

CDP Associate News

August 2026



150 Years of Providence in America

At the McCandless Heritage Center, a recent historical display invited community members to step into a story 150 years in the making. Created in celebration of the Sisters of Divine Providence's 150th anniversary in America, the exhibit honored six pioneer Sisters who traveled from Germany to North America in 1876 with limited resources, little English, and deep trust in Divine Providence.

The display was especially meaningful in McCandless, where the Sisters' American story has deep roots. The Sisters purchased land in McCandless in 1925 and later founded La Roche College, now La Roche University, in 1963. For many North Hills residents, the anniversary was not only a religious milestone, but also a local history story connected to education, service, and community memory.

Through photographs, historical materials, and the power of memory, the display recalled the courage of the pioneer Sisters and the mission they carried across the Atlantic: serving those in need, educating young people, and trusting that Providence would guide their work. Over time, that mission became part of the social, educational, and spiritual fabric of western Pennsylvania.

By sharing this story in a public heritage setting, the Sisters opened their anniversary celebration to neighbors, alumni, parishioners, families, and history lovers. The exhibit offered a moment of gratitude for the pioneers who came before, the communities that welcomed them, and the mission that continues today.

Lisa Toomey, Co-Pilot



Photos CDP Sisters

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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.

Associates in Puerto Rico



The blessing of receiving new candidates to become Associates in Puerto Rico continues. Sisters Juanita, Sally, and Ana have guided and offered Session 1 of the Associates' Manual to ten women.



The new candidates for Associates are:

(First Row) Diana Núñez Padín, María del Carmen Colón-Díaz, (Second Row) Yarenid Santiago Colón, Ada Vanessa Colón Ocasio, Angelica M. Flores Figueroa



(First row) Kathy Paulino Collazo, Norma I Velez Feliciano, (Second row) Cortés López



Yadira Despiu Aguirrechea

"We send you the warmest greetings and holy blessings. Though miles separate us, we remain deeply united through the grace of the Holy Eucharist. We pray that our Heavenly Father pours His abundant blessings upon your homes, filling your hearts with lasting peace. May the Holy Spirit guide our shared mission, and please know you are always remembered in our daily prayers and intentions."





Associates in the Dominican Republic

Dear Sisters and Associates of Divine Providence:

Receive fraternal and heartfelt greetings from all the Associates in the Dominican Republic.

We wish to express our sincere closeness to you and assure you of our fervent prayers during these significant days of the annual assembly. We ask the God of Providence to shower abundant light from the Holy Spirit upon each of you, guiding your reflections, decisions, and the congregation's journey toward new horizons of hope and service.

We feel deeply united to the mission and grateful for your legacy and constant dedication.

May Divine Providence always accompany and bless you!

We will include the Sisters of Divine Providence in the intentions of the Mass on Sunday the August 2nd.

With affection and prayer,

The Associates of the Dominican Republic.

Deivy Lopez



The Associates of the Dominican Republic





Associates in Pittsburgh

On Tuesday, June 30, 2026, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, associates and sisters gathered at the Kearns Spirituality Center Lounge for a relaxed and cheerful reception honoring Julia Lynn, a longtime Associate and leader who moved to Florida in July to be closer to her family. Guests were invited to stop by whenever they could and stay as long as they liked, enjoying refreshments, sharing a few memories, and wishing Julia the best as she left Pittsburgh—but not the Associates!

You can send Julia a card to help her get settled. Her address is **29736 Amanda Oak CT.
Land O Lakes, Fl. 34638**

Tish Donze



Jenny Hau, Peggy Santelli, Karen Lutz, Sr. Meg, Denise Champe, Karen Snyder, Julia Lynn, Sally Shamalla, Ellie Fields, Lisa Toomey, Sr. Marilyn, Sr. Rita



All Associate Meeting held on July 31, 2026

An impromptu meeting of all the Associates attending the Assembly was held in the evening on July 31, 2026. Discussion centered around the new model of Associate Governance. Questions arose about how certain parts of the plan will be implemented. It was explained that the next meeting of the Provincial Associate Leadership Team will meet on September 27, 2026. Each member of the PALT will rotate turns leading the group.

At the September meeting, policies and procedures will be discussed to expand the new model. For the upcoming meeting, Colleen Price will be the leader. For any questions or concerns email Colleen: cprice@cdpsisters.org.



St Louis/Tennessee Associates Jubilee Celebration

The Sisters and Associates of the St. Louis/Tennessee group celebrated the Jubilees of Srs. Emily Meehan, Ann Pairn & Maria Patterson on Saturday, July 11 with a luncheon. A group of eighteen St. Louis/TN Sisters and Associates gathered at Castelli's Restaurant in Alton, Illinois, to enjoy a meal and celebrate Sr. Emily's 70 years, Sr. Ann's 65 years and Sr. Maria's 60 years of faithful service with the Sisters of Divine Providence. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather, in person, to honor their work and dedication to the Sisters' ministries! Sr. Ann took the opportunity to introduce Sr. Charlene Schaaf, who has come from Denver, to continue her ministry with the Sisters in St. Louis.

Linda Reynolds started the event with a prayer that she wrote specifically for this occasion. We then settled in for a family style meal that is one of the hallmarks of the Castelli's Restaurant. And, as is so often the case with our gatherings, Sr. Ann cooked up a game for us. With Sr. JoAnne's help, we were treated to a quiz with questions about the Jubilarians! Of course, everyone went home with a prize. There were plenty of laughs, stories of the Jubilarians' many memorable experiences over the years, and, generally, just a great time for everyone! Sr. Ann also took advantage of this time to remind us how fortunate we were to have had this opportunity to gather in person for this event. It was a wonderful luncheon and a precious opportunity to spend time celebrating together!

Ron Payton



Ron Payton, Sr Barbara Mulnik, Sr Celine Maasen



Heide Crawford, Linda Reynolds, Wav Jarvis, Doris Seeley



Photos Linda Heofflin



Sr. Ann Pairn, Sr. Emily Meehan, Sr. Maria Patterson



OPAL News

The July 11th presentation by Sr. Mary Pellegrino and Anna Sklut of Plante Moran Realpoint, re: Charism Carriers: Keys to Successful Planning was well attended by thirty one different communities. For those who could not attend please click on this link to watch the video presentation.

<https://www.plantemoran.com/explore-our-thinking/events/2026/07/realpoint-religious-institutes-opal-presentation>

There were some good insights re: planning for the future including: the charism needs to be at the forefront of any planning process. The structure portion comes later. Don't miss viewing this presentation.

In further news, the next presentation will be September 12th beginning at 9a.m. EDT. A flyer will be available soon for registration information. Remember that our CDP community is an OPAL member and therefore there is no fee for this presentation.

September 12th will be a morning retreat of prayer and reflection titled "From invitation to actions: living our charisms." The presenter will be Alice Turner.

Linda Heofflin



Women of Providence

Mary Naccarato, the WPC Executive Director, announced that the quarterly WPC newsletter would feature a spotlight on Associates. The link for the newsletter is:

<https://files.ecatholic.com/40015/documents/2026/7/WPC%20Summer%202026%20Newsletter%20PDF.pdf?t=1784054022000>

In addition, it was decided that this year, we would not present an Advent reflection series. Member Congregations will share their offerings and encourage others to join virtually.

A mini-series on Providence Theology by Mr. Nicholas Estrada is being planned for early in 2027. Mr. Estrada is a Providence alumni, associate and theologian and is steeped in Providence theology. Coordination of dates and times to accommodate several time zones is being made. We look forward to sharing these plans as soon as they can be confirmed.

Associates Kathe Bouche from the Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Zone, Montreal Quebec and Marilyn Schleyer from the Congregation of Divine Providence, Melbourne, KY have been appointed to the WPC board to represent Providence Associates. Currently Kathe and Marilyn are working on updating the Charter

Linda Heofflin

Upcoming Events



Our sixth Provincial Pre-Chapter zoom session will be on Tuesday, August 18 at 6pm (EST) / 5pm (CST).



Provincial Chapter

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

Chapters of Affairs: December 27–28

Chapter of Elections: December 29–31

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.

October 11th
Wine & Cheese Fund
Kearns Spirituality Center



Dec 4th-6th
Associate Retreat
Kearns Spirituality Center



Eco-Challenge, August 2026



- **Keep your air conditioning and heating at energy-efficient temperature settings**
- **Turn off the power strip when appliances are not in use to eliminate standby power consumption.**
- **Instead of discarding items too readily, reuse them whenever possible and sort recyclables properly so that resources can remain in continuous circulation.**

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



OPAL - 2026

Crossing the Threshold - a Time to Pray

opalassociates.org

ohiopaassociates@gmail.com

From Invitation to Action: Living Our Charisms

A Morning Retreat of Prayer and Reflection

Saturday, September 12th, 2026

Virtual - 9:30AM EST to 10:30AM

All are invited

Register to get link.

We gather together for:

Prayer

Spiritual reflection

Scripture meditation

Sharing and conversation

Participants will be invited to deepen their awareness of God's call and to reflect on the unique charisms entrusted to them. Rooted in the words of St. James, "Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers, we will explore how we are continually invited to listen, discern, and respond through concrete acts of faith.



Hosted by:

Alice Turner - Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary

Dorothy Brandreth - Passionists

October 10, 2026 - Share Your Collaboration Story



Seeking Presenters

OPAL Workshop at Villa Maria, PA Virtual and In Person

OPAL is holding our 12th Annual Workshop at Villa Maria, PA, the beautiful home of the Sisters of Humility of Mary. We are inviting you to share a story about how you and/or your community are collaborating with others.

If you have been part of a successful collaborative endeavor, we are inviting you to send us information about this experience. We will be selecting 4 associates to present their story at our October workshop to generate ideas and discussion.

What types of collaborative endeavors will be considered?

Collaborations that address one of the 4 pillars of Associate relationships:

Prayer, Mission, Community, Study/Spirituality

It has demonstrated success in bringing people/communities together for a purpose.

It is an ongoing collaboration, not just focused on a single event.

What will be asked of presenters at the workshop?

A 10-12 minute presentation including information about formation of the collaborative, partners involved, living the charism in the collaborative, mechanics of operation, leadership, evaluation methods and lessons learned

Participation in a Q&A Panel with other presenters

Will I need to be in person to present?

While it is preferred that presenters are onsite for the presentation, virtual presentations may be considered.

After I submit my presentation form, how will I know if I have been selected as a presenter?

The OPAL planning team will be reviewing all forms. Selections will be made to include a diverse group of communities and opportunities.

What about collaboratives that include partners that are not religious communities? Sure!

They are included, too. Charisms are carried out into the community through collaboratives. We want to know how you are working with others who share the same values.

Interested in being a presenter from your community? Click on the link and send us information about your collaborative.

OPAL Workshop Presenter Request Form