

CDP Associate News

June 2026

Radical Honesty and Stubborn Encouragement



In November 2024, Sister Janet Mock, CSJ, spoke about finding God in everyday life and responding, and her insights still offer valuable guidance today. If we listen to Sister Janet's invitation to find the divine in everyday life, we can bring her insights directly into our most challenging realities. With both radical honesty and stubborn encouragement, we may learn to inhabit the "tragic gap." It is the difficult space between the reality of what is and the possibility of what could be.

The Iran War is a devastating crisis. We must confront its human toll: thousands of deaths, widespread displacement, and a continuing cycle of military strikes and failed diplomacy. Applying Sister Janet's framework to this conflict means living in the "tragic gap."

Refusing Cynicism

Sister Janet warns that we fail when we succumb to cynicism, which in this case looks like accepting that Middle Eastern conflict is "inevitable" or that human devastation is just "collateral damage" of international policy.

- Radical Honesty: The threat of blockades, surging inflation, and regional instability feels overwhelming.
- Stubborn Encouragement: Living in the gap means refusing to let our hearts harden. It calls us to see the suffering of ordinary Iranian, Israeli, and other civilians caught in the crossfire and to honor their shared humanity rather than reduce them to headlines or enemies.

Embracing the Present Moment for Peace

Rather than waiting for a distant "lasting peace deal" to magically fix the world, Sister Janet's teachings ask us to anchor ourselves in the present moment and seek out where God is moving right now.

- Radical Honesty: Ceasefires may come and go, but military incursions continue.
- Stubborn Encouragement: We respond to the Divine by celebrating and supporting the messy, imperfect peace processes unfolding in real time. In this war, we find God in diplomats and humanitarian workers who stand in the gap today, accepting frustration and risk to help prevent further bloodshed.

Building a Beloved Community Globally

Our calling is to build a "Beloved Community" that transcends national borders, especially in times of war.

- Radical Honesty: War often fuels xenophobia, extreme nationalism, and Islamophobia, deepening divisions at home along foreign policy lines.
- Stubborn Encouragement: We build the Beloved Community by actively counteracting divisiveness within our own circles. This means listening to and elevating marginalized voices, supporting refugee resettlement networks, and fiercely rejecting the dehumanizing language often used to justify global violence.

Standing firmly in the tragic gap of the Iran War means believing, against all immediate evidence, that compassion, persistent diplomacy, and mutual connection will ultimately have the final word over violence.

Lisa Toomey, Co-Pilot

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Mission Statement

We, as Associates, proclaim to be a part of the international Community of Divine Providence (CDP). Our participation calls us to live in a spirit of unbounded trust in, and openness to, the Providence of God. We challenge ourselves to an ongoing discovery of the richness of the charism entrusted to us by Mother Marie and Bishop Ketteler. We support each other in our diversity of lifestyles while we strive to creatively confront the problems and issues of our time. As prophetic witnesses, we respond in compassion, holding all life sacred.



Ketteler Award
for Social Justice



2026 Ketteler Award for Social Justice

On April 12, 2026, the Sisters of Divine Providence presented the Ketteler Award for Social Justice to Sister Janice Vanderneck, CDP, and Jaime Martinez at the Kearns Spirituality Center in Allison Park, Pennsylvania. The award ceremony brought together Associates, Sisters, and friends of the CDP community to celebrate these two remarkable individuals.

The Ketteler Award honors those whose lives and work reflect the legacy of Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, known as the 'Bishop of the Workers.' Bishop Ketteler championed the dignity of every person and called the Church to respond to the social injustices of his time. Each year, this award recognizes individuals who carry forward that same spirit of advocacy and compassion.

Sister Janice Vanderneck has dedicated decades of ministry to serving those on the margins of society. Her work in community organizing, direct service, and advocacy has empowered countless individuals to claim their dignity and stand up for their rights. Sister Janice embodies the Providence spirituality that calls us to trust in God while actively working to transform unjust systems.

Jaime Martinez has been a tireless advocate for immigrant communities and workers' rights. Through his leadership in local organizations, he has helped families access essential services, navigate legal challenges, and find their voice in civic life. His courageous witness reflects the kind of bold action that Bishop Ketteler modeled throughout his ministry.

Attendees were invited to reflect on how they might deepen their own commitment to social justice in the coming year.

Congratulations to Sister Janice and Jaime. May their example inspire all of us to continue working for a more just and compassionate world, trusting in the Providence of God to guide our efforts.



Jaime Martinez and Sister Janice Vanderneck, CDP



Pittsburgh Associate Retreat at Bethany

The 2026 annual Bethany retreat took place on May 22–24. Eight Associates gathered at the Bethany retreat center in Frenchville, Pennsylvania, for a time of spiritual renewal and companionship. Two Associates led prayer experiences: Gloria Virostek offered a Rosary Chaplet for the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and Michele Yotz led a Breaking Open Scripture prayer experience.

The retreat presenter was Mary Ann Nicholls, and this year's theme was Encounter, Listen, and Discern. She emphasized that these skills are essential both for participating in the synodal process and for making thoughtful decisions in daily life. As the CDP Community continues to use the synodal process in pre-Chapter and upcoming Chapter discussions, Associates were encouraged to attend meetings and share their input during Chapter.

Retreatants were challenged to practice encountering, listening, and discerning as they reflected on the personal question: *What is God asking of me?*

Key Themes

Encounter

- Meeting "the other" without judgment
- Recognizing the presence of Jesus in another person
- Allowing God to work in us and through us through encounter

Listen

- Listening takes effort and requires mutual respect
- It reflects a commitment to shared values
- We should seek to understand "the other"

Discern

- Discernment is the effort to understand God's plan, not simply our own
- It requires humility, placing ourselves behind and God in front
- It invites us to let Providence work through us
- It calls us to remain open to whatever decision emerges

Michele Yotz



**Michele Yotz, Erin Middleton, Sandy Stevenson,
Karen Snyder, Julia Lynn, Gloria Virostek,
Tish Donze, Lisa Toomey**



Bethany Retreat Date Options for 2027

At the retreat at Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville, the associates discussed possible dates for next year's gathering. To allow the final date to be selected by July and give everyone plenty of time to plan, three possible options are being offered.

Because weekends are often busy and filled with other activities, the group chose weekday dates this year. These dates also work better for Bethany. The retreat would begin with dinner on Monday and conclude with breakfast on Thursday.

Please email Lisa Toomey at ltoomey@cdpsisters.org, letting her know which date you prefer, or whether you would be able to attend any of the three options. The goal is to make this opportunity available to as many associates as possible.

Date Options

May 17–20, 2027

June 7–10, 2027

October 11–14, 2027

Tish Donze

Sacred Heart Visits The Commons

Students and Associates from Sacred Heart Middle School in Kingston, MA, came to The Commons in Pittsburgh for a prayer and service retreat.

They spent time with the Sisters doing activities such as painting, games, movies, music, and a special May Crowning ceremony. Service work included cleaning common areas and helping Sisters in internal ministries.

The visit also included touring the chapels at the Motherhouse and La Roche University, walking the labyrinth at Kearns, and going to The Milkshake Factory.

CDP Sisters





Changes In The STL/TN Leadership Team

The St. Louis/Tennessee Associates' group is undergoing changes in its Leadership Team. Our Leadership Team has served in their positions for the past six+ years. Ordinarily, individuals accepted their positions for a two-year term. At the end of the two years, an individual could decide to serve for another two year term. At this point, members of the Associates group would be asked to discern whether they would like to present themselves as candidates for these positions. Well, the COVID pandemic interfered with our process in 2019. And, the Leadership Team who assumed their roles that year continued, without replacements, until this year. This year, we decided to resume the process for replacing members of the Leadership Team.

At the beginning of this year, Linda Reynolds, our Coordinator decided to relinquish her position, after serving, with distinction, for nearly seven years. Our Associates group benefitted from Linda's leadership in so many ways. Her untiring dedication to her duties was only matched by the deep spirituality that she brought to every discussion, every prayerful event, every celebratory opportunity that we had as a group. After careful and thoughtful discernment, Colleen Price (an Associate since 1996) offered herself as Linda's replacement. The Leadership Team accepted her offer.

A few months later, the Leadership Team, announced that we would be looking for replacements for Secretary and Communications Liaison. Sylvia Resha had served as Secretary and Ron Payton had served as Communications Liaison during that same period. In response to the Leadership's Team request, two Associates offered themselves as replacements. As a result, Cathy Cassy (an Associate since 2004) will be taking the position of Secretary and Linda Hoefflin (an Associate since 1987) will be taking the position of Communications Liaison.

Sadly, not long after Cathy Cassy offered herself as a candidate for the Secretary position, Sylvia lost her battles with cancer. Sylvia was a wonderful and warm person whose smile could smooth any rough situation. And her sense of humor was unparalleled! She did a tireless job as our Secretary and never passed up an opportunity to offer help to someone who needed it. She will be missed!

Ron Payton

A Prayer for Our New Leadership Team

*Provident God,
We give you thanks for the gifts of Colleen, Cathy, and Linda
as they step forward to serve our Associate community.*

*Bless them with wisdom to discern your will,
courage to lead with compassion,
and grace to nurture the bonds that unite us.*

*May they feel the support of this community around them,
the legacy of those who served before them,
and the gentle guidance of your Providence
in all that lies ahead.*



Remembering Sylvia

Friends,

Two days after Sylvia's passing, I received the monthly internal newsletter of the SSND, *Connections*. Each month, one of the members of the Provincial Council writes a column for the first page of the newsletter. In her column for May, Sister Helen Jane Jaeb writes on transitions.

Helen Jane writes:

We have one another to walk beside us and we have the assurance that grace awaits wherever we go. Each season of life invites us to open our hands—to both give and receive, to trust the unfolding, and to discover God's presence in every in-between place.

A Blessing from Jan Richardson's "Circle of Grace"

In the leaving, in the letting go,
let there be this to hold on to at the last:
the enduring of love, the persisting of hope,
the remembering of joy, the offering of gratitude,
the receiving of grace, the blessing of peace.

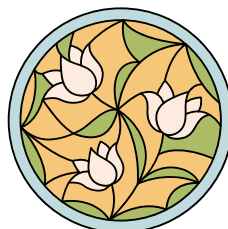
As I began to read it, I was immediately thinking of and feeling the loss of our dear friend Sylvia. One of the great blessings of our CDP Community is that we do not have to journey alone. I am incredibly grateful for the blessing of knowing Sylvia, and for working with her on the Associate Leadership team for the last years.

I work for the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) at The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri. When I have a prayer intention, I have a few Sisters who I sometimes ask to pray for a particular person or intention. Sister Marie Jo always reminded me of Sylvia. Part of it was a physical resemblance, and she worked in New Orleans for 30 years, so she had the accent. I had asked her to pray for Sylvia when we found out about the recurrence of cancer, and after I saw the Bulletin Board announcement from Maria, I asked Sister to pray that Sylvia have a peaceful journey.

Wednesday morning, I read Facebook messages from Sylvia's family members saying that she had passed. I went into the main chapel when I got to work, and Sister Marie Jo was seated in the chapel. When she saw me, she immediately approached me and gave me this big hug. This was before I told her. It felt like Sylvia had sent her over to me.

To Maria and our Associates in Tennessee, I send my love, prayers, and deepest sympathy.

Colleen Price





In Memoriam: Sylvia Ann Resha



Sylvia Ann Resha, of Nashville, Tennessee, died peacefully on April 29, 2026 at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tennessee. Born on August 15, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan, she was the beloved daughter of the late Joseph George and Olga Teresa (nee Zarzour) Resha.

Family

Sylvia was preceded in death by her brother Donald Joseph Resha, sister-in-law Alice Resha, sister Elaine Bagg, and brother-in-law Stan Bagg. She is survived by her nieces and nephews: Donnie (Sherrie) Resha, Joey (Gina) Resha, Renee Minchey, Cathey (Doyle) McClung, Toby (Cheryl) Resha, Donna (Heather) Resha, and Nancy Hoffmaster, as well as multiple grandnieces and grandnephews.

Faith and Service

Sylvia was an Associate (lay member) of the Sisters of Divine Providence for 28 years. She faithfully served as the Director of the RCIA program for over 20 years. Those she guided in their spiritual journey were forever blessed by her faith and acceptance of God's will – a faith she unselfishly and joyfully shared by example in her daily life.

Nursing Career

She served all walks of life as a devoted Registered Nurse at Parkview Hospital and Centennial Medical Center. During that time she was twice awarded the Dr. Frist Humanitarian Award. Sylvia also accepted the position of the first female EMS in the state of Tennessee.

After devotedly caring for her mother at home from 1999 to 2002, she joined in the development of StoneCrest Medical Center in Smyrna, Tennessee. She served as Director of Medical Surgical Services, Inpatient Services, the Medical Surgical Nursing Department, the Intensive Care Unit, and the Cardiac Cath Lab. Sylvia served at StoneCrest from 2003 to 2007 when she retired.

In Loving Memory

As Sylvia/Aunt Gigi would often say, "Hello my darlin" and "I love you more," we say back to her, "We love you more. You are home."

Sylvia Ann Resha of Nashville, Tennessee | 1945 - 2026 | Obituary Crawford Funeral Home



In Memoriam: Judy E. Kim



Judy E. Kim, age 76, of Mt. Washington, passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Beloved daughter of the late William L. and Evelyn (Ludwig) Kim. Loving sister of Russell (Becky) Kim. Cherished aunt of William James (Gina) Kim and Matthew Russell Kim. Loving great aunt of Hannah, Nathan, Landon, Tanner, Nora, Parker Kim, and Nevaeh Ruthers.

Judy E. Kim | 1950 - 2026 | Obituary Slater Funeral Service



Room at the Inn Needs for Summer

Dear Associates, please find information below from the most recent RATI Newsletter.

“Our kids are not attending school, so they miss at least one school-provided meal per day. Parents who are working need to find summer camps or temporary daycare—at a cost that can limit their ability to save for housing. And our kids, like all kids, can get bored without daily engagement with teachers and friends.

To provide our families a few summer activities, we plan a Weekly Excursion for our families during the summer such as visiting the community pool; attending a kid-friendly movie; playing at a local park; or just getting ice cream. We also host a Back-to-School picnic in August with a bounce house, tug-o-war, a scavenger hunt, and hot dogs/popcorn/cotton candy. Parents and kids enjoy the fun with our dedicated volunteers and staff.

In addition to summer fun, our families need support for the increased expense of basic needs like meals, childcare, and warm-weather clothing. Summer should be a carefree time for children but can create more stress and anxiety in the families with whom we work.

These services are made possible with the help of our donors. To highlight some of our biggest supporters, we are excited to introduce a new giving program, Pillars of Warmth, for donors who give \$1,000 or more annually. This program will acknowledge these donors on our website and at a recognition event in the fall. If you would like to learn more about Pillars of Warmth, please contact Jed Buechele at jbuechele@roomstl.org or [314-209-9181](tel:314-209-9181) x 105.

We hope you will consider a gift to Room at the Inn to support our families throughout the year, and especially for the summer.”

Take note of the needs for this worth ministry.

Linda Heofflin





OPAL News

OPAL is making preparations for the next for the July 11, 2026 presentation. Sr. Mary Pelegrino and Anna Sklut will be the speakers for this session. OPAL members including our Congregation will be admitted free of charge. Even though you are attending free of charge, you must register using this link: <https://www.opalassociates.org/events>.

Future dates for gatherings include September 12th for a day of reflection, and October 10th. Preparations for this day are still in process. Please use this link (<https://www.opalassociates.org/>) to keep abreast of future offerings. In addition, most of the previous presentations have been recorded and can be found on this link. Enjoy!

Linda Heofflin



Women of Providence

Associates from four different Providence communities met earlier this month to discuss each community's needs for Associates. The Executive Director, Mary Naccarato asked us to give a brief introduction about our community, and the number of Sisters and Associates. Mary's next question centered around what challenges Associates are facing such as declining membership, governance transitions, and new governance models. Discussion centered around technology resources, the development of orientation and formation templates, and plans for future WPC gatherings. This group agreed that going forward, we would meet monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2026 at 1p.m. EDT.

Linda Heofflin



General Chapter and Provincial Chapter

The General Chapter and Provincial Chapter happens every five years.

General Chapter

Representatives will gather from each of our Provinces, this year in Korea from September 1st to the 14th. Sisters from Korea, Peru, Germany and the USA will travel to Korea. There will be the Chapter of Affairs (workings of the community) followed by the Chapter of Election (a new General Leadership Team will be selected).

Provincial Chapter

When all return to their home Provinces, sometime before the end of the year, a Provincial Chapter will take place. Here in the States our Provincial Chapter will be December 27th to the 31st. There will be a Chapter of Affairs and a Chapter of Election. All Sisters and Associates are invited to be present.

Sister Margaretta Nussbaumer

Upcoming Events



July 30th to August 2nd
Assembly
The Commons



October 11th
Wine & Cheese Fund
Kearns Spirituality Center



Provincial Chapter

Our Provincial Chapter is planned for December 27–31, 2026.

Chapters of Affairs: December 27–28

Chapter of Elections: December 29–31

Dec 4th-6th
Associate Retreat
Kearns Spirituality Center



We look forward to coming together for this important time of reflection, discernment, and shared mission.

More details will follow in the coming months.

Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.



Please keep La Posada Providencia in your prayers as they continue to support clients from all over the world.

For May, the staff provided shelter for 18 people from Australia, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, and the USA. **Linda Hoefflin**



For those in the Pittsburgh area: If you encounter an ICE raid, call this hotline number 412-736-7167. A trained rapid response team will come to the scene. You will have no further involvement.

Mary Traupman, CDP

Assembly Liturgy Volunteers Needed Sisters, Associates and Amici Cordis, I am inviting you to consider volunteering to help with our Assembly Rituals and Liturgies. Email me by June 30 if you will be present and able to be of service in this regard. So that we can involve many, please just volunteer for only one of these liturgical roles. When you respond be sure to specify which of these below you are volunteering for. Music Ministry: Rehearsals: Sunday, July 19 + 26 11-12:15pm (Pgh. area volunteers) Thursday, July 30 1-3pm (Choir, Cantors, Instrumentalists) Reader/Lector Dancer Offertory Gift Bearer Thanks! Sr. Pat Baker pbakercdp@cdpsisters.org 412-913-7756