

CDP Associate News

AUTUMN 2018



On a mission trip to La Posada, Associate Rose Vierdag helps a young client from the Congo with English lessons.

Making Providence Visible at La Posada

Early on the morning of October 6, Sr. Barbara McMullen and Associates Rose Vierdag and Linda Hoefflin left Granite City, IL, for La Posada Providencia, a sponsored ministry of Divine Providence, in San Benito TX — a trip of 1,135 miles. We took with us a load of supplies donated by the Associates and Sisters of the St. Louis and Tennessee areas, including in-kind donations of toiletries and other essentials amounting to \$527, Wal-Mart gift cards, and \$200 in cash for the La Posada building fund.

After driving for 14 hours, we stayed overnight at my sister's home in Porter, TX, before continuing our journey. We were able to attend Sunday Mass at St. Martha's Church, only a few blocks away. There is nothing like celebrating Mass with a group of faith-filled people.

The mission experience at La Posada was, to say the least, eye-opening. First, Srs. Zita Telkamp, Margaret Mertens, and Therese Cunningham deserve medals. During my work as an operating-room nurse, I was often on call, and I know how grueling it

can be. But these Sisters are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I can't imagine the stress, loss of sleep, lack of food, and emotional and physical toll this schedule takes on the Sisters' lives.

Second, any misconceptions I may have had about La Posada were quickly erased upon our arrival. A recent client from Zimbabwe brought the total number of countries served there to 86. No longer are only Hispanics served; during our four-day stay, La Posada

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Associate Linda Hoefflin teaches English to clients from Honduras.

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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.



**From the
Director**
Erin Middleton

I think you will enjoy this issue's "Meet an Associate" featuring Terry Southerland. I love hearing the stories of how each of you answered the call to be a Sister or Associate of Divine Providence, and Terry's story is particularly engaging.

Last month I met another Associate, and it was both a divine appointment and a delightful surprise. On a Sunday morning in October, the sound of a birthday celebration song filled Providence Heights dining room to honor Associate Marlene McClain—who was celebrating the fact that she had spent the last 70 years of life knowing the Sisters of Divine Providence! Among the many special people in attendance was one face I recognized as familiar, as I had seen that smile recently in the pages of my worn-out Associate directory. It turned out to be Mary Flick, CSJ Sister and CDP Associate, there to visit Srs. Maura and Marlene Luffy, who had mentored her during her years of discernment for religious life.

I had always wanted to meet Mary to find out how a person came to be BOTH a Sister of one community and an Associate of another. Mary's example struck me as a symbol of the future of religious life for all of us—Sister and Associate, hand-in-hand. Although she later discerned her call to be a Sister of St. Joseph, Mary maintained her tie as a CDP Associate. "I was not going to give up my Associate relationship with the CDPs," she said. I love how Mary did not approach her religious life as an "either/or" experience but a "both/and."

There is strength and growth awaiting us all if we take a lesson from Mary and open ourselves to the Spirit and each other as we do life together. In light of all that has happened in the past several months, both good and bad, we are part of a new Church emerging. I hope we will take part with a "both/and" attitude and partner with Sisters and Associates in many religious communities across the world to create a better, stronger Church.

Our Strategic Intent group on Partnering as Sisters and Associates is planning an event in the spring to discover how we can work together in TRUE PARTNERSHIP. Let's all be open to the new ideas the group presents to make our lives as Providence men and women richer and fuller, and more effective. I am so grateful you are with me on this journey.



Terry Southerland as a young CDP Sister; and in 2017, as part of the St. Louis Local Coordinator team.

Meet an Associate: Terry Southerland

Terry Southerland was raised as a farm girl in Lincoln County, MO. Her father was one of 14 children and had three sisters who chose religious life: an Ursuline, a Sister of Divine Providence, and a Cenacle Sister. The sister who became a CDP, Sr. Jerome Roberts, was also Terry's godmother. Sr. Jerome took that job very seriously. As Terry puts it, "I think she prayed me into the convent and managed to keep me there from a freshman in high school to the June before I would have made perpetual vows." And, Terry continues, "My convent years, which covered age 14 to 24, are held in my heart as memories of family."

After she left Mount Providence, Terry often went back to visit her classmates and the Sisters who taught and guided her. When she met James, her husband-to-be, she brought him to the Sisters for approval, and "he had them all at his beck and call. They knew he was a coffee drinker of great intensity and that he was addicted to all things chocolate." Terry's ties to the community remained very strong, and on one of her visits, "Sr. Lucy sat me down and asked, or maybe told me, I needed to become an Associate. Becoming an Associate was like stepping back into the convent for me. I realized I missed the sense of community I had always felt there."

Terry reflects that she has spent 37 years of her life among the CDPs and has "absolutely no regrets, only fond memories." Says Terry, "I am extremely blessed to have had a wonderful family by blood, a marvelous group of women who made up my convent family, and friends who make up my family of faith."

Around the Province

La Posada (Continued from page 1)

had 40 clients in residence from Eritrea, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, and the Congo. As Sr. Barbara reflected, "If I ever wanted to know what hope looked like, I just have to see the faces of the men, women and children who come through the doors of La Posada and are welcomed warmly."

Each client is provided with a place to stay, food, clean clothes, and showers. For four hours a day, clients receive lessons in reading and writing English, and basic concepts such as numbers and colors and many other life skills. We spent much of our time at La Posada teaching these classes. When we were not in the classroom, we were mowing the yard, painting walls, and doing whatever other tasks were necessary.

I am in awe of the tremendous work that occurs there on a daily basis. It takes many hands and donations to assist La Posada in opening the doors each day. As Rose Vierdag commented, "Every Associate should experience a day at La Posada." My prayers will be stronger than ever for this powerful ministry.

—Linda Hoefflin



Sr. Barbara McMullen holds 3-week-old Baby Emmanuel at La Posada.



Erin Middleton, Sr. Elena Almendárez, Katherine Nami Yoon, Carol Marsiglio, Clare Hyungsun, Kathy Nellis, Peggy Huwe, Sr. Veronica Kim, Maryann D'Alessandro, Sandy Stevenson.

Four New Associates Received in Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh-Ohio-Michigan area recently welcomed four wonderful new Associates. Clare Hyungsun, Carol Marsiglio, Katherine Nami Yoon, and Kathy Nellis were received into the Associate Relationship at liturgy on August 5, 2018, in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel at Providence Heights. The spiritual journey that led up to this event included three parts.

Part 1: October 27-28, 2017: Overnight Retreat at Kearns Spirituality Center. After dinner with the Sisters at Providence Heights on Friday evening, the

group gathered at Kearns for an opening prayer by Local Coordinator Maryann D'Alessandro and a get-acquainted activity led by Sandy Stevenson, also a Local Coordinator. Sr. Marian Senish gave a presentation on the various kinds and aspects of prayer, followed by a wine and cheese social.

On Saturday, new Local Coordinator Sr. Elena Almendárez led morning prayer, after which Sr. Betty Sundry spoke on social justice and the Ketteler legacy; a panel of Associates answered Inquirers' questions about Associate life; and Sr. Elena gave a presentation on the history of the CDP Community.

Part 2: April 15, 2018: All-Day Session at Kearns.

The day began with liturgy and brunch at Providence Heights. Inquirers, companions, and supporters then met at Kearns for presentations by Sr. Loretta Jean Schorr on the CDP charism; by Sr. Donna Marie Gribshaw on Mission and Ministry; and by Sr. Anne Winschel on Covenants.

Part 3: May 12, 2018: Presentation on Providence Theology by Sr. Michele Bisbey.

On July 15, a picnic to celebrate the Inquirers was held at Assumption Convent in Bellevue. It took many Sisters and Associates to nurture, inspire, and inform the new Associates. We are grateful to everyone who helped.

—Sandy Stevenson

Around the Province

Kingston Associates Renew Covenant

On Founders Day, September 29, 2018, Associates in the Kingston area celebrated the renewal of their Associate covenant. They began with prayer in the Providence House chapel and then spent some time reading and reflecting on the Founders Day letter sent by Sr. Maria Fest. Sr. Maria's reflection on the 167th year of the Congregation of Divine Providence was very moving to all.

The Associates proceeded to the conference room to complete and sign their covenant renewal statement, while the Sisters continued to pray for several Associates who had recently gone home to the Lord. When the Associates returned to the chapel, Ann Moberg led them in the renewal ritual reading of the Spirit and Mission of the Congregation, followed by formal prayers. Each Associate was called by name to come to the altar with her covenant and to sign the Associate files.

Ann introduced Sr. Rose Marie Lipke, who will serve as a Local Coordinator along with Ann and Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf. Sr. Rose Marie spoke briefly about her experiences of praying with people in the ICU, particularly about one gentleman who waited for her to return on her next visit.

After the ceremony, the Sisters and Associates enjoyed tea and refreshments in the conference room.

— **Ann Moberg**



Mary Anne Wusenich, Sr. Rose Marie Lipke, Anna Marie Perrault, Cynthia Merry, Ann Moberg, and Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf at Kingston Associate renewal ceremony.



Sr. Veronika Wauch and Shelley Johnsen; Erin Middleton and Ileana Nuñez under oak tree that was alive during Mother Marie's time.

A Day Along the Pilgrimage

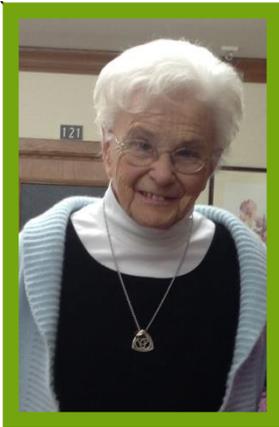
Among the many incredible experiences I had during the Associate Pilgrimage to Germany in April 2018 was a visit to the Finthen-Mainz Residence House/Archives and School. We were greeted there by all of the Sisters in residence as well as by Sr. Clementine Fritscher, Provincial Leader of the Ketteler Province. I also had the opportunity to meet and chat with Sr. Veronika Wauch, whom I had heard so much about from Sr. Anne Winschel. After introductions, Sr. Hildegard Ewalt, one of our host guides for the week, described the various places we would have the opportunity to tour at this location.

We visited the chapel and the Ketteler Archives Building, which houses the bed where Bishop Ketteler died and other personal items he owned. Along the garden path we walked to the on-site elementary school is a huge beautiful old oak tree which was alive during the time Mother Marie lived. It was very moving to reflect that these were the same paths that she walked and the trees that she saw and touched. Everything I had learned about our Founders during my Associate Inquiry sessions in 2011 was coming to life. After a tour of the school, we visited the Community Archives. As Finthen was the very first residence of our Sisters, the archives hold CDP files, historical documents, and memorabilia from all over the world. I was able to see Mother Marie's ring and hold her cross. The deep emotional connection I felt while holding her cross was a spiritual experience.

The day in Finthen finished with a traditional German meal at the Hotel Zum Babbelnit restaurant. Sr. Clementine and the Sisters of the Finthen-Mainz Residence provided us top-notch hospitality. I was very grateful for the opportunity to visit and experience this beautiful place where our Community began. I hope to return again someday.

— **Shelley Johnsen**

Kvell & Tell



← **Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf** writes: We are happy to welcome **Sr. Rose Marie Lipke**, who has volunteered to assist the Associate program here in New England in response to our current needs. As a pastoral assistant of the Archdiocese of Boston, MA, she has served the people and churches of the north shore regions for over 40 years. We accept her versatility with gratitude.



"Kvell" is an ancient Yiddish word that describes how one feels when someone she loves achieves success in an important endeavor.

—Sister Mary Ellen Rufft



← In August, eight members of the Maryville, IL, faith-sharing group and some spouses gathered for their annual meeting at Bobby's Custard to celebrate summer and their continued faith-sharing. Members include **Sheila Poiter, Gil Weyhaupt, Mary Hassler, Bev Camper, Linda Reynolds, Judy Unger, Sr. Barbara McMullen, and Linda Hoefflin.**



↑ **Sr. Mary Flick, CSJ**, is both a Sister of St. Joseph and a CDP Associate! Read more about Sr. Mary in Erin Middleton's column on page 2.



← **Karen Snyder and Erin Middleton** attended the OPAL (Ohio-Pennsylvania Associate Leadership) meeting at Villa Maria in October. They gave a presentation on the process of publishing our CDP Associate newsletter, and ways other Associate groups might reflect their community's mission in their own newsletters.



← **Sandy Stevenson** introduces speaker **Deborah Rose-Milavec**, Executive Director of FutureChurch, at the Pittsburgh Associates Enrichment Day in November. Deborah, who is also an Associate of the Sisters of Charity, gave a powerful presentation on the role of women, and especially Sisters and Associates, in the Church today and into the future.



↑ Associate **Ruthanne Curran** thanks all who prayed for her great-granddaughter. Ruthy reports that **Baby River** is responding to meds and becoming alert.



← In August the Puerto Rico Associates held a farewell celebration for their Local Coordinator, **Sr. Veronica Oravec**, who is retiring. At a blessing ritual in the convent chapel at Arecibo, each Associate expressed gratitude and blessings for the future. Afterwards the group enjoyed dinner at Ponderosa.

**Please send your news—births, weddings, growth, new positions or places—
to Karen Snyder at ksnyder@cdpsisters.org**

May They Rest in Peace



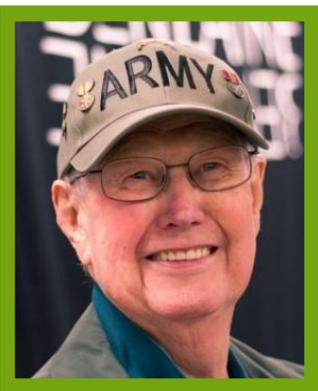
Mary Bittner

Associate Mary C. Bittner of Glenshaw, PA, passed away peacefully on August 22, 2018, surrounded by her family. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Arthur C. Bittner, and their seven children, 16 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Mary was the sister of Srs. Anne and Carolyn Winschel. She grew up on Middle Road in Glenshaw where she attended St. Mary's grade school and Divine Providence Academy. Mary then graduated from the Ad Art School and enjoyed a long career as an accomplished artist. She was active in Pittsburgh art organizations, and her artwork lives on in private and corporate collections. She was a talented musician, gardener, and lover of nature. She enjoyed a long and loving marriage with her husband Art for 67 years.



Agnes Fernandes

Associate Agnes V. Fernandes, age 95, of Plymouth, MA, passed away at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Plymouth on September 21, 2018. She was the beloved sister of Associate Geneva Dicks of Plymouth, Dominga Barros of Taunton, Associate Rose Silva, Associate Molly Gomes, and the late Catherine Costa. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. Agnes was born on July 3, 1923 in Plymouth to Victal and Mary Fernandes. She attended Plymouth schools and was an active member of St. Peter's Church and Women's League.



Christopher Curran

Associate Christopher F. Curran of Carver, MA, died peacefully on September 27, 2018. Christopher was the beloved husband of Associate Ruthanne Curran. He was the loving father of their five children, grandfather of 11, and great-grandfather of two. After high school, Chris joined the U.S. Army, served in Korea and Japan, and received several awards for his service. After serving in the military, he worked for 39 years as a Letter Carrier. Upon his retirement, Chris was presented with the *Heroes Among Us* award from the Boston Celtics, recognizing not only his dedication as a carrier, but also the acts of kindness and heroism he had shown toward the customers on his routes. Chris was known for his quick wit and sense of humor, his enthusiasm for sports, and his love of animals. He was a member of the Carver Knights of Columbus.

To make a contribution in memory of an Associate, visit cdpsisters.org/donate

“DEAR CHILD OF GOD,
YOU ARE LOVED WITH A LOVE
THAT NOTHING CAN SHAKE,
A LOVE THAT LOVED YOU
LONG BEFORE YOU WERE CREATED,
A LOVE THAT WILL BE THERE LONG AFTER
EVERYTHING HAS DISAPPEARED. . . .
AND GOD WANTS YOU TO BE LIKE GOD.
FILLED WITH LIFE AND GOODNESS
AND LAUGHTER—AND JOY.”

—Desmond Tutu



Committee Update



Finance
Tish Donze

Dear Friends,

Becoming an Associate 10 years ago has enriched my life in ways I never dreamed. I had hoped to get more connected to the CDP community, meet other women who had similar spiritual yearnings, and deepen my faith. But I have gained so much more.

- Attending my monthly faith-sharing group provides needed support and spiritual growth.
- Being a part of the CDP community of women and always feeling welcome at the Provincial House is gift.
- Participating in spiritual, educational, and fun events has been great for my health and wellness.
- Getting to know and become friends with so many of you has enlarged my circle of "family" and mutual support.
- Serving on committees and attending Providence conferences challenges my thinking and expands my leadership opportunities as well as gives me a way to give back to the Associate Relationship.

Value isn't measured by what we have or where we can go, and I feel that being an Associate has added so much value to my life. I want our Associate Relationship to continue well into the future. I also know that resources are needed for that to happen, so I have committed to a monthly donation, so we can become self-sustaining. We have made great progress over the last few years, with 67 Associates contributing over \$17,000 in various ways just this year. This is impressive! Have you made your contribution yet? **Please consider making your first gift.*** It will take all of us to reach our annual goal of \$30,000. I know we have the ability to do it and together we can make it happen.

Gratefully,

Tish Donze, Finance Committee Chair

Mark Your Calendar

December

8 — Holiday Decorating at Providence Heights

January

4-6 — "A Women's Christmas Experience" at Kearns Spirituality Center; RSVP to Sr. Kathleen Matz at kmatz@cdpsisters.org by December 21.

20 — Annual Baby Shower for Pro-Life, Kingston

Reminders

- **Have you activated your @cdpsisters.org email account?** Your @cdpsisters.org account is ready and waiting for you to claim it! Using this account will ensure secure and private delivery of the Sisters' latest news, information and documents. If you need help to login, contact Sr. Margie Walsh at 412-290-5526.
- **Sign up for the CDP Associates Facebook page!** If you haven't signed up yet, don't delay! Keep up with your Associate friends and view pictures of the latest Associate events. For help accessing our Facebook page, contact Shelley Johnsen at sjohnsen@cdpsisters.org.

Associate Birthdays

For a complete list of birthdays, please visit cdpsisters.org/AssociateBirthDeathAnniversaries. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the list, you may call Erin Middleton at 724-594-4606.

* When making a donation to the Associate Relationship . . .

Be sure to write "Associate Relationship" on the Memo line of your check.

Special Thanks

Layout Assistance: Mary Seljak

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