PROVIDENCE

A MAGAZINE OF THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE Marie de la Roche Province

2016 Provincial Chapter



MESSAGE FOR THE SEASON

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About the Cover

A Commissioning ceremony was held during Provincial Chapter, giving each member of the current Provincial Leadership Team an opportunity to light the Christ candle and present it with a blessing to each Sister in the province.

Alive! is published three times a year by the Mission Advancement office of the Sisters of Divine Providence. We welcome your comments and feedback. Please email or mail correspondence, including your name, address and phone number, to an address listed below.

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Founded in Finthen, Germany, in 1851, the Sisters of Divine Providence is an international congregation of three provinces (Germany, United States-Caribbean, Korea) and one mission (Peru) with approximately 400 members and 200 Associates. The Sisters are women of varied and diverse backgrounds and talents, united in their deep trust in a Provident God who loves and cares for all creation. The Congregation has expanded its ministries to meet the needs of the times in education, campus ministry, health care, pastoral care, social work, peace and justice concerns, as well as serving the poor and homeless and those who are seeking asylum.

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.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP Provincial Director

Maria Fest, CDP Assistant to the Provincial

Donna Marie Gribschaw, CDP Provincial Councillor

Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP Provincial Councillor

> Mary Traupman, CDP Provincial Councillor



From left standing: Sisters Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, Maria Fest, Mary Francis Fletcher, Donna Marie Gribschaw; seated, Sister Mary Traupman

IV IESSAC

What a summer it was! What graces and blessings flowed into and through our community during these past three months! In Pittsburgh, we held two Chapters. A "Chapter" in a religious community is the highest decision-making body of the community. A chapter is a time to review where we have been, where we are and where we feel called to go. It invites us into a clearer focus and deeper reflection on God's desires for us and our world. It is a new moment to look deeply at our lives and ministries and to respond to God's grace with ever greater trust in Divine Providence as we seek every day to witness the presence and providence of God.

During the first two weeks of July, the delegates of our international community, representing the four central areas of our congregation, gathered at Providence Heights in Pittsburgh. The chapter theme, Together We Choose Life: A Shared Future in God's Providence, allowed the delegates and those Sisters able to share in the initial presentations many opportunities to reflect on God's call through prayer with Scripture passages and sacred images and conversations in small and larger groups, as minds and hearts were focused on choosing life and choosing love. In the days which followed, the delegates reviewed our international and intercultural reality, shared insights and experiences related to the theme and the life of Jesus, explored the needs

within and beyond our community and elected new leadership for our congregation. In the conversations and sharing, the delegates were called to live more deeply in trust, right relationship, service of others and, with generosity, to accept the invitation to lay down one's life for the sake of others in a total gift of love.

For our congregation, with communities living and serving in ministry in Germany, Korea, Peru and the United States, the delegates realized a call to a deeper sense of unity and oneness within our congregation and to a stronger expression of our international identity. This call led to commitments to create new ways to connect relationally and culturally, to live more fully in gratitude for the abundance of God's Providence in our lives and to be willing to take greater risks for the sake of those in need. The delegates supported the decisions for all the Sisters to connect more closely together, to form international communities living and serving in ministry and to encourage the establishment of new missions beyond our current national boundaries in response to the needs of our world. The desire for greater oneness led further to decisions to establish three international commissions, each one tasked with researching and exploring new ways to meet our shared congregational needs for formation, finance and governance.

At the very end of July and in the first week of August, the members of the Marie de la Roche Province gathered to open ourselves to the Provincial Chapter theme: We Come: Living in Mystery, Risking with Hope, Birthing Our Future in Providence. Beginning again with days of prayer and celebration, focusing on our reality and the needs of our world, we spent time in deeper conversations, listening together for God's call to us now and into the future.

We

Choose

Life

Over and over throughout the nine days of our province chapter, the following words were heard, were deepened with images and were celebrated in song and dance.

God is here! God is here! One thing I know, God is here! ¡Está aquí! ¡Está aquí! ¡Yo sé que Dios, está aquí!

These chapter days together were filled with contemplative listening and dialogue which led the community to affirm our deepest values and to commit ourselves to ongoing efforts to respond to the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit in our daily living. This special time together included many opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing and the celebrations of our Sisters in their Jubilee years, the remembrance of the Associates and Sisters who died during the past year, the recognition of our Ketteler Award recipient and the election of a new leadership team for the province.

The province chapter was a total experience of body, heart, mind and spirit. It led us to make the following commitments to one another and to all those to and with whom we strive to witness the Providence of God in our daily lives.

> Living in the Mystery of Divine Presence, we commit ourselves to be in right relationship with one another and all of creation.

Mindful of the brokenness within our global community, we commit ourselves to be prophets of hope and agents of healing through peace and justice-making.

> Opening our hearts to the other and deepening our understanding of the challenges and blessings of being an international community, we commit ourselves to live interculturally.

Called to shared leadership and decision-making, we commit ourselves to create partnerships for the common good.

Compelled to make God's providence visible, we commit ourselves to choose life, live in mystery, risk with hope, and birth our future in providence.

WE GO FORTH

Thank you,

Sr. Mary Francis Fletcher



Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, is the Provincial Director of the Sisters of Divine Providence. One of 10 children, she entered the Community from her home parish of St. Ann's by the Sea in Marshfield, MA. In 2001, she was elected Provincial Councillor for the Marie de la Roche Province, and was elected Provincial Director in 2006 and again elected to the position in 2011. Sister Mary Francis celebrated her 50th jubilee in 2012.

Features

2016 General Chapter

The delegates of the 23rd General Chapter of the Sisters of Divine Providence came together from July 1-15 at Providence Heights in Pittsburgh to elect the 2016-2021 Congregational Leadership Team. The theme, Together We Choose Life: A Shared Future in God's Providence, was applied to the Sisters' conversations in discerning the direction of the worldwide congregation. A team of four was elected: Congregational Leader Maria Fest (Marie de la Roche Province/U.S.-Caribbean) and Congregational team members Mary Francis Fletcher (Marie de la Roche Province/ U.S.-Caribbean), Rosa Eunsoon Kim (St. Joseph Province/ Korea) and Liberata Ricker (Emmanuel von Ketteler Province/Germany). The Sisters gratefully acknowledge the service of the 2007-2016 General Leadership Team: General Superior Janet Folkl (Marie de la Roche Province/ U.S.-Caribbean) and General Councillors Monika Mrosek (Emmanuel von Ketteler Province/Germany) and Martha Insook Yang (St. Joseph Province/Korea).



(*Pictured left to right*) Sisters Liberata Ricker, Maria Fest and Mary Francis Fletcher (Rosa Eunsoon Kim not pictured)



















(*Pictured left to right*) Sisters Monika Mrosek, Janet Folkl and Martha Yang





2016 Provincial Chapter

The Sisters of the Marie de la Roche Province held their fourth Provincial Chapter-themed We Come: Living in Mystery, Risking with Hope, Birthing Our Future in Providence-from July 30 through August 7 at Providence Heights in Pittsburgh. Held every five years, Provincial Chapter is a time of discernment and prayer as the community plans for the future of the Province—one of three provinces of the international Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence. On August 6, the 2016-2021 Provincial Leadership Team was elected. Sister Michele Bisbey was elected as Provincial Director, and Sister Mary Traupman was elected as Assistant to the Provincial. Sisters Alice Marie Lyon, Donna Marie Gribschaw and Ana Lydia Sonera Matos were elected as Provincial Councillors. The newly elected leadership team will begin their ministry on October 28. The outgoing Provincial Leadership Team of Sisters Mary Francis Fletcher, Provincial Director; Maria Fest, Assistant to the Provincial; and Provincial Councillors Donna Marie Gribschaw, Ana Lydia Sonera Matos and Mary Traupman served from 2012-2016.



Living in Mystery









2016-2021 Provincial Leadership Team (*Pictured bottom row, left to right*) Sisters Alice Marie Lyon and Michele Bisbey (*Pictured top row, left to right*) Sisters Donna Marie Gribschaw, Mary Traupman and Ana Lydia Sonera Matos





Risking with Hope











(*Pictured left to right*) Sister Linda Yankoski, CSFN, and Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, Provincial Director

2016 Ketteler Award for Social Justice

Linda Yankoski, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, was presented the 2016 Ketteler Award for Social Justice on July 31 at a special awards ceremony and reception. Sister Linda is the president and CEO of Holy Family Institute in Pittsburgh. Over her 40+ year career with the nonprofit organization, she has been instrumental in evolving the institute into a social services agency that provides help, healing, hope and support to families and children, especially refugee children, in western Pennsylvania. Each year, Holy family Institute serves more than 11,000 families and children. In 1998, the Sisters instituted the Ketteler Award for Social Justice-named in honor of Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, co-founder of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Germany in 1851-and present it annually to an individual whose ministry and efforts reflect Ketteler's love and concern for the justice and needs of people who are poor and oppressed. Bishop Ketteler, honored in Germany as the "social justice bishop," was a tireless fighter for the rights of the working class.

2016 Jubilarians

This year, 36 Sisters marking milestones in their religious life were honored during Provincial Chapter at a Jubilee Mass and Celebration. We give thanks for these women and their combined 2,195 years of tireless passion for God and the people of God.



Mary Salvatore Leo



Rosemary Micka



Marie Dolores Griffith



65th



Jean Anthony Alexandrunas



Mercedes Berbach



Ann Catherine Fuchs



Rose Michele Sieber



Lucille Suttelle



Martha Thomas Baier



Donna Marie Dorfner



Emily Meehan



Phyllis Scello



Marilyn Seidel



Donna Tracy



8

Mary Joan Kerner



Linda Lalic



 50^{th}

Jeanne Morris

 60^{th}

 50^{th}



Maria Patterson



 $50^{\rm th}$

Angela Provost

 $40^{\rm th}$

Diane Dunn

If you would like to reconnect or send a congratulatory note, please send communications to: Mission Advancement 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101

To read more about these Sisters celebrating their Jubilee, visit: cdpsisters.org/jubilarians

on, Winis



Sacred Heart School is located on a beautiful 120-acre campus

Sacred Heart School

Location: Kingston, Massachusetts Founded: 1947 Website: sacredheartkingston.com

Sacred Heart was founded in 1947 by the Sisters of Divine Providence as a private, Catholic, coeducational school. During their early years, the Sisters educated nursery to second grade students on a former dairy farm in Kingston, Massachusetts, that was purchased by the Congregation. The barns and buildings were remodeled for the school-named Mishannock Alpha School and later re-named Sacred Heart Pre-Primary School-and also used for a girls camp in the summer.

Today, Sacred Heart School is located on a beautiful 120-acre campus on Bishops Highway in Kingston. With three schools on one campus, Sacred Heart offers educational opportunities for students of all faiths and backgrounds in preschool through twelfth grade throughout southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod. In addition, Sacred Heart welcomes international high school students. Sacred Heart strives to inspire minds, define character and encourage responsible leadership through a curriculum that prepares students to pursue knowledge now and throughout their lives. In the tradition of the Sisters of Divine Providence, the school seeks to develop a community of faith that encourages students to act with compassion, to work for a just society and to pursue opportunities to develop and share their God-given talents in service to society.



Province Ha

Peru

Sister Bertshabé Palomino Montalvo professed her perpetual vows on May 14 at the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel in Pittsburgh. The Sisters celebrate the Providence of God who brought Sister Bertshabé to the Marie de la Roche Province from Peru and who has sustained her through these years of formation and her experiences of incorporation into the congregation.

St. Louis

- On August 27, 300 Sisters from religious communities in the archdiocese gathered for a workshop titled, "Building the Beloved Community in the Age of Black Lives Matter." The theme was chosen to focus on healing and building communities in light of events that took place in Ferguson, Missouri and other areas. The speakers included Kathy McGinnis, director of the Institute for Peace and Justice; and Sharon Cooney-Smith, director of religious education at St. Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" Church. Mary Elizabeth Grimes, president of Marian Middle School and Kathleen Koenen, SSND, also participated as panelists. The program included presentations, a reflective video, an exploration of the daily effects of white privilege and the sharing of resources. Prayers of gratitude were offered for the creation of our one human family and its diversity of cultures. Participants also prayed for the forgiveness of those who are silent in the face of racial intolerance and bigotry, the breaking down of the walls that separate us, and for unity—the fruit of right relationships, all of which will inspire and advance a beloved community.
- On August 20, new Associates Heide Crawford, Annette Ray and Mary Schulteheinrich were welcomed at the Associates reception and renewal service at St. Elizabeth Church in Granite, Illinois. Following their journeys of discernment, prayer and formation, these new Associates will partner with the Sisters through mutual covenant. To learn more about the Sisters of Divine Providence Associates relationship, please visit cdpsisters.org/section/associates.





Associates Heide Crawford and Mary Schulteheinrich

Kingston

Sister Myra Rodgers was named Interim President of Sacred Heart School in Kingston, Massachusetts. Sister Myra, currently the Administrator of Providence House in Kingston, Massachusetts, and the Director of Mission Effectiveness for the Sisters of Divine Providence, is a board member of Sacred Heart School since 2012. A staunch supporter of Catholic education and advocate for excellence in education, Sister Myra's previous ministries include teaching in numerous Catholic schools in Pittsburgh and serving with La Roche College as a member of the board of trustees; director of campus ministry; and adjunct instructor of religious studies. Sister Myra also served as General Superior of the Sisters of Divine Providence, leading the process of unifying the congregation's three German provinces into one and three American provinces and the region of Puerto Rico into one.



Pittsburgh

Sister Joan Marie Harper was presented the La Roche College Woman of Providence Award at commencement on May 7. The award is given annually by La Roche to a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence whose life of service is a compelling example of God's Providence made visible. Celebrating her 60th Jubilee this year, Sister Joan Marie served with La Roche College as the Associate Director of Development and on the college board of trustees, as well as in parish and church ministry for more than 30 years.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2016 Sisters' Summer Sweepstakes: \$2,000 Grand Prize – Paula Gilchrist of Pittsburgh; \$500 2nd Prize – Robert Nestler of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania; and \$100 3rd prize – George Dorfner of Eighty Four, Pennsylvania. Sister Paulita Kuzy did the honors of selecting the lucky winners on September 1. Nearly 3,900 sweepstakes tickets were sold from June 1 through August 31, raising more than \$19,000 to support the Sisters. Thanks to all who participated!

Thanks to community partner Passavant Hospital Foundation for its continued \$10,000 financial support of Kearns Spirituality Center's Comfort & Hospitality program. Comfort & Hospitality hosts family and friends of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Passavant hospital patients, offering them convenient, safe and hospitable overnight accommodations, while their loved ones are patients in the hospital. For more information on Kearns, visit cdpsisters.org/kearns.

On June 3, St. Basil High School Class of 1966 gathered at Gaetano's Banquet Center & Restaurant in Pittsburgh's South Hills to celebrate their 50th reunion. In addition to the more than 40 classmates in attendance, the evening's honored guests included former teachers Sister Mary Traupman (formerly Sister Marla) and Madeline Vincunas (formerly Sister Yvonne), as well as Associate Shirley Grab. Shirley, a St. Basil alumna, faculty member, athletic director and coach for the girls basketball teams has volunteered thousands of hours over more than 20 years to search, contact and record the names of St. Basil alums throughout the country. Through Shirley's efforts, many St. Basil alums have re-connected with their classmates and with the Sisters. Thanks to this wonderful group of friends and alums for their fond remembrances of the Sisters who taught at St. Basil's, their gratefulness for their Catholic education and their financial generosity in support of the Sisters mission and ministries.

Sisters Mary Kriley, Karina Conrad, Wendolyn Lopez Santos and Agnes Vogel visited the Act II thrift store at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Gassaway, West Virginia, to deliver donations for the victims of the summer floods that devastated homes and lives. Blankets, sheets and toiletries were donated to the small church store, which provides items free of charge in cases of natural disaster. Sister Mary served the people of West Virginia for 13 years as director of the thrift store, as well as the director of the food pantry at St. Michael's Mission. Although formally retired, Sister Mary and other Sisters continue to deliver collected donations to this community.



Sister Joan Marie Harper



Passavant Hospital Foundation



Gail Joyce Damico (*pictured center*) and Associate Shirley Grab (*pictured right*) present a gift from the St. Basil Class of 1966 to Sister Mary Traupman (*pictured left*)



(Pictured left to right) Sister Mary Kriley, volunteer Billie Hamil, Sister Karina Conrad, Sister Wendolyn Lopez Santos and Sister Agnes Vogel

SAVE the DATE

CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence Providence Heights Allison Park, PA

October 8, 2016 | 10 a.m. 412.635.5401 for more info

CHARITY GOLF OUTING Benefits Room at the Inn Westborough Country Club St. Louis, MO October 10, 2016 | 10 a.m. 314.209.9198 for more info

2016 GALA Benefits Providence Heights Alpha School Duquespe Club

Duquesne Club Pittsburgh, PA November 4, 2016 | 6:30 p.m. 412.366.4455 for more info

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Providence Heights Allison Park, PA November 13, 2016 | 9 a.m. 412.635.5401 for more info

HANDS & HEARTS BRUNCH AND AUCTION Benefits La Posada Providencia

La Sierra Event Center Harlingen, TX

February 4, 2017 | 9 a.m. 956.399.3826 for more info

Visit our events calendar at cdpsisters.org/calendar for more information on these and other happenings with the Sisters and their sponsored ministries.



The 2017 Lucky Number Calendar fundraiser offers two calendars based on PA Lottery games: PICK 3 DAY and PICK 3 EVENING

More chances to play your lucky numbers in 2017, beginning October 10!

★365 days to win★ ★\$25, \$50, \$100 or \$150★ ★Great gift idea★

Visit cdpsisters.org/2017LuckyNumber to download the \$25 ticket order form or call 412.635.5401 for more information

NEMOKY

Your memorial contributions for Sisters can be sent to: Sisters of Divine Providence Mission Advancement 9000 Babcock Boulevard Allison Park, PA 15101

> For online contributions: Visit cdpsisters.org/donate or Call 412.635.5401



IDA MARY LUTZ, CDP Departed this life on August 10, 2016 in the sixty-fifth year of her religious life

Sister Ida Mary was known as a genuine woman of integrity, simplicity and gentle strength. She dedicated a significant portion of her life to teaching science, spending more than 45 years as a teacher and/or principal at Sacred Heart High School in Kingston, Massachusetts. Her passion as a scientist and love for the universe was evident in and out of the classroom. She immersed herself in reading and exploring the new cosmology which reflects the oneness and the interconnectedness of all of creation.

ANN PHILLIPPI, CDP

Departed this life on July 28, 2016 in the seventy-eighth year of her religious life

An educator all of her life, like Jesus, Sister Ann loved the little children. They were drawn to her cheerful disposition and her loving care as she helped each one to grow and become healthy and happy individuals. In the summers, Sister Ann could be found in the Craft Shop at Camp Mishannock in Kingston, Massachusetts, teaching new skills to the campers. After her retirement, she spent special times in prayer for the needs of the community and enjoyed crocheting beautiful baby blankets.



MARIETTA RUHE, CDP

Departed this life on June 7, 2016 in the seventieth year of her religious life

Sister Marietta was a person, a star, who lived her whole life in service as an educator and parish social minister. She was well prepared for this, having been educated at Duquesne University, Catholic University and Marquette University. Described as uplifting and lighthearted with an incredible sense of humor, Sr. Marietta spread a quiet sense of joy and happiness in her dealings with others and always had an open ear and a comforting way of listening.

The Sisters of Divine Providence also remember Associate: Carmen Loida Vazques (May 10, 2016)

Honor the Sisters' Legacy with Your Gift

If our Sisters have ever touched your life, you know their impact. Your gifts to the Sisters of Divine Providence honor their legacy of service and good works while helping to secure their future.

As you plan for your end of year charitable giving for 2016, thank you for remembering the Sisters of Divine Providence with a **Charitable IRA Distribution**.

The IRA charitable rollover tax break is now permanent. Its purpose is to encourage charitable giving while saving taxes for you, the donor.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR THIS UNIQUE TAX BREAK?

- 1. You are 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ or older on the day of the gift.
- 2. You transfer up to \$100,000 (max.) directly from your traditional IRA or Roth IRA to a qualified charity.
- 3. You make your gift by December 31, 2016.
- 4. You pay no income tax on your gift.*

The most significant tax benefit of making a charitable IRA distribution instead of a direct contribution to a charity is that your distribution gift is excluded from your gross income. Consequently, you do not pay federal or state income taxes on this gift amount.

HOW DO I MAKE A TAX FREE GIFT FROM MY IRA?

- 1. Call your IRA fund custodian, investor or broker.
- 2. Complete a form allowing your fund custodian to make a donation to the Sisters of Divine Providence.
- 3. The fund custodian sends a check payable to the Sisters from your IRA.
- 4. The Sisters of Divine Providence send an acknowledgment letter to you indicating the amount of the gift and the date received. This letter verifies the gift is from your IRA and should not be claimed as taxable income.
- 5. Check with your fund custodian for any additional instructions.
- 6. *Always consult your financial advisor to determine your gift.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Sisters. Know that your donation will go a long way in helping the Sisters with their mission and ministries and with continuing their legacy of making God's Providence visible.

For additional information, contact Mission Advancement:

Call 412.635.5428

or *Email* missionadvancement@cdpsisters.org







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