# CDP Associate News

October 2026

## Assembly of the Marie de la Roche Province

This year's Assembly theme was *Standing on Their Shoulders, We Journey in Trust*. From July 30 through Aug. 2, 2026, approximately 115 Sisters, Associates, and Amici-Cordis discerners gathered at The Commons and via Zoom.

Participants shared beautiful liturgies, including a 150th-anniversary Mass, a Jubilee Celebration, and a remembrance ritual for deceased Sisters. Sr. Rose Kruppa, CDP, Congregational Superior in El Paso, Texas, presented and facilitated dynamic discussions in large and small groups. Her stated purpose of the discussions was:

1. Name the legacy of this term (5 years) with honesty and hope.
2. Honor what has been lived and receive grief for what has changed.
3. Recognize where Providence has been visible.
4. Discern what is being entrusted to the future.

The Assembly included an ice cream social event on Thursday evening hosted by Associates. Everyone enjoyed their choice of ice cream and a variety of toppings, along with good conversation and re-connection. For the Assembly, Associate Jeanne Kosher displayed a homemade cookie table. Each cookie was meaningful to every area of the province.
The Assembly concluded on Sunday with a closing liturgy and commissioning of Sisters, Associates, and Amici Cordis.

***Michele Yotz***





***Photos CDP Sisters, Michele Yotz***



*"Standing On Their Shoulders, We Journey In Trust." Assembly 2026*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**


- Assembly 2026
- Puerto Rico Associates
- Santo Doming News
- Pittsburgh Associates
- STL/TN Renewal
- Happening in Nashville
- OPAL / WPC
- Kingston Update


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 third inquiry meeting was held in Puerto Rico. The meeting was coordinated by Sr. Juanita and facilitated by Sr. Ana. Two hours of a formative meeting including the topic: The Theology of Providence, with materials and articles. At the beginning, a personal encounter dynamic was held with the God of Providence in Nature: "*Theology is a heart in love that wants to know the beloved better." Saint Anselm*

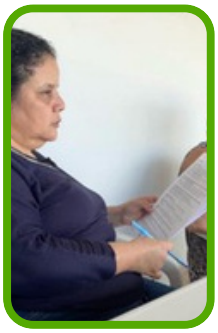
"There is a relationship between the Spirituality of Providence and seeing:



Providence is majestic, warm, melodious, beautiful, infinite, soft, strong, wonderful, peaceful and colorful**-Kathy.**



Providence is soft, bright, solid, flexible, complicated, beautiful, intertwined, simple, unity growth-**Diana.**



Providence is a new dawn, diversity, love, power, strength, and stability-**Cindy**.

Providence is gentle, invitation, security, music, lullaby, strength, soil to cultivate-waiting for the hope what is promised, surprise, work, and waiting-**Sr. Juanita**.

Providence is possibility, pause, strong, vibrant, tenderness, amazement, joy, life, nourishment, mystery-**Sr. Ana.**

Reflection was done with knitting threads, clay, and the contributions from four women: Pua, Sigrah, the Pharaoh's daughter, Moses' sister and the mother to explain the theology of Providence in chaos, and life. Beyond our short-sightedness and our helplessness, there is a call to creativity, choose life and trust. The unique contribution each one can offer to make Providence possible.

***Submitted by Srs. Juanita, Sally, and Ana.***

# Santo Domingo News

The Santo Domingo Associates are exploring having T-shirts made for the SD Associates and funded by the Pittsburgh Province Associate fund. Also, the leadership team is exploring having t-shirts made for sale in the continental US to help fund the shirts for Santo Domingo. The shirts can be made in Santo Domingo for little cost; No shipping will be involved.




**Submitted by Sr. Ana Lydia Sonera Matos with Deivy Lopez**

**The Providence Justice Network reflects the evolving and enduring call of the Sisters of Divine Providence: to be a prophetic presence in the world, deeply rooted in justice, accompaniment, and care for creation. By uniting our Ketteler House of Refuge, La Providencia Counseling Outreach and Bridges of Providence ministries under a single, flexible structure, we carry forward the Providence mission with clarity, courage, and compassion.**




Providence Connections held its 2026 Annual Fall Fundraiser, **Illusions for Impact**, on September 24 at the Museum of Illusions in Pittsburgh. Guests enjoyed exploring a variety of engaging visual and sensory exhibits, bidding on raffles and auctions, and sampling complimentary hors d'oeuvres and desserts. They also learned about Providence Connections' mission to strengthen families and enrich lives by creating opportunities and providing essential services, programs, and support for children and families in Pittsburgh. The Sisters of Divine Providence have long supported Providence Connections, helping bring hope and stability to families in our community

***Michele Yotz***



***MaryAnn D'Alessandro,Jenny Hau,Denise Champe,Lisa Toomey,Gretchen Jezerc,Ellie Fields. Front Michele Yotz,MaryEllen Jutca***

We are incredibly grateful for our sponsors, volunteers, donors, event guests, community partners, and everyone who helped bring Illusions for Impact to life.

Thank you for believing in Providence Connections and for being part of our community. We can't wait to see what we can accomplish together next!

***Olivia Philippone***
***Providence Connections***



***Ellie Fields,Denise Champe***

# Co-Coordinator Transition

Peggy Santelli will conclude her two-year term as Pittsburgh Area Associate Co-Coordinator in 2027. We are grateful for her leadership and service.

**Next Steps**

Discuss potential candidates at upcoming small-group meetings.
Ask members whether they are interested in serving or would like to recommend someone.
Continue the discussion at the next ALT meeting.

The new Co-Coordinator will serve a two-year term that overlaps with Michele's.



# St. Louis/TN Sisters' and Associates' Renewal Ceremony 2026

The St. Louis/TN Sisters and Associates held their Renewal Ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 22nd at the Kirkwood United Church of Christ in Kirkwood, Missouri. Seven Sisters and thirteen Associates attended and participated in the ceremony.

The ceremony began with an Introduction by Linda Hoefflin and Welcome by Colleen Price. Sr Maria Patterson then read a greeting from Sr. Barbara McMullen in the name of the CDP Community. After our opening song, Christ Be Our Light, we heard readings from the Old and New Testaments. The New Testament reading (from St. Luke's gospel) recounted the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary and her 'Yes' of acceptance to God's call.

After a reflection on the readings from Scripture, our ceremony continued with the formal Renewal of the Associates' commitment to the Sisters of Divine Providence, conducted by Colleen Price. Sr. Ann Pairn then led the Renewal of Vows for the Sisters. We continued the celebration with the ritual lighting of the candles for Bishop von Kettler, Mother Marie de La Roche, and the Providence Candle. Again, following our tradition, we recognized the Associates who are celebrating anniversaries this year: Diane Bailey, 40 yrs, Fr. J. Friedel, 40 yrs, Terry Southerland, 40 yrs, Diane Eftink, 30 yrs, Colleen Price, 30 yrs, Joan Fabisher, 20 yrs, Judy Unger, 20 yrs, Heide Crawford, 10 yrs, Annette Ray, 10 yrs, and Mary Schultenheinrich, 10 yrs. We also recognized this years' Jubilarians: Sr. Emily Meehan, 70 yrs, Sr. Ann Pairn, 65 yrs, and Sr. Maria Patterson, 60 yrs.

At this point, Colleen Price read a greeting and message from Sr. Veronica. Cathy Cassy then presented a message of recognition and gratitude for Sylvia Resha's and Ron Payton's service and leadership for the past five years. The moment was especially poignant, given Sylvia's passing just a few months ago. We concluded the ceremony with a Blessing and Commissioning by Linda Reynolds and the singing of City Of God.

After the ceremony, we moved to the commons room and sat down to a wonderful lunch. We especially enjoyed this special opportunity to renew old friendships, catch up on each others' lives, tell a few stories (especially from the Jubilarians!), have a few laughs, and generally relish the gift of seeing each other in this setting.

***Ron Payton***

# What's Happening in Nashville?



September 12, 2026 was a night of grand celebration in honor of Sr. Maria's 60th Jubilee! Friends from Nashville hosted the evening gathering, which was attended by St. Louis (Linda Hoefflin) and Nashville Associates, family members, and past/present church members covering the years Maria has served the Catholic Community in Nashville.

The evening started out with a talk by Fr. Patrick Fitzsimmons, highlighting Maria's years of service and commitment, followed by Sr. Maria's renewal of her vows before all that were present. We were then graced with afabulous dinner, a cake for the blessed occasion, and time for revisiting the years of camaraderie amongst the guests.

After dinner, the celebration was highlighted by a concert presented by the honoree herself. Sr. Maria took us through many of her newest worship songs, as well as a few sing-a-longs from the Nashville country music genre. The music segment was appropriately ended as we all sang one of Sr. Maria's most cherished songs, "There's a Circle of Friends".

September 12 in Nashville, TN was an evening filled with prayers, blessings, stories, laughter, memories, music, and good friends…a sacred evening that truly celebrated a lifetime of love and service from our Sr. Maria.

***Sue Durbin***

# Associate Planning Meeting

The Nashville Associates met with Sr. Maria to plan our monthly Faith Sharing sessions for the year ahead. Our book of choice for reflection and discussion is Joan Chittister's, *Songs of the Heart*. In addition to establishing the chapters to be covered at each meeting, we set the meeting time, place, and prayer leader for the next several months.

Aside from Faith Sharing, the meeting agenda included establishing our communal ministry work for the upcoming year. We will continue to support Loaves and Fishes in Nashville, cooking for and serving the hungry on weekends. Also -- because this is the City of Music and since Sr. Maria and every Nashville Associate has been a part of liturgical music over the years, we will be reaching out to the community to bring Worship and Praise sessions to various agencies and churches across the metroplex. (More information/details on that ministry as it develops.)

***Sue Durbin***



# OPAL News

The most recent OPAL offering was a day centered on collaboration. The morning speaker was Sr. Susan Durkin, OSU who is Executive Director and Co-Founder of The Women Religious Archives Collaborative. Sr. Susan went into detail about the collaborations that have occurred and continue to do so to bring the Archives to fruition.

Collaboration began before the property was purchased. After speaking with a few Communities to determine that there was a need, property and the impact to the surrounding community was determined. An initial property was considered and abandoned. The current site is in the Central neighborhood of Cleveland on part of the former site of the St. Vincent Charity Medical Center campus.

Collaboration has included initial stake holders, architects, and construction contractors for the various trades during construction. The groups interact collaboratively and have stated that the construction is such an unusual project due to the collaboration of everyone involved. The caveat was that collaboration needs to be initiated as the first ideas are being brought forward. The group needs to be patient and listen to each stakeholder and learn the different skill sets that are present and needed. Any collaboration needs to balance the data and allow the Spirit to work. The group needs to be resilient in overcoming challenges, inclusivity, and decision making. Finally, Sr. Susan said that once a commitment is made to a direction, one needs to be flexible but stay with core mission.

Currently the building is under roof and is due to be completed in the Spring of 2027.

The afternoon sessions were led by a representative from the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, and the Youngstown Ursulines. Dominican Barbara Lang discussed her Community's collaboration with another Community's Associate group. The groups work together sharing retreats, prayers, etc. But they have kept their own charisms. They have not merged.

The second presenter was Christine Milner from the Assumption Sisters. Christine discussed how the Sisters and Associates have come together via Zoom within five provinces and encompassing four languages. The challenges are like our CDP community with four languages and international provinces.

The third speaker was Ursuline Vicki Vicars who spoke about collaboration of not for profits working together to meet their mission challenges.

As Associates, we can learn some lessons from these presentations. How can we become more united nationally and internationally?

***Linda Heofflin***

*Check out the images on the following page.*




*The topping out ceremony early 2026*



*Current status of construction as of September 2026*

## Women of Providence

Celebrating Providence: An invitation to explore and deepen our shared charism. We are delighted to share an opportunity to come together in celebration of our shared Providence heritage and to deepen our understanding of the charism that continues to inspire and guide our lives. The Women of Providence Associate Leaders Group is offering a series of four virtual gatherings entitled Celebrating Providence. Each gathering will invite us to reflect on a different dimension of Providence: its theological roots, its biblical foundations, its call in our lives, and the hope it offers in times of change.

Our presenter will be Mr. Nicolas Estrada, a Providence Associate of the Sisters of Providence of Montreal, who will guide us through the following topics: October 24 A Shared Heritage: The Evolution of a Theology of Providence December 5 Stories of Faith: The Biblical Foundations of Providence January 30 Co-Creators with Providence: Embracing Our Call February 20 A Prophetic Hope: Trusting Providence in Times of Change.

All four gatherings will take place on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Eastern, with each session lasting approximately 90 minutes. The registration fee is $25 per session. For additional information about the gatherings, ***please see the flyer on the last page of this newsletter***. Associates, Amici Cordis members, and others who wish to participate may register directly through the Women of Providence in Collaboration website at www.wpcweb.org

***Linda Heofflin***

# Kingston Area Update

## "The Best is Yet to Come" Came to Sacred Heart Students in Kingston this Fall.

In September, middle school students had a half day retreat led by Associates. Students learned about the voyage the six founding Sisters took across the Atlantic. They enjoyed a modified version of the 150th Anniversary Homily that was given at the Assembly by Sister Michele. 8th graders pondered what if this was the end of their journey at Sacred Heart. Throughout the retreat, they learned much like the Sisters; it was not the building that shaped them throughout their years at Sacred Heart, but it was God's loving providence that guided their academic and spiritual journeys and will continue to guide them once they graduate. The middle schoolers were guided in an activity inspired by the book, Big Plans by Shea and Smith. They created their own big dreams to make this year at Sacred Heart Middle School the best one yet!



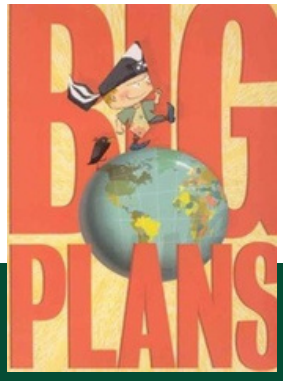
Sacred Heart Middle Schoolers attentively learn about the theme of their retreat day.



8th Graders lead prayer



Mrs. Cronin, a middle school teacher reads "Big Plans"




Cover of Big Plans book by Shea and Smith

## Enjoying Mary Queen Of Martyrs Fall Parish Picnic



Associates and Sister Jeanne enjoy the local parish picnic and take a picture by the photo back drop area



Father Raeke sings his rendition of Danny Boy to his parishioners

## 6th Grade students are excited to start writing to the Sisters in the Commons





*Marissa Raftery*

# Upcoming Events

**WPC Celebrating Providence Virtual Miniseries**
**Oct 24 2026 - 10:00am**
**Dec 5 2026 - 10:00am**
**Jan 30 2027 - 10:00am**
**Feb 20 2027 - 10:00am**
**please see flyer*

**Nov 2 2026**
**All Souls Day**
**please see Associate Birth and Death Day list*



**Dec 4-6 2026**
**Associate Retreat**
**Kearns Spirituality Center**

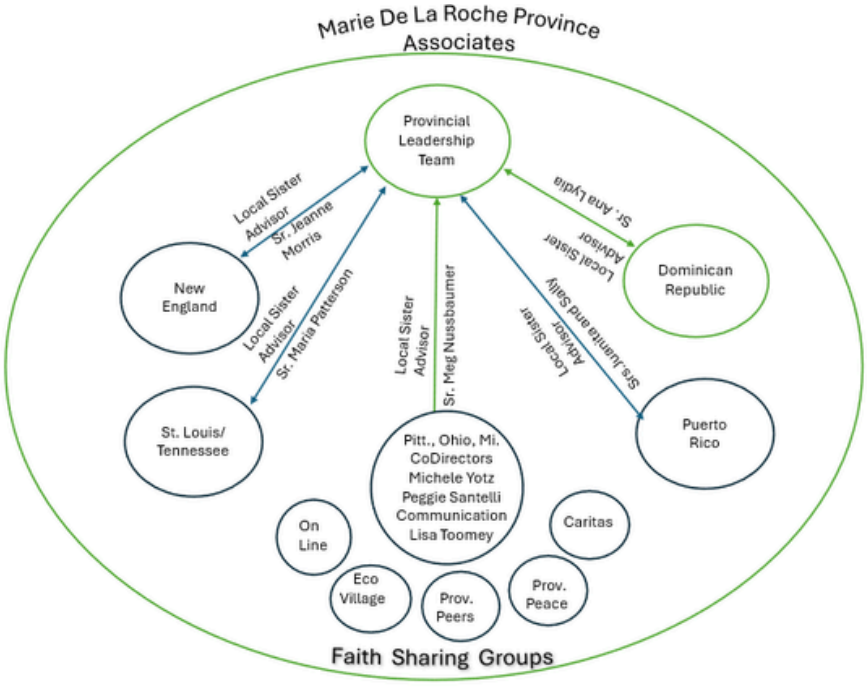
**Provincial Chapter**

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

**Chapters of Affairs:** December 27–28

**Chapter of Election**s: December 29–31

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




**Marie De La Roche Province Associates organizational structure.**

*Kindly provided by Sr Margaretta Nussbaumer*

# WOMEN OF PROVIDENCE IN COLLABORATION
# CELEBRATING PROVIDENCE MINISERIES
# FALL 2026 - WINTER 2027

**October 24th.**
10:00-11:30 am ET

***A Shared Heritage: The Evolution of a Theology of Providence***

Exploring the origins of the theological concept of Providence, we will consider how 19th century theological and social movements in both Europe and North America paved the way for the Providence religious congregations we see today

**December 5th.**
10:00-11:30 am ET

***Stories of Faith: The Biblical Foundations of Providence***

From Genesis and the Exodus to the Gospels, this presentation will explore how God's active, sustaining presence accompanies humanity (And our Providence communities) through history and crisis.

**January 30th.**
10:00-11:30 am ET

***A Shared Heritage: The Evolution of a Theology of Providence***
***Co-Creators with Providence: Embracing Our Call***

Exploring the origins of the theological concept of Providence, we will coSnosimdert ihmoews 1w9eth a clle netuerdy ttoh eroelforagmicea lo aun d both Ebuero ipnevi taendd t No orretfhle Acmt oenri coau rp oawvend c tahle w religiouass cwoen gwroergka ttoio rnesp wlaec es eae p taosdsaivye view of it") with an active, participatory theology of Providence ("God works *through us* ").

**February 20th.**
10:00-11:30 am ET

***A Prophetic Hope: Trusting Providence in Times of Change***

It is undoubtable that the landscapes of both religious and associate life are changing, but together we will discuss how our faith and charisms invite us to both acknowledge our fears and face the future with hope.

Our Presenter for this series will be Mr. Nicolas Estrada, PA. Nicolas is a Providence Associate of Mother Joseph (Sisters of Providence, Montreal). Growing up in the Los Angeles region of California, Nicolas attended a primary school founded by the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary of the Woods, and a secondary school sponsored by the Sisters of Providence (Montreal). He went on to study theology and history at the University of San Diego before moving on to acquire graduate degrees at both Loyola University, Chicago (Master of Art, Church History) and the Franciscan School of Theology in California (Master of Theological Studies). Today, Nicolas serves as University Minister for the University of San Diego.

Register online https://www.wpcweb.org/celebrate-providence-fall-2026-winter-2027-miniseries

wpcmarynacc@gmail.com

# Associates Birth and Death Day List

| Name | Nov. Date | B or D | | Name | Dec Date | B or D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andrea Alderson | 1 | B | | Dulalia Arroyo Medina | 2 | B |
| Kathy Cunningham | 6 | B | | Mary Ann Young | 4 | D |
| Georgia Boehm | 10 | D | | Maria Campos | 6 | B |
| Carmen Rivera | 11 | D | | Mary Lucas | 6 | D |
| Terri Liberto | 15 | B | | Luisa Argentia Castillo | 7 | B |
| Ileana Mercedes Nunez Sanchez | 16 | B | | Joyce Burkhardt | 7 | D |
| Trude Strohschneider | 16 | D | | Sue Durbin | 10 | B |
| Trudy Savant | 17 | D | | Joanne Karcher | 10 | D |
| Patricia Srigley | 17 | D | | Diane Klimo | 12 | B |
| Betty Sypien | 18 | B | | Colleen Price | 13 | B |
| Esther Violeta Jiménez Gonzalez | 20 | D | | José Luciano Liriano Martínez | 13 | B |
| Alice Lamont | 20 | D | | Jim Montgomery | 13 | D |
| Phyllis Donahe | 21 | D | | Julia Lynn | 15 | B |
| Brigida Altagracia Rodríguez García | 26 | B | | Marlene McClain | 15 | D |
| Sharon Ullery | 27 | D | | Elaine Lafayette | 16 | B |
| Eileen McMonigal | 28 | B | | Winifred Stranghellini | 17 | B |
| Jean (Nulty) Freemont | 30 | B | | Shirley Grab | 18 | B |
| Virginia Szejnar | 30 | D | | Karen Lutz | 20 | B |
| | | | | Juana Rodríguez García | 29 | B |





