



PROVIDENCE *Alive!*

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

SPRING 2015

Mission
Without BORDERS

**Celebrating
Consecrated Life:**
Mission & SERVICE

Providence Villa:
Closing ITS CHAPTER

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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.



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



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

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

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Message for the Season

By Sister Donna Marie Gribschaw, CDP

We, the Sisters of Divine Providence, are descendants of a long line of strong, passionate and loving women who immersed themselves in Mission. Today, we stand on the shoulders of our Foremothers who risked journeys beyond their wildest dreams. We continue our Mission by being faithful to our call to listen and respond, whole-heartedly and generously, to the needs of our time, and opening our eyes and hearts to discovery.



**“We do not have the Mission.
God’s Mission has us.”**
Anthony Gittins, CSSp

The origin of Mission is God. God calls us, invites us and needs us to “be” the Mission. I am reminded of a presentation Anthony Gittins, CSSp, gave to leaders of our congregation several years ago on Mission. He stated, “It is clearer to us that God is Mission, that Jesus is the Good News, God’s Mission incarnated, and that we, as disciples, are called to be faithful to God’s Mission. We do not have the Mission. God’s Mission has us.” When we hear and respond to the Spirit’s call to be authentic disciples of Jesus, we are called to embody and become the Mission.

For us, the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, our Mission is “Providence.” We commit ourselves to co-create a world of compassion, justice and peace. It summons us

to live and minister from our hearts using the abundant gifts freely given to us by our Provident God. We reach out and touch lives, embrace one another in joy and pain, heal by our words and actions and open our hearts to forgive and be forgiven. We challenge those in elected government positions to work for the common good as we strive for justice for all. We transform ourselves to risk being marginalized and stand with those who are. We continue to grow and expand our minds and hearts to the dynamic presence of our Provident God unfolding in the universe. We are compelled and challenged daily to make God’s Providence and love more visible in our world.

Thank you for joining us in spreading our Mission through your prayerful support and by sharing your time, talents and gifts with us. We value your presence and appreciate the myriad of ways you gift the Sisters of Divine Providence so we can continue to immerse ourselves in our Providential Mission!

Thank you for your generosity,

Sister Donna Marie



Donna Marie Gribschaw, CDP, is a current Provincial Councillor on the Provincial Leadership Team. She entered religious life from St. Cecilia Parish in Glassport, PA. Sister Donna Marie holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from John Carroll University in Ohio.

Mission Without Borders

As an international congregation, the Sisters of Divine Providence embrace living and ministering across cultural boundaries, affirming differences and diversity created by our Provident God. Internationality has been an integral part of the Divine Providence community since the earliest days when six young Sisters were sent from Germany to continue the mission of the Congregation in the United States. Through the sharing of our spirituality, our mission and by living in community with others, our journey as women religious emboldens appreciation and respect for the many gifts of all cultures.

The Gift of Internationality

The Sisters of Divine Providence welcomed Sister Angela, a Sister of Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy (DMMM) to live in community with them in December 2014. A native of Nigeria, a country on the coast of West Africa, Sister Angela has been a Sister of Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy for 20 years. Founded in 1961 by Bishop Anthony Gogo Nwedo, CSSp, DMMM has approximately 1,300 professed members with a presence in Africa, America, Europe and Asia. The congregation's spirituality is based on the five virtues — Charity, Humility, Prayer, Penance and Abandonment to the will of God — and members strive to live them out in various ministries including orphanages, schools and hospitals. In Sister Angela's ministries, she has been engaged as a social worker in Cameroon; retirement home administrator in Italy; and hospital worker in Missouri. Currently, Sister Angela resides at Providence Heights in Pittsburgh, while attending La Roche College, pursuing a degree in religious studies. Sister Angela is very grateful to the Sisters of Divine Providence for their offer to live in community, sharing prayer and spiritual life. "The Sisters have been wonderful! Each and every Sister has a different gift of sharing and generosity. I pray that God will continue to bless each of them as they spread their good news. I like their spirit of Mission," Sister Angela said.



The Gift of Global Ministry

The following article, Awakened by the World by Sister Clara Kreis, CDP, is reprinted with permission from Global Sisters Report.

It was striking to hear the first 2014 Christmas songs rehearsed by the church choir of the Bamenda parish in Cameroon during the month of November. I immediately found myself chiming in — and then grateful that my few weeks in Cameroon would include the opening of the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life. As I reflected and prayed about Pope Francis' invitation to women and men religious "to wake up the world," little did I realize that the "world" would be waking me up.

Here I was on another continent of our beloved but vulnerable world. Growing up trilingual (German, Greek and German Sign Language), I was excited about the op-

portunity to travel and serve for three weeks in a new culture in Africa. My excitement was deeply rooted in a sense of gratitude that God was giving me the opportunity to give back all that God has graciously bestowed on me.

I went to Cameroon to present a "wellbeing" segment in a larger renewal program that the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis (TSSFs) had initiated for women religious in 2011. The Franciscan Common Venture has sent sisters from their congregations each year as presenters. This year the participants and presenters expanded to sisters from other congregations. Fourteen sisters (ages from 30s to 70s) from four congregations in Cameroon were partici-

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pating, and I was enthused about the opportunity to be of service to sisters whose ministries support and effect systemic change.

After the long drive between the Douala airport and Bamenda, I was energized by the participants' traditional song of welcome and dance at the retreat center where the 12-week renewal program was based. After first presenting a "Wellbeing Speech" written by Ian Edwards, Ph.D., a colleague of mine in the counseling center at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I focused my sessions on identifying and owning various levels of holistic wellbeing as they relate to the lives of African women religious. Most importantly, the focus was on the importance of a balanced lifestyle.

A balanced lifestyle that allows for community living and prayer, ministry, and leisure time could help prevent symptoms of burnout that are caused by exhaustion and repeated exposure to traumatic events. These are conditions the sisters know something about.

Although Cameroon is politically stable and was not affected by Ebola, it is affected by other diseases — typhus, malaria, tuberculosis, AIDS, cancer and heart conditions, among them — that can lead to fatal outcomes. And I was saddened as I listened to a European missionary sister explain that she had to leave her ministry and move further south because of the violence that was erupting in the northern part of Cameroon. (Just last month we learned about the hundreds of Boko Haram fighters who killed 91 villagers and left more than 500 wounded in Fotokol, a northern town.)

Mourning loved ones lost to serious illness and violence can lead to trauma symptoms among survivors and may also vicariously impact those who serve the poor, sick, wounded and dying, including medical personnel, clerics and men and women religious. The TSSFs, the largest religious congregation in Cameroon, do not hesitate to live and minister in places where the needs of their people are calling them to be present, even if they themselves are risking their personal safety.

My heart broke as I heard the story of a sister who ministered in places that were not safe, which repeatedly ex-



Welcoming Sister Clara at the retreat center

posed her to violence. Her voice was shaking and I could see the fear in her eyes as she shared the details of these incidents.

Another sister expressed the difficulty of being with and attending to the wounded of wars that seemed to have no end in sight. The impact on her was evident and the effects lingered in her. Thankfully, these and other sisters by repeatedly sharing their stories are finding a way to integrate these painful and overwhelming experiences into their lives.

In being with the sisters, my eyes were opened to the privileged and secure lifestyle that I am living in the United States. It awakened my heart and desire to live my vows more intentionally and to ponder my call of being a prophetic witness as I become more globally minded in my ministerial outreach.

The sisters' stories definitely had a lasting impact on me and made me realize that our evolutionary understanding of living the consecrated life is not limited to its impact within the United States. On the contrary, I am now awakened to the fact that our past and current decisions, pertaining to consecrated life, continue to spread to women religious internationally and influence their understanding and expression of this prophetic life form.



Maria Clara Kreis, Ph.D., L.P., CDP, is a native of Germany and has lived for 18 years with her religious community of the Sisters of Divine Providence in the United States. She is currently the assistant director and outreach coordinator of the Counseling and Wellbeing Center at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Her research focuses on life satisfaction among Roman Catholic apostolic women religious.

Investments Working for the Common Good

By Sister Maria Fest, CDP

Like many other religious communities, the Sisters of Divine Providence started a Charitable Trust for the expressed purpose of providing continuing community support for our retired, aging and ill members. While our Trust is far from fully funded, we are working hard to keep it sustainable so it will last well into the future. Our hope is that the Trust will support our future members in their retirement years, while it currently supports our present members. This goal becomes increasingly important with the realization that our community of the future will be smaller and will have fewer members ministering in salaried positions.

The Sisters of Divine Providence have adopted socially responsible investing policies. These policies ensure that our portfolio managers and consultants invest in corporate practices that support human life, human rights and environmental stewardship. Owning stocks and exercising our responsibilities as socially responsible shareholders allows us to influence the Boards of Corporate America. Our influence, along with others who engage in socially responsible investing, requires corporations to examine their policies related to their employees' work environments, just wages, health care and sustainability of planet Earth. Our actions as shareholders, such as voting proxies, engaging in shareholder meetings and filing resolutions, compel companies to adopt practices that honor human dignity, embrace family values and protect the environment.

Furthermore, the social screens that govern the stocks and bonds purchased for our portfolio exclude companies that discriminate against women and children, pollute or damage the environment, generate significant revenue from products dangerous to health, weaken the family unit, or procure military contracts.

We are committed to investments that support the mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence. As such, the companies in which we invest must demonstrate a corporate commitment to promote a consistent ethic of life. This is one more way our retired Sisters, who are no longer en-

gaged in a compensated ministry, work for our mission.

Has our portfolio suffered on its returns because of our commitment to socially responsible investing? As we benchmark our returns over the years, we find companies that care about their workers, the environment and the common good are better managed. So, YES, we can invest our retirement funds in socially responsible investments and have a portfolio that performs comparably to the broad market, as measured by the S&P 500 Index and other benchmarks.

Socially responsible investing not only contributes to our retirement needs, but provides both a financial and social return by working for the common good.

“We are committed to investments that support the mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence.”



Maria Fest, CDP, is the current Assistant to the Provincial of the Provincial Leadership Team and Investment Committee Secretary. She entered religious life from St. Anne's Parish in Castle Shannon, PA. Sister Maria holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from La Roche College, a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame and a Doctor of Arts in Chemistry from Lehigh University.

Celebrating Consecrated Life: Mission & Service

By Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP



At the beginning of Advent, the Church began the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life. This article is a continuation of our focus on this unique and wonderful cel-

ebration of the commitment of women and men religious who have made public vows and consecrated their lives to the God who called them to service and Mission. When the Church announced this celebration, three primary objectives were identified: to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.

Remembering the past brought me to look again at the first Christians, who sacrificed everything to live the Good News faithfully and to fulfill Jesus' command "go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations ... teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you and know that I am with you always, until the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20). Everyone who responded to that mandate in those first heady days of Pentecost, and in the centuries that followed, sought to live according to Jesus' words and witness. They experienced God's love and forgiveness, they received the power of God's Spirit, and they focused their lives on living as Jesus did, proclaiming the Good News of God's tremendous love for us by their selfless commitment to service. This was their Mission! This is our Mission! The Mission is not limited to those who live lives of consecration to God in community. It is the Mission of all believers, led by the Spirit, who choose to live in faith and follow the Christ!

In 2007, at a gathering of international leaders of our congregation, we explored Mission and understood it in new ways, based on presentations and writings of Anthony Gittins, CSSp.

"It is clearer to us that God is Mission, that Jesus is the Good News, God's Mission incarnated, and that we, as disciples, are called to be faithful to God's Mission. We do not have the Mission. God's Mission has us. We are invited to imitate the whole life of Jesus. We do so by 'Good

News-ing,' that is, by proclamation, witness, dialogue and liberation."¹

The Mission of the women and men who gathered together into religious communities during the first millennium was to be one with Mary in saying "yes" to God's call. Their commitment to God was to live faithfully the Good News, giving witness and serving others' needs with the radical love of Jesus. Through the ages, those who lived as "religious" opened their doors to seekers, taught the truths of the Gospel, shared in the life of the Church, dialogued with those who sought God and did what they could to bring light, truth, love and liberation into worlds of darkness, doubt, distrust and violence. They sought, like Jesus, to heal the brokenness of their times and to share in moving people closer to the promised Reign of God in their world.

As the needs of the world changed, the Mission of bringing God's love to all people also shifted. As the second millennium dawned, those who gave their lives totally to God heard the Gospel call to go to the poor in compassion and service, to witness to them God's love and to be God's presence. As the second millennium came to a close, new religious communities were formed to meet the emerging needs of the poor for education, health, spiritual and pastoral care. By lives of prayer and witness, in community and Mission, these consecrated women and men brought to life the sacred mysteries, the teachings and healings, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

In every age, major societal shifts have also impacted people's greatest needs. History shows that as some groups are assimilated into society, other groups are moved out to the margins and struggle to survive. In these times of great change, men and women religious have adapted to meet the new needs, letting go of previous ways of living their vows and finding new ways to offer witness and service. Though societies and nations have greatly evolved, the Mission has remained the same: to proclaim the Good News and to live in mercy and compassion.

At the December 16, 2014, press conference for the presentation of the Final Report of the Apostolic Visitation of Institutes of Women Religious in the United States of America, Cardinal João Braz de Aviz said, "women religious

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have courageously been in the forefront of (the Church's) evangelizing mission, selflessly tending to the spiritual, moral, educational, physical and social needs of countless individuals, especially the poor and marginalized.”²

As with other religious communities, the Sisters of Divine Providence, personally and communally, have been part of this “evangelizing mission.” Today, as we remember the past with gratitude and live the present with passion, we are seeking God’s call into the future. We have entered more deeply into reflection on the Christian Scriptures which invite us to live in love. It is this same Gospel which inspired our founders, our first Sisters and those who followed them. We have entered into deeper dialogue and are searching anew to identify the qualities and gifts evidenced in the lives and ministries of our Sisters since our founding in 1851 in Germany and 1876 in the United States.

Our original Constitutions, and each new edition, state unequivocally, “The Spirit of the institute is, above all, the spirit of Jesus Christ himself” and our rule calls us to “strive always ‘for that mind which was in Christ Jesus’” (Philippians 2:5).³ This is the place of passion from which we, like the first disciples, are imbued with Jesus’ single-minded command, “As the Father has loved me, so I love you, live on in my love” (John 15:9). This is the place from which we give joyful witness to God’s Providence, in and with us, as we seek to live the Mission of Jesus. This is the place from which we share the Good News of God’s love for every person, especially for those most in need.

In August 1994, Doris Gottemoeller RSM, president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), spoke to other leaders of U.S. communities of women religious. “... American women religious today are ... as committed as ever to alleviating the suffering of the poor, the needy and the vulnerable,” Sister Doris said.⁴ This fundamental statement is true and forever unchanging more than 20 years later.

The Mission has always been the same for people who believe; those who try to live as Jesus did and taught. It flows from the Scriptures and is guided by the Spirit of God, the One whom Jesus promised would be with us until the end of time! This makes Mission extremely basic and simple! Everyone who believes

in Jesus — Catholic or Christian — has the same Mission. Our call as followers of Jesus is to do and to be as Jesus in Palestine. All of us are invited to claim with Paul “the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me” (Galatians 2:20).

Sister Doris continued, “The mission apostolic women religious are called to today should be integral to our way of life, prophetic, global and corporate.

“Mission is at the heart of our self-understanding, an expression of our identity ... The choice to be ‘in mission’ is part of that constellation of fundamental life choices that constitute our way of life.”

In exploring the initial statement further, Sister Doris shared her understanding of her three terms. Religious life is prophetic and “connotes a transparency to the divine which is the fruit of a life focused on Jesus and which is the real meaning of prophecy — speaking of God...,” she said. Religious life is global “in its perspective and outreach ... Women and men religious constitute a worldwide network of communication and potential response to human suffering and exploitation,” she continued. Finally, after speaking about former ways that communities were corporate, she explained, “A new way to think about corporate mission is needed, one which recognizes the changing social realities, engages and focuses the energies of the members and expresses the public identity of the congregation. It is a corporate mission that is needed, not necessarily corporate ministries.”⁵

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As a community we are seeking to carry the passion and commitment of the present into a hopeful embrace of the future, as the Church has asked us to do. More than 2,000 years ago, during the Last Supper with his followers, Jesus promised, “When the Paraclete comes, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father — and whom I myself will send from the Father — he will bear witness on my behalf. You must bear witness as well, for you have been with me from the beginning” (John 15-26-27).

Sister Doris said to the LCWR leaders, “What kind of future can we look forward to? The answer — our future — depends, as it always has, on the mysterious work of God’s providence in our regard. But the future also depends, as it always has, on how we answer the depth questions. These are perennial questions which have to be answered in every time and place.”⁶

Sister Doris ended her presentation saying, “Now it is time to look forward to the new leaders and creative deeds in our future. There was no golden age of religious life. There were only women and men, human as we are, who loved God, cared for persons in need, and dared to dream. We are as human, as flawed, and gifted as they were, and still in touch with the dream.”⁷

Amy Hereford CSJ, in her recently published book, “Religious Life at the Crossroads: A School for Mystics and Prophets,” considers the same issues, writing, “at the heart, throughout all the changes, religious life remains a life radically committed to incarnating the gospel here and now, living the beatitudes and bringing the love of God to ever new frontiers.”⁸



The world around us continues to evolve at an ever-faster pace. We desire to know and respond to the new needs of our Sisters and Brothers. Our conversations in community, with others beyond community and with the current events of our world, raise our awareness and guide us into new territory. We ask you to join us in seeking the Spirit’s guidance to recognize the ways that the realities of our own lives and of our global society are impacting the needs of God’s people today and calling us into the future.

As Sisters of Divine Providence, we desire that our ministry and our lives give evidence of what we value most — our “trust in, and openness to, the Providence of God.”⁹ With our founder, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, we continue to strive to live and serve others — trusting God’s gifts and desires — as we seek the greater unity found in his motto, “that all may be one!”

Resources

All Scripture references are from *The New American Bible*, July 27, 1970.

¹ 21st General Chapter Statement, “God’s Mission and Our Commitments,” July 2007.

² Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, *Final Report of the Apostolic Visitation of Institutes of Women Religious in the United States of America*, Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, September 8, 2014, Introduction.

³ *Constitutions & Directories*, Sisters of Divine Providence, August 2011, Article 2.

⁴ Doris Gottmoeller RSM, “Befriending the Wind” (1994), *Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times: Presidential Addresses from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, edited by Annmarie Sanders IHM, Orbis Books, 2014, p. 57.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 63-67.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 58.

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 68.

⁸ Amy Hereford CSJ, *Religious Life at the Crossroads: A School for Mystics and Prophets*, Orbis Books, 2013, p. 37.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Article 1.



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.

Providence Villa: Closing Its Chapter

A retreat center that includes a 28-room mansion and caretaker's cottage set on 16 acres of lush woodland in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, Providence Villa is closing its chapter on the property's storied history when it ceases operation on June 30, 2015.

The house was built in 1924 by the Bell Telephone Co. Named Fern Hill for its wooded high ground and the plant growing among the trees, it was used as a place for the company's female employees to rest and recuperate. Many annual reunions were held at Fern Hill. Of the first reunion, it was quoted in Bell Telephone Co.'s July 1925 publication, *The Telephone News*, "About 70 of our folks were there, and practically all of the young women, at some time during the past year, were guests at the Rest Home."

In 1944, Bell Telephone Co. sold Fern Hill to two women who relocated their boarding school from the city of Pittsburgh to the stately mansion, renaming it Maxada Woodlands. The private school, whose motto was "Where your child is at home at school," included classes for boys and girls from kindergarten through eighth grade and was in operation until 1964.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh purchased the Maxada Woodlands facility in 1964 for the Ladies of Bethany to use as a novitiate. While waiting for novices to join their community, the Ladies of Bethany developed the facility into an ecumenical retreat center, The Ark and The Dove. It was here that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal began in February 1967, more specifically in the chapel among faculty and students of Duquesne University. In 1979, the Ladies of Bethany closed its ministry and the Diocese of Pittsburgh took over operation of the house. The mission of the property changed again, becoming the John Cardinal Wright Vocation and Prayer Center — a place for religious vocational programs and of spiritual renewal for clergy in the diocese.

The Sisters of Divine Providence purchased the property in 1999, with plans to continue the tradition of using the grand home, cottage and property as a place for renewal and rest. Renamed Providence Villa, the mission of the retreat center was to reflect God's Providence through a ministry of compassionate hospitality.

Sister Marilyn Seidel has been the Director of Providence Villa since it opened



in August 2000. Sister Leona Ulewicz has been the Assistant Director for the past six years. Sister Marilyn and Sister Leona reflected on Providence Villa and its mission over the past 15 years:

Q: What are the architectural details of the property?

A: The Georgian-architecture house includes elegant details such as a sun porch; wood-burning fireplaces; an open, three-story staircase; deep window seats; and rich woodwork, including hardwood floors. Many renova-

tions and restorations were completed on the house over the years, but we really have to give credit to the Sisters of Divine Providence maintenance department and their employee Eric Hendrickson for beautifying and preserving the house, cottage and grounds over the last 15 years and making the Villa what it is today.

Q: Over the years, how many guests have you hosted at Providence Villa?

A: Over 19,000 guests have experienced our retreat ministry. We welcomed all,



including church groups, craft groups, priest groups, pastors, women's spiritual retreats, school staffs and individuals. Guests stayed for different amounts of time, according to their needs ... a few hours, a few days or a week. Some groups enjoyed the ministry so much that they would re-book for the same time each year.

Q: Did you see a common thread of discussion and/or theme among the retreatants?

A: Peace, spirituality, beauty and renewal. It was pure ministry to have people

taken up by the quiet and warmth of the setting. It was uplifting to witness people helping and understanding each other and feeling included and open to expressing themselves.

Q: What do you hope is the next chapter for the property?

A: We would love to see the new owners keep it as a place to retreat from the busyness and demands of life. God has used the beautiful building and grounds to provide an experience and we pray for that to continue.

Pre-Novitiate Candidate Accepted

The Provincial Leadership Team, in agreement with the recommendation of the Vowed Membership Team, approved Kellee Fletcher for entrance as a Pre-Novitiate Candidate.

At Kellee's entrance service, celebrated on April 25, 2015, Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, Provincial Director, extended the community's invitation to Kellee as she begins her journey of discernment and incorporation.

Kellee was born and raised in Colorado. She attended Beloit College in Wisconsin, where she studied Russian language and culture and also instrumental music. Kellee spent her senior year of study in Russia and continued to work in that country for several more years. When Kellee returned to the U.S., she served as a Russian interpreter for immigrants. She also studied psychology and worked in social work and at a public library. For fun, Kellee plays the trumpet in a community band.

Through support, companionship, the witness of God's love, our forgiveness and our encouragement, the Sisters of Divine Providence celebrate Kellee's call to religious life and her fidelity to that call!



Province Happenings

Puerto Rico

The Sisters and Associates with the Office for the Promotion of Human Development (OPDH) in Arecibo held a Mass on Wednesday, April 22 in appreciation and gratitude of the generosity, both spiritual and financial, of their donors. Because of donors' giving spirit, OPDH had a successful year offering many workshops, seminars and one-on-one counseling for parents, young adults, women and business people. Additionally, a new security system was installed to ensure the safety of clients, families and staff; a new cooktop was purchased and installed; and transportation services are now being provided to those clients that need them.



St. Louis

Sisters, Associates and friends held their annual fundraiser gala, Breakfast with the INN Crowd, on April 24. The theme this year was "Strengthening Families, Rooting Communities." With a silent auction, a tote wall and beautiful table centerpieces made by crafty volunteers, this year's breakfast was another success. All proceeds from the event benefit the homeless in the St. Louis area who find shelter at Room at the Inn.

(Pictured from left: Judy Donnelly & Mary Elmendorf)

Pittsburgh

Special thanks to UPMC Passavant Hospital Foundation for its \$10,000 grant in support of Kearns Spirituality Center's Comfort & Hospitality program. This program hosts families and friends of UPMC Passavant Hospital patients, offering them convenient and secure overnight accommodations in a friendly and contemplative atmosphere. For more information on Kearns, visit cdpsisters.org/kearns.



PASSAVANT HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION



The last three principals of St. Basil High School (Pictured from left: Sisters Marilyn McMillin, Kay 'Catherine Ann' Koller & Agnes Vogel)

On Saturday, April 11, St. Basil High School graduates gathered at Providence Heights for an alumni recognition luncheon. This event was a special way to say "thanks" to the St. Basil graduates who financially support the Sisters and their retirement needs. Alumni had the opportunity to visit with Sisters who attended and taught at St. Basil, as well as with former classmates.

Kingston

On Saturday, April 11, several Sisters attended The Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Kingston, Massachusetts. The ceremony was held for Charles Mara, a junior at Sacred Heart High School. Having attended Sacred Heart Pre-Primary School — then located in Providence House — Charles desired to do his Eagle Scout service project to benefit the Sisters of Divine Providence and Providence House, the place where he first met them. Once his project was approved, Charles recruited teams to assist him and they set to work in earnest during the summer of 2014. After devoting more than 200 hours to his project, Charles' list of accomplishments included the planting of 200 spring bulbs, 46 mums, more than 25 perennials and five trees. In addition, five benches were restored and stained. It was a phenomenal task for which the Sisters are extremely grateful.

Sister Claudia Ward was a guest speaker at Charles' Court of Honor. In her presentation, she made reference to the eagles of Decorah, Iowa. Having watched some of the video stream of their development from when the eggs were laid, to the newly hatched eaglets through the fledgling stage, until they were able to take off on their own, she noted the incredible care given to them by the eagle parents. She shared this story because she noted similar characteristics in Charles as he watched over and carried out his project. Such attention to detail and genuine concern were but two of the hallmarks of Charles' work. Perhaps, she noted, that was why he was becoming an Eagle Scout. Needless to say, the Sisters are very proud of Charles. When the Sisters celebrated Earth Day this year, they offered a prayer of gratitude to Charles for his enhancement of the earth in their midst.



Charles & "Mr. E," the Eagle Advisor

Save
the Date

PROVIDENCE CONNECTIONS

Backyard BBQ

JUNE 19, 2015

PNC Park

—RAFFLES, AUCTIONS AND MORE!—

BBQ@PROVIDENCECONNECTIONS.ORG OR 412.766.3860 X324
FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO PURCHASE TICKETS

SISTERS SUMMER

Sweepstakes 2015

\$5/TICKET

Grand Prize \$2,000 | 2nd prize \$500 | 3rd Prize \$100

—WINNER SELECTED SEPTEMBER 1, 2015—

412.635.5437 OR SSMITH@CDPSISTERS.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

CRAFT SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

AT Providence Heights

OCTOBER 3, 2015 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

\$5 Admission

—FOOD TRUCKS, RAFFLES AND MORE!—

412.635.5401 FOR MORE INFORMATION

ROOM AT THE INN'S

2ND ANNUAL

Charity GOLF OUTING

OCTOBER 5, 2015

Westborough Country Club
St. Louis, Missouri

314.209.9181 FOR MORE INFORMATION

In Memory

**A Providence Woman
lives forever in the hearts
of those who remember ...**



SISTER ROBERTA GRZELAK
September 15, 2014



SISTER RITA BRACHT
September 18, 2014



**SISTER CONSTANCE
MARIE WALTMAN**
October 1, 2014



**SISTER BERNADETTE
CHAPIN**
October 17, 2014



SISTER FLORITA RODMAN
November 8, 2014



SISTER ANITA GREEN
November 24, 2014



**SISTER DOLORES
ELIZABETH WERLING**
December 13, 2014

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

ROSEMARY DAVISON
September 24, 2014

MARY ARENTH
October 12, 2014

MARY ANN YOUNG
December 4, 2014

YOUR MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES CAN BE SENT TO:

Sisters of Divine Providence
Mission Advancement
9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101

For online contributions visit our website and select "Sisters » In Memory"



LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Help Advance Our Mission

Thanks to your partnership, our mission of co-creating a world of compassion, justice and peace is possible. Through your faithful generosity, you help us to do more than we could possibly do with our own resources. Every gift — large or small — is important. Gift planning offers many types of charitable gift arrangements that can benefit you, your family and our Sisters.

Thank you for considering these gift options for the Sisters:

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- Retirement, Life Insurance or Charitable Gift Annuities with the Sisters as the beneficiary
- Bequest a specific amount or percentage in your will

We invite you to choose the gift option that works best for you. Please consult your financial advisor to determine your gift plan.

**For additional information,
contact Mission Advancement at 412.635.5428**

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- Login to your existing Amazon account or create a new one
- Select the **Sisters of Divine Providence** as your charitable organization by clicking on "Your Account" from the navigation at the top of any page, and then selecting the option to "Change your Charity"
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Marie de la Roche Province
Making God's Providence Visible

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GET TO KNOW THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Whether you are discerning a vocation, interested in the Sisters' ministries, in need of prayer or wanting to make a donation, our website is the place to go. When you visit cdpsisters.org you can read about our founders, the congregation's history, our leadership, ministries and locations. Be sure to click on the "Meet Us" link from the Sisters dropdown menu for information and photos of the Sisters in the Marie de la Roche Province. Check back often to keep up with our latest news!



SIGN UP TO RECEIVE PROVIDENCE ALIVE! ELECTRONICALLY

If you receive our print newsletter and would prefer to receive it by email, please contact Patricia Serafini at pserafini@cdpsisters.org.

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