

Sister Antoinette Basis



Departed this life on April 25 in the 71st year of her religious life

Sister Antoinette was a born teacher; she loved children and they loved her. Unquestionably she did an immense amount of good as a teacher, as a human being and as a Sister of Divine Providence. To read Sister Antoinette's entire memorial letter, written by Sister Mary Traupman, visit cdpsisters.org/in-memory/sister-antoinette-basis.

Sister Mary Providence Kriley



Departed this life on March 16 in the 73rd year of her religious life

Sister Mary Providence embraced 50 years as a missionary, teacher and pastoral minister in Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. She was the perfect exemplar of the truth that the missionary is both giver and receiver. To read Sister Mary Providence's entire memorial letter, written by Sister Michele Bisbey, visit cdpsisters.org/in-memory/sister-mary-providence-kriley.

Sister Emily Gezich



Departed this life on February 14 in the 77th year of her religious life

Sister Emily was helpful and supportive to others in every way that she could be. She never promoted herself but always looked out for others. She was always taking care of people to make it better for them. To read Sister Emily's entire memorial letter, written by Sister Mary Traupman, visit cdpsisters.org/in-memory/sister-emily-gezich.

We also remember these Associates:

Peggy Hensel Michaels (1/27/18) and Dorothy Webb (3/16/18)

Remember and Honor Your Loved Ones with a Lasting Legacy

Memorial and tribute gifts are a meaningful way to honor someone's memory or celebrate someone's special occasion while investing in the future good works of the Sisters. Engraved brick pavers, planted trees and engraved granite benches are gift opportunities available at Providence Heights.

For additional information and order forms, visit cdpsisters.org/memorials-tributes or call 412.635.5401.

MEMORY

Save the DATE

2018 SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence

Grand Prize \$2,000

\$5/ticket | 412.635.5437 for more info

2018 BACKYARD BARBEQUE Benefits Providence Connections

Sheraton Station Square | Pittsburgh, PA

June 7, 2018 | 412.766.3860 x325 for more info

2018 GOLF CLASSIC Benefits Sacred Heart School

Indian Pond Country Club | Kingston, MA

June 18, 2018 | 781.585.7511 for more info

5TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT Benefits Room at the Inn

Lake Forest Golf & Country Club | St. Louis, MO

September 24, 2018 | 314.209.9181, ext. 100 for more info

2018 DARE TO DREAM GALA Benefits Providence Heights Alpha School

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh - Cranberry | Mars, PA

November 3, 2018 | 412.366.4455 for more info

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.

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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Sisters of Divine Providence

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SPRING/SUMMER 2018



How Can You Protect Me?

Providence
ON THE PERIPHERY



Michele Bisbey, CDP
Provincial Director

A number of years ago we fostered a 9-month-old baby girl, who I'll call Hannah. She was the victim of unspeakable physical abuse at the hands of a caregiver. Hannah had a distressingly flat affect, especially around adults. Gratefully, our 9-year-old foster son Joey was a pro at getting giggles from her. Thanks to his persistent interaction with Hannah, we began to see faint hints of healing. I went to juvenile court for the standard 30 day review hearing, fully expecting that Hannah would be staying with us for a longer period of time. Her mother was 16 years old and living in a homeless shelter without material resources or family support. In truth, she was

in as much need of nurturance as was her daughter. To my utter dismay, the judge ordered that Hannah and her mother be immediately reunited in the homeless shelter!

After assuring the young mother that we would continue to help her in any way we could, I hurried home to break the news to the rest of the family and prepare Hannah for the caseworker who would be transporting her to the shelter that very day. That evening, in an effort to distract ourselves from all the feelings of loss and concern about Hannah and her mother, we went to a nearby restaurant for dinner. Throughout the meal, Joey kept excusing himself to go to the restroom. His return from a fourth trip coincided with the arrival of two members of the local police force seeking the person who was making multiple calls to 911! The guilty party was our son! When asked why he would do such a thing, he tearfully explained, "I needed to see if it worked. If you couldn't protect Hannah, how can you protect me?"

Over the years, I've thought of that question, "how can you protect me?" every time I hear of yet another act of violence, another instance of discrimination, another marginalization of those who are poor. What response do women and men of Providence offer to such occurrences? As the following articles demonstrate, we're committed to making God's Providence visible through our advocacy and through our presence. We attempt to promote every form of non-violence; we endeavor to share our resources; and we strive to risk being marginalized for our choices and our commitments. We are so grateful for all the ways your support of our ministries helps us to be and know the protection of our Provident God.

Presence & Advocacy

By being present with others through active support and advocacy, we advance peace and justice.

OUR VISION

Inspired by Mother Marie, who in response to the lure of Providence, sacrificed her religion, family and culture, we, as women religious called to a prophetic life form and compelled to make God's providence visible, choose a future characterized by justice and compassion.

- We are energized by the life of Bishop Ketteler, who made God's providence visible as he confronted those in civil and ecclesiastical authority; who risked his status and reputation in the pursuit of justice; who opened his home to the poor, in the name of compassion.
- We are blessed by God's indiscriminate graciousness,
- We live in the abundance of God's loving providence,
- And we are strengthened by the bonds of inclusive community.

Therefore,

- we will cherish our intercultural and international ties;
- we will strive for right relationships with all;
- we will courageously risk being marginalized;
- we will live and promote every form of non-violence;
- we will generously share even in the midst of scarcity.

MARCHING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sister Karina Conrad, along with Sisters Ana Lydia Sonera Matos and Marise Hrabosky, organized our participation in Pittsburgh's March for Our Lives event on March 24. An estimated 30,000 people took to the streets in downtown Pittsburgh—one of the largest groups ever assembled in the city. The event—created, inspired and led by students across the country—was in response to the February 14 mass shooting at a Florida high school that left 17 dead. Through their efforts, the students and their supporters hoped to urge Congress to reduce gun violence and increase school safety. The Pittsburgh event was a coordinated effort to stand in solidarity with those who were marching in Washington, D.C., and in hundreds of other cities nationwide on the same day. “Common sense gun laws are a social justice issue. As Sisters of Divine Providence, we promote peace and justice. I hope to continue to support the youth of our nation who are affected by gun violence,” said Sister Karina. Special thanks to those who commented on our Facebook page (@cdpsisters) in appreciation of our participation in the event:

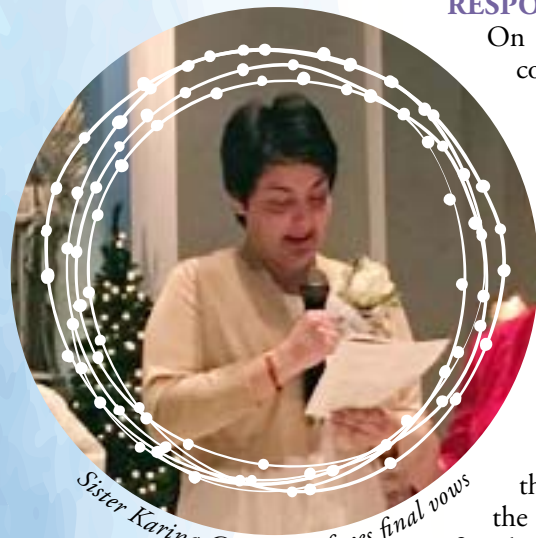
“Thank you for supporting our committed and peaceful young protesters.”

“Hurray for the Sisters and their social conscience.”

“What a proud moment!”



Sisters Marise Hrabosky, Ana Lydia Sonera Matos and Karina Conrad



Sister Karina Conrad professes final vows

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

On January 6, with Sisters, family, friends and colleagues in attendance, Sister Karina Conrad professed her final vows in the community with faith-filled optimism and hope. “The day I professed my final vows was a dream come true,” she said. Born in Miami, Sister Karina entered the Congregation of Divine Providence as a novice in 2011. During her years of discernment, she embraced a lifelong journey of seeking God and acknowledged the path was not always easy. Sister Karina's main influence for choosing apostolic religious life was Jesus and His example of unconditional love for all through His serving of others. She also credits the Sisters of Divine Providence—whom she first learned of through an internet search and her acquaintance with Sister Carole Riley—and our fervor to serve others through our ministries as a large part of what attracted her to religious life. “As I reflect on my journey, I am grateful for my vocation,” she said.

In May 2018, Sister Karina graduated from Carlow University in Pittsburgh with a dual master's degree in Professional Counseling and Student Affairs. She also recently completed an internship at Slippery Rock University's Student Counseling Center where she provided support and help to students as they dealt with mental health issues, academic difficulties and the stressors of relationships. Prior to graduate school, Sister Karina ministered at La Roche College in Pittsburgh as the Coordinator of Service Learning and Campus Ministry for Service.

Currently, Sister Karina participates with the Religious Formation Conference and Catholic Theological Union's *Together* collaborative, which is a program for religious women and men in formation. “As women continue to be called to religious life and respond to the call with courage, the face of religious life is changing. Young women religious exploring their thoughts, values and realities give hope to all women who are called,” she said.

Sister Karina encourages those considering a calling to keep searching for God. “Every day I nurture my relationship with Jesus. My commitment to serving others and living the vows is a daily ‘yes.’” To learn more about our community and becoming a Sister, visit cdpsisters.org/sisters or call 412.931.5241.

SERVING IN RETIREMENT

Sister Mary Kriley served the people of Braxton County, West Virginia for 13 years (1994–2007) as both director of the food pantry at St. Michael's Mission in Burnsville and the Act II thrift store at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Gassaway. Although formally retired, Sister Mary's connection to the West Virginia community continues to this day. At least four times a year, Sister Mary and other Sisters, including Sister Agnes Vogel—who has a fondness for the area after spending a month there with Sister Mary—gather donations, pack up a van and make the 3-hour trip to Gassaway. Items are then sold at the thrift store for minimal cost—shirts, pants and shoes often sell for just 50 cents—and given to those in emergency situations or those affected by natural disasters.



Sister Mary Kriley packs a van with donations

Attitude of Gratitude

After WORDS



Mary Ellen Rufft, CDP

What an accurate picture of life's up's and down's is mirrored in this issue of Providence Alive!—from the pathetic echo of Joey's voice crying, “How can you protect me?” to the ecstatic joy of Karina's jubilant pronouncement of “forever” to our Provident God! Although we all, hopefully, have happy times in our lives, as well as difficult days, what can be frustrating is that there is no equality in what happens to whom! Why does a healthy man of 30 die suddenly of a heart attack and a frail elderly woman, seemingly ready to die, live past a 100 years? Since it's unlikely that we will know the answers to such conundrums in our lifetime, we pray that our Provident God will give us the strength and courage to help ourselves and others enjoy the good days and manage the difficult ones. But there is a potential problem here. As we practice these works of mercy, we, ourselves, could begin to feel sad and depressed about all the problems in our world. What are we to do to make sure that we can maintain a positive, hopeful outlook as we continue to minister to others?

Many years ago, I asked the teacher of one of my first psychology classes how we can keep our spirits up and not worry about all the sad situations around us. His answer was: “It's what you think that causes your feelings, so all you have to do is change your thinking.” He said that as though changing our thinking should be an easy thing to do. I later learned that he was right about the power our thinking has over us. I remember experiencing that power one morning years ago when I began to drive to work feeling normally light and happy. Fifteen minutes later, when I pulled into a parking lot, my feelings were completely changed. I was sad and dispirited. What happened in that short time was all I had thought about were problems—my own, my clients', my friends' and even the world's!

Thankfully, shortly after that incident, a friend gave me a good article to read. It described the importance of having an “attitude of gratitude.” I was drawn to that idea because I believe that thankfulness is the appropriate response to our indiscriminately gracious God. So, as I try to cultivate an “attitude of gratitude,” I'm learning which feelings are clues that I'm thinking of something other than grateful and hopeful thoughts—and I'm practicing changing my thinking, just like my teacher decades ago told me I could and should do. My prayer is that you also might decide to change whatever thoughts cause you to feel sad or disheartened and adopt an attitude of gratitude that will enable you to be good to yourself as well as to others in need.

DEDICATING TO APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

Community members, Associates, family and friends gathered to celebrate with Sister Margaret Ann Modro at a Eucharistic Liturgy on January 28 as she professed her temporary vows and received the visible symbol of her commitment. Through prayer, study and community experience, Sister Margie's continued vocation discernment will broaden her understanding and appreciation of the challenges and life-giving characteristics of religious life.

