



Collaboration

Volume XVII ♦ Issue 1 ♦ Fall 2021

Sisters of Divine Providence, San Antonio

CDP Sisters Adopt *Laudato Si'* Resolution

The Sisters of Divine Providence gathered for their annual General Assembly, which serves as an opportunity for the Sisters to engage in community needs, ways of advocacy, and adopt resolutions to provide support.

This year, the CDP Sisters gathered to discuss Pope Francis' second encyclical *Laudato Si'* or Praise Be to You. On June 18, 2015, Pope Francis issued this encyclical encouraging everyone to "take swift and unified global action" against the ecological crisis caused by pollution and climate change, in addition to issues of water and waste.

Sister Linda Gibler, OP, was the keynote speaker. She gave an overview of *Laudato Si'* and emphasized themes of creation, care, and scripture. She helped the Sisters develop an integral ecological lens to review the action items that implement Pope Francis' encyclical. The Sisters were grateful to Sister Linda for enlightening them before adopting a Congregational resolution.

After deliberation and prayer, the Sisters adopted the 2021 General Assembly resolution of committing to

Continued on page 3



contents

2

Letter from
Sister Barbara

4

Genesis Marks
45th year

9

Celebrating Two
Anniversaries

10

SP Associates
Plan Future

16

Leadership
Receives Alumni
Award



From the director

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



The season of Autumn is here but on days of 90 degrees here in the Metro-St. Louis area, it's a bit hard to believe. Our weather people assure us, though, that cooler temps are coming!

I truly enjoy all four seasons as experienced here in the Midwest, but Autumn certainly brings beauty in its colors of bright reds, oranges and yellows on the leaves of its trees. It's the season of listening to that crisp crunchy sound beneath your feet as the leaves let go from the branches. There are crackling fires, Halloween celebrations, hot chocolate and pumpkin spice lattes to name just a few. Change is definitely in the air! I saw a quote once that I think is so true. Price Pritchett says: "Change always comes bearing gifts." I think you will see in the articles within this Collaboration newsletter that change is afoot in the WPC congregations. New adventures are happening.

The CDPs from Texas adopted a resolution to put into practice many of the suggestions from the encyclical, *Laudato Si'* as did the CDPs from Kentucky as well. The CDPs of Kentucky also have created a new document titled: "Economic Directory" that brings a whole new concept to the sharing of resources and a desire to strengthen unity.

The Associates in the Kinston, Ontario area are planning for their future as a self-sustaining organization in order to carry on the charism and mission of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul after the Sisters are gone.

Chapters are happening among some of our WPC communities. The Sisters of Providence in Terre Haute are holding their postponed chapter this very month of October. The CDPs of Providence, RI and Allison Park will be holding their respective chapters this summer and preparations are underway.

Anniversaries are being celebrated among the Sisters of Providence in Montreal as they remember the 170 death anniversary of their foundress, Emilie Gamelin. The Sisters of Providence from Holyoke are celebrating the 40th anniversary of Genesis Retreat and Spirituality Center.

Change creates a level of excitement, builds energy, often gives momentum as some things are let go and others are newly begun. Whether it's "living your dream" as the article about Carole Riley, CDP relates, or opening your Religious Life Satisfaction Survey to men religious as Clara Kreis, CDP is now doing, or simply being a missionary returning home or being honored for your longtime service as a nurse, Providence is evident in all the changes that are taking place among the WPC congregations.

Change is all around us...in the seasons, in our society, in our universe, in climates; for those who trust in a Provident God however, embracing change can be an exciting adventure. May this Fall season bring you new adventures too!

Barbara

CDP Sisters Adopt *Laudato Si'* Resolution

Continued from page 1

living an environmentally and sustainable lifestyle.

At the corporate level, the CDP Sisters will invest in companies that support alternative fuels and take appropriate corporate stances. We will commit to: use eco-friendly utensils during public events; explore the potential of adding solar panels at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center and research making the Corpus Christi property a solar farm; study implementing electric cars into the congregational fleet; collaborate with the administrations of Providence Catholic School and Our Lady of the Lake University to share

ways to lessen global warming; and pray about environmental issues.

In her closing address Sister Pearl Ceasar, CDP, said, "When we make a commitment, we become closer to the future and closer to our early Sisters whom our commitments serve. We summon this legacy to our future — the people who will benefit from the fruits of our work — by dedicating ourselves to *Laudato Si'*. We no longer live for the past. We live for the future. In doing so, we are rooted in it. In this assembly, we have committed ourselves to our community and our future in the actions we will take together."



Genesis Celebrates Its 45th Anniversary!

Friends of Genesis Spiritual Life Center celebrated its 45th Anniversary on July 18, 2021. While a group of about 30 people gathered on site in Westfield, MA, for the occasion, they joined with approximately 400 others honoring the occasion who participated in the Genesis-sponsored Zoom presentation by Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB, speaking on the topic: "Spiritual Life: It's All About Relationships."

Following her thoughtful and challenging presentation, those at Genesis continued the celebration with Executive Director Liz Walz recognizing the Sisters of Providence, particularly Sisters Elizabeth Oleksak, Ruth McGoldrick and Mary Caritas Geary, for their instrumental roles in the creation and development of Genesis Spiritual Life Center.

In 1976, Sr. Elizabeth Oleksak, the foundress, had prevailed upon Sr. Mary Caritas, then President of the

Congregation, to allow her to develop a retreat center at the former 19-acre site of Our Lady of Providence Guild, a home for unwed mothers. Once she gained approval, Sr. Elizabeth urged her friend Sr. Ruth McGoldrick, then head of the National Sisters Formation Conference, to join her once she completed her term a year later. The three Sisters were saluted for launching and sustaining Genesis Spiritual Life Center. Sr. Kathleen Popko, who enabled the renovation of the Carriage House in the early 1990s and supported Genesis during her Congregational leadership, was included in the group.

All the guests enjoyed light refreshments prepared by Chef Jen and then participated in small group discussions focusing on Sr. Joan Chittister's presentation.

Congratulations to all at Genesis Spiritual Life Center on this 45th Anniversary!



Left to right: Sr. Kathleen Popko, SP, Sr. Ruth McGoldrick, SP, Sr. Elizabeth Oleksak, SP, Sr. Mary Caritas Geary, SP, and Liz Walz, Genesis Executive Director.

Sister Caritas Honored at Dedication of Nurses Flower Garden

Sr. Mary Caritas Geary, a 1945 graduate of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and her fellow alumni have long been asking for a flower garden in honor of Mercy nurses. In late spring, the nurses' garden was blessed at the front entrance of Mercy Medical Center in Springfield. Staff members of Mercy Medical Center gathered to dedicate the garden honoring the past and present service of nurses. Deborah Bitsoli, the president of Mercy Medical Center, has a long history of family working in the health care field so designing the garden was very personal to her. She worked with a landscaper to select an area in the hospital campus that was very visible to passers-by.

Sr. Mary Caritas, a former Mercy Hospital president, was surprised with a bouquet of flowers for being the oldest graduate of Mercy Medical Center. She is now 98.

A member of the Mercy Medical Center board member, Sr. Caritas was pleased to finally have a garden in appreciation of the thousands of graduates of the Mercy Nursing School who share a special bond. She has offered daily prayers for all nurses especially because of the pandemic this past year.

"They put in so much of their lives every single day when they come to work. You never know what is going to happen. And you know, it is not easy because they have to worry about their children and their families and their parents. Yet, they come to work and they do their duty and I am just so proud to be a nurse."

A bronze statue of a nurse wearing a Sister of Providence cap eventually will be added to complete the garden.



Sr. Mary Caritas Geary, SP, with flowers received when honored at the dedication of Mercy Medical Center's Nurses Garden.

Designated a *Laudato Si'* Community

Among the decisions made by the Sisters of Divine Providence of Kentucky at their 2019 Provincial Chapter was one vital mandate: the American Province would work toward becoming a *Laudato Si'* community. It underscored the gravitas with which the community took Pope Francis' 2015 call to embrace "the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us."

Implementation of the mandate began almost immediately. Shortly after the Chapter concluded, the Province got in touch with organizations like the Catholic Climate Covenant and Catholic Energies for assistance with evaluating and adapting its properties in ways that were more compliant with the spirit of *Laudato Si'*. The newly-constituted Ongoing Formation Committee also convened, enthusiastic in their development of a province-wide program for the Sisters' systematic and in-depth study of Francis' historic encyclical.

Soon the Sisters were gathering regularly in small groups (at first in person, and then—because of the pandemic—online) to discuss and reflect on *Laudato Si'* in the context of prayer. Eager to share their many practical efforts to become more environmentally conscious and responsible as local communities and as individuals, for the next two years the meetings were much-looked-forward-to occasions of mutual support, challenge, and encouragement.

But at what point might we be able to say with some objective assurance that we were truly a *Laudato Si'* community? Divine Providence seemed to offer a path forward through our neighboring Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Following the encyclical's publication, the archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office and Care for Creation Task Force began to develop guidelines for Catholic parishes, schools, and religious congregations to be designated a *Laudato Si'* Community. To be recognized, an institution would have to achieve a certain benchmark score on a facility assessment; exhibit environmentally-friendly daily practices; have members complete personal household assessments; and host a program for its members on Catholic teaching regarding care for creation.

Chapter Mandate 2019

"The climate crisis is reaching unprecedented proportions. Therefore, the urgency could not be greater. Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest" (LS 48).
(Letter from the Vatican Office for Promoting Integral Human Development to the scientific community 5-24-19)

The Chapter mandates that the American Province work toward becoming a "Laudato Si" Community.

We will educate ourselves on its responsibilities and benefits.

We will commit ourselves to examining our Province property and resources - and our local community property and resources - and make necessary changes.

We will collaborate with local and national groups and other Providence congregations.



Earlier this year and spearheaded by our Ongoing Formation Committee of Sisters Ellen Marie Eckerle, Kay Kramer, Janet Schneider, Lynn Stenken and Elizabeth Wehri, our Province made application for this designation. We are happy to report that on August 30 we received word that we will be joining the twenty-three groups who have already been named as *Laudato Si'* Communities since this recognition formally began in 2018!

The Province will receive an official banner from the Archdiocese in early October, which we will proudly display onsite. It will serve as a reminder to us that our efforts to care for Earth and its resources must continue. We hope and pray that it will serve as an inspiration to others as well that, together, our combined actions can and will make a positive difference for the future of the entire Earth Community.

A New Gift of the Spirit

Twice a year the Congregation's Enlarged General Council, comprised of members of the General Administration and the provincial superiors of our three provinces (Europe, Madagascar, and the U.S.), comes together to discuss major decisions about initiating or changing administrative policies within the Congregation. Following a decision to treat questions related to our common patrimony and finances, and in light of the General Chapter's call to "passionately embrace our providence spirituality, the source of our unity," the EGC invited all Sisters to reflect on the document *Economy at the Service of Charism and Mission*, published by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life. Sisters were also asked to send any questions and comments they may have to the EGC in time for its December 2019 meeting.

One of the highlights emphasized by *Economy at the Service of Charism and Mission* is the importance of an Economic Directory to the life of a religious community. With the EGC's decision at that time to develop such a document, the General Administration subsequently offered other relevant reading to everyone, again solicited comments, and proceeded to prepare a first draft. In order to facilitate reflection on and acceptance of a Directory, Sisters were invited to engage in a period of spiritual preparation.

Meetings of the EGC, of course, have always been in person. However, those scheduled after the pandemic began have had to be held virtually. They have also differed from previous gatherings insofar as the treasurer and a councilor from each of the three provinces also participated. Much meeting time has been spent by this expanded membership discussing

the creation of a "solidarity fund," a vehicle through which the entities would share resources with each other. Recognizing that the projects of each province or region have an impact on the whole congregation, projects relating to the life and mission of all will now be discerned at the congregational level by a "Solidarity Commission," keeping in mind the best use of our resources and the advancement of our mission as a whole. The fund will be comprised of contributions from each of the provinces.

Three working groups from the expanded EGC membership were established last December, each charged with a specific task. Input from the groups was discussed at the January meeting in view of finalizing the directory document. While the work was extraordinarily intensive and the conversations sometimes difficult, the Congregation now has an official "Economic Directory," approved in May. An instrument meant to guide the management of the Congregation's goods in the service of the charism and our mission throughout the world, it is the dear hope of every Sister that this gift of the

Spirit will strengthen our sense of unity with each other and serve the current and future good of the entire Congregation.

Of course, as we live this new relationship with each other going forward, practical questions about its implementation will inevitably arise and will need to be addressed. However, as Superior General Sister Susan Baumann, CDP, has said: "Our relationship among ourselves can be a powerful witness to the world. Our unity and solidarity can demonstrate a different way of acting, of doing, of living—an *evangelical way*." Amen!

ECONOMIC DIRECTORY

CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE OF SAINT JEAN DE BASSEL



May 2021

New Experiences and Learnings

by Sister Maria Fest, CDP

We are celebrating the 170th Anniversary of our founding by Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Stephanie Fredericka Amalie de la Roche von Starkenfels von Volte. Fanny, as she was commonly called, became Mother Marie de la Roche and is considered the co-founder of the Congregation. Blessed 170th birthday to the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence! This special event will be celebrated at our 24th General Chapter in June, 2022.

When the Kulturkampf made it difficult for the Sisters to teach in Germany, Bishop Ketteler sent the first six Sisters to the U.S. to teach German immigrants. The Sisters soon attracted new members and rapidly spread through the U.S. and Puerto Rico. In 1961 the Sisters from Germany went to Peru and in 1964 Sisters from South Korea were entering the Congregation in Rome at the Generalate. We now have a province in South Korea with 130 Sisters of Divine Providence! Finally, as a result of an intercultural exchange, the General Council went to the Dominican Republic in 1992 and established a mission there.

When the current Congregational Leadership Team took office in November 2016, we decided that we wanted to visit each of the countries in which we had a Province or a Mission for two reasons: 1) we wanted to get to know the members of the Leadership Teams in each Province or Mission and 2) we wanted the Sisters in the area to get to know the Congregational Leadership Team which was international in composition. I heard one Sister in South Korea say that when she saw us it helped her to know that she had entered an international Congregation. Belonging to an international community did not feel real to her because she only saw and interacted with Sisters that looked and talked like herself. Perhaps this was part of the inspiration for Congregational Leadership Team to offer opportunities for intercultural exchanges.

We decided to have intercultural conversations on materials we had distributed to the Sisters for Chapter Preparation. We were not sure how many participants would want to engage in the intercultural conversations. We planned two three-hour sessions. Fortunately for us, we had 30 Sisters so we planned two days, with a session lasting three hours. When we added in the Congregational Leadership Team, that made approximately 20 participants in each

session. Both discussions were conversations of the whole. Of course these conversations were held in the four languages of the congregation: English, German, Spanish and Korean. Having the conversations interculturally provided new insights broadening their understanding of the articles. The two articles discussed were: *Essential Calls of Religious Life* by Maria Cimperman RSCJ and *Seeing with New Eyes: The Inner Work of Transformation Needed for These Times* by Dr. Ted Dunn.



Questions to accompany the Articles asked the participants to reflect on: a) what claimed your attention? What struck you as important for our congregation? b) what transformation is needed among us now to shape “our future courageously” in order to respond to the cries we hear? c) if Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie were living now, what cries of the world and church would they want us to hear and respond to? And lastly d) what could our future look like if we chose a common direction and shared our personal and communal resources? From what was reported back, these intercultural, intergenerational and international conversations were rich, expansive, and broadening in both the scope and the sharing.

Popular author, Margaret Wheatley rightly states: “There is nothing that has happened in this world which did not begin with a conversation.”¹ The wisdom from these conversations may have benefited not only the participants but other members of the Congregation as well, as these conversations are shared with other Sisters and Associates. Intercultural community is created by a sustained act of understanding and seeking to be understood across boundaries.²

For our first attempt, we were pleased with the results. The brave Members of the Congregational Leadership Team who planned these conversations are: Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, Sister Rosa Eunsoon Kim, Sister Liberata Ricker and Sister Maria Fest.

1. Margaret Wheatley, *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*, Berrett-Koehler Publications, Inc., 2002.

2. Maria Cimperman, RSCJ and Roger P. Schroeder, SVD, *Engaging Our Diversity: Interculturality and Consecrated Life Today*, Orbs Books, 2020.

Celebrating Two Anniversaries

**170th Anniversary Death of Mother Emilie Tavernier Gamelin and 20th anniversary of her beatification
1851 – 2021**

History tells us that at the end of August 1851, there were reports of an outbreak of cholera in Montreal. Even though this made it risky to undertake a voyage, Mother Gamelin travelled to St. Elisabeth on September 10 and remained there for three days. She said to her Sisters: "My daughters, I have prayed to St. Elisabeth that you might always have peace. Adieu, I will not be seeing you again."

On the following day, September 22, for the first time, Mother Gamelin presided alone—without the presence of the bishop—at a Council meeting where the admission of five novices to religious profession was decided.

The following night, Mother Gamelin was awakened by intestinal pains. Toward four o'clock on the morning of September 23, she woke Sister Joseph of the Sacred Heart (Esther Pariseau), her roommate, saying; "I have the cholera! I am going to die!" She asked to be taken to the infirmary. Bishop Prince and Bishop Bourget, as well as his nephew, the community doctor, rushed to her bedside, her daughters surrounded her and wanted to hear her one last time. In one last burst of energy, she found the strength to articulate the words "humility, simplicity ..." but her voice failed, and she could not finish the word "charity" on which she had insisted so much the day before and which she herself had practiced so heroically throughout her life. At about ten o'clock she lost consciousness and remained so until about four o'clock in the afternoon at which time she breathed her last.

When the bell tolled the sad news, people from all walks of life came to pray near the remains of Mother Gamelin. The "elderly" ladies would not be consoled. Bishop Bourget was visibly touched by the sincerity of the tears and moanings which followed the disappearance of her who had been the heart and soul of the work of Providence.

Many testimonies of esteem and sympathy were sent to the Sisters from all sectors of society. The Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame deplored the passing of Mother Gamelin as an "irreparable loss" and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary wrote to Mother Caron: "We could not hold back our tears when we read the news of the passing of your first Mother from this life to eternity." The Sisters of the Sacred Heart wrote: "We know too well the qualities of this lady, even personally, not to be deeply afflicted, and the many testimonies make us appreciate your loss all the more, along with the entire city of Montreal."

At the end of the year, the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame assigned as an essay topic to their pupils, *Mother Gamelin and Her Work*, an initiative which revealed the reputation of the person and her achievements. One of the students wrote: "Ville-Marie (Montreal) has lost an admirable woman who (...) because of the important mission she had received, by the manner in which she accomplished it, and the visible part which Providence played through her, has brought glory to this city of good works, and I can say, has filled a large part of this country with the sound of her name (...)".

Is it not without emotion that the day after her departure, one could read in the newspapers of the time: "Les Mélanges Religieux", "La Minerve" and "Le Canadien": "Eternal thanks be to God, the Author of all perfect gifts, who has given such a remarkable heroine to our city—such a wonderful example for our time!"

"Providence of God, may you be adored, loved and thanked!"

to be continued...

by Yvette Demers, SP
Vice-postulator of the
Emilie Tavernier Gamelin Cause



Cf.: Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, by Denise Robillard. Ed. Du Méridien, 1988; pp. 297–303

Associates Plan for an Autonomous Future

by Barbara Baker, Providence Associate Director

The Providence Associates have known since 2018 that sometime in the future we would need to move away from our dependence on the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. At our AGEM that year, Sister Frances O'Brien facilitated our gathering as we talked about possibilities for an autonomous future. At that time, we thought the best option for us would be to become a Non-Profit Organization.

On October 31st of last year, Peter Pula from Axiom News, facilitated a Summit that brought together 32 Providence Associates, 3 Sisters, Frances O'Brien, Gayle Desarmia and Pauline Lally and one guest, Bridget Doherty Director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office. We talked about what we wanted to get rid of, what we wanted to hold on to and what we wanted to bring to our new reality. We talked about our values and what we wanted to focus on as we planned for our future. The conversations were rich and energizing. By the end of our day, we had chosen four foci that we would pursue and four people to act as facilitators for our circle conversations. They were "Structures/Finances" with Barbara Baker, "Staying Connected" with Ann Boniferro, "Spirituality" with Laraine Corbin and "Relationship with JPIC" with Bridget Doherty.

Later we chose dates for our follow-up Zoom Circle conversations that are giving direction to our planning for the next few years. Ann hosted three Zoom calls where she guided many of us through the process of participating in and hosting Zoom calls. The participants also talked about how we could stay in touch

with one another over space and time. A schedule was created for the groups to connect with one other group each month over the year ahead. A few people have agreed to stay in touch with those Associates who are at a distance and are not able to use the technology needed to access Zoom conversations.

Barbara hosted two conversations about our Structures. There were many who attended these very exciting and energetic conversations. By the end of our time 3 people, Ann Boniferro, Eleanor Casey and Helen Driver agreed to work on a draft of by-laws. At this time the first draft has been submitted to Queen's Law Business Clinic (QLBC) asking if they will take us on as a client and guide us in the process of becoming a Non-Profit Organization. Three people have agreed to work on a future budget for the new organization, they are Susan Kennedy, Eleanor Casey and Wen Bogues.

The third focus for the Providence Associates is Spirituality. Laraine Corbin hosted an initial conversation in January of this year to encourage us to talk with each other about our Spiritual life as exemplified in the lives of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. It was a very enriching time and we agreed to continue the conversations.

The fourth focus was relationship with the JPIC Office. Bridget Doherty decided to hold off on this topic until more of the business issues have been taken care of. There is much work to be done and the Providence Associates and Sisters are happy with what is unfolding and the plans we have in place for our future.



Barbara Baker



Ann Boniferro



Laraine Corbin



Bridget Doherty

Missionary Returns to Canada After 54 Years of Service in Latin America

by Sister Gayle Desarmia

In 1967 when the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul were opening missions in Guatemala and Peru, Sister Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, a registered nurse, was among the first group of Sisters to volunteer for mission work. After attending language school, she spent her first two years in Guatemala. In 1969, she moved to Peru where she was engaged in mission work until her return to Canada June 2021.

In 1968, the people of El Progreso, a barrio north of Lima, wrote to the bishop asking for help to build a church and a health clinic. When Sister Rose-Marie arrived in El Progreso, her first priority was to go from house to house getting to know the people, learning about healthcare in Peru and working with the local health committee. During this time, she was even called upon to deliver babies.

When the new health clinic moved into its own building, Sister Rose-Marie became the Director. She wrote the following account of her work at the clinic in those early days of its operation:

"My aim in my work with the volunteers who offered their services in the clinic was to help them to prepare themselves as nursing assistants, mastering techniques and knowledge, learning to work together as a team in the interest of the community and, most important, learning to be responsible."

In 1975 when Public Health took over the operation of the clinic, Sister Rose-Marie and the volunteers continued to work there. Eventually she resigned from her position at the clinic and embarked on furthering her education and her experience in Peru.

The next phase of her missionary activity involved travelling to the jungle area of Peru and teaching in the villages. After this, she took a course from the new hospital for mental health in Lima, the Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental. Then for six months, her ministry in healthcare brought her each day to Independencia, a neighbouring municipality. After taking another course for further preparation in public health work, she ministered for four years overseeing

a soup kitchen.

During this time, Public Health was training volunteers to work with individuals living with a mental health illness. In this new phase of her missionary activity, Sister Rose-Marie operated a clinic for mental health patients in El Progreso. With a faithful team of volunteers, she operated this clinic until it closed in December 2019. The State had by then established two mental health clinics in the area that were able to take over this work.

Throughout the years, many individuals came to Rose-Marie seeking advice and financial assistance. She, on her part, made many visits to the homes of those ill or

in need. So esteemed was she for her ministry in healthcare and her dedication to those in need that in 2018 Dr. Valverde, the Director of the newly constructed Health Centre in El Progreso named the centre's auditorium in her honour. Besides these varied ministries in the field of healthcare, she was involved in a variety of other activities.

Sister Rose-Marie was on the committee overseeing the construction of the new church for Christ Light of the World Parish in El Progreso. Wearing her hard hat, she was regularly seen on-site inspecting the progress of the construction. In later years, she was on the committee for the Oscar Romero Retreat Centre in El Progreso. With the decrease in the number of Sisters at the house in El Progreso, Sister Rose-Marie

assumed other responsibilities. These included:

- Guiding the students who were being financially assisted with their education through the Marillac Mission Fund
- Serving as the Sister Contact with our Peruvian Associates and working closely with their Coordinator Carmen Alomía Guía
- Acting as the tour guide par excellence for Canadian visitors

After her visit to Canada in 2019, Sister Rose-Marie decided that it was time to return to Canada. She

Continued on page 12



Sister Rose-Marie Bokenfohr

Missionary Returns to Canada After 54 Years of Service in Latin America

Continued from page 11

had her return airplane ticket in March 2020. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic intervened and changed her plans. After several cancelled flights, she returned to Canada June 6, 2021. She now resides at Providence Motherhouse and looks forward to the opportunity to visit her family in western Canada. In looking back now, she notes that her work was always based in the local parish, even when working in the jungle. Her main base of operation was the Christ Light of the World Parish in El Progreso. The needs of the day and the possibilities available always guided her mission work.

With her quiet and gentle manner, she endeared herself to young and old alike. Hers is a remarkable life that has touched many lives and whose legacy will long be remembered in her beloved Peru.



Sister Rose-Marie (right) with her faithful companion, Sister Sara Jiménez Angulo, SP.



Sister Rose-Marie with the group of volunteers at the mental health clinic.

Sisters Hold Groundbreaking for New Residential, Healthcare Facility

On Sunday, August 1, 2021, as the Bells of Providence Heights rung out, the Sisters of Divine Providence held a groundbreaking ceremony to officially kick off their new building project.

Named "The Commons at Providence Heights," it will be a place of hospitality, inclusivity, creating and celebrating community. The name acknowledges that all we have comes from our Provident God and is to be held in common. Situating "The Commons" at Providence Heights honors the original name of the whole property and preserves the legacy of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

The new three-story residential and healthcare facility will offer up-to-date care for the current and future

health needs of the Sisters. The building will consist of a mix of healthcare rooms, private independent rooms and one- and two-bedroom apartments. Site amenities will include an outdoor dining terrace, community garden, healthcare garden and walking paths that connect to the rest of the campus. Construction is scheduled to be complete in September 2022.

The first tree planted at The Commons was a McIntosh apple tree, in recognition of the apple trees that flourished on the property from its earliest days.

Joining Sisters, Associates and employees at the ceremony were representatives from Derck & Edson--the project's planning and design firm--and Warfel--the project's construction company.



Sister Carole is Living the Dream WV Institute for Spirituality is Her Instrument

by Joyce Bibey, The Catholic Spirit, July 2, 2021

As she stands in the parlor of a retreat house which graces Virginia Street in Charleston, Sister Carole Riley bids farewell to folks she hopes are leaving with the same feeling as leaving home and instantly longing for an opportunity to “come ‘home again — a place of welcome, peace, acceptance, freedom to be who God made me to be in this moment.”

Sister Carole of the Sisters of Divine Providence congregation is the Spiritual Director of the main campus for the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality that sits just a block away from the West Virginia State Capitol and Governor’s Mansion. Surrounded by grand evergreens and lush gardens, the retreat and training center for WVIS offers an extensive list of spiritual development, healing, and growth for individuals and groups in a compassionate Christ-centered environment.

The petite, perfectly groomed white-haired religious sister with a heart-warming smile may at first glance seem like an ordinary sweet servant of God but spend an hour with her and one will walk away with a sense of being in the presence of a dynamic fisher of souls—someone who genuinely wants to bring out the best in everyone with a little humor lovingly woven into the process. When she is not in retreat mode, good luck keeping up with her.

There isn’t much Sister Carole hasn’t coordinated at the center. Whether it be helping to create the countless reflection booklets, sabbatical programs, days of prayer, spiritual director trainings, directed silent retreats, or programs to support single mothers, Sister Carole is able to carry the brunt of the load with a bit of grace and a lot of wisdom. She and WVIS are now affiliated with Graduate Theological Foundation in the areas of spiritual direction and sacred music teaching on the Master’s and Doctoral levels. She holds several degrees in music education and piano performance from Duquesne University including a Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate. She is also a licensed professional counselor and an AAPC-Fellow.

It was Bishop Joseph Hodges who encouraged Sister Carole to take this journey several decades ago to Central West Virginia. Although she admits it was not necessarily because of her expertise in scripture, theology, or Church teachings, it was because she could drive a truck, she shared with a laugh.

It’s true the late bishop was looking for a group of three religious sisters to work in Charleston for the Catholic schools there and eventually help with a spiritual direction retreat center that may have otherwise closed its doors. The bishop had provided a truck to haul everything that was needed in the capitol city. Sister Carole was happy to go on the adventure. She was going to get to teach music—her love and area of expertise—at Charleston Catholic High School.



Sister Carole Riley

Bishop Hodges served the diocese from 1962 until his death in 1985 – the years when the Second Vatican Council’s focus on evangelization was emphasized. Bishop Hodges focused heavily on evangelization in the diocese by implementing a formalized office to introduce and run parish renewal programs, Teens Encounter Christ retreats, Cursillo, Marriage Encounters, and many more pastoral and lay leadership programs throughout the diocese.

The WVIS compliments his vision, Sister Carole said. The retreat center is now her main focus. She said it is her greatest joy to bring people of all faiths into a conversation about God as a means to hope and peace. “We nurture the mind, body, and soul through scripture and reflection to obtain personal peace, healing, and mindfulness,” she said.

Sister Carole and her colleagues at the institute host retreats for parish councils, married couples, and individuals. If you check out the organization’s website at wvis.org you will see Sister Carole’s efforts are reinforced by a team of more than two dozen other spiritual directors and supervisors positioned across the state.

Continued on page 15

Thriving in Ministry: Learnings from the Life Satisfaction Scale for Apostolic Women Religious

A request from Sister Clara Kreis, CDP

We would like to ask for your support of our project in which we are extending the Life Satisfaction Scale for Apostolic Women Religious (LSSAWR) to men religious and their communities. In particular, we would appreciate if you could assist us in promoting the International LSSAW/MR Project to members of women and men religious congregations.

Our goal is to receive 2000 LSSAW/MR surveys completed by men religious and about 600 LSSAW/MR surveys completed by women religious.

Those of you who are members of women/men religious congregations we would like to invite you to take the



Maria Clara Kreis, CDP, Ph.D., L.P.

LSSAW/MR survey through this direct link:
<https://ctu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/23iDDWbUEl7ohj7>

If any of you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Maria Clara Kreis, CDP, Ph.D., L.P.
Visiting Scholar for Thriving in Ministry

The Life Satisfaction Scale for Apostolic Women Religious (LSSAWR) is an instrument designed by Sr. Maria Clara Kreis, CDP, Ph.D., LP as a part of her doctoral work at Marquette University. The LSSAWR, with accessibility in English, Spanish, and German, assesses satisfaction levels of Roman Catholic apostolic women religious individually and communally as they discern their ongoing life commitment.

Sister Carole is Living the Dream

Continued from page 14

For those who come for a spiritual journey she said her job is to, "help them stay 'in and of' the world God desires for them."

"All of our work is so important to us," she said. "It would be unrealistic to think after attending a retreat you stay on a spiritual mountaintop for good. What you learn at the retreat must be lived out, worked out, fine-tuned, and applied in the tests and trials of daily life. "Spiritual practices of the retreat can be helpful, but even Jesus did not 'live on the mountaintop,'" she said.

Before any individual or group comes to the West Virginia Institute of Spirituality Sister Carole prays. "I pray that God's love surrounds, protects, guides, and enables the person coming to be open to God's presence and I pray that I and all those at (WVIS) are collaborative with what God is doing in and for this person," she said.

If you would have told her younger self how many hundreds if not thousands of people, she would inspire through her calling to serve she wouldn't have believed it, she said.

As a young novice Sister Carole set a goal for herself "to work and be a saint who made a difference in people's lives, bringing them closer to Christ and heaven."

Those who meet her confidently say she is living the dream.

Leadership Receives Alumni Award



Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC), a sponsored institution of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, annually presents its “Aspire Higher Award,” to acknowledge individuals who demonstrate a passion for using the present to create a better future. President Dottie L. King, Ph.D., selected the General Council of the Sisters of Providence as the 2021 recipients.

Members of the Sisters of Providence General Council are all SMWC alumni and include Sister Dawn Tomaszewski '74, general superior; Sister Lisa Stallings '74, vicar and general treasurer; Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp '73, Sister Jenny Howard '74 and Sister Mary Beth Klingel '69, general councilors.

“We have been so blessed by the Sisters for so many years. And, this General Council has done so much to aid the College, especially in these last few years,” King said. “They have stood beside us during our transition to co-education, they support our athletic teams and have endured our growing pains as we have accommodated our increasing student body. And, for the magnificent way they’ve handled COVID-19, especially as we and the order have a shared campus – and, they have a very vulnerable population.”

“It’s been on my heart to do this,” King added when presenting the Aspire Higher award during a September council meeting. “I have been blessed to work with all of you, and you have blessed me, our leadership team and our College. For your prayers, standing beside us through difficult times, through times of transition and through times of growth – you have been there to cheer us on and stand beside us.”

The Sisters of Providence helped the College expand its footprint from 62 acres to 311 acres enabling the College to purchase additional acreage in 2018.

King credited the General Council for their patience, prayers and partnership as the College built and opened the [Sister] Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center in 2014, dedicated the new Les Bois Residence Hall and the Sister Barbara Doherty Dining Center in 2021, addressed master plan needs such as renaming roadways, expanding parking lots, readdressing buildings, installing wayfinding signage and expanding Wi-Fi access throughout the collective campus.



A billboard recognizing the council for Aspiring Higher as strong women leaders and SMWC alumni went up in West Terre Haute, IN. We are uncertain which surprised the members of the General Council more – receiving the prestigious award or seeing their more-than-life-size photos on the billboard!

Sisters to Hold 40th General Chapter in Person!

"God willin' and the creek don't rise ... "

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, will reunite the third week of October for its 40th General Chapter. This Chapter, originally scheduled for the end of June, had been postponed due to COVID.

As all of us have experienced these past eighteen months, the COVID pandemic has wreaked havoc on our communities, in-person gatherings and programming. Special events were planned and then cancelled. Retreats and funeral services were postponed. Programs were scheduled and then reformatted to present in a virtual format.

Yet, because one hundred percent of our sisters at the motherhouse and nearby communities are fully vaccinated, with certain protocols in place we recently had success joining in person: In August for our Liturgy of Vows and Reception as Sister Joni Luna professed final vows and Sister Jessica Vitente professed her first

vows; and in September when we gathered together and welcomed Leslie Dao's entrance as our new postulant. What wonderful occasions these were!

The reality is that not all our sisters around the world have had access to the vaccine. Many sisters ministering in Taiwan and Asia, for example, are just now receiving their first doses of the vaccine. Some, therefore, will still be unable to travel to Indiana for General Chapter next month.

In anticipation of that possibility, this summer we gathered virtually in small groups, setting the groundwork in place and laying the foundation for final decisions about our future focus. While uplifting, the experience was just not the same as being present together here at the Woods where our roots run deep. We welcome your uniting in prayer with us for keeping sisters and associates safe as they travel home. We trust that all the careful planning of our Chapter Planning Committee, as well as the precautions suggested by our Covid Task Force, will result in a protective environment for such a joyous celebration.

As we head into the final few weeks of preparation for Chapter, we remain fully confident in our Provident God and therefore lean fully on Providence, as our foundress Saint Mother Theodore Guerin taught. We look ahead with excitement and hope as, in just a few weeks, sisters and delegates will return to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for a comprehensive report of where we have been and to finalize a vision for where we want to go throughout the next five years.



Sister Joni Luna, Sister Jessica Vitente

Donor Program Honors Loyal Benefactors

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, have always treasured our friends who give a donation every month. Now we have created a unique recognition program called Providence GEMs (Gives Every Month), showing our appreciation for these faithful givers and shining a light on monthly giving.

Monthly donors make a big difference! According to Network for Good, monthly donors often give more over time, remain loyal donors longer and stay more engaged. And younger donors and those on a budget often find donating monthly more doable than a larger one-time donation.

Perhaps someone who wishes to support the Sisters of Providence feels that a small donation will not accomplish much. That could not be further from the truth! As we know, every dollar helps and it all adds up. A monthly gift of \$10 becomes \$120 in just one year!

Providence GEMs set up online monthly giving using a credit/debit card or can have it automatically transferred from a savings or checking account.

The Sisters of Providence recognize one of the most loyal groups of benefactors we have with these special benefits of being a Providence GEM:

- Providence GEM membership card
- Quarterly communications with news on how their cumulative donations make a difference
- Subscription to "HOPE" magazine 3x per year
- Recognition on the Together in Mission Wall in the motherhouse
- Providence GEM keychain handcrafted from the Woods

When a person gives monthly to the Sisters of Providence, this commitment allows us to plan for the future, knowing we can expect those recurring funds.

Giving monthly offers a great way of supporting our mission and ministries. Providence GEMs help ensure a bright future for many people in need of loving care and support. Monthly givers help provide resources for long-term care for elder sisters and support the ongoing legacy of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.



Congratulations 2021 Jubilarians!

This past July, the jubilarians of 2021 and 2020 were beautifully celebrated. Special thanks to Margarita Hernandez, SP, and Lissa Cunneen for crafting the final details for each Jubilee class. Our Vesper time in Renton, WA, as well as the two Liturgies were signs of God's Providential love for each Sister. Enjoy the brief bios that follow, but make sure to read each Sister's full personal story at: <https://sistersofprovidence.net/jubilee-2021/>

80th Anniversary

Cecilia Paganessi, SP

"This is my life." 80 years after entering the Sisters of Providence, Sister Cecilia Paganessi is just as sure of her decision made at the tender age of 10, when she and her four sisters went to St. Thomas Home in Great Falls, MT, after their mother's death. "I liked the sisters who taught us and said I would be one someday," she recalled.



After high school, Cecilia enrolled at the College of Great Falls (now the University of Providence),

where Sister Rita Mudd guided her toward becoming a sister. Cecilia entered the novitiate at Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, and made profession in 1943. CGF summer classes helped her earn a bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree at the University of Notre Dame.

She taught in parochial grade schools for 31 years in Glasgow and Great Falls, MT, Kellogg and Wallace, ID, and Colfax and Walla Walla, WA. Her favorite ministry was in Walla Walla, doing projects for the poor, visiting and assisting neighbors and volunteering in the parish.

For at least the last 10 years, Sister Cecilia has been living at Emilie Court in Spokane, where "the day goes pretty fast with prayer, meals, reading and naps."

75th Anniversary

Inez Arkell, SP

Inez Arkell was born in Minneapolis but eventually moved to western Montana, which she considers her true home. Inez found her path to religious life in high school. She became good friends with a girl named Clarella Fink at Sacred Heart Academy in Missoula who felt similarly called. Inez was hired as a nurse's aide at St. Ignatius and assigned to



care for elderly Sister Victor Nibbler. "I took good care of her," Sister Inez recalled. "Sister Victor told me someday I would be a sister, too."

Inez decided to commit to religious life with the Sisters of Providence, and in 1950, Inez made her final vows as a Sister of Providence. Inez aspired to be a nurse. Her first assignment was working in the sisters' dining room while she took nursing classes at the College of Great Falls.

Sister Inez became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in 1966 and served at hospitals in Fort Benton and Great Falls. Later she transitioned into pastoral care and eventually trained to become a chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Kansas City, MO. From 1977 to 1996, she was chaplain at Columbus Hospital in Great Falls. Other ministries included working at Benefis Health Care, at St. Luke's Parish with the Legion of Mary as spiritual director, at the former Angel Room at St. Vincent DePaul, and with Providence Associates. She officially retired in 1996 but continued to volunteer.

Sister Inez died June 29, 2021, at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle, WA, only a few weeks prior to her jubilee celebration.

70th Anniversary

Mary Kathleen Cummings, SP

Sister Mary K., as she is fondly known, moved to Spokane from Northport, Wash., near the Canadian border, when she was 10. She has always known women religious, having been taught by the Sisters of the Holy Names in grade school and by the Franciscan sisters at Marycliff High School.



Sister Mary K. was drawn to the possibility of various ministries with the Sisters of Providence. But she found herself at the front of an elementary school classroom. "As a teacher, I was young, inexperienced and unprepared," she recalled, "but I liked the variety and being with the children."

Other ministries included finance at the College of Great Falls, teaching high school, serving as treasurer of the former St. Ignatius Province, parish ministry in Hayward, CA, and nine years as director of pastoral care and

Continued on page 20

Congratulations 2021 Jubilarians!

Continued from page 19

volunteers at a small rural hospital in Polson, MT, while also serving as a part-time provincial council member.

Sister Mary K. greets this 70th Jubilee year “with a great deal of joy and gratitude to God for calling me to this way of life and introducing me to being of service.”

60th Anniversary

Lynn Chappell, SP

Sister Lynn Chappell encountered the Sisters of Providence for the first time when her parents enrolled her in Sister Mary Eugenius’ first grade classroom at Holy Family School in White Center, Seattle. She first thought of becoming a Sister of Providence in the sixth grade and persevered through public high school to entrance in 1960. In 1965 she began 12 years of ministry as an elementary school teacher.

Her ministries have included: Local Coordinator (Superior) for St. Joseph Residence (SJR), Seattle and later, long-term care administration at MSV, Seattle, The Pavilion, Burbank, CA, and Our Lady of Compassion, Anchorage, AK; Provincial Secretary for SHP; Provincial Councilor for SHP; Provincial Treasurer, MJP; Records Manager for long-term care ministries in the Seattle area; Manager for Caritas Court and the MJP furniture and household goods storeroom.

Currently, Sister Lynn is working in the Provincial Office as special assistant for Sister Barbara Schamber, Provincial Leader, working again as a records manager.

Sister Lynn says she feels blessed in having a wonderful family and God’s Providence supporting and guiding her through 60 years of religious life.

Joyce Green, SP

Joyce was one of six children born to Mirene and Claude Green in a small Missouri town. Her parents could tell right away that her vision was poor. She was determined to develop whatever skills she needed to succeed, from teaching herself to type to learning Braille.

She became a Catholic as an adult, felt called to religious life, and was introduced to the Sisters of Providence. It was a good fit, and she professed first vows in 1963.



Her first ministry was as a medical records transcriptionist at St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank, CA, and at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Portland; followed by social work at Providence Portland Medical Center (PPMC) for 19 years, during which time she also earned her master’s in social work at St. Louis University. She used her knowledge and skills to help develop the mission integration program at PPMC.

Sister Joyce’s “side ministry” has been helping blind people develop the self-confidence and alternative skills necessary for success in mainstream society and teaching the sighted public what the blind can do if given equal access and unbiased support.

Sister Joyce says she is grateful to be active to the extent that her health and age allow.

Myrta Iturriaga, SP

Myrta Cristina Iturriaga Bustos was born May 18, 1942, in Temuco, Chile, to Deacon Juan Iturriaga and Natalia Bustos. Her large family included 10 sisters and three brothers.



Myrta met the Sisters of Providence when she attended Sacred Heart School in Temuco. A year after graduation, Myrta entered the Sisters of Providence in Santiago. She professed first vows in 1963 and final vows in 1968.

In her first ministry, Sister Myrta taught elementary school, then high school. Later she became the principal of the Professional School in Ovalle, Chile. Sister Myrta came to Spokane, WA, in 1988, when she was called to be a missionary to the Hispanic community in Connell, Wash., offering catechism, baptism, first communion, formation and pastoral care for families. Sister Myrta went on to volunteer with the Diocese of Spokane where she served as prison and detention minister and provided translation services. She was recognized with the Volunteer of the Year award from Airway Heights Correctional Center.

“The presence of God with me all the time has been very clear in every step of my life. It is a blessing to offer your gifts to others and to receive more than 100% back from them.”

Continued on page 21

Congratulations 2021 Jubilarians!

Continued from page 20

Mary Kaye Nealen, SP

Providence life began for Sister Mary Kaye in Wallace, ID, where she heard many stories of the Providence Sisters' kindness to her widowed grandmother and her family. In 1960, she became a postulant at Mount St. Vincent, Seattle.



St. Raphael's School in Glasgow, MT, was her first ministry. Later assignments included St. Rita's in Kellogg, ID; DeSales High School in Walla Walla, WA., and

Sacred Heart Academy in Missoula, MT; doctoral studies in theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; and for five years, general councilor in Montreal. Later, she helped bring the Sisters' revised Constitutions and Rules to completion and to Vatican approval in 2018.

Her favorite ministry? The common thread: helping to create new things, especially an education and formation program for far-flung deacon candidates and their wives, and a distance-delivery RN-to-BSN program for Providence nurses.

Embracing all the people, experiences, and learning of the past 60 years, she sings with joy the refrain learned as a candidate: "How can I repay God for this goodness to me? I will raise the cup of salvation; I will call on God's name."

Marie-Claire Soucy, SP

Sister Marie-Claire Soucy certainly fits the definition of a citizen of the world. She was born in Lowell, MA, in 1938 and in her 60 years as a Sister of Providence she has lived in Yakima, Spokane and Seattle, WA; in Montreal, Quebec; in Comodoro Rivadavia, Córdoba and Buenos Aires, Argentina; in Orlandia, Brazil; in Etam Kuma and Koudandeng, Cameroon; and in Rendel, Les Cayes, Sucrierie Henry, and her current residence of Limonade, Cap Haitien in Haiti.

She attended St. Joseph Grammar School and St. Joseph High School, where she was taught by the Grey Nuns of the Cross and then later met the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a lay institute in her native parish of St. John the Baptist.



After a year in Hamilton, TX, Sister Marie-Claire was sent to Montreal for nursing school with the Sisters of Providence at Sacred Heart Hospital. Upon graduation, she transferred to the Sisters of Providence in 1961. She professed first vows as a Sister of Providence in 1963 and made her final vows in Canada in 1968.

She was sent to Cameroon, Africa, where she served as a nurse director in a clinic in the bush, where there was no physician. She also served as a midwife, delivering more than 1,000 babies. After three years, she departed in 1978 for Haiti.

After decades of ministering abroad, Sister Marie-Claire is now settled into retirement at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle.

Patricia Eley, SP

As I look back over the past 60 years, at the many blessings I have received, all I can say is Providence of God I thank you for all: the love you have shown me through my parents, brothers and sisters and their families; the joys and blessings of the many students who have been entrusted to me and the love they have been for me; the many Sisters of Providence who have helped me get closer to you through their support, example and encouragement.



I repeat, Providence of God, I thank you for all!

50th Anniversary

Donna Burkhart, SP

During her teenage years, Sister Donna worked as a counselor at several camps – for the physically handicapped, for inner city children from New York City, and for mentally-challenged adults.

After moving to the Pacific Northwest, she met Sisters of Providence Lorraine Hofmeister and Jeanette Benson in Roseburg, OR. She was very impressed with their ministry and commitment. She became a postulant in July 1970, and her first ministry was teaching sixth grade at Our Lady of Lourdes, Vancouver, WA. During her canonical novice year, she took classes at St. Thomas Seminary, where she later earned her master's degree in theology. She professed first vows in 1973.

Continued on page 22

Congratulations 2021 Jubilarians!

Continued from page 21

Her journey then took a different direction into parish ministry, and she served at St. Joseph Parish, Yakima, WA; St. Matthew Parish, Seattle; St. Jane Frances Parish, North Hollywood, CA; and St. Michael Parish, Olympia, WA. She was then called to community service as Provincial Secretary for Sacred Heart Province and Mother Joseph Province.

Sister Donna states, "There are no shortcuts in this journey through life. Wisdom, joy, truth, faith and healthy relationships are the result of trust and endurance. Nothing in this life comes instantly or easily. Life is not only about the things we accomplish, but also about the ability to arise again. On this journey, it is only through God that we find the measure of strength we require to arise when we fall and to keep moving forward. And so I say, 'Providence of God, I thank you for all.'"

Lang Thi Tran, SP

Sister Lang Thi Tran was born on October 11, 1952, in Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam. She was the first of eight children.



When she was two, Vietnam divided and nearly one million Catholics moved from the North to the South to be able to continue practicing their faith.

Her parents sent her to live with the Holy Cross Sisters at their boarding school. After fifth grade

she then moved to Da Lat to live with the Adorers of the Holy Cross Sisters for high school in their pre-candidate program. Lang entered the Adorers of the Holy Cross in 1969 and took her final vows in 1978. In 1996 she moved to the U.S. where she was introduced to members of the Sisters of Providence. She officially transferred vows to Sisters of Providence in 2003.

Her ministries have included: St. Anne's Children and Family Center, Spokane; Grandma's Place and Providence Portland Medical Center, and volunteering with Wee Care, a daycare program for the children of employees. Her exemplary service with this program was recognized with a Spirit of Emilie Values in Action Award in 2019.

After retiring, Sister Lang moved to Burbank, CA, to live with her family who moved to the U.S. in 1991.

Shop for these and other
WPC publications on
the WPC website.
www.wpcweb.org

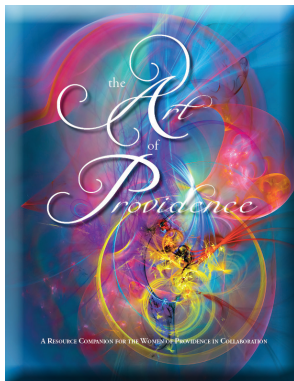


Providence and Peace: Connecting and Co-Creating for Justice



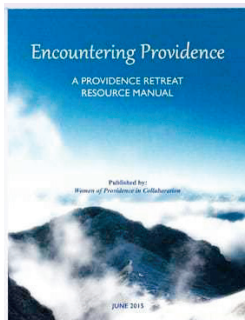
Providence and Peace: Connecting and Co-Creating for Justice is the second in a series featuring authors who look at specific topics through the lens of Providence and their lived experience in ministry and community life.
\$13.65

The Art of Providence



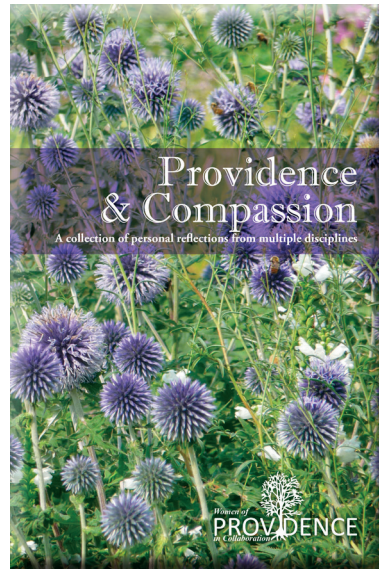
The Art of Providence is a beautiful resource book of prayers, poetry, prayer rituals, music, photos, reflections and artwork by various Sisters and Associates in our Providence congregations. The authors have shared their talents with us in a variety of ways. Each of them seeks to express their understandings of Providence through particular art forms.
\$18.90

Encountering Providence



This compiled retreat resource manual features a flash drive with presentations, videos, prayers, reflection and leader templates.
\$52.50

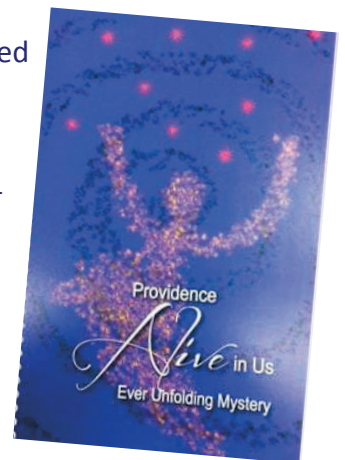
Providence & Compassion



Nine Women of Providence share their understanding of Providence and Compassion through the lens of their lived experience in ministry and community life. These 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.
\$13.65

Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery

"Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery" 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, some of whom are previous contributors to other Providence published books, will lead us in this search for still deeper engagement with Ever Unfolding Mystery.
\$15.75





Calendar

2021

October 2: Brainstorming on Providence Event via zoom

October 7: Meeting of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Group via Zoom

November 2-3: WPC Fall Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom

November 24: Advent Prayer Services distributed to WPC member congregations and posted on WPC website

2022

April 1-2: WPC Board meeting in Terre Haute, IN

Fall: WPC Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, Dates TBD



**WOMEN OF
PROVIDENCE**
IN COLLABORATION

Collaboration is published by the Women of Providence in Collaboration ♦ www.wpcweb.org

Executive Director: Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP

1621 Tenth Street ♦ Madison, IL 62060 ♦ 618-550-8884 ♦ bmcmullencdp@gmail.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; Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Wakefield, RI; Oblate Sisters of Providence, Baltimore, MD; Sisters of Providence, Holyoke, MA; Sisters of Providence, Montreal, QC, Canada; Sisters of Providence, Seattle/Spokane, WA; Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Terre Haute, IN; Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston, ON, Canada; Sisters of Providence, Edmonton, AL, Canada