

Trying Counts

After
WORDS



Mary Ellen Rufft, CDP

A young man whom I saw for therapy some time ago surprised me with the gift of a plaque to hang in my office. It had a quote on it from Yoda, of “Star Wars” fame, which said: “Do or do not. There is no try.” My immediate reaction to that saying was negative, so I was stunned when my client told me that Yoda’s saying had helped him stop procrastinating about his college assignments. He had trouble making himself “try” to do them because that would mean that he had to keep “trying” until he did them correctly. So, he decided it was better to just “do” them without “trying.” No matter how they turned out, at least they were done.

I didn’t think that my client’s solution to his procrastination was a good one and I began to think about what we would be missing in this world if everyone decided that there is no “try.” Imagine, for example, if the staff at Providence Connections didn’t “try” to care for each child’s needs. Or what if our Ketteler Award for Social Justice recipients had decided not to “try” to help poor people here and in Africa, too? Imagine if our Jubilarians had stopped “trying” to make God’s Providence more visible to the thousands of people they encountered in their ministries for the last 25 to 75 years? And what if you, our friends and readers, gave up “trying” to create loving relationships with your families and friends? Clearly, the goodness of our world would be greatly diminished if we lived according to Yoda’s dictum. May his message remain only in the world of “Star Wars!”

2017 Ketteler Award for Social Justice

Dr. Zane H. Gates and Jane Kerr were presented the 2017 Ketteler Award for Social Justice at a special awards ceremony and reception on August 5. Dr. Gates, the Executive Director and co-founder of Empower3 Center for Health in Altoona, Pennsylvania, has worked tirelessly throughout his medical career to provide affordable health care to the working poor. Jane, an Associate of the Sisters of Divine Providence for 20 years, has worked to improve the health, educational, economic and spiritual needs of those less fortunate through her mission trips to the villages of Hoima, Uganda.



In 1998, the Sisters of Divine Providence instituted the Ketteler Award—named for Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, Bishop of Mainz, Germany, and co-founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence—to honor individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice. To read more, visit cdpsisters.org/2017KettelerAward.

Save the DATE

- SETTING A PLACE FOR MY SISTER Benefits Sisters Place**
Marriott City Center | Pittsburgh, PA
October 6, 2017 | 7–9 a.m. | 412.233.3903 for more info
- CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence**
Providence Heights | Allison Park, PA
October 7, 2017 | 10 a.m.–3 p.m. | Free Admission | 412.635.5401 for more info
- 2017 GALA Benefits Providence Heights Alpha School**
Rivers Club | Pittsburgh, PA
November 4, 2017 | 412.366.4455 for more info
- MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**
Providence Heights | Allison Park, PA
November 12, 2017 | 9 a.m. | 412.635.5401 for more info
- HANDS & HEART'S BRUNCH AND AUCTION Benefits La Posada Providencia**
La Sierra Event Center | Harlingen, TX
February 3, 2018 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m. | 956.399.3826 for more info
- 2018 LUCKY NUMBER Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence**
\$25/ticket | Great Gift Idea!
Based on PA lottery games | Daily winners receive \$25–\$150 | 412.635.5401 for more info

Cover: Providence Heights, Pittsburgh, PA
Alive! is published by the Mission Advancement office of the Sisters of Divine Providence. We welcome your feedback at missionadvancement@cdpsisters.org or 412.635.5428.



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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.


cdpsisters.org
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Love Isn’t Enough

In the mid-’90s we fostered two beautiful little girls who were the victims of outrageous abuse. We were new to fostering, filled with enthusiasm and high hopes. I remember my shock and denial when told that they were too badly damaged to ever become healthy loving adults. I was determined that if we just loved them enough we could undo that early childhood devastation. I was wrong. Over the years, and with countless additional examples of broken lives impossible to wholly mend, I’ve learned the truth—love isn’t enough. But, that doesn’t give us the license not to love. Even when it is obvious that all that we give won’t be enough, we still love. Even when it is clear that no matter how great our efforts we will not succeed, we still love. Even when it is evident that there are far too many obstacles to achieve any positive outcome, we still love.

As we try to make God’s Providence visible on the periphery, we don’t know what will become of our choices and actions each day. We don’t know if our confrontations with injustice will change anything in the long run. We don’t know if our ministerial plans and projects will be fruitful or long lasting. Truly, it is not about results or calculations or happy conclusions. It is about allowing ourselves to be caught and swept up by the grace and love of our Provident God.

In God’s abundant Providence,

Sister Michele Bishey
Provincial Director

Providence Connections

Driven to continue to provide services to local residents following the 1993 sale of Divine Providence Hospital on Pittsburgh's North Side, the Sisters of Divine Providence undertook a needs assessment to identify primary social concerns of the area.

The assessment revealed that the number of struggling single parents in the community—mothers, in particular—was growing, and these parents needed comprehensive support services in order to develop economic self-sufficiency.

To meet these needs, the Sisters established Providence Connections in 1994 and designated single parents and their children the focus of their work, later expanding the mission to include all families.

After more than 20 years of service, Providence Connections continues to



grow and positively impact the lives of their families, one member at a time. The nonprofit organization now serves more than 350 Pittsburgh-area families and 400 children through a wide range of programs and services that include child care, before and after school care, Head Start Program, summer day camp, family support, parent and adult education, in-home visitation and family counseling.

For more information on Providence Connection's programs and services and how you can help, visit providenceconnections.org.

Newest Member

Sister Kellee Fletcher was introduced as the Province's newest member on August 7 during the Sisters' annual Assembly. Sister Kellee's acceptance to the novitiate provides for continued discernment of the call to religious life, a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, the experience of evangelical living and the integration of apostolic spirituality—vowed living and ministry. Welcome Sister Kellee! (Is God calling you? Visit cdpsisters.org/vocations.)



Province HAPPENINGS



In July, three raised garden beds were built at Providence Heights by the families of our deceased Sister Monica Kost and Betty Kost, a former member and recently deceased associate. Named the Kost Family Angel Garden, Sisters and Associates planted flowers in the beds during a day of service in August. (Pictured left: Michael and Denise Munson)

In May, Sister Gabriella Rogenski displayed three of her bronze sculptures in Beauty Will Save the World, an art exhibit held at Good Shepherd Art Gallery in Ferguson, Missouri, for religious women and men from the St. Louis Archdiocese.

On August 21, Sisters at Providence House in Kingston, Massachusetts, watched the eclipse while ham radio operator WA1RZT, Sister Francesca O'Regan, relayed reports—with 5.99 signal strength and a simple, wire antenna—of the “arc of totality” from other amateur radio operators in Ohio, Chicago, Wyoming, Florida and Canada.

Sister Hilda Prohaska



Departed this life on June 9 in the sixtieth year of her religious life

Theresa, who had chosen the name Hilda for her religious name in honor of her mother, made her first vows in 1960. ... Whether teaching school or doing physical work, Sister Hilda's life was characterized by caring labor for others. She would readily offer to help anyone in need, seeming to recognize that the harvest of the Lord is everywhere. Perhaps she also tried to compensate for the laborers being

few by doing the work of many. To read Sister Hilda's entire memorial letter, written by Sister Mary Ellen Rufft, visit cdpsisters.org/in-memory/sister-hilda-prohaska.

Sister John Francis Danko



Departed this life on September 1 in the seventy-third year of her religious life

Inspired by her mother's love of her faith, Sister John Francis responded in 1944 to God's call to be a Sister of Divine Providence. ... Sister was a beloved teacher, “dorm mother” and administrator. ... She had an avid interest in all those around her and prayed fervently for the many needs of her family, friends and the world. Her life was a faithful revelation of God's loving Providence for anyone

who met her. To read Sister John Francis' entire memorial letter, written by Sister Claudia Ward, visit cdpsisters.org/in-memory/sister-john-francis-danko.

The Sisters of Divine Providence also remember Associate: Mary Gallek (July 17, 2017)

These Sisters collectively celebrate 1,470 years of co-creating a world of compassion, justice and peace. To read more, visit cdpsisters.org/jubilarians/2017.



75 Years
Mary Kriley



75 Years
Mary Weatherly



70 Years
Louise Angelini



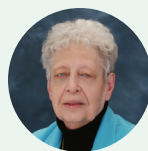
70 Years
Mary Gabriel Friedel



70 Years
Maureen Grabowski



70 Years
Marjorie Nickel



70 Years
Dorothy Ransil



65 Years
Marian Senish



60 Years
Mary Grace Carlisano



60 Years
Paulita Kuzy



60 Years
Hilda Prohaska †



65 Years
Jean Louise McIntyre



65 Years
Lois Ann Wuenstel



60 Years
Thérésine Gildea



60 Years
Jacklyn Pritchard



60 Years
Mary Ellen Rufft



50 Years
Patricia Baker



50 Years
Alexine Cockerham



50 Years
Margaret Jankowiak



40 Years
Candace Introcaso



25 Years
Robin Nordyke



50 Years
Michele Bisbey



50 Years
Maura Anne Dunn



50 Years
Barbara McMullen



25 Years
Denise Kabacinski



25 Years
Elsa Medina Rivera