

Collaboration

Volume X Issue III Fall 2015

Sisters of Providence, Montreal

International Initial Formation Gathering 2015

"To ensure formation for Mission in light of the realities of our Congregation and those of the world of today." 2012 General Chapter

The atmosphere that we experienced at Providence International Centre in Montreal during the two week gathering of formation teams, Provincials and General Leadership Team members in July 2015 was one of great joy, sisterhood, unity in diversity, enthusiasm, and hope for the future.

The days unfolded in a dance that intertwined moments of prayer, faith sharing, and enriching daily presentations by our Wisdom Whisperers, by which they introduced us to contemplative listening and dialogue.

We were called to expand our spaces every day under different aspects:

We expanded the area of our mission experiences by welcoming Sister Rollande Malo, SP, General Treasurer, and her presentation of the actuarial study in the context of "the Sisters of Providence awakening the world". It was followed by the participation of sisters from different provinces who offered a vision of the Sisters of Providence awakening the world in the places where we are. We also received

the enthusiastic testimonies of Sisters Micheline Larche, SP and Thérèse Drainville, SP, who set our hearts ablaze by sharing their experiences of



ministry to people who are poor and lonely with us.

Expanding the space of our religious life today: Such is the call we received from our Wisdom Whisperers and their themes: Current Religious Life and Community Life, presented by Sister Diane Sarrasin SP, who introduced us to the story of "Unique Pearl" and Sister Celia Jo Chappell, SP,

who guided us through reflection, listening and dialogue about "our vows".

We then welcomed the shared wisdom of our lay collaborators from the Providence Archives and the Émilie-Gamelin Centre who developed the theme: Our story: Taking Risks for the SP Mission. "The SP's had taken risks on numerous occasions during the 172 years of life of the Congregation. They risked their reputation in the early days; they risked their lives or health during major epidemics or by going to foreign missions. Finally, they also risked new and different ideas. The SP's were often ahead of their time and

willing to provide the best care to the less fortunate in society....However, it is necessary to differentiate between "living in the past" and "living the past". Living in the past means to be conservative and fear change. Living the past means to recognize the importance of our heritage, to learn lessons from what has been experienced before and to build the future

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From the director ...

As this issue of Collaboration goes forth, and it is time to write my page in it, my heart is caught in many themes. We had a wonderful Providence Event last June, in which we were bathed in the energy of community, of being together once again as Providence women and men. We were challenged to birth Providence into a world in need of hope, and we broke bread together so that we could be nourished to feed others as Providence led us each back home.

I just returned from celebrating a friend's golden jubilee where there was great rejoicing, trumpets playing, and bells ringing! It was a wonderful celebration of God's faithfulness through all the ups and downs of those fifty years of commitment. It was a time to watch little ones bring up flowers, "steal the show" so to speak in their innocence and beauty, and watch young parents, grandmothers, and older Sisters all enjoying that scene!

It is the Fall issue of Collaboration and the season of autumn will soon be upon us with its themes of letting go, surrendering into silence and stillness, of harvesting, of waiting and dwelling in Mystery. It is always a time to savor the seeds of our dreams that have come to full bounty and brought a rich fullness into our lives, where we have known the abundance of a Provident God. For these times, we give thanks! It may be a time to relinquish our false assumptions, to let go of what keeps us from inner freedom, to ponder the mystery of dying and rising. Perhaps the journey of letting go of what no longer serves us is also the journey of harvesting and urges us on to new paths. For these times, too, we give thanks!!

Advent, of course, will also happen before our next issue comes. My favorite liturgical season! The season of expectation and awakening, to give ourselves again to a new church year, to new beginnings, to transformation. Advent is that time to savor our unfolding journey, create some sacred space for the inner work that is uniquely our own.

So as you read this issue, give thanks for the wonderful Providence people in these stories of presence, commitment, service, compassion, justice, vigilance, care,



Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP
WPC executive director

beauty, hope and love. Explore the new WPC publication, *Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery*. Excerpts from it will feed our Advent email reflections this year.

May we give thanks for our own commitment, be it fifty years or more or less. Listen to the call of autumn as it lures us into another season of letting go so that we may increase our capacity to see the wonderful works of God among us. And may this Advent season help us to move more fully toward the gifts awaiting us from this Abundant God!

"Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the Vision. The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." – Marcel Proust

Blessings,

Barbara

Sisters of Providence, Montreal **International Gathering**

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on solid foundations. This implies a certain level of calculated risk.”

Expanding our space into the theology of communion, is the Whispered Wisdom we received from Sister Mary Kaye Nealen, followed by the theme "Being accompanied ... being companion", developed by Sister Elizabeth (Betty) Kaczmarczyk.

Expanding our transformational leadership space through reflection and conversation, was the invitation we received from our Wisdom Whisperers Sisters Patricia McKittrick and Karin Dufault.

Expanding our space through listening and dialogue was done by discussing themes related to the International Initial Formation Directory, as we talked about issues that concern the area of initial formation but also challenged us as a congregation. These conversations were only the beginning; they gave us a “taste” of what we will continue to deepen in our conversations as a congregation.

Expanding our space with brave women of Providence provided moments to rediscover our history as Sisters of Providence through the history of our foundresses

and pioneers. Sister Yvette Demers, Vice Postulator of the Cause of Emilie Gamelin, updated us on the Cause of Canonization; we then visited the Providence Archives and the Museum. We toured Old Montreal, La-val and Lévis in the footsteps of Mother Emilie, Mother Joseph and Mother Bernarda.

Expanding our space with compassionate presence invited us to leave the Gathering with a desire to give and receive compassion with those in need. In this opportunity we were present to those in institutions that serve the elderly, children and the sick.

Expanding our space for the future was the invitation Sister Kathryn Rutan extended to us live from El Salvador via the "GoToMeeting" technology (online video software). Her topic was *Evangelii Gaudium* and the SP Mission. We also expanded our space for the future in welcoming Father Henri Boulad, SJ, who used his own experience in providing us with a broader understanding of Islam and islamism.

We offered ourselves space to share the meaning of our Consecrated Life through symbols that each participant introduced every day at the hour of prayer. And at the end of the day, we took time to "thresh / winnow" what it all meant; in silence, we reaped the fruits of the day, recognizing the seeds and putting them aside, not to lose them. We also recognized the new shoots we want to nurture. That is to say, the new intuitions / ideas that

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International Gathering

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we wanted to develop. For all this, we have our "Harvest Book" for journaling.

Our Gathering also became a space that expanded to accompany the pain of Sister Hélène Mamert, who, while she was here with us, received the news that her father died suddenly in Cameroon. We accompany her and her family with our love and compassion.

Everything we did, shared and lived during the Gathering resulted from each participant's availability, desire and willingness to get involved. Their efforts to communicate beyond the language barriers bore fruit, creating new relationships.

We wish to recognize that everything we accomplished has also been the result of teamwork, in terms of organizing, planning and coordinating the Gathering itself. In this work we especially wanted to mention all the personnel of the General Administration. Without them nothing that came to fruition would have been possible. Thanks to everyone doing their work with generosity and responsibility, many times beyond their working hours, making the International Initial Formation Gathering a success.

We know that Providence will continue to bless us each day with more shared wisdom, helping us expand our spaces, so that this Gathering will go on as we return home and that our "dance into the future with trust and hearts on fire" will continue to awaken the world to joy and peace. -- Josie Lerios, SP and Alba Letelier, SP

Sisters of Providence, Montreal

Providence Congregational Renewal Program

Coming from very different backgrounds, countries, cultures, and religious life and formation experiences and with a wide range of ages, the Sisters of Providence gathered in Montreal for the Providence Congregational Renewal Program experienced many international, multicultural, intergenerational and interdependent moments.

The program is in response to the 2012 General Chapter invitation: We move forward, enlivened by the Spirit who invites us as a congregation to weave together the threads of our intercultural reality for the sake of the Mission. With Blessed Émilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph, we want to live without borders and to be interconnected, attentive to the needs of the poor and of creation.

For these reasons, we resolve:

To ensure formation for Mission in light of the realities of our Congregation and those of the world of today.

- Affirming and revitalizing the values of peace, justice, and integrity of creation, and the actions which follow (e.g., participating in JPIC, UNANI MA International).



- Offering congregational programs of continuing formation.
- Encouraging and facilitating:
 - ♦ Learning another language
 - ♦ Cross-cultural experiences
 - ♦ Formation for leadership and administration

The participants were welcomed by the General Leadership Team, and the program began with the theme: "My Covenant with you is forever!"; having the rainbow as a symbol of diversity, beauty, unity, hope and God's fidelity.

Sisters of Providence, Montreal

Congregational Renewal

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Each day, a sister, called the “guardian of the rainbow path”, was responsible for introducing the agenda, providing announcements during the day and assured that needs were met

The days unfolded in an atmosphere of welcome, joy, respect, inclusion and co-responsibility. Every day started with prayer prepared by participants emphasizing contemplative listening and faith sharing. This sets the tone of rest of the day.

The sisters listened to the personal stories of each of the 24 participants, who were joined by three members of the General Leadership Team. Their story was based on the question: Where has my rainbow path led me since profession? These stories have invited us to contemplate the mystery within the story of Provident God's love and covenant with each sister.

There have also been several presentations which have generated significant sharing at the tables. Each speaker, who bears the name of “Rainbow Bridger” has been welcomed with a sung blessing which participants offer

before the beginning the topic.

Some presentations: “Towards Transformation and Transformational Leadership”, by Sister Karin Dufault. “Answering the call to be Missionary Disciples”, by Sister Maria Antonieta Trimpay. “Wake up the world / Actuarial Study”, by Sister Rollande Malo. “Year of Consecrated Life, Really?” by Denis Petitclerc. “Communism, Community, Cosmos / Laudato Si”, by Sister Mary Kaye Nealen.

The visits to Providence Museum and Historical and Financial Archives offered a brief but enlightening journey into the history of our Congregation.

During that time, we could feel the Breath of the Renewing Spirit. We could see the rich colors that each sister possesses that contribute s to the diversity of our Congregation. The call to be Providence women for the today's world is renewed, as is the covenant between our Provident God and God's people. This Spirit conveys the presence of great experience, dynamism and hope for moving into the future.

Providence of God we thank you for all!



A Dime Makes a Difference Project for Madagascar

For the past few years, Sisters in our province have been collecting dimes for special projects in Madagascar. This past year dimes (dollars, etc.) went to build or rebuild schools in small, poor rural communities where parents are responsible to provide and build them. Recently Sr. Alice Gerdeman spent about a month in Madagascar for an international meeting of provincials from the U.S., Europe and Madagascar with the General Council from France. Her experience of one of the poorest countries in the world confirmed her determination to continue the “Dimes Make a Difference Project.” Proper sanitation, unusable roads, and inadequate housing join basic education and health care on the list of many needs. The U.S. province is committed to assist our sister Province and the 115 CDP’s mostly Malagasy sisters who minister there in their very vital ministries.



A school in Madagascar

While in Madagascar, Sr. Alice attended the first profession of three young women and the renewal of vows of 23 sisters in temporary commitment.



A village in Madagascar. Note the Hotel sign at the left side.

Sr. Mary Echo Makes First Profession of Vows

Sr. Mary Echo Perry professed vows of poverty, celibate chastity and obedience as a Sister of Divine Providence on August 23, 2015, the anniversary of the founding of the American Province. The ceremony took place during Mass in Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, Kentucky. Sr. Alice Gerdeman, Provincial Superior witnessed her vows with sisters, family and friends in attendance at this joyous occasion. Fr. Paul De Luca of Nativity Parish in Cincinnati, where Sr. Echo lived as a postulant, presided at the Mass with Fr. Elmer Nadicksbernd, chaplain at Holy Family Home, as concelebrant. A reception followed in Providence Hall.



Sr. Mary Echo, a mother and grandmother, is from McCreary County, Kentucky, and made contact with CDP Sisters in Lexington. Sr. Echo has degrees in counseling and early childhood development. During her second year of novitiate she lived at Jeanne d'Arc Residence in Manhattan with the community of CDP sisters involved in the ministry of creating a welcoming and caring environment for women seeking safe, affordable and temporary housing. She also volunteered at Dwelling Place, a homeless women's shelter and at a center for immigrants at St. Francis of Assisi Church. She will return to Jeanne d'Arc Home and be involved in ministry to immigrants in New York.



LCWR Texas Style

Every August, Leadership Conference of Women Religious members gather for education, reflection on issues pertinent to religious life leadership, networking, prayer and celebration. The gathering this year was no exception. Well, except it was held in Texas, and as the saying goes, "Everything is bigger in Texas!"

Sister Lourdes Leal, CDP opened the Assembly as Region 12 Chairperson with a bit of education about Texas, more specifically Houston. She welcomed the membership in English and in Spanish. The following is her welcome:

Our Region XII includes 88 members in Arizona, New Mexico, Arkansas and Texas but most of us live in Texas. Some of us are natives and the others came as soon as they could. I ask all from Region XII to stand and wave a warm welcome.

We have over 1,000 women religious in Texas. We are proud of our sunshine, our bluebonnets, our long-horns, our hill country, the Rio Grande valley, our wind and solar energy and our Gulf Coast. We have the Houston Comets, Astros and Rockets. We also have the Dallas Cowboys, Mavericks and Stars and our San Antonio Spurs.

Six flags have flown over Texas beginning with the first flag of Spain in the 1600s. Then in 1836, Sam Houston led the Battle of San Jacinto for independence from Mexico right here in Houston and Texas became an independent nation for nine years. That is why there are a few politicians who today still think about how to secede from the USA.

Texas used to be a blue state and now it is a red state and someday it may be a purple state. We claim all our Presidents from Texas. The two Presidents Bush live in Texas but the Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Dwight Eisenhower were born here in Texas. I think Texans like to vote early and vote often.

Our culture has been enriched by our Southern neighbors in Mexico and Latin America and we are proud of our Religious who have come to minister here.

Texas advice to leaders: if you are riding in front of the herd you may need to glance back more often to see if they are still following. Texas advice for good food: we like spicy Mexican food and eat hot peppers because the pain is good for your heart.

But here we are in the fourth largest city in the nation right here in ... Houston.

We are surrounded by the finest Medical facilities and the Center For Space Exploration here in ... Houston.

Did you know what the first word spoken from the moon was on July 20, 1969? Houston.

We are in a city of great diversity of people and cultures that welcomes immigrants. There are 90 languages spoken right here in ... Houston.

Like our old cowboys, many Texans believe in the right to bear arms. Today Texans can open carry rifles and shotguns for hunting on their property. Open carry laws are expected to change in January 2016.



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Meet Melissa Cessac, CDP Affiliate



Melissa Cessac began her journey toward religious life about three years ago when she recognized that there was something really unsettled in her heart. She was happily serving as Director of Youth Ministry/Lifeteen at St. Charles Barromeo Catholic Church in Nederland, TX. Nederland had been her home her entire life

and the place she considers herself privileged to have served as a youth minister for eight years. She could not have asked for a better parish family. Formerly, Melissa was an academic advisor at Lamar University in Beaumont.

Providentially, an opportunity arose for Melissa to participate in a mission trip to Haiti, and her life took a sharp turn. She says, "I met Jesus there in the faces of the people." She experienced people who had nothing but God. She came home and simplified her lifestyle; being comfortable made her uncomfortable; she was ready to serve in a different way. She found a spiritual director who encouraged her to consider religious life. Later, a second trip to Haiti confirmed her desire for something more.

Again, Providence provided the way. Melissa took some young ladies from her parish to a vocation program in Houston where she met Sisters Anita Brenek, and Joyce Detzel, CDP, who encouraged her to visit the CDP motherhouse in San Antonio. The visit was a homecoming to a place Melissa had never seen before. Now, a year later she is a CDP affiliate living in the motherhouse and working as a career advisor in a program that serves unemployed or underemployed individuals, providing education which leads to employment with a living wage. And the journey continues...

LCWR Texas Style

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We also have our dark side which we are not so proud of. With the death penalty Texas executes more individuals than any other state and since 1976, it has executed 528 persons including 5 women.

Texas has thousands of hydro fracking wells for oil production and our Governor has recently prohibited cities and towns from banning fracking in their cities.

We have some of the largest for profit detention facilities for immigrants, especially those incarcerating women and children.

The Extension Society calls us Mission territory, and Pope Francis suggests we should go out to the margins;

our fields are ripe for the harvest, and together we are all building the kingdom of God.

Before I close, on behalf of the Region, I want to personally thank our Leadership: Executive Director Joan Steadman, President Sharon Holland, Past President Carol Zinn, President-elect Marcia Allen and Past Executive Director Janet Mock who guided us through this difficult time of the CDF Mandate. We really appreciate your gifted leadership.

What The Texas CDPs Learned About Strategic Planning

In January 2013, the CDP General Council worked with a facilitator to set up some leadership goals. These goals were helpful to the Leadership Team in providing focus for the Congregation's work. However, it recently became clear that a much more comprehensive, formal strategic plan for the Congregation was necessary. Though there is never a call for worry because Providence always provides, there is every reason to act with Providence to create a desired future.

Sister Ann Petrus and the three Councilors brought in a consultant to lead the planning process. Sister Carmelita Murphy, OP, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has almost 20 years of experience with organizational consulting and facilitation with religious communities and many other non-profit groups. After an initial meeting with Carmelita, the Council selected a Strategic Planning Committee made up of members, Associates and lay persons employed by the Congregation.

Through Sister Carmelita's (sometimes relentless) facilitation, the committee slogged through—and enjoyed—long, intense hours over a day and a half in January 2015. Through hours of contemplative dialogue and discernment, philosophizing and theologizing, mission and vision statements emerged. It was a challenge to create fresh, short statements which reflected the voice of the Constitution. It was a labor of love and commitment. The next step was to address core values. It was important to the committee members that these reflect the fundamental virtues assigned to them by their founder, Blessed John Martin Moye. Finally, the committee rounded out the Strategic Plan by listing strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

The committee convened again for another day in March to develop an operational plan based on the critical needs identified through surveys to members, Associates, and friends of the Congregation. From this, an operational plan was developed that addressed the following seven critical issues: CDP Life for Mission, Operational Resource Management, CDP Ministries, Resource Development, Right Relationship: Charism and Mission, Vowed Life and Associate Commitment, and Future Viability.



During a day and a half of the June 2015 General Assembly, the draft of the committee's work was disseminated to members and Associates to discuss and digest. The process was met with initial apprehension, but after hours of input and discussion the draft was enthusiastically accepted, and there was energy to move it forward. After a few modest tweaks, the entire plan was formally approved for implementation by the General Council on August 26, 2015. The plan covers 2015-2019.

In retrospect, it was an incredible amount of work in a short period of time, but very beneficial. The plan will position the Congregation well for its 2017 Chapter and be a bridge into the succeeding leadership term. Having a "stranger" help the group to look at themselves with a fresh eye was important. Though Sister Carmelita is no longer a "stranger," she will continue with the community as Chapter facilitator.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Awarded City of God Foundation Grant

The Sisters of Divine Providence's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) ministry was recently awarded a grant from the City of God Foundation. This ministry, developed and administered by Sisters Thérésine Gildea and Maxine Tancraitor through their Hispanic pastoral ministry at Immaculate Conception parish in Clinton, North Carolina, assists young adults with limited family income, social networks, resources and access with the DACA application process.



Sister Maxine Tancraitor

The DACA program allows certain young adults and teens that came to the United States as children to request deferred action for a period of three years, with renewal. While not granting a path to citizenship

for undocumented immigrants, DACA defers removal action and provides an opportunity for these young adults to remain in the U.S., the only country they have ever known.

With the help of volunteers recruited by the Sisters—including volunteer attorneys—young adults attend DACA sessions in the parish facilities and receive assistance to determine their eligibility, collect necessary documents, complete forms and worksheets and submit fingerprints. Young adults also receive financial assistance with the \$465.00 DACA fee. Unfortunately, for many young adults, this fee is prohibitive, deterring them from even making application; however, with the City of God Foundation grant award, qualified applicants can now receive full or partial funding of this fee. Acceptance of a DACA application allows for the securing of a Social Security number, work permit, driver's license, credit card and bank account, among others. With DACA approval, undocumented young adults are no longer "living in the shadows," for the first time in their young lives.

In addition to providing help with the DACA application process, the Sisters' ministry provides important resources and support for these young adults. The Sisters refer potential DACA-mented young adults to GED programs, the local community college and



Sister Thérésine Gildea

other job training opportunities to develop needed skills. They make the necessary connections for them to access additional services such as transportation, child care and mentoring. Through the ministry provided by Sisters Thérésine and Maxine, young adults have the opportunity for deferred deportation action, while they anxiously await more comprehensive immigration reform.

Providence Sisters Gathering Strengthens Multicultural Diversity



At our Providence Sisters Gathering in May 2015, our women religious under the age of 60 spent time together to deepen their understanding of each other, grow in support and acceptance of one another and engage in conversation about core values as women of Providence. Discussion emerged regarding our connection to the world's needs while strengthening multicultural diversity among ourselves. Presently, four languages are represented by our Sisters under 60. Appreciation of cultural diversity was paramount, as our Sisters speak several languages including English, Spanish, German and Korean. Cooking and sharing cultural food and dishes provided a platform for understanding connectivity and community with one another.

Sister Becomes U.S. Citizen In Pittsburgh Ceremony

Sister Veronica Gumja Kim is a newly minted U.S. citizen! Sister Veronica was one of more than 40 immigrants to become naturalized Americans at a ceremony on June 19, 2015, at the federal courthouse in downtown Pittsburgh. Sister Veronica received a U.S. flag and a certificate declaring her a legal citizen.

Sisters Maria Fest, Natalie Marchetti, Pat Baker and Margareta Jung, as well as five members of the La Roche College staff were at the ceremony in support of Sister Veronica.

Sr. Veronica is from Korea and has been the assistant director of International Student Services at La Roche College since 2008.



Ketteler Award for Social Justice Presented to Beth Davies, CND

The Sisters of Divine Providence presented the Ketteler Award for Social Justice to Beth Davies, CND, during a ceremony on August 2, 2015, at Providence Heights. In 1998, the Sisters instituted the Ketteler Award to honor individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice. The award, named for Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, co-founder of the Congregation, is presented annually.

Sister Beth has served as an advocate and activist on behalf of the impoverished, addicted and exploited in the heart of Appalachia—a region left in despair by the coal industry. A member of the Congregation of Notre Dame, she has worked in close collaboration with the people of Southwest Virginia for more than 40 years, fighting the intrusion of maximum security prisons, working for environmental protection, developing a network of medical clinics and co-founding the Addiction Education Center in Pennington Gap, Virginia in 1982 with the late Elizabeth Vines, CDP.



In her remarks at the awards ceremony, Sister Beth said, "I knew a little bit about Bishop Ketteler through Elizabeth, but, in reading, this one sentence by him captured me, 'The great undertaking of our time must be that of filling of once more the gap between the

rich and the poor and woe to us if it is not filled up.' How contemporary that is. We're hearing that today from Pope Francis. When I read that I said, 'Wow, that is something today that we read over and over again and this man was saying that back in the 1800s.' As I read about Ketteler, I could see who this man was and how important he was. He was walking with people. He wasn't talking the talk. Bishop Ketteler was walking the walk, and that's what is so beautiful."

Sister Beth's educational background includes a Certified Alcohol and

Drug Counselor certification from Rutgers University School of Alcohol and Drug Studies and she is a member of the Association of Addiction Professionals. Given the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, she focuses much of her work today on drug rehabilitation at the New Beginnings residential treatment center in Dryden, Virginia, where she is on staff, as well as running the Addiction Education Center that she co-founded nearly 35 years ago.

Life as a Religious Sister Adds Special Dimension to Counseling Ministry

Since 1989, Sister Mary Jane Beatty has ministered as a marriage and family therapist at Anchorpoint Counseling in Pittsburgh. Anchorpoint is a healing and educational ministry, providing professional counseling services for individu-

als, youth, families and couples; grief support; parenting education classes and workshops; and a youth tutoring/mentoring program.

With a master's degree in counseling from Duquesne University

and a post-master's certificate in marriage and family therapy from the University of Pittsburgh, Sister Mary Jane adds a special dimension to the ministry staff; she brings a Catholic perspective and an understanding of religious life. She finds that her Catholic clients appreciate her presence, and that the men and women of other faiths are intrigued and curious about her and her life as a religious. When appropriate, she helps clients to understand what it means to be in religious life today. She says, "One reason clients come to Anchorpoint is to have their faith and spiritual life be part of the counseling they receive, which allows me to invite them to grow in their faith—no matter the denomination—and to expand their understanding of who God is to them. For those clients who are spiritually hungry, I let them know that our Community is praying for them."

Sister Mary Jane celebrated 25 years with Anchorpoint in December 2014. "I knew at the beginning of my professional career as a marriage and family therapist that being allowed to address the spiritual dimension of people's lives was essential to any therapy I offered. I have been privileged to be part of an organization that embodies this belief," she said.



Pope's Encyclical Centerpiece of Annual Founder's Day Observance

Founder's Day 2015 for the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke connected their foundress Mother Mary of Providence with Pope Francis' recent encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. The annual event was held July 12 on the grounds of Providence Place and opened with a prayer service followed by picnic fare and swimming.

During the service, Associate Nancy Arnold offered a reflection on the SP Foundress. She began by asking the Sisters and Associates gathered for the occasion to turn back the clock to 1892, the year of the Community's founding as a Diocesan Community. "Let's try to imagine," she suggested, "what this hillside looked like then." Nancy then gave a number of examples of the Foundress' writings that expressed appreciation for creation. "Mother Mary," she said, had "a deep down gratefulness for the Creator's gifts of sunlight, valley, and mountains. The peace of soul she personally experienced while viewing God's creation—devoid of the busyness of life—shines through. And, so," Nancy closed, "as we gather to celebrate the life and gifts of Mother Mary of Providence, and to listen to the wisdom of Pope Francis, may we soak in the beauty surrounding us today."

Excerpts from *Laudato Si'* on Care for Our Common Home, were read by Associates Gail Furman and Fran Popko. The encyclical's 184 pages are divided into six chapters. In it, Pope Francis references his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, patron of the environment, speaks on the gospel of creation, and identifies a number of human roots to the ecological crisis.

In the chosen readings, Pope Francis reminded the global community, "Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who



Associate Nancy Arnold gave a reflection at the annual Founder's Day observance, traditionally held close to July 19—this year the 165th anniversary of Mother Mary of Providence's birthday.

opens her arms to embrace us."

Associate Marie Amato then used holy water to bless the Associates' gift of a new butterfly bush, chosen for the occasion because the butterfly is the church's liturgical symbol of rebirth and resurrection.

The day's prayer service encouraged Sisters and Associates to continue to heed Pope Francis's call to do all in their power to heal "our common home."



Sisters and Associates show their appreciation for the Associate Committee responsible for planning the day's prayer service.

Trinity Health Produces Legacy Film

Trinity Health System is producing a series of five, five-minute videos that will feature interviews with five women religious whose respective Congregations and health systems are key components of Trinity Health's founding legacies. The Sisters of Providence Health System is one of these. Heather Lindquist of Harvest Moon Studio in Los Angeles is producing the films. She was a writer and producer for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious' Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America, a documentary and traveling exhibit displayed at the Smithsonian, the Ellis Island Museum, and other venues across the country.

Lindquist interviewed Sister Mary Caritas, SP, Trinity legacy representative for the Sisters of Providence in Holyoke and the Sisters of Providence Health System, in late July. The filming and interviews took place in a cloister garden at Providence Place, Holyoke, and on the \$15 million expansion site for the Sister Mary Caritas Cancer Center, Mercy Medical Center, Springfield.

Lindquist summarized Sister Caritas' legacy message as emphasizing that the Sisters of Providence's spirit of compassionate care is alive and well in the lay col-

leagues who have followed the Sisters' footsteps in the delivery of care.

Lindquist reports, "Sister Caritas said that in the past lay people working in Catholic hospitals asked themselves, 'What would the Sisters do?' or 'What would the Sisters want us to do?' Now, Sister Caritas assures us, they simply ask, 'What should we do?'"

It is clear from Sister Caritas' testimony, says Lindquist, that the Sisters of Providence firmly believe "others have caught their spirit to face the future with compassion, courage, and care."

She added: "Sister Caritas fully embraces the Congregation's Foundress Mother Mary of Providence's belief that it's better to anticipate future needs than to dwell on past accomplishments."

Asked why Sister Caritas was an excellent choice for the video series, Lindquist answered: "Sister Caritas is a walking, talking inspiration herself. Her optimism is perfectly infectious."



Sister Mary Caritas, SP (left) and Heather Lindquist (seated, right) and her film crew on the first of two days of legacy interviews.

Sisters of Providence, Edmonton, Alberta

Entrance to Candidacy

Mary Thuy Loan Truong, having become well acquainted with the Sisters of Providence and having completed the entrance requirements, entered the candidacy program on June 20, 2015, as she continues her discernment of God's call for her. The ceremony took place in Emilie community room, in the presence of family, friends and Sisters of Providence as well as other Sisters residing at Providence Centre.

Besides prayers for Mary, the ceremony included a presentation by Sister Orietta Bélanger, Local Director at Providence Residence, Calgary, indicating Mary's readiness to enter into this phase of her discernment. The ceremony concluded with a PowerPoint presentation Mary had prepared showing her life, which included travel to many countries. This presentation was Mary's way of showing gratitude to her family, especially her parents, for bringing her to this point.

Mary has been teaching junior high school for seven years in the Separate School System in Calgary. She is residing at Providence Residence, Calgary, with our Sisters during her candidacy. Sister Evelyn Dechant, SP is her Candidate Director.



Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province

Missioned to Great Falls:

Sister Lucille Dean is Interim UGF President

When University of Great Falls President Eugene McAllister, Ph.D., announced plans to retire in June of 2016, Sister Lucille Dean agreed to serve as acting president for one year. His title is now President Emeritus, a position that recognizes is more than 12 years of leadership and service to the university.

Sister Lucille, who is a UGF graduate, has spent more of her ministry career in



education and has served in a number of leadership positions for Providence Health & Services, most recently as chair of the board of the health system. In August she was missioned to Great Falls, along with Sister Mary Hawkins, who serves as vice president of mission.

The search for a new university president will begin in the fall.

Speaker Addresses “New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity”

Mary Johnson, S.N.D.de N., described the results of research for the book she co-authored, *“New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity,”* in a presentation to Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province, at their Provincial Chapter in July. Sister Mary, who is from Springfield, Mass., preceded her presentation with two dozen interviews with sisters who entered Mother Joseph Province from other countries, including younger members, transfers and sisters who entered as far back as 1959.

The book is in its fourth printing, Sister Mary said. The changing demographics and geography of the 80 million Catholics in the United States, about a quarter of the population, presents challenges, she explained. The majority of them are 20- to 30-year-old millennials and Post-Vatican II Catholics between the ages of 30 and 40. Their generations define their culture, with distinct sets of values and meanings.

The pace of diversity is rapid. Among women religious, 94 percent in final vows are white, compared to 61 percent in initial formation. Sister Mary said Hispanic and Latino women are underrepresented by population, while Asian women are overrepresented, with many of the latter invited to consider religious life by a sister, “as part of a

rich Catholic culture”. Today, the invitation to consider religious life is likely to come from a priest.

Whether members of the community wear a habit or not is not the determining factor on why women join. “Religious life is a group sport,” she explained. Potential members are drawn by mission and ministry and prefer a living community with four to eight members for “deepening of our life together” through relationship, support, diversity and conserving resources.

Blessings and challenges come out of the openness of older, wiser sisters, cross-generational connecting and bonding, shared prayer, connection to the mission through service, and connection to the larger community.

“I hope you recognize what you have. You are really blessed,” Sister Mary told members of Mother Joseph Province’s international, intercultural and intergenerational congregation.

Sister Mary Johnson will return to the Northwest next February for a presentation sponsored by Region 15 of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).



MJP Takes Corporate Stance in Favor of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province, unanimously adopted a corporate stance in favor of comprehensive immigration reform at their Provincial Chapter in July. The action was taken “in response to the current crisis of refugees coming into our country from homelands racked by social unrest and extreme danger to their lives”.

The sisters have experienced the scope of the crisis and the resulting trauma it inflicts on families firsthand. Two sisters assisted women and children who flooded the border between the United States and Mexico, fleeing from the threat of violence in Central American countries last year. Other sisters administer a scholarship program in El Salvador that for two decades has given young people in the Bajo Lempa region of the Usulután an alternative to joining gangs or becoming gang victims.

“Our corporate stance affirms our solidarity with the refugees and immigrants and is in keeping with our pursuit of social justice for the poor and vulnerable,” said Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais. “Like our first corporate stance, in opposition to the death penalty, this action is a result of prayer, discernment and dialogue, and will be part of our prayer and action in the future.”

The corporate stance says the Sisters of Providence support comprehensive immigration reform that:

- Outlines an earned legalization program that would allow foreign nationals living in the United States to apply to adjust their status to obtain lawful permanent residence and eventually full citizenship;
- Supports a future worker program to permit foreign-born workers to enter the country safely and legally and includes workplace protections and living wages;
- Safeguards against the displacement of U.S. workers
- Changes family-based immigration to increase the number of family visas and reduces waiting times for family reunification;
- Restores due process rights taken away by the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act;
- Addresses the root causes of migration in sending countries, including poverty, civil warfare and lawlessness; and
- Focuses law enforcement on those who truly threaten public safety, e.g., drug and human traffickers, smugglers and would-be terrorists, in a targeted, proportional and humane manner.

The foundation for the corporate stance is rooted in the Sisters of Providence Constitutions, No. 26: “Attention to the needs of the poor and to situations of injustice which oppress them arouses in us a concern for the demands of social justice. We therefore consider it a duty to promote human dignity by acts of solidarity with persons and groups, sharing what we have with them even to the point of risking our own security.”

Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods

Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé

As a participant was leaving a recent Taizé service at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, she said, “Please sister, don’t ever stop offering this prayer service; many of us look forward to it each month. It’s our source of comfort and peace.”

Our Taizé prayer services began three years ago to offer people of the surrounding area a way of praying that provides a place for peace and quiet, is ecumenical in nature, and allows all to participate simply and reverently. Attendance at the Taizé service has increased each year; some persons become “regulars,” and others come off and on. Many come because a friend has invited them.

We develop a general theme for each year. The first cycle, based on the “Year of the River” celebrated in Terre Haute, focused on water themes: one month praying for clean water, another month for care of all waterways. The following year our theme was “Prayer for the Needs of the World” and this year, “For the Life of the World: The many virtues of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.”



Flickering candles in the dimly lit church welcome spiritual seekers to the monthly Taizé prayer services. Soon, a musical prelude begins, inviting participants to settle into the stillness, a mark of all Taizé services. Singing is also a hallmark of the prayer. Short songs, mostly based on sacred Scripture, are repeated again and again, giving the prayer a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. The repeated sung words enter the heart and mind as a sort of mantra penetrating the whole being. The prayer is interspersed with inspirational readings from various authors as well as from Scripture.



One of the most powerful moments in the hour-long prayer is the ten minutes of silence. When 150 people are together in such absolute quiet it is striking. Often, one can actually FEEL the power of the prayer! Intercessions for the needs of the world, based on the particular theme chosen for the service, follow the silence. Then, as additional mantras are sung, persons who wish come forward to light a candle as a reminder that God’s love is a fire that never goes out. Each one leaves the service as he or she is moved to do so. -- Paula Damiano, SP

A FESTive Celebration Marks SP 175th Anniversary

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods have planned a festive 175th anniversary celebration—literally. The Saint Mother Theodore FEST, scheduled for Oct. 17 and 18, will culminate the year-long celebration of the 175th anniversary of the community.

With the theme, “Get rooted for tomorrow,” the Fest will allow Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, and their families, friends, co-workers and others looking to deepen their spiritual life to find inspiration in the legacy of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Father Mark Joseph Costello, OFM Cap, the liturgical consultant who was instrumental in the design of the newly opened Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, will focus the keynote presentation on the role of shrines, other devotions and prayer in the life of the people of God.

Many of the Fest activity sessions will be prayer experiences including the Living Rosary, guided meditation, Taize prayer and Eucharistic liturgy. Workshops on music, journaling, mysticism, humor—all incorporat-

ing Saint Mother Theodore—are also planned.



And, of course, the FEST will showcase the beautiful campus, allowing visitors to relive the foundation story of the Sisters of Providence and learn about the ministry of the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice. “As part of our outdoor tour, we are planning appearances from the characters right off the pages of Mother Theodore’s Journals and Letters,”

explained Sister Jan Craven, director of the Shrine of Saint Mother and coordinator of the FEST. “What better way to gather strength for our own journey into the future than to reflect on those who exhibited such trust in Providence in bringing this community to life.”

The FEST will be quickly followed by the arrival of some 20 pilgrims from Taiwan, including the Bishop of Taichung Martin Yao-wen Su. The Sisters of Providence established a mission in Kaifung, China, in 1920, a mission that continues today on the island of Taiwan. Bishop Su and the Rev. Dan Hopcus, SP chaplain, will concelebrate the October 22 Foundation Day liturgy, marking the actual day that Saint Mother Theodore and her five companions arrived at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840.

Two Received Into Canonical Novitiate



General Superior Sister Denise Wilkinson prepares to give Sister Tracy Horan a white cross during a ceremony held in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., on Aug. 2. The cross signifies a woman’s entering the canonical year of initial formation and delving more deeply into Providence spirituality, the Congregation’s history and legacy, and their own spiritual development. Sister Ann Fan, having received her white cross, looks on.

Food Services Department Announces Changes

“We’re really behind the times in our meal service,” stated Jim Sarson, who serves as Director of Food Services for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN. He recently announced major changes in the dining services at Providence Health Care.

In the past, residents at the center, a sponsored institution of the Sisters of Providence, have received their food on a tray and had to select their food three days in advance. Trays were prepared in the main kitchen of Providence Hall, another Sister of Providence residence, and delivered to residents in the health care facilities dining areas.

In the preparation, transportation and delivery of more than 75 trays, some heat was inevitably lost and residents never had the experience or enjoyment of seeing the food chosen ahead of time.

Now, residents will choose their food from a food line located in the dining area so that sisters and other residents can see their food options. And with the implementation of the food line, the dining room will be open longer. All who are served will have greater flexibility and freedom during meal times. Steam table

service for patients requiring more assistance will be a later development.

“The service will be restaurant-style,” Sarson said. “The food services department is looking forward to providing menus and dining experiences that meet the expectations of all residents and patients.”

Food services will also work more closely with the staff of White Violet Center for Eco-Justice (WVC) located at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and also a ministry of the Sisters of Providence.

The main kitchen in Providence Hall has received organically grown produce from WVC for quite some time, but now, the cooks on staff are working with WVC staff on actual recipes, with the goal of using a lot more of the garden vegetables.

A menu committee of sisters, White Violet Center staff and food services cooks has been established to determine menus and to guide WVC in knowing what to plant next year. “A number of departments working together to solve issues is exciting,” commented Sarson.

Individualized Earth Sabbatical Program

Looking for a place to get your hands dirty and your spirit renewed? Experience Mother Earth’s healing touch at White Violet Center for Eco-Justice at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

The tools for the Individualized Earth Sabbatical Program consist of physical labor on the farm, working with the animals, guided readings, videos, discussion groups, spiritual direction, art integration and time away in the strawbale retreat house.

The duration of the program depends on the individual. A renewal time can last from one month to a year.

The monthly fee is \$1,800. For more information go to WhiteViolet.org and click on “Eco-spirituality,” or contact Lorrie Heber at 812-535-2930, lheber@spsmw.org.



After 20 Years, Vigil in Solidarity with Poor Ends

The City of Kingston, Ontario declared September 17 to be Social Justice Vigil Recognition Day. After 20 years of public witness, the weekly vigil begun by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul concluded with song and story at an evening gathering. Coincidence that this big finale came in the middle of an important federal election? Not at all. As the vigil signs read: Poverty is political ... and so the closing makes a political point at a time when it might be heard.

By the time you read this, the Canadian election could be over, but on vigil day, it was in full swing with a month to go. There is no incumbent in Kingston, so the candidates of the four main parties were invited, along with the mayor, councillors and our provincial representative. It's not hard to align with nuns, as you know. But would they take a stand on poverty, housing, wages, jobs ... the basic message of the vigil for 20 years? Could poverty make the news? That's the story we hoped would be told, and it has been.

Sister Shirley Morris recalls that it was a provincial election that sparked the vigil in the first place: "In September, 1995, new premier Mike Harris presented the plans of the government to include tax cuts to the "Mush" sector which included municipalities, universi-

ties, social services and hospitals.

"Part of its agenda was to begin their 'Common Sense Revolution,'" she says, "by cutting social assistance by 21.6%. This was done in order to boost the provincial economy by trimming the size of government and reducing taxes. The effects of the reduced social services budget upon the province's poor and economically disadvantaged was immediate and far reaching. It was a direct assault on the people in Kingston as well as in cities throughout the province. There was a lot of reaction."

Ideas proliferated across the province. Letter-writing, protest of every kind, including some that turned violent. An inter-faith group started the idea of a vigil and a number of cities picked it up, including Kingston. The Sisters began it here but were never alone. There were always community members keeping vigil with them. And indeed, in the last few years as the Sisters are older and frailer, some weeks there has been no Sisters at all. The vigil keepers remember a number of people who have passed on, and many who have had to step away due to health.

Every year on the vigil anniversary of, a large event was

Continued on page 24



Credit: Michael Hammond/Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

At the evening gathering to conclude the silent vigil for social justice, outside Kingston City Hall.

Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Vigil in Solidarity with Poor Ends

Continued from page 23

held. City hall was surrounded by vigil keepers more than once, one time holding candles, another bedsheets with “Make Poverty History” emblazoned on them. People who have been on assistance have stood with us, or stopped by the vigil to tell us their stories. There’s been politicians and the local archbishop at the vigil, school trustees and students. Many tour buses have come by and vigil photos have no doubt circulated the world as a result.

The vigil has stood with prison farms and against fracking. The signs held or worn call for just and living wages and secure housing and rights for indigenous peoples and clean water and an end to human trafficking, to name but a few of the causes we have highlighted.

No matter the sign, the words recited every week and that fill our pamphlet remain the same: “We long for a world that respects all of humanity and all the earth and so we stand in silent solidarity with those affected by governmental cuts and corporations



Credit: Rob Mooy/Kingston This Week

Sister Pauline Lally, sp, was the MC of the concluding event and wore the sign that summed up the vigil.

that put profits before people.”

As says Jamie Swift, the director of our Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office who often stands with a sign that is versus greed: it’s been a long run. The Sisters of Providence are ending this visible sign of presence, of public witness. But their solidarity with the vulnerable remains firmly entrenched and is the work of the many networks and partnerships into which they have entered. They are allowing new visions to emerge.

At every vigil the keepers would read, “We stand in hope.” Well, we do. And as the recently-departed Sister Peggy Flanagan would insist, hope was not enough. The vigil was a sign of joyful hope, in a world that can always use some.

Visit providence.ca/silentvigil for a retrospective of the vigil, including video, photos, news stories and

more. In particular, read Sister Shirley Morris’ look back at the beginnings and long-time “vigilante” – his word – Jamie Swift’s tribute in the Kingston Whig-Standard. -- Louise Slobodian



Credit: Michael Hammond/Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Several hundred people gathered to mark the end of the social justice vigil, among them many Sisters of Providence, as well as members of other religious congregations from near and far.

San Antonio Responds to Flood Victims

Tragedy has a way of bringing out the best in people when a cry for help is heard in any part of the world. In May, our neighbors north and south of the Texas and Mexico border were hit hard with flood waters, leaving hundreds of homes damaged or destroyed. In a matter of hours, San Antonio families, businesses and religious orders organized efforts to send aid. Moved with compassion and a sense of urgency for items greatly needed for infants and toddlers, our sisters solicited funds; Sisters Mary Maxine Torres and Carmen Avila enjoyed shopping at the baby department. Lay volunteers organized and delivered the hundreds of items sent by the people of San Antonio.

“O Jesus, teach us to think, pray, and work not merely in terms of ‘two blocks,’ but of the whole world itself. (Sister Benitia Vermeersch, CDP) Our Foundress, Sister Benitia, would undoubtedly have responded in like manner. Deeply imbued with the missionary spirit of her Order’s founder, Blessed Jean Martin Moye, she was well known in Houston in the 1930’s by wholesalers whom she gave the opportunity to help refugee families from Mexico. Although her profession was education, she understood children cannot learn on an empty stomach nor come to class barefoot. The establishment of our religious order is the result of her reaching out beyond the parish school, to be Providence at the doorstep of families in need.

Almost seventy years later since our foundation in

1946, our sisters continue to work in church-related ministries in evangelization, catechesis, and social services. Sister Julianne Marie Sandoval and Sister Maria Elena Lopez have been serving 350-400 men, women and children daily at Martha’s Kitchen for over ten years. It is located next door to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church where the founding of our community began.



Mexico and Texas hit by deadly storms leaving several dead or missing in Coahuila state just across the border from Del Rio Texas. Photos by BBC News, www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america

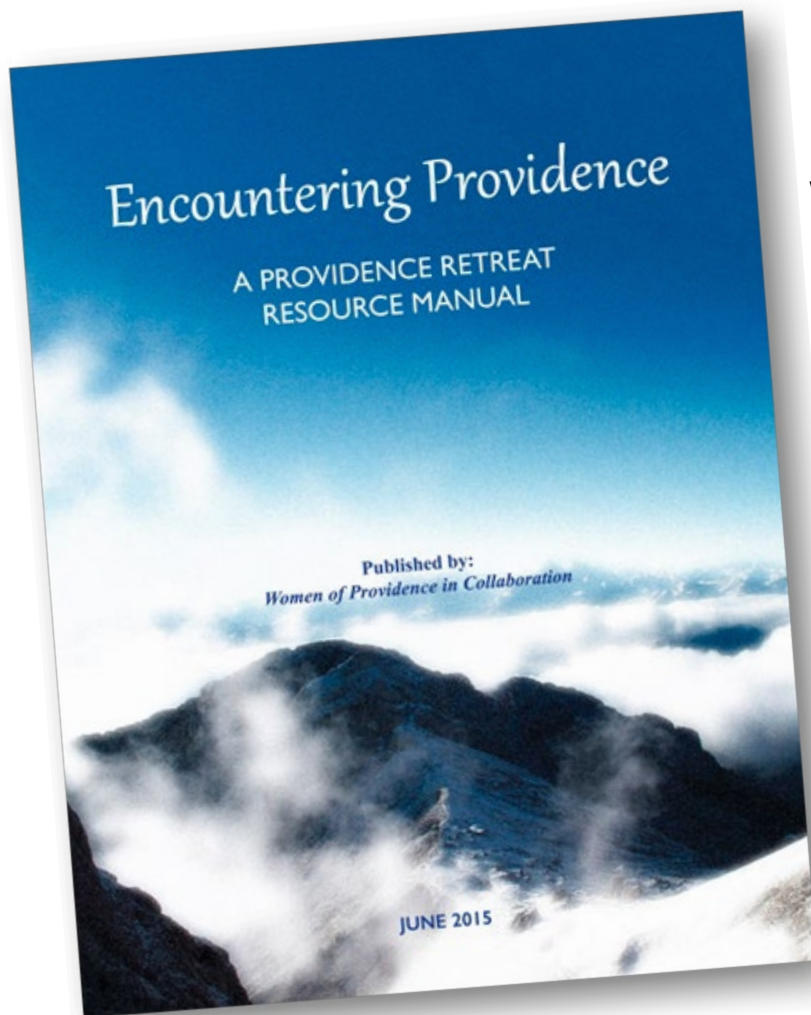


Sisters Mary Maxine Torres and Carmen Avila enjoyed shopping at the baby department.



Martha’s Kitchen; established in 1992 by St. Martha Church Kingwood-Houston; volunteers feed 350- 400 men, women and children daily.





Encountering Providence A Providence Retreat Resource Manual

Women of Providence in Collaboration (WPC) is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year with the sale of a recently compiled retreat resource manual titled *Encountering Providence*. Its 12 retreats come from submissions made by Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates and can be used in a variety of venues. These include retreat centers, private retreatants, local convent retreats, motherhouses, health-care mission departments, and colleges, just to name a few. The retreats vary in length. Topics covered range from Images of Advent and Living Contemplatively in a Technological Age, to Spirit Gifts Found in Jesus and Walking as Provident Guests on Earth. (A complete listing of topics is available on the WPC website: <http://www.wpcweb.org/>)

The black and white manual includes a leader's guide, handouts, prayers, and listed resources for music, poetry, readings, etc. The shrink-wrapped package is

printed on three-hole paper for easy placement in a binder of your choice. Each manual has an accompanying flash drive storing various color graphics, PowerPoint and video presentations, and ready-to-print prayer, reflection and leader templates.

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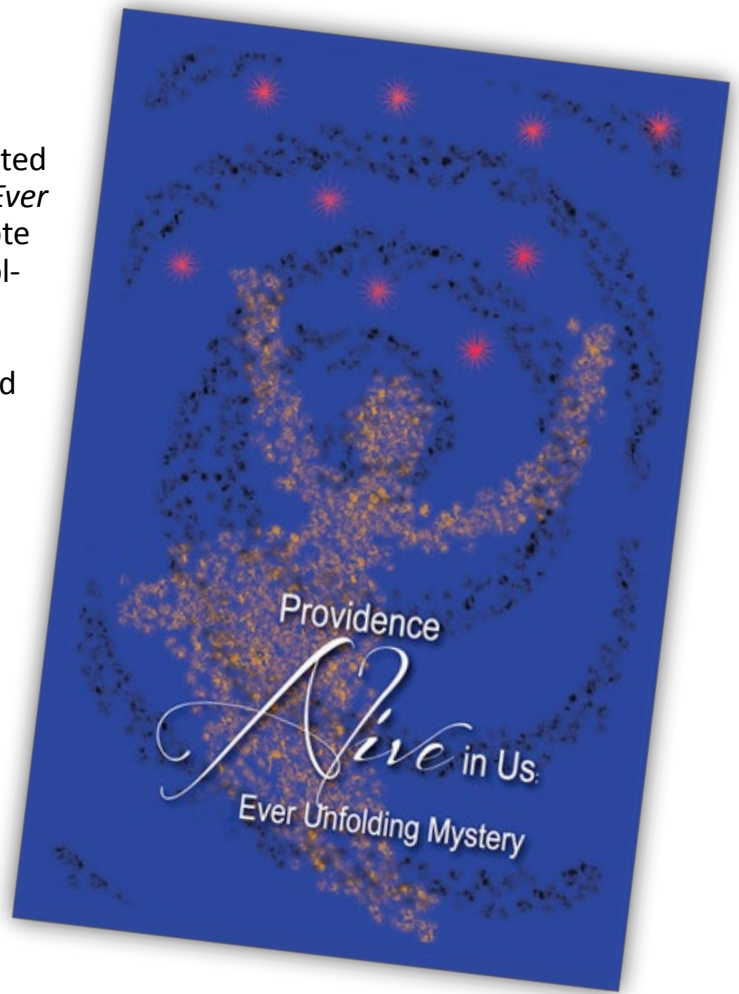
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Providence Alive In Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery

The Women of Providence in Collaboration are excited to present their new book, *Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery*. This book is designed to promote and broaden the understanding of Providence theology and spirituality and how, over the years, it has affected our lives. The authors, some of whom are previous contributors to other Providence published books, will lead us in this search for still deeper engagement with Ever Unfolding Mystery.

The authors of this book are Providence women from five of the thirteen member congregations of the Women of Providence in Collaboration. Marie McCarthy, SP and Anji Fan, SP are from the St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute, IN. Ruth McGoldrick, SP is from the Sisters of Providence in Holyoke, MA. Michele Bisbey and Myra Rodgers are CDPs from the Allison Park, PA, Sisters of Divine Providence. Alba Letelier, SP, Hong Nga Nguyen, SP and Annette Suebert, SP all belong to the Sisters of Providence who began in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and spread throughout the United States.



New contributors, as well as four reflections devoted to intercultural voices and experiences, also take us inside ourselves to probe deeper meanings of abundance, expansion of partnership with God in the very action of transforming our world, and the challenges of being the face of Providence within a different culture and in different settings. Truly this work will provide much food for thought as to how each of us lives the charism of Providence in the world today.

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Future Dates/Coming Events

2015

November 16-17: WPC Executive Committee of the Governing Board meeting in Allison Park, PA

2016

March 30-April 3: VFL Conference meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

April 4-7: WPC Governing Board Meeting in Allison Park, PA

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