I am so grateful for the support of my mentor, the Sisters of Providence Leadership Team, my spiritual director, the sisters, my family, Providence Associates and the many supportive friends who have walked with me through the entire process of discernment of God’s plan and purpose for me.”

--By Jason Moon, media relations manager

Celebrating 45 Years of Service

Sister Charlene Wedelich has led a storied life as a Sister of Divine Providence. She came to Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center in the mid 1950's having already received her Bachelor Degree in Humanities from St. Thomas University in Houston, TX. She often speaks of life as a pre-novice, and the duties she had that are so very different today.

During her formation for religious life, she learned that the Oblates had a long history of collaboration with the Sisters of Divine Providence. They provided chaplains for the sisters, and in 1903, Father Henry Constantineau, OMI, founded the theological and philosophical school that survives today as Oblate School of Theology. He also served as the sisters' ecclesiastical superior, the first President of Our Lady of the Lake College and helped them become recognized as a pontifical congregation in 1912.

As a young CDP Sister Charlene taught in elementary and high schools in Louisiana and Oklahoma. She answered the call to return to San Antonio in 1967 to become the Director of Postulants and then of Formation at Moye Formation Center in Castroville, TX. She served as the Superior General of the Congregation for two terms from 1973-1981.

Sister Charlene has introduced many people to the Congregation of Divine Providence through her devotion to Spiritual Direction so it was a natural fit when Sister Charlene became the Director of Mission Support in 2006, stepping into a position generally held by a lay person. With her commitment to her Congregation and a vast network of friends, she was a perfect fit for the position! Let's face it. Sister Charlene knows everyone!

Prior to her service as Director of Mission Support, Sister Charlene spent many years focused on bringing new vocations to the Diocese and to the Congregation of Divine Providence as the Vicar of Religious for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. It was during this time Sister Charlene was asked to act in the capacity of Papal Visit Office Administrative Assistant for Pope John Paul II visit in 1987.



Sister Charlene Wedelich



Sister Charlene bids farewell to Pope John Paul II.

Sister has received many awards and recognitions of her work for the Congregation and Archdiocese. Sister Charlene will be honored at a dinner on April 18th for her many years of committed service to the Oblate School of Theology Board of Trustees from 1982-2004.

McCullough Hall Nursing Center

It is a tradition and an obligation of the Congregation to care for its sick and elderly members. To meet this need St. Joseph Hall was built in 1933 followed in 1960 with Regan Hall and then in 1972 McCullough Hall.

McCullough Hall is a 51-bed licensed nursing facility. The mission is to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in such a way that both givers and receivers of its services experience God's love and compassion. McCullough Hall respects and promotes the wholeness of the human person by providing for the spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional needs of the residents and their families.

McCullough Hall Nursing Center, located at 603 S.W. 24th St. in San Antonio, maintains a five star rating by Texas Department of Health and Human Services, and was recently selected by U.S. News and World Report to be one of the "Best Nursing Homes" in the United States.

US News rated McCullough Hall as a "Top Performing

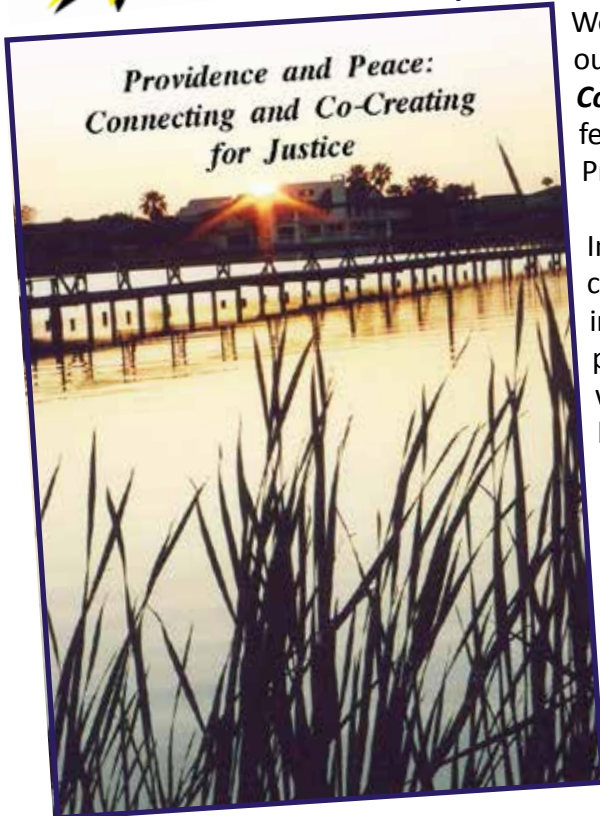
Facility." Of the three nursing facilities in the San Antonio area that received this distinction, only McCullough Hall accepts Medicare and Medicaid, and also private pay Residents.

McCullough Hall recently opened a newly expanded and renovated solarium that serves as a dining center, activity center, and affords a parlor for small group meetings for the Residents and their guests. This addition nearly doubled the size of the dining/activity center.

McCullough Hall Nursing Center is owned by the Congregation of Divine Providence but is open to the community. Administrator Jessica Stemmerding (jstemmerding@mchall.org) and Director of Nurses Jean Curnow (nursing@mchall.org) are available to speak to anyone interested in learning about the advantages of living at McCullough Hall Nursing Center. Please call them today: 210-435-7711 (ext. 1164 for Jessica; ext. 1126 for Jean).



Providence and Peace: Connecting and Co-Creating for Justice



Women of Providence in Collaboration is excited to announce our newest publication, ***“Providence and Peace: Connecting and Co-Creating for Justice.”*** This publication is the second in a series featuring authors who look at specific topics through the lens of Providence and their lived experience in ministry and community life.

In this publication, we experience various perspectives on the connections between Providence and peace and how they are interwoven. In addition to two of our Providence Sisters, this publication includes the insights of one lay man and two lay women from different backgrounds and experiences. It is rich in history as well as current lived experiences, and certainly comes at a time when our world, our environment, our own ordinary lives are surrounded by chaos and turmoil and in much need of peace.

The authors who have contributed to *Providence and Peace* have gifted us not only with their insights into peace; they have also shown us that Providence is an evolutionary process and continues to grow in each of us. This new publication invites us to ponder and reflect on how we live Providence and peace in our lives, and how we witness *HOPE* that Providence and peace are alive among us.

Providence and Peace: Connecting and Co-Creating for Justice

**US \$13 single book, plus US \$3 shipping/handling; add US \$1 shipping for each additional book up to 10 copies
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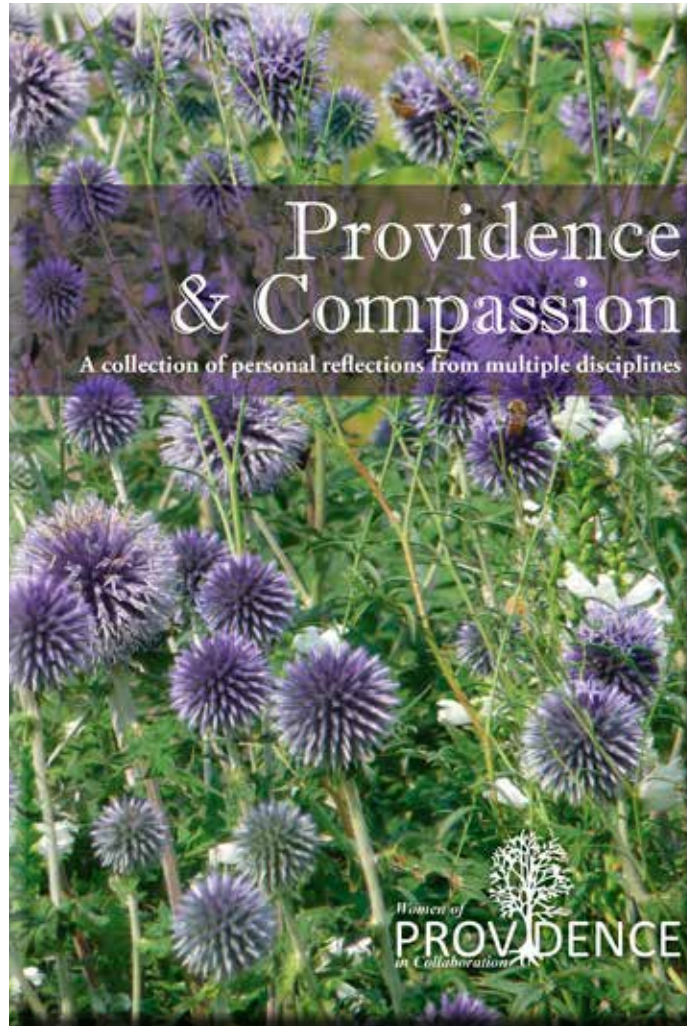
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Providence & Compassion

Within this inspiring publication, nine Women of Providence share their understanding of Providence and Compassion through the lens of their lived experience in ministry and community life. These shared personal reflections will expand awareness and appreciation of the intimate link between Providence and Compassion in the lives of not only the author but also within the life of the reader.

Compassion has been personified in Jesus and his ministries, and is central to the charism of Providence women wherever they minister. You will see how Providence and Compassion



are expressed in diverse ministries. You also can discover similarities with your own living and ministry experiences as well as gain new insights from each author. Questions for personal and communal reflection are included with each essay.

This 58-page collection on providence theology and spirituality is a good resource to use with people in formation, in local houses, our providence retreat centers, bookstores in our sponsored colleges and universities, mission departments in our healthcare facilities, and for personal growth and reflection.

Providence & Compassion

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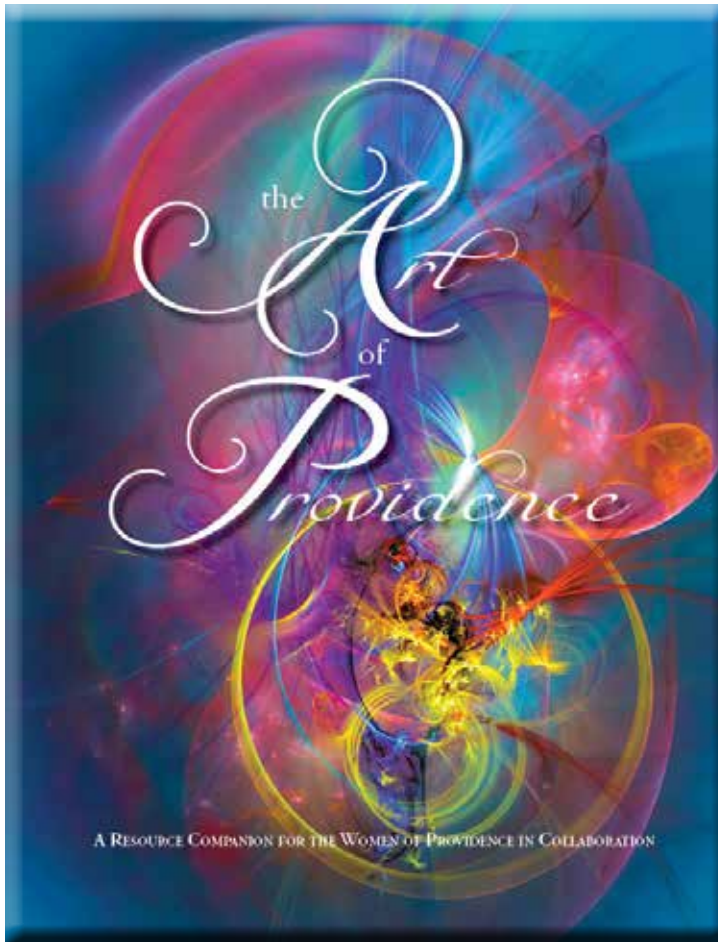
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The Art of Providence

Women of Providence in Collaboration is excited to present ***The Art of Providence.***

This is a beautiful resource book of prayers, poetry, prayer rituals, music, photos, reflections and artwork by various Sisters and Associates in our Providence congregations.

The authors have shared their talents with us in a variety of ways. Each of them seeks to express their understandings of Providence through particular art forms.



The contributions witness to the movement of Providence among and within us and we are pleased to share them with a wider audience.

Whether you use the book as a resource in your ministry or for your own personal spiritual reading and prayer, you will encounter the God we name Providence.

This 165-page beautiful resource book could be a valuable book for local convents, retreat centers, formation houses as well as it would make a wonderful gift for someone.

The Art of Providence

**US \$18 single book, plus US \$5 shipping/handling; add US \$1 shipping for each additional book up to 10 copies
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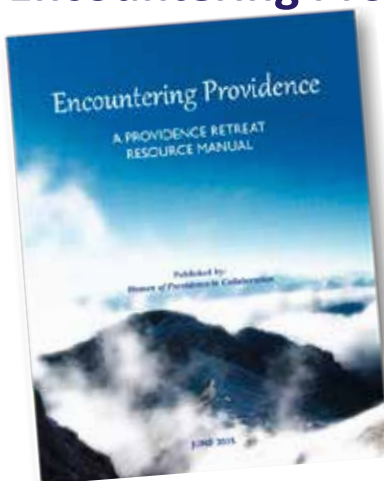
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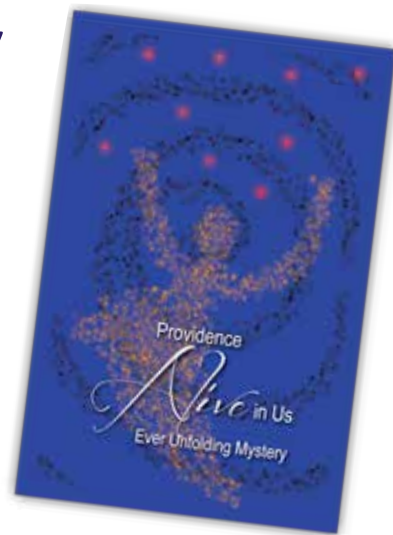
Encountering Providence: A Providence Retreat Resource Manual



Women of Providence in Collaboration (WPC) is celebrating its 35th Anniversary year with the recently compiled retreat resource manual. Its 12 retreats, submitted by Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates, can be used in retreat centers, private retreatants, local convent retreats, motherhouses, healthcare mission departments, and colleges, just to name a few. The retreats vary in length. Topics range from Images of Advent and Living Contemplatively in a Technological Age, to Spirit Gifts Found in Jesus and Walking as Provident Guests on Earth. (A complete list of topics is available on the WPC website: <http://www.wpcweb.org/>) The black and white manual includes a leader's guide, handouts, prayers, and resources for music, poetry, readings, etc. The manual is printed on three-hole paper for easy placement in a binder of your choice. Each manual has an accompanying flash drive storing various color graphics, PowerPoint and video presentations, and ready-to-print prayer, reflection and leader templates.

Providence Alive In Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery

The Women of Providence in Collaboration are excited to present their new book, *Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery*. This book is designed to promote and broaden the understanding of Providence theology and spirituality and how, over the years, it has affected our lives. The authors will lead us in this search for still deeper engagement with Ever Unfolding Mystery. Authors include Marie McCarthy, SP and Anji Fan, SP from the St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute, IN; Ruth McGoldrick, SP from the Sisters of Providence in Holyoke, MA; Michele Bisbey and Myra Rodgers are CDPs from the Allison Park, PA, Sisters of Divine Providence; Alba Letelier, SP, Hong Nga Nguyen, SP and Annette Suebert, SP are from the Sisters of Providence who began in Montreal, Quebec, and spread throughout the United States. New contributors, as well as four reflections devoted to intercultural voices and experiences, also take us inside ourselves to probe deeper meanings of abundance, expansion of partnership with God in the very action of transforming our world, and the challenges of being the face of Providence within a different culture and in different settings. Truly this work will provide much food for thought as to how each of us lives the charism of Providence in the world today.



Encountering Providence: A Providence Retreat Resource Manual

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Employment Opportunity

**Executive Director, La Posada Providencia, located in San Benito, TX.
For more information: cdpsisters.org/laposada_executivedirector**

La Posada Providencia, founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence, Marie de la Roche Province, is a 24/7 shelter for people in crisis from around the world who are seeking legal refuge in the United States. The staff provides a safe and welcoming home, mentors to promote self-sufficiency and cultural integration, and imparts

values which witness God's Providence in our world.

The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of La Posada Providencia. Duties include fiscal and operational management, supervision of staff, and community outreach. The position reports directly to the Board of Directors.



Calendar

2018

June 15-17 WPC Providence Event in Allison Park, PA

November 6-7 WPC Executive Committee Meeting in Chicago, IL

2019

April 10-11 WPC Governing Board Meeting in Westfield, MA

Sept. 17-20 WPC Associate Leadership Gathering in Melbourne, KY

2020

TBD WPC Governing Meeting at St. Mary of the Woods, IN

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