



Collaboration

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Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Sisters, Associates Renew Vows and Commitments

By Ann Boniferro, Director Of Pastoral Liturgy & Music

With grateful hearts, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and the Providence Associates were gathered to renew their vows and commitments. This celebration occurs annually on September 15, the Memorial of Our Mother of Sorrows; however, because Providence Motherhouse is considered by public health to be a long-term care facility, in recent years Associates and Sisters living outside Providence Motherhouse were only able to view the liturgy on livestream.

This year, the Motherhouse residents were joined in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion by eleven Sisters of Providence living in the community and seven Providence Associates. All were willing to follow necessary protocols, including masking and rapid testing, in order to be part of the celebration.

Sister Frances O'Brien was the presider for Liturgy of the Hours – Evening Prayer. Following the Proclamation of the Light and the Evening Thanksgiving, all joined in singing the hymn Mary, Mother of Compassion, with text by the late Sister Peggy Flanagan set to Finlandia by Sibelius.

Within the context of the liturgy, Sister Sandra Shannon, General Superior, addressed the Sisters and Associates, asking if they wished to continue living out their baptismal call as vowed religious and lay associates, living in communion, strengthened by prayer and bonded in unity and love through the corporate mission of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Sisters then rededicated themselves to the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience and to continued witness to the Providence of God through the congregation.

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Sister Sandra Shannon, General Superior, addressing the Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates.

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From the director

Sister Mary Stanco, HM

On a trip in late September, I was driving through the Appalachian Mountains. As I was passing through Pennsylvania, I happened to pick up WAOB 106.7 (We Are One Body) on the radio and heard a program discussing Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin.

I thought this might be providential, as she is the foundress of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal. The program spoke of her life and virtues as she is often quoted as saying “... *humility, simplicity, charity, above all charity.*” She often gathered people around a table to share in a meal and fellowship. Indeed, my experience of communities with the charism of Providence has been gathering various people around the table to listen and learn from each other to further the mission of the gospel.

There is another quote I came across that Sister Émilie said, “*As long as our community shall be attached to the three roots of humility, simplicity and charity it shall endure; but if you should seek to graft upon it other branches however beautiful they may appear to you, you will only grow wild fruits and our own will lose their savor.*”

The roots of humility, simplicity and charity, certainly have grown deeply within many of the Providence communities, like a tree. I appreciate my responsibility as the Executive Director to help nurture the roots and allow for growth without losing the essence of the mission.

The WPC mission, as you well know is that “*We come together to share and promote the evolving theology and spirituality of Providence, witnessing a preferential option for the poor as we respond to the needs of our global society.*”

Blessed Émilie inspires me as we express gratitude for the harvest and in most regions of North America witness the awesome displays of greens changing into yellows, oranges and reds. I look forward to gathering around the table with you in various ways.

In an effort to help with communicating, I will be periodically sending out an email of announcements entitled “WPC Openings and Opportunities” to WPC members to forward to your networks. If you have

any openings and opportunities, please submit them to Providence-WPC@gmail.com. Please note the following openings and share them with those who would benefit from applying. For the full position descriptions and contact information, please email wpcstanco@gmail.com.

Genesis Spiritual Life & Conference Center is seeking an Executive Director.

(See page 15 for the job description.)

La Posada Providencia, San Benito, Texas. Executive Director for the ministry of serving immigrants and asylum seekers. See La Posada’s website for more information <https://lppshelter.org>.

(See page 16 for the job description.)

Kino Border Initiative/Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera. Catholic Sisters Walking with Migrants. One month or longer volunteer and advocacy experience for Catholic women religious. All expenses paid. Learn more about KBI at www.kinoborderinitiative.org.

For more information and applications email: volunteer@kinoborderinitiative.org.

(See page 17 for the flier)



Hiroshima Day – August 6

By Pauline Lally, SP

Social scientist, Brené Brown says we need to show up for collective moments of joy and sorrow so that we can bear witness to inextricable human connections. That's why we go to funerals, protests, sports events, concerts, Sunday Mass. Collective celebrations and anniversaries – both joyful and painful – contribute to a life filled with a sense of connection.

That's what August 6 does for me each summer. With others we remember the horrific dropping of a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, Japan that razed the

entire city to the ground. Three days later another atomic bomb was dropped on nearby Nagasaki resulting in blood-curdling carnage and unendurable horror. We must never forget that. We must never repeat it. Our collective assemblies around the world on the anniversaries of those days gives us a sense that we are bigger than ourselves.

In Kingston this year our gathering was small but significant. God bless Susanne Cliff-Jungling and Wendy Luella Perkins who each year facilitate the ceremony in Skeleton Park with meaningful readings, soulful songs composed by Wendy, sharing and silence. It was a sacred connection with each other, the victims

of the nightmarish disaster as well as the ones who orchestrated such a massive devastation and unbelievable horror. "Our broken heart is connected to every broken heart that has known pain from the beginning of time." (B.B.)

This day of remembrance always renews my commitment to work for peace, justice, decency, and respect for all with the Divine Mystery in which we live and work and find our meaning.



Sister Pauline Lally (third from the left) and Sister Una Byrne (far right) in attendance at Hiroshima Day. Photo courtesy Sister Una Byrne.

Sisters, Associates Renew Vows and Commitments

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Barbara Baker, Associates Director, addressing the Providence Associates.

Next, Barbara Baker, Director of the Providence Associates, came forward to invite the Associates to renew their commitment for one year, promising to live out the charism of serving with compassion, trusting in Providence, and walking in hope, and to further the Mission of the Congregation.

Following the liturgy, all were invited to the Sisters' dining room to continue the celebration with a special meal. Although non-residents were not able to mingle with residents, it was wonderful to be in the same room together.

We look forward to future celebrations and the possibility of being more fully present to one another.

Sister Professes Perpetual Vows

On September 3, Sister Megan Growing was joined by Sisters of Divine Providence, family and friends during the celebration of her perpetual vows in Sacred Heart Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Sister Megan is inspired by her desire to serve God and the people of God. She said, "I look forward to this lifelong commitment. My heart is filled with joy and awe at the gift this life has been and will continue to be. The greatest desire of my heart is to serve our Provident God and the people of God."

Originally from Sacred Heart parish in Muenster, TX, Sister Megan attended public school and was enrolled in religious education. She notes, "I was born, raised, went through all of my sacraments in that town." She says she "grew up in a typical German

Catholic town, a typical German Catholic family."

Sister Megan first met the Sisters of Divine Providence when she was finishing her master's degree in counseling psychology at Angelo State University. She was already discerning religious life and couldn't believe how passionate the Sisters were about prayer and mission. After her first visit to the congregation in San Antonio she recounted, "I was excited to see how welcoming everyone was. By the end of that visit, I knew that I had found my home."

Sister Megan ministers in Houston where she serves as a licensed professional counselor at Gratia Plena Counseling Agency. She lives in community with Sister Rosalie Karstedt who has ministered 50 years in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.



*Sr. Pearl Ceasar listens as
Sr. Megan Growing professes
Perpetual Vows*



*(Left to right) Glenn and Connie Growing,
Sr. Rosalie Karstedt, Sr. Frances Lorene Lange,
Sr. Megan Growing, Sr. Pearl Ceasar*

Seventeen People Start Associate Formation

Seventeen people from Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) founded by the Congregation of Divine Providence, began their process of formation to become an Associate of the Sisters. Their first session was on September 20th, led by Sister Pearl Ceasar, Superior General of the Congregation. The formation to become an ACDP includes eight sessions, covering the history and charism of the Congregation, the life and times of their founder, Father John Martin Moye, prayer and spirituality, and other related topics.

In addition, four persons associated with the Congregation, likewise began their formation the week after. These individuals have a connection to the CDPs, as employees and former students of the Sisters.

We welcome, from OLLU: Scarlett Alonzo, Maria Cabaniss, Magnolia Ceballos, Abel Chavez, Naomi Chavez, Jacqueline Coppock, Humberto Espinoza-Molina, Karina Gil, Debora Guzman Perez, Laura Peterson, Jessica Quintero, Jamina Scippio-McFadden, Madison Taber, Gus Villa, Antoinette Winstead, Jo Ann Winstead, and Candace Zepeda; and the Congregation's Mission Support Director, Pearl Dominguez, along with former students of the Sisters: Joseph McCarthy, Stephen McMahon and his wife, Jodie.



Sister Marjie Filler, CDP, who is a teacher in Midland, TX, will be completing the formation of three: Felix and Noemi Chavez (parents of Sister Christina C. Chavez, CDP), and Stephanie Sites.

CDP Associates are from diverse faith traditions and live across the United States and Mexico. In San Antonio, groups meet at our sponsored institutions: Our Lady of the Lake Convent, OLLU, and Providence Catholic School. There are also groups in a multitude of states especially in those areas where the Sisters ministered, like Louisiana and Texas, as well as in Mexico.

The women and men who are already CDP Associates, kicked-off their monthly discussion in September with Pope Francis' book, *Let Us Dream*, which is their theme for the year. They will be meeting once a month, from now until May 2023 to discuss the book and bring new ideas to the table. Planned for November is a round-table discussion hosted by Providence Spiritual Outreach (PROSO), to collaborate and share ideas with one another, and with other CDP associates from various parts of the U.S.

Providence Associate Update

Come together! We currently have nearly 20 Providence Associate Circles. These small groups of Providence Associates and Sisters of Providence meet together regularly, either in person or virtually, for faith sharing, learning and community building. Our Circle groups are a key part of the Providence Associate relationship.

We continue to grow! 22 new Providence Associates will be making their first commitments in October. In November, 34 new candidates will begin their year of reflection and discernment to see if becoming a Provi-

dence Associate is right for them. We are blessed to have so many joining us in community and mission. Survey says! We are in the process of creating a survey to match needed skills and volunteer activities of the sisters and our ministries to better match Providence Associates' time and skills with areas that we could use volunteer help.

Sisters Profess Perpetual Vows and Welcome a Sister into the Noviate

Sister Tracey and Sister Arrianne professed perpetual vows with the Congregation on Saturday, Aug. 20, during a celebrative Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Sisters of Providence, she got to know more about our Congregation's foundress, Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, which cemented her decision to become a woman religious.

When Sister Tracey Horan, SP, and Sister Arrianne Whittaker, SP, were introduced to the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, they found their home.

"Providence chose me, and I simply followed that call," Sister Arrianne said. "My experience of God was reflected in how the Sisters of Providence experienced God and in how they live their mission."

"I wanted to be part of that expansive God that I was getting to know, little by little," Sister Tracey added. "I started to see that joining together with these faithful women could be a way to do that."

Sister Tracey, a native of Indianapolis, entered the Congregation on Sept. 8, 2014, from St. Anthony's Parish. Sister Arrianne, born in Indianapolis, entered the Congregation on Jan. 4, 2012, from St. Boniface Parish in Germantown, Wis.

Sister Tracey, who currently ministers as the Associate Director of Education and Advocacy at the Kino Border Initiative, Nogales, Ariz., learned of the Sisters of Providence after becoming an intern with White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, a sponsored ministry of the Congregation.

She said the moment she met the Sisters of Providence, she knew she was where she needed to be. "I saw that they were in all the places where God's healing presence is needed," she said. "In prisons, accompanying migrant workers, on the front lines at protests. I could see that in my life."

Sister Tracey added that while spending time with the



***Sister Arrianne Whittaker (left) and Sister Tracey Horan
at the celebrative Mass for Perpetual Vows***

"I got to know Mother Theodore's life, and something about her drew me in," Sister Tracey said. "I found her to be so human, so relatable. Her desire for women to be educated and to lead in their communities, the way she was real about her struggles, but also handed them over to God with such trust. That made me want to know more about the Providence Community."

After graduating from Marquette University in 2009, Sister Arrianne's life journey brought her to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods where she began volunteering at St. Ann's Clinic, a free health clinic which was then a sponsored ministry

of the Congregation. She started learning more and more about the Congregation and, like Sister Tracey, knew she had found her calling.

"I began to learn about who the Sisters of Providence were and what they stood for in this world," she said. "I learned about all the amazing ministries they were involved in and I learned just how much they loved each other, and Mother Theodore, of course!"

Sister Arrianne recently completed medical school at Marian University in Indianapolis. While she is currently between ministries, she recently served as a doctor in residence at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Sister Arrianne said learning more about the Congregation's charism of Providence deepened her faith in her decision to become a Sister of Providence.

"We share this gift with others through works of

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Sisters Profess Perpetual Vows and Welcome a Sister into the Noviate

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love, mercy and justice,” Sister Arrianne said. “Through my journey, I have been told that the charism of one’s community chooses you and not the other way around. That is exactly how I felt from day one with the Sisters of Providence.”

Sister Tracey and Sister Arrianne feel that it is overwhelming to have professed perpetual vows, and also gratifying.

“At this time in our world, it feels more important than ever to be part of the Jesus movement,” Sister Tracey said. “It’s humbling to think of all the women who have walked this path before me and who have paved the way with their lives.”

“I feel ready to commit myself fully, and for life, to the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Providence,” Sister Arrianne said. “I have been on this journey for 10 years and I think during that time, I have grown and learned so much, all the while trying to live out our mission in my little corner of the world.”

As Sisters Tracey and Arrianne move along their lifelong journeys, the Providence Community celebrates the progression of another on her own journey.

Sister Leslie Dao entered the novitiate on August 14, 2022, at a special liturgy in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. During the next year, Sister Leslie will study Scripture, Congregation and Church history, and develop a deeper connection to God, her community and the world.

Please keep these sisters in your prayers as they advance the Sisters of Providence mission and the legacy of Saint Mother Theodore, whose birthday, feast day and canonization we honor in October.



***Standing with the portrait of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin,
Sister Leslie Dao, SP, (left) and Director of Novices
Sister Norene Wu, SP***

Sisters of Providence and Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Enter Covenant Relationship

A process which began nearly two years ago culminated on Sunday, August 28, as Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, and Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, based in Huntington, Indiana, sealed a covenant relationship during a transfer of leadership ritual.

During the Aug. 28 ceremony, Sister Jenny Howard, SP, was installed as Congregation Leader for the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, who are located in the Indiana Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "We promise to provide the safe and sure support needed by the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters at this time in your history," said Sisters of Providence General Superior Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, SP, during the installation ceremony. "We will care for your life of special consecration. And we promise to be the loving Providence needed to enable you to deepen your lives and live out the commitments you made to God and one another."

The Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters (OLVM), also known as the Victory Noll Sisters, approached three different congregations in late 2020 asking if they would be interested in discerning about entering into a covenant relationship, specifically describing the need for future leadership. The Victory Noll Sisters considered this decision for a number of years as they reached the conclusion that there were not OLVM sisters available to serve in leadership positions into the future.

"The invitation from the Victory Noll Sisters to the Sisters of Providence was the first time that I began to think about this," Sister Jenny said. "I prayed about it for many months."

After nearly a year of discernment about the decision, the Sisters of Providence formally accepted the invitation to enter into the covenant relationship in early October 2021.

"I had an energy for it from the very beginning," Sister Jenny added. "And it was very exciting at our chapter in October 2021 when the letter came from the Victory Noll Sisters that they had selected our Congregation to provide leadership for them."

Following the October 2021 announcement, Sister Dawn invited all Sisters of Providence to discern if they might consider taking this leadership position with the Victory Noll Sisters.



Outgoing Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters President Sister Mary Jo Nelson embraces Sister of Providence Sister Jenny Howard.

Photo provided by
OLVM Communications Coordinator Paul Siegfried.

The Sisters of Providence and the Victory Noll Sisters then contacted the Vatican in April 2022 requesting that the Sisters of Providence be given the responsibility to provide the Victory Noll community with a commissary to act as the major superior of their congregation because they lacked the capacity for exercising canonical governance themselves. The Vatican then approved this relationship through decree, which was sent to both congregations in July 2022. "At that point, I continued my discernment, and many sisters and other friends were encouraging me to consider this new role," Sister Jenny said. "When the call came from Sister Dawn, I felt like it was an opportunity for me to place my name forward. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to be in relationship with other religious communities. It is the future of religious life. It is a wonderful model of collaboration and working together for the sake of the mission.

"The Sisters of Providence have been collaborating with other religious communities in a variety of ways

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Sisters of Providence and Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Enter Covenant Relationship

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for many years, and this is just a new way for us to be in relationship with the Victory Noll Sisters. This summer, at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious National Assembly, there were several religious communities who spoke of coming to this moment of needing to discern with other congregations to provide a commissary."

During the installation ceremony, Sister Dawn said Sister Jenny – who has been a Sister of Providence for 39 years and has served in leadership for three terms – will provide her "gifts of leadership, of listening and of loving."

"We Sisters of Providence know Sister Jenny as a faithful daughter of Providence," Sister Dawn said, "someone whose own life experiences, like your own, have called her to let go in order to let something new come."

"I believe you have already experienced in her someone willing to provide the constant and open dialogue of which the decree from Rome suggests."

"As far as the leadership role, many things are familiar," Sister Jenny added. "What I want to learn more

deeply is their charism, the eyes and the heart of their charism. It's important to first get to know the sisters and I've had conversations with many of them. But there are also the other roles, including getting connected with their corporate board members and their trustees. That's the part of the leadership role I'm looking forward to learning.

"My hope, during these first few months, is to visit the Victory Noll Sisters who are ministering in South Carolina, Colorado, New Mexico and the Chicago area."

Sister Jenny currently ministers part-time with Providence Housing Corp., located in West Terre Haute, Ind. She said she will continue to minister there while also taking on this new ministry.

"I'm always on call and available to the Victory Noll community and staff, however, the expectation is that I do not always have to be present on their campus," Sister Jenny said. "The Victory Noll Sisters know of my ministry at Providence Housing, and are very supportive. Many sisters have said how glad they are that I have a ministry where I'm connected directly with the residents who live there."



Sisters of Providence General Superior Sister Dawn Tomaszewski (from left), Sister Jenny Howard and Sister Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN, during the transfer Mass. Photo provided by OLVN Communications Coordinator Paul Siegfried.

A Providential Journey

On September 23, the Sisters of Providence gathered to celebrate the United States citizenship of Ms. Ritah Mutesi Ganza, the mother of a refugee family living at a house located on the Sisters of Providence campus. The Ganza family, consisting of Ritah, husband Steven and their two young children, came to the United States in 2017 as refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Sisters worked with Jewish Family Services refugee program to arrange for housing for the family.

In the past five years, Sr. Senga Fulton, SP, has served as liaison with the family supporting them in numerous ways. She is affectionately called “grandma” by the children, including a third child who was born in 2020. During these years, the parents obtained employment and the children enrolled in a nearby school. Ritah became a nurse’s aide at an SP facility close by and soon started pursuing further education. She will receive her Associate Degree in Nursing in 2024. Once completed, Ritah plans to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN).

The Sisters at Providence Place congratulated Ritah – with her toddler in tow -- on her newly gained United States citizenship and her many accomplishments. Sr. Senga presented Ritah with a financial gift from the Congregation toward her BSN education. Sr. Senga commented on Ritah’s resilience and determination saying, “Ritah not only is raising three children - with

the older two being excellent students, she is educating herself simultaneously while being employed. She is well known for her fine nursing skills, gentle compassion, and warm smile.” The Sisters of Providence have been blessed in knowing this courageous family.



Ritah Ganzas, her nearly three-year old daughter Liani, and Sr. Senga Fulton on the day the Sisters celebrated her U.S. citizenship and her many accomplishments since arriving with her family from the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2017.



Genesis History Wall Tells the Story

For several years, Sr. Elizabeth Oleksak has been gathering photos and documents about the history of Genesis Spiritual Life Center in Westfield, MA. She had founded the retreat center in 1976 and served as its Executive Director until 2002. One of her dreams was to document the history and evolution of Genesis from its origins as the manor house of the Crane Estate. It was in 1976 that Sr. Elizabeth transformed the 19-acre setting and buildings into the Genesis Retreat and Conference Center.

Capturing the early history was part of her plan as she designed a Genesis History Wall. Along the way, she had helpers to sift through the more than 45 years of the Genesis story. Delayed by the impact of the Covid pandemic, the project grew in intensity during the past year as Associate Patricia St. Amand began working with Sr. Elizabeth and with Mr. Ed Pessolano, graphic artist, who had helped create the Wall of Remembrance for the Sisters of Providence at Mercy Medical Center during our 120th and 140th anniversary celebrations.

A first phase of the Genesis project was completed in early May 2022 as the approximately 30-foot history wallpaper was put in place in the Genesis main administrative corridor to everyone's delight. This Phase I covers the coming of the Sisters of Providence to western Massachusetts; the acquiring of the Crane Estate; moving of the novitiate there; later establishing at the site a residential program for unwed mothers; rebuilding the facility in 1964; and then launching in 1976 the beginnings of Genesis Spiritual Life Center and Conference Center.

Sr. Elizabeth desires that this history wall will "remind all who see it of the rich and blessed history of this welcoming place – the positive energy that remains and brings hope and healing to those who come to Genesis."

Phase II history work has begun on the subsequent growth and development of Genesis – the people, presenters, participants, and even pets -- who are integral to the story. More to come!



Sr. Elizabeth Oleksak points out some of the items on the history wall at the Genesis Spiritual Life Center.

A Confidence in God's Loving Hand and Power

As pastoral associate for a 3300-family parish just north of Boston, Sr. Madonna Marie Kling is busy about doing “whatever needs to be done”—and a lot needs doing! Besides coordinating the outreach ministries to the six assisted living and nursing homes in the parish and bringing Eucharist on a regular basis to the homebound, she acts as liaison to the parish council and coordinates all its liturgies and liturgical ministries.

She brings a unique background and experience to the latter, having served as Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Covington, KY, while its stunningly beautiful Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption underwent a massive restoration. Its paintings, Stations of the Cross and interior were completely restored, its sanctuary was renovated, and the Cathedral's world-renowned stained-glass windows cleaned and relined. She most remembers how “all those involved in the project labored with the greatest reverence and gratitude for the privilege of restoring this magnificent house of God.”

Today, in addition to her ministry at the Andover, MA, parish, Sr. Madonna volunteers at the nearby Ironstone Farm, which offers equine therapy for children with autism, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy and other handicaps. “We lead the horses on trails and in the barn. The movement of the horses contributes to the physical and emotional well-being of the clients.”



***Sr. Madonna Marie Kling, CDP
at Ironstone Farm, Andover, MA***

“Obstacles can often lead to new ways of doing things, new adventures, and a deepening awareness of how God provides in all circumstances,” says Sr. Madonna. “The saying, ‘All shall be well’ is, for me, a confidence in God's loving hand and power with me through all joys and trials. It is a continual reminder of who is in charge and sometimes, to my chagrin, it's not me! But there has always been great joy in resting in Providence.”

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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

Province Holds First-ever Virtual Chapter

The Marie de la Roche Province of the Sisters of Divine Providence held its Fifth Provincial Chapter of Affairs from July 31 to August 5, 2022. This was the Province's first-ever virtual Chapter, necessitated by the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to protect our Community's most vulnerable members.

A significant number of Sisters and Associates attended the Chapter via Zoom, as Active, Consulting, Observer, or Praying participants. Training on computer use and the Zoom platform was offered prior the Chapter to any Sister who wished to become more familiar with the technology.

Sister Judy Donovan, CSJ, delivered a keynote address on the first day that set the tone for the Chapter. Each day's session began with an inspiring PowerPoint prayer service, and daily liturgies were live-streamed from Mother of Divine Providence Chapel at Providence Heights. Sisters Connie Gilder, SSJ, and Carol Marozzi, SSJ, facilitated the preparation and

implementation of the Chapter using the Communal Discernment process.



Circle Conversations in preparation for Chapter resulted in three major topics for discernment that resonated with the Community: response to the social issues of our time; strengthening our CDP community and the broader community; and embracing integral ecology per *Laudato Si'*.

Using the Communal Discernment process, Chapter table conversations on these topics resulted in a directional statement expressing the Community's commitment to mission and outlining a plan of action

for the Province to implement during the next five years.

The final two days included a prayerful ritual for the Calling of Names for leadership. A Retreat will be held for the Sisters continuing in the Discernment process for leadership. The Provincial Chapter will conclude with the Chapter of Elections in November.

Why Do We Stay? Vocation Videos Shared on Social Media

Sisters Ella Jane Bruen and Claudia Ward share why they stay in vocation videos posted on the Marie de la Roche Province Facebook page.

Visit www.facebook.com/cdpsisters to view the videos, as well as like the page.

Sisters of Divine Providence
August 19 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

Vocation video with Sister Claudia Ward, CDP, who shares why she stays...60 years and counting!

Why do we stay?
SISTER CLAUDIA WARD, CDP
Sisters of Divine Providence
Marie de la Roche Province

YOUTUBE.COM
Why Do We Stay? with Sister Claudia Ward, CDP

Teaching a Young Sister How to Teach

"This was the best," said one alumna! Catholic Junior High in Anchorage began construction in 1961 – the same year the first humans left the earth and the Peace Corp was created.

Sister Joel was assigned there three years later. She fell in love with Alaska and her seventh-grade students. There were 12 Sisters of Providence there at the time, remembers Sr. Joel (now known as Sr. Susanne Hartung.)

The school closed in 1969 as a high school and junior high but that's no reason to skip its 58-year reunion!

Last year, a committee formed, determined, and almost succeeding, in finding every one of their classmates from 1964.

It was such an exciting and wonderful event at the home of one of the former students, relates Sr. Susanne. Several traveled many miles by air and car to attend the May 2022 reunion. Special tribute was given to the around two dozen alumni who had passed away.

"I was afraid I wouldn't recognize these 70 year-olds but name tags helped and I easily remembered

them," says Sr. Susanne. "The stories they told of my teaching abilities were hilarious.

"In reality, those seventh graders were responsible for teaching me the skills of teaching," she said.



Honoring those who passed away.



Students from Catholic Junior High surround Sr. Susanne (sitting in black with pearls) at their reunion.



Seeking an Executive Director

Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center, located in Westfield, MA, has an immediate opening for a full-time experienced Executive Director who is a leader with depth of spiritual understanding and experience grounded in the Roman Catholic faith. The role of the Executive Director is to bring to fruition the mission and vision through the oversight, management and development of retreat programming, with excellent management skills together with a passion for hospitality in a setting that promotes healing of mind, body and spirit.

Genesis, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, established in 1976 is a retreat and conference center founded by the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke, MA. and is beautifully situated on 19.5 acres of peaceful wooded property. In 2016 Genesis was certified as Providence Arboretum and includes vegetable gardens, spiritual reflection points such as the Compassionate Curve pathway, a labyrinth, and peace pole.

This Retreat Center is open year-round, welcoming individuals and groups of women and men of all faith traditions who seek time and space for reflection and a deeper relationship with God. It offers private and directed retreats, various sponsored and hosted day and overnight programs, and has 30 overnight guest rooms and two dining rooms. A free-standing Carriage House provides several conference and meeting rooms that can accommodate approximately 75 to 100 people.

We seek a qualified leader who is able to be a spokesperson for this faith-based Center that is rooted in the Roman Catholic faith. This person is a consensus builder able to work effectively with staff, volunteers and Board members. Major areas of responsibility include: Spiritual Leadership / Culture: the ability to integrate the Mission and Core Values of Genesis at all levels of the organization; Management/ Finance – capacity to work with the Board and staff to plan for the future vitality and sustainability of the Center as well as oversee operational departments – finance, marketing, dietary, housekeeping maintenance and grounds; and ability to work with the Program Director in designing and implementing innovative and meaningful spiritual programs and experiences in an atmosphere of sacred space. Demonstrated general knowledge and skills in human resources is a plus. Some evening and weekend requirements.

The ideal candidate will have a degree in theology, contemporary spirituality, religious studies, pastoral ministry, or equivalent and relevant management experience. Preference will be given to candidates with experience with spiritual retreat/conference center management.

Full time benefit package includes health and dental insurance, paid time off (PTO), paid holidays, and more.

To apply, kindly submit a cover letter describing your interest and sense of fit with the qualifications of the position plus a current resume to:

Richard Thorne, Thorne Consulting
richard@thorneconsulting.com



La Posada Providencia
30094 Marydale Rd, San Benito, TX 78586
(956) 399-3826

La Posada Providencia located in San Benito, Texas is currently seeking an Executive Director for the ministry of serving immigrants and asylum seekers. Attached is a complete job description in case you might know someone especially on your Social Justice Committee who might be interested. Visit La Posada's website at <https://lppshelter.org>.

La Posada Providencia Executive Director

Job Summary:

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

The La Posada Providencia 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.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Ensure that the mission and vision of La Posada Providencia and the Sisters of Divine Providence are promoted and understood by employees and volunteers.
2. Ensure, through collaboration with the Board and staff, that La Posada Providencia's mission is fulfilled through programs, strategic planning and community outreach.
3. Represent La Posada to other local, regional, and national organizations, and collaborate with local coalitions, networks and work groups to identify and address the needs of asylees in the community.
4. Responsible for communicating effectively with the Board and providing, in a timely manner, all information necessary for the Board to make informed decisions.
5. Be aware of and communicate Federal and State regulations and laws that may impact the operations of La Posada. This includes regularly informing the Board of pending changes that may impact the organization.
6. Supervise and direct staff development and growth, inclusive of regular training, team building, and annual evaluations. Provide regular feedback to staff so that they may better serve their clients.
7. Prepare the annual budget together with development and financial offices for Board approval.
8. Responsible for fiscal management and operation within the approved budget.
9. Work with development fundraising: grants, appeals, and sustained giving.
10. Oversee the tracking and reporting of all donations, gifts, fundraising activities, and grant receipts consistent with La Posada's written Financial Procedures.
11. In conjunction with the Site Coordinator oversee maintenance and development of the land, buildings, and equipment.
12. Responsible, together with staff to provide a safe, caring environment, and the day-to-day needs of all La Posada clients.
13. Ultimately responsible for the 24/7 operation of La Posada.

Position Classification: Full-time

Supervisor Relationship: Reports directly to La Posada Providencia Board of Directors



Kino Border Initiative
Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera

CATHOLIC SISTERS WALKING WITH MIGRANTS

1 MONTH OR LONGER
VOLUNTEER AND ADVOCACY
EXPERIENCE FOR CATHOLIC
WOMEN RELIGIOUS

ALL EXPENSES PAID

Thanks to a grant from the Hilton Foundation, KBI is offering Women Religious a volunteer and advocacy training experience. All housing and travel expenses are included.

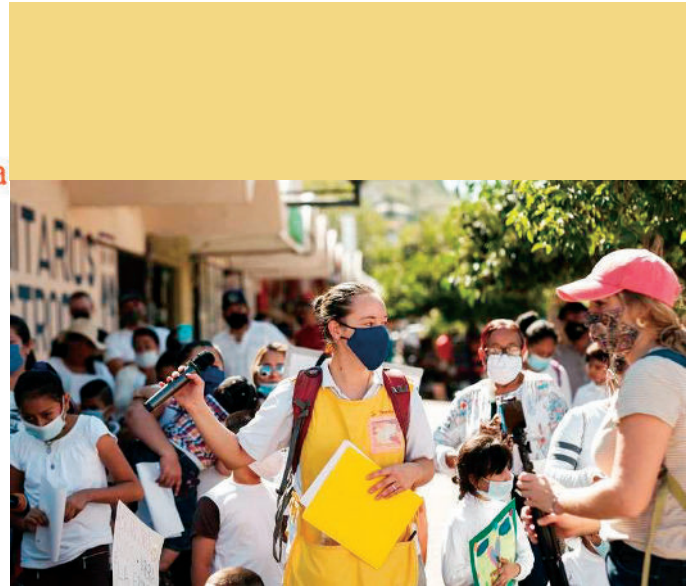
Learn more about KBI at www.kinoborderinitiative.org

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a member of a Catholic Women's Religious Order.
- Must be available for 1 month or longer of in-person service.
- Must have intermediate or advanced Spanish skills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS EMAIL:

VOLUNTEER@KINOBORDERINITIATIVE.ORG



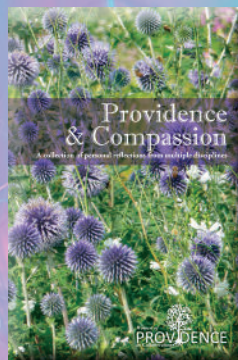
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Calendar

2022

November 10: WPC Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom

2023

March 21-24: WPC Board Meeting, San Antonio, TX



**WOMEN OF
PROVIDENCE
IN COLLABORATION**

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Executive Director: Sister Mary Stanco, HM

PO Box 721 ♦ Villa Maria, PA 16155 ♦ 216-650-9211

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