

*A newsletter of the  
Sisters of Divine Providence  
Marie de le Roche Province*

F A L L 2 0 1 2

PROVIDENCE

*Alive!*

*rooted  
IN THE past  
reaching  
TOWARD THE future*



OUR FOUNDERS'  
*200<sup>th</sup>*  
*Birthday Celebration*





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# Who are we today?

by Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, Provincial Director

As I write, we are bringing to completion our bicentennial celebration of the 200th birth anniversaries of our founders, Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler (born December 25, 1811), later Bishop of Mainz, Germany, and Stephanie Amalie de la Roche (born October 28, 1812), later Mother Marie.

These two saintly people were raised in loving homes, with strong moral principles and deep faith. Each was formed for leadership by family, personality, culture, religion, and education. Our founder and foundress grew up and lived their early adult years being taught to notice the poor and to work to alleviate their suffering and improve their conditions. They were educated within their families and their faith to be aware of societal structures and to seek to improve the lot of others by changing unjust systems. They were called by the God of Providence to freely give their lives to God, growing in simplicity, trust, compassion, and courage as they used their personal wealth and gifts generously in love and service of others.

These two remarkable people were born at a time in history when there were many social struggles, as divisions among the Christian churches sharpened, as political structures evolved from small nationality groups into nation-states, as large factories and the industrial age overwhelmed and replaced small cottage industries, and as populations sought to meet their own basic needs by moving from rural farming areas into the rapidly expanding cities.

Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie responded to their world throughout their lives by reading the signs of the times and seeking a loving, faith-filled response. Their founding of the Sisters of Divine Providence on September 29, 1851, flowed from their recognition of the dire needs, especially by those who were poor. The Sisters who consecrated their lives in community and service carried out the same call, first in Germany, and then, over these 161 years, we have responded to the needs in the United States, Puerto Rico, Peru, Germany, and the Dominican Republic, always aware of the gifts we could offer and the needs that called us forth.

In every age that followed the Community's foundation, the call of God came to the Sisters through the needs of the world of their own day. Through the decades, every new event held an invitation and a challenge to live and serve in Gospel love. In unique and personal ways, today's Sisters of Divine Providence have shared journeys similar to those of our founders and our first Sisters. We have been formed to open our eyes and hearts to see and respond to the needs of our day with compassion and courage.

At this time in history, we continue to ask ourselves: *Who are we today? What vision guides our lives and our service of needs in today's world? How is the God of Providence calling us forth anew to live in compassion, justice, and peace?*

This summer, we have continued to share as Community, as we publicly celebrated the 200th birth anniversaries of our founders, as we honored our Sister Jubilarians for years of faithfulness and generosity, and as we rejoiced in the consecration of a newer member who proclaimed her first vows with us. We gathered for our annual Assembly to spend time in prayer, openness, contemplation, and conversation about today's issues, so as to choose generous lives of presence and service and a future of compassionate witness to the God of Providence.

# Founders' Bicentennial Celebrations Draw to a Close

by Jean Dennison | Executive Director, Office of Mission Advancement

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE SISTERS of Divine Providence have been celebrating the 200th anniversary of their founders, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Marie de la Roche. Bishop Ketteler was born on December 25, 1811; his 200th anniversary was December 25, 2011. Marie de la Roche was born on October 28, 1812; her 200th anniversary will be October 28, 2012, the day of the final celebration, which, fittingly, will be a presentation about her life and legacy.

In the fall of 2009, a Founders Committee was formed and began planning events, both communal and public, to mark the celebration. There were many joyous occasions planned, as well as presentations, educational opportunities, a traveling historical exhibit, and a Providence art exhibit featuring the work of Sister artists.

In order to alert the public to the Bicentennial Celebration, banners

were designed featuring the theme, *Rooted in the past ... reaching toward the future*. The banners were displayed on the properties in Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Kingston.

One of the most ambitious undertakings was the creation of the *Book of Hours, Vols. I and II*, resource books of Providence prayers, readings, reflections, and services of the "hours" on both Ketteler and Mother Marie that were distributed as Christmas gifts to Sisters and Associates in 2011 and 2012. The books were written by Sister contributors and were very well received.

Opening events were held in all the geographic areas as well. This included special prayer services celebrating Bishop Ketteler, with an anniversary prayer bookmark given as a remembrance. Also at this event there was an exhibit depicting the founders, Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie, the early foundation

history, expansion to other countries, ministries, and where the Community is today. Following the prayer service, Sisters and guests gathered for dessert and conversation.

An historical timeline of the Congregation, from founding to present day, was developed and offered to sponsored ministries to use as they deemed appropriate. Some of the ministries shared the history boards with their board members at special meetings; others invited their constituents to a gathering where the boards were the focal point. The boards are available for future use as well.

Throughout the two-year celebration, many things, great and small, were done to keep the theme alive. Founders' t-shirts and sweatshirts were designed and people were urged to wear them on the 25th of every month—Founders Shirt Day! Community Christmas cards were designed to reflect the celebrations with verses that spoke of the legacy of Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie. Ketteler's Six Sermons on the Labor Question were distributed among the Sisters and Associates for use in faith sharing. Advent and Lenten Reflections were based on the writings of Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie. These were shared via email with our benefactors and friends who requested them. The Jesus Series of classes was offered, which included viewing films and holding follow-up discussions about the spirit of Jesus and its influence on the Community's mission.

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Attending the Ketteler Opening Celebration in Puerto Rico on November 20, 2011, are (from left) Sisters Juanita Torres Acevedo, Mary Providence Kriley, Maria M Torres Meléndez, Elizabeth Arbelo Rodríguez, and Ana Lydia Sonera Matos.



# Founders' Bicentennial Celebrations Draw to a Close

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The official *public* closing event was a Celebration Mass on August 1 at 4 p.m. in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel. Because the province Annual Assembly began the following day, there were many out of town Sisters and Associates in attendance, as well as a number of invited guests. The celebrant for the Mass was Fr. Peter Horton, a great friend of the Community. The liturgy was tailored to the celebration and featured the liturgical dancers and participation by many Sisters and Associates. The Mass was followed by a gala dinner.

There are still two events to enjoy. On October 23, 2012, the Ketteler Award for Social Justice will be presented to Christian singer Natalie Grant for her work to end human trafficking and the child sex trade. The presentation will be made at a dinner at Shannopin Country Club in Ben Avon Heights, Pa. and the public is invited to attend. Thanks to our lead sponsors UPMC Passavant Hospital and UPMC St. Margaret's Hospital for their support

of this worthwhile event. For ticket information, please call 412-635-5401 or visit our website at [www.divineprovidenceweb.org](http://www.divineprovidenceweb.org).

On October 28, each area will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Mother Marie's birth. Each local area will gather and celebrate the life and legacy of Mother Marie. This will be the official province closing event.

It has been an exciting time for the province. Many friends and family members participated with Sisters and Associates in the special events and spiritual growth opportunities that enriched their understanding of Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie and their legacy to the Community. The time has had a profound effect on individual Sisters and Associates and has reinvigorated them for mission

as the Sisters of Divine Providence, Marie de la Roche Province, reach toward the future.



Attending the Ketteler Opening Celebration in Pittsburgh, on January 9, 2011, are Sister Mary Salvatore Leo (left) and Associate Mary Gallek.



**Founders Committee Members:** The committee is chaired by Sister Barbara McMullen with members Sisters Joan Albaugh<sup>†</sup>, Marilyn Bergt, Genevieve Brandstetter, Sandra DeNardis, Emma Jean Middendorf, Janet Schaffran, Charlotte Tolliver, Mary Traupman, Anne Winschel, and Jean Dennison and Ellen Lavender.



Enjoying the Sisters' Family Picnic at Providence Heights on July 15 is Sister Louise Angelini, with nieces Catherine Lima, left (Calif.), and Antoinette Ferraro (Sharpsburg) and her fiancé, Mark.

## Oktoberfest 2012

*Proceeds benefit La Roche College, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Divine Providence*

**Saturday, October 13, 2012 1 to 5 P.M.**

9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA

*(Rain or Shine—event held indoors!)*

### SPECIAL DRAWING TICKET ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### Tickets \$5/each or 5 for \$20

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Turser 200 Pro Double Cutaway Les Paul Style Electric Guitar | \$ _____ for _____ tix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-knitted Afghan (72" x 52") designed by Sister Mary Wagner   | \$ _____ for _____ tix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-piece ceramic Nativity set with stable                        | \$ _____ for _____ tix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh Steelers Quilt handmade and donated by Bethany Karger | \$ _____ for _____ tix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation   | \$ _____               |

**Total Enclosed**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check payable to the Sisters of Divine Providence, along with this order form, in the enclosed envelope, no later than October 5, 2012. You may also purchase your tickets online using any major credit card by visiting [www.divineprovidenceweb.org](http://www.divineprovidenceweb.org) and clicking on the Oktoberfest button and the "Purchase tickets online" link. Online tickets must be purchased by Friday, October 5. Major credit cards accepted. (For those who do not have internet access, call 412-635-5401.)

Special drawing tickets are not tax-deductible contributions. Also, in order to comply with postal regulations, we must inform you that participation in the drawings is not necessary; however, since this is a fundraiser and a unique opportunity to support the Sisters of Divine Providence, we hope you will participate with us in one of the above ways. Thank you for your support.



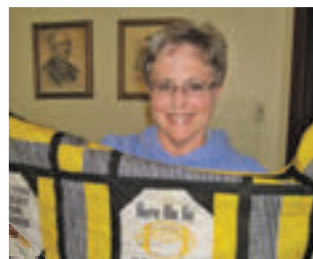
**Jay Turser 200 Pro Double Cutaway Les Paul Style electric guitar donated by Mark and Debby McCall**



**Soft white knitted afghan; original design by Sister Mary Wagner, using seed and cable stitches**



**Ceramic Nativity set donated by Sister Donna Marie Dorfner**



**Steelers Quilt handmade and donated by Bethany Karger**

## Development Directors

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**Setting up a fund to honor or remember a Sister can begin by making a phone call to one of the Development Directors listed above.**



# 2012 Jubilarians

25 years



Sister Clara Kreis

60 Years

Sister Elizabeth Apel  
Sister Jean Louise McIntyre  
Sister Marian Senish  
Sister Lois Ann Wuenstel

*Also celebrating...*

65 Years

Sister Louise Angelini  
Sister Rosalie Deck  
Sister Mary Gabriel Friedel  
Sister Maureen Grabowski  
Sister Adele Kasper  
Sister Marjorie Nickel  
Sister Dorothy Ransil

70 Years

Sister Sister Mary Kriley  
Sister Mary Jerome Roberts  
Sister Agnes Schmidt  
Sister Mary Weatherly

50 years



Sister Charlotte  
Deveau



Sister Mary  
Francis Fletcher



Sister Rose Anne  
Krantz



Sister Ruth Ann  
McDermott



Sister Claudia  
Ward

75 years



Sister Dorothy  
Roth

80 years



Sister Rosaria  
Bednar



# Sister Betsa Professes First Vows

THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, Marie de la Roche Province, celebrated with SISTER Bertshabé Palomino Montalvo as she professed first vows on Sunday, July 29, 2012 at a 3 p.m. liturgy at Mother of Divine Providence Chapel in McCandless Twp., Pa.



**Sister Betsa with Provincial Director Sister Mary Francis Fletcher**

Sister Bertshabé, or Sister Betsa, as she is known, came to the Marie de la Roche Province from Abancay, a city in the southern mountains of Peru, where she was educated by the Dominican Sisters. She attended the University in Cusco, earning a bachelor's degree and professional license in business administration.

Sister Betsa began to think that she was called to religious life after graduation. She was employed in business for two years and, during that time, she was longing for spiritual nourishment. She found it with Sisters and priests who were her friends. "They always filled the gap in my spirituality," she said, "until I found the Sisters of Divine Providence in Peru." She decided to enter the convent in 2007.

When asked about her hopes for her future as a Sister of Divine Providence, Sister Betsa replied, "I hope that in the future, the internationality of the community will help us to reach more people in our mission as Sisters of Divine Providence, always making the providence of God more visible in the entire world."

God bless you, Sister Betsa!

## Save the Dates

### **Oktoberfest**

**Saturday, October 13, 1-5 P.M.**  
9000 Babcock Boulevard  
McCandless Township

For more information:  
412-635-5401

### **An Evening with Natalie Grant**

**Tuesday, October 23**  
Shannopin Country Club  
1 Windmere Road  
Ben Avon Heights, Pa.

For more information:  
412-635-5401

### **Memorial Remembrance Service**

**Friday, November 2, 4 P.M.**  
Mother of Divine Providence Chapel  
9000 Babcock Boulevard  
McCandless Township

Open to all, but reservations required. Call 412-635-5401. For more information, or to submit the names of your loved ones, visit our website.

### **St. Louis Memorial Service** **Saturday, November 10, 11:30**

**A.M.**  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
3130 Parkwood Lane  
Maryland Heights, Mo. 63043

Light meal to follow in the parish hall

## Do You Have a Story to Share?

FOR MANY OF YOU, THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE played an important part of your life. Perhaps there's one Sister in particular who stands out from the rest. If you have a memorable story or a fond remembrance you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you.

As part of the Sisters' closing Bicentennial celebrating the births of co-founders Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler (December 25, 1811) and Mother Marie de la Roche (October 28, 1812), we invite you to send your story. If your life has been touched by one or more of our Sisters,

then you are part of our rich history, and we would be most grateful for any memories or inspirations you can share that we will consider for upcoming issues of Providence Alive! Please limit your story to 250 words.

Stories can be emailed to [pgcommspec@aol.com](mailto:pgcommspec@aol.com) or mailed to Pam Greer, Sisters of Divine Providence, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, Pa. 15101. Accompanying high resolution digital photos (JPG format) are also welcome.

# Assembly 2012

by Elena Almendárez, CDP, and the Assembly Planning Committee

ONCE A YEAR, THE SISTERS IN THE Marie de la Roche Province gather to reflect on the past year and make plans for carrying out the Community's mission into the future.

This year's Assembly was held from August 2-5 at Providence Heights in Allison Park. The theme was *Transformed for Mission*. The Assembly Planning Committee worked hard



to plan days that would allow time for the Sisters to discuss the issues that affect them now, as well as in the years to come. Various groups, including the Provincial

Leadership Team (PLT) and committees headed up by PLT members, presented input and invited discussion and feedback from the Associates and Sisters present. Our own CDP Sisters were facilitators for each session.

A new group that presented this year was the Elected Advisory Group (EAG). The group of 12 Sisters elected to act in an advisory capacity to leadership and be a conduit of information and concerns from the Sisters in the province to the Leadership Team. This group presented the EAG procedures, the role of small groups in the governance model, and the public image of the Sisters in the province. They received feedback and will continue to work with these and other topics.

Additionally, the Vowed Membership Team reported on their work with the incorporation of new members. One of the most touching and "transformative" experiences occurred when the Sisters in initial

incorporation presented, in their own words, their stories on how they came to be with the Community and what they are currently experiencing in their incorporation process. These Sisters, most from other cultures initially, shared deeply and challenged their listeners to welcome new members with open hearts and minds.

One of the major factors that influenced the planning of the Assembly was the idea of sustainability. There were sessions to discuss financial sustainability and ministry sustainability. These many discussions brought the group to the realization that our province is in need of strategic planning for our shared future. The response of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) to the June visit with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was also discussed, as was the PLT's participation with the LCWR. On Sunday, the group spent the morning reflecting on the topic of immigration and how we are called to respond to this issue. We watched the video *We Are All Immigrants* and listened to a panel of our Sisters who minister to immigrants.

There were many beautiful prayer times shared throughout the Assembly, many enhanced with beautiful music and liturgical dance. Sister Michele Bisbey led the opening ritual using an image from the St. John's Bible, reflecting on community and our abundance. As part of that prayer ritual, and woven throughout our time together, a mantra, written by Sister Maria Patterson, *To Be Your Word*, was sung, and all present were challenged to be God's "word in the world." There was also a memorial prayer service for all the Sisters and

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From top down: Liturgical dancers performing at Assembly Liturgy; Sisters Rose Anne Krantz and Marian Senish carrying the altar cloth at an Assembly Liturgy; Sisters Janet Schaffran and Rita Adams; Liturgical dancer Sister Wendolyn López Santos; Associate Linda Hoefflin serving sundaes at the ice cream social; Sister Mary Traupman presenting Sister Celesta Rudolph with the Constitutions & Directories at the Commissioning service; and Sisters Mary Michael McCulla (left) and Maria Patterson performing at an Assembly Liturgy.

# Assembly 2012

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Associates from across the province who passed away in the past year. This was a wonderful time to remember and celebrate their lives. Morning prayer services were held in the auditorium, and PowerPoint technology was employed to enhance the experience and to help us go paperless and be “green.” Perhaps the greatest celebration came from the Jubilee Mass and dinner—a time of rejoicing and celebrating the many years of service and love shared by the Sisters. Our final prayer together was the commissioning for mission of our Sisters and Associates by the PLT. The Leadership Team presented each Sister with a copy of the newly revised Constitution and Directories, offering a prayer of blessing for her as she continues to be transformed for the mission of Providence.



## Sister Will Lead National Organization

Sister Barbara McMullen was recently appointed as the new Executive Director of the Women of Providence in Collaboration (WPC). WPC is an association of religious congregations bearing the name and charism of Providence that brings these congregations together to share and promote the evolving theology and spirituality of Providence, and to witness a preferential option for the poor as they respond to the needs of a global society.

Sister Barbara is no stranger to this leadership role, having held the position from 2000–2007. She left to serve as Assistant Provincial on the Provincial Leadership Team (2007–2012). Earlier in her career, she was Senior Associate for Mission and Sponsor Services for the Catholic Health Association in St. Louis, Missouri (1995–2000).

Kathleen Popko, SP, chair of the Governing Board of the organization, commented, “We are delighted to have Sister Barbara return to a leadership role within the Women of Providence in Collaboration and to bring her many gifts and experiences to this position.”



*Please remember the Sisters of Divine Providence  
in your will or estate planning.*



# Join Us!



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Join the conversation! Link directly to our pages from our website: [www.divineprovidencweb.org](http://www.divineprovidencweb.org)



Watch special event videos and more on our YouTube channel:

**YouTube.com/DivineProvidenceWeb**



Join our mailing list! To sign up, email:

**serafini.patricia@gmail.com**

Receive updates when the latest issue of *Providence Alive* is available online.



View our blog on creating a world of compassion, justice, and peace:

**justiceforlifecdp.wordpress.com**

Get *Providence Alive*! online at:  
**[www.divineprovidencweb.org](http://www.divineprovidencweb.org)**





# In Memory



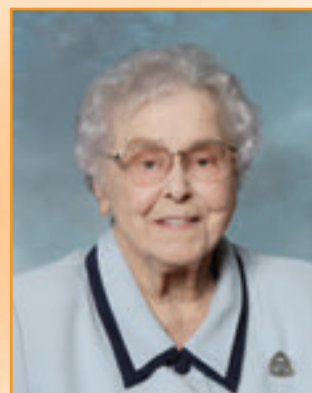
Sister Mary Pires  
*May 22, 2012*



Sister Mary Adrian  
Dimmerling  
*June 2, 2012*



Sister Paul Gabriel  
Kersting  
*June 26, 2012*



Sister Camille  
Ordner  
*August 22, 2012*



Sister Louise  
Kovalovsky  
*August 22, 2012*



Sister Concepta  
Stanko  
*August 30, 2012*

*The Sisters of Divine Providence also  
remember Associates ...*

Gay Ann Brocke  
*June 11, 2012*

Linda Kelley  
*June 19, 2012*

*Contributions in memory of our deceased Sisters and Associates  
can be sent to the following address: Development Office, 9000  
Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, Pa. 15101*

*To make contributions in memory of these or any of the Sisters, you  
can donate online at [www.divineprovidencweb.org](http://www.divineprovidencweb.org).*

A Providence Woman  
**lives forever**  
*i n t h e h e a r t s*  
of those who **remember...**



*Sisters of Divine Providence*  
Marie de la Roche Province

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## Mission Statement

We, the Congregation of Divine Providence, impelled by the Spirit of Jesus, commit ourselves to co-create a world of compassion, justice and peace. Guided by the legacy of Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Marie de la Roche, we nurture in ourselves and in others a trust and confidence in God's faithful presence.

We further commit ourselves to making God's Providence more visible in our world.

The Sisters of Divine Providence is an international congregation of three provinces (Germany, American-Caribbean, Korea) and one region (Peru) with approximately 500 vowed members and 200 Associates. Since its founding in Finthen, Germany in 1851, the Congregation has expanded its ministries to meet the needs of the times in education, health care, pastoral care, social work, campus ministry, work among those who are poor or homeless, and peace and justice concerns.



*Connect with us in prayer ...*

To send us your personal prayer intention, call our prayer hotline at **1-888-774-7837**;

Or visit us online at **[www.divineprovidencweb.org](http://www.divineprovidencweb.org)** and click on *Prayer Requests* under the Welcome menu;

Or visit the grounds at **Providence Heights** and walk the labyrinth at Kearns Spirituality Center, where you'll find a peaceful reprieve for personal reflection.

[www.divineprovidencweb.org](http://www.divineprovidencweb.org)