

Women of Providence in

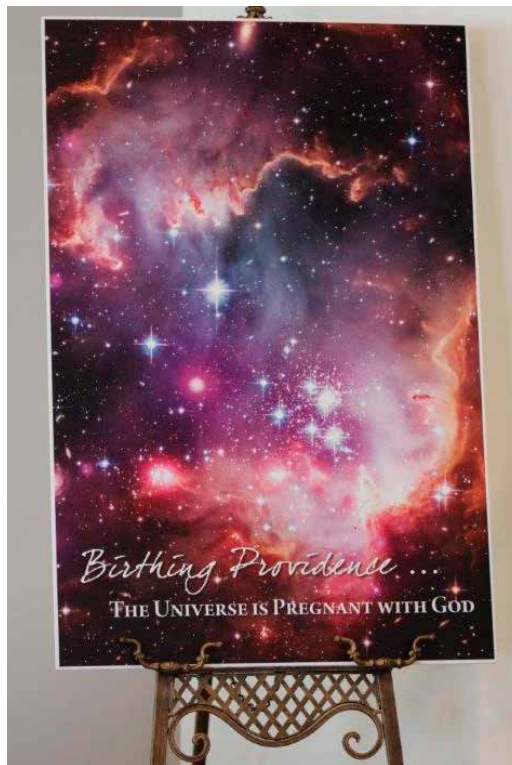
Collaboration

Volume X Issue II Summer 2015

Birthing Providence.... the Universe is Pregnant with God

The long awaited and much anticipated Providence Event took place on June 19-21 at St. Mary of the Woods campus in Terre Haute, Indiana. Over 300 registrants enjoyed a weekend full of wonderful presentations, the 35th special anniversary program, and a beautiful Sunday Liturgy. The featured speaker for the Event was Ilia Delio, OSF, who gave the participants quite a ride through the cosmos and concluded on Saturday morning by challenging the Sisters and Associates of Providence to continue evolving Providence into the future.

She charged us with recovering the capacity for wonder and awe, to live in the primacy of love, to see ourselves as part of the whole evolving each day. We are all called to love,



to be bound to the ultimate Love, which is Providence. This Love, God, is the center and animator of Love in the Universe and has a deeply personal love for all beings that we might come to fullness of life. This cosmic Providence is about trust, surrender, humility, dispossession, compassion and inner spiritual evolution. Upon this path we are charged to co-create this future world, that all may be one.

The Providence Event also showcased two new publications: *Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery*, and *Encountering Providence: A Retreat and Resource Manual*. Both had overwhelmingly positive reactions and feedback. Books were selling like hotcakes! If you didn't get one, see pages 30, 31 for order information. You don't want to be left out!!!



Denise Wilkinson, SP,
welcomes all to the
Providence Event.

On stage (left to right)
are Carol Stenger, CDP,
opening day ritual leader;
Barbara McMullen,
WPC Executive Director;
Ilia Delio, OSF, Event
speaker; and Kathleen
Popko, SP, WPC Board
Chair

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First Profession
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From your Executive director...

It truly takes a village to put an Event like this one together and have it run very smoothly. I had a wonderful Core Planning Team who met for over two years to plan and attend to all details. The time and work given helped to make this Providence Event and 35th anniversary a memorable one! Once again, thank you to: Dianne Brennen, SP, Diane Mason, SP, Carol Stenger, CDP, and Debbie Dillow and Donna Esposito, Associates. Thanks also to our two facilitators, Paula Damiano, SP and Jude Magers, PA as well as to our Liturgy director, Jeremy Gallet, SP.

At the conclusion of the Sunday Liturgy I thanked many people, but regrettably I skipped two groups. I want to particularly thank the dancers: Mary Florence Anyabounwu, Wendolyn Lopez, Karin Dufault,



**Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP
WPC executive director**

Donna Gribshaw, Esther Guerrero, and Traci Horan who added much joy and grace to the rituals.

Saturday afternoon we hosted breakout sessions and I want to thank each of the leaders of those sessions as well. Body and Breath Payer with Wendolyn Lopez Santos, CDP; Mandalas with Mary John

Trevino, MCDP; Creative Writing with Diann Neu, PA; Sounds of the Universe with Cathy Brunner, ACDP; Shibashi Movement with Pauline Lally, SP; Stargazing with Bertshabe Palomino Montalvo, CDP; Galaxy Body Movement with Elizabeth Okeksak, SP; Universe Presentation with Paul Turnbull, CDPA; Contemplative Prayer with Marilyn Webb, PA; and Guided Tours of the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Shrine with Jan Craven, SP and Nancy Nolan, SP. According to the Evaluations, people enjoyed whichever breakout session they attended. Thank you to all the presenters!!!

Since they say pictures are better than a thousand words, I leave you with more photos from this exciting, wonderful and memorable Providence Event!

Barbara



Wendolyn Lopez Santos, CDP, leads the Body and Breath Prayer breakout session.



Mandalas were the subject of the breakout session led by Mary John Trevino, MCDP.





Provident Associate Diann Neu led the breakout session on Creative Writing.



Shibashi Movement was the breakout session led by Pauline Lally, SP.



The breakout session on Sounds of the Universe was led by Cathy Brunner, ACDP.



Bertshabe Palomino Montalvo, CDP, led the participants in the Stargazing breakout session to reflect on images from the Hubble telescope.





Elizabeth Oleksak, SP, demonstrates Galaxy Body Movement in this breakout session.



Nancy Nolan, SP, conducted a Tour of the Mother Theodore Shrine in this breakout session.



CDP Associate Paul Turnbull (below) led this breakout session with a presentation on the universe.



These participants are practicing contemplative prayer while sitting in the chapel under the guidance of Marilyn Webb, PA.





Jeremy Gallet, SP, leads the choir and musicians at Opening Ritual.

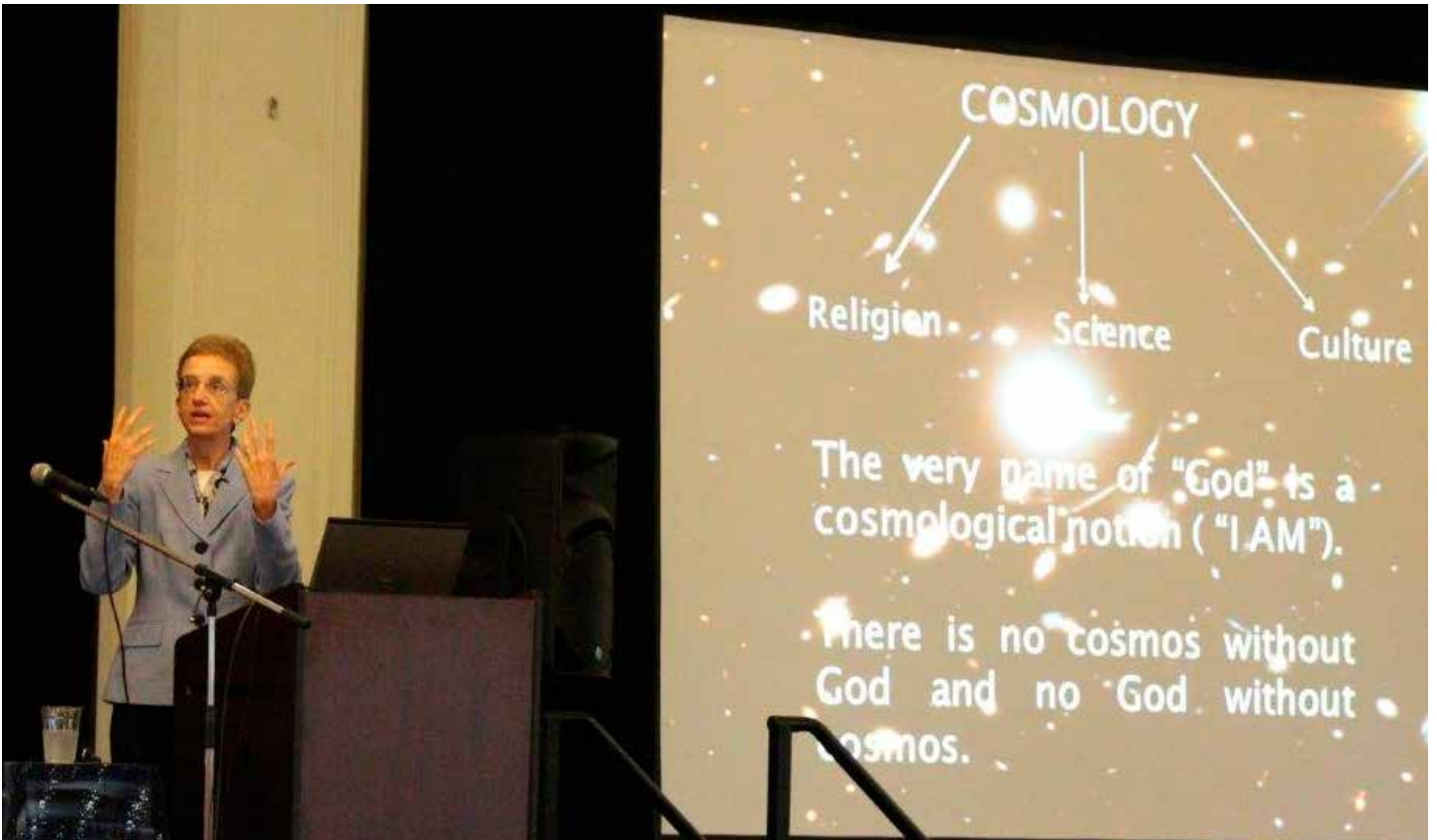
Dancers Karin Dufault, SP, and Mary Florence Anyabuonwu, CDP, get ready to place the Cosmic centerpieces on tables.



Table groupings introducing themselves.



Participants Bless Ilia Delio, OSF, speaker and facilitators Jude Magers, PA and Paula Damiano, SP.



Ilia Delio, OSF, giving her presentation.

Table groups in discussion.



Group interaction with Ilia.



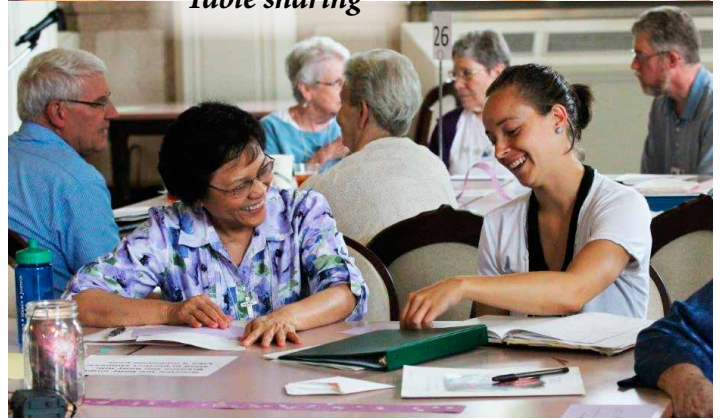
Some Core Team members sharing



Table sharing



Friday evening's wine and cheese social



Ilia's presentation on Saturday morning.



Saturday morning prayer ritual





Golf carts provided campus transportation.



CDP Associate Gil Weyhaupt took photos of each member congregation group.



35th Anniversary program



First Steering Committee



*Mary Catherine Hunt, CDP,
First WPC Executive Director*



Providence Event Core Planning Team



Thanking Ilia Delio, OSF



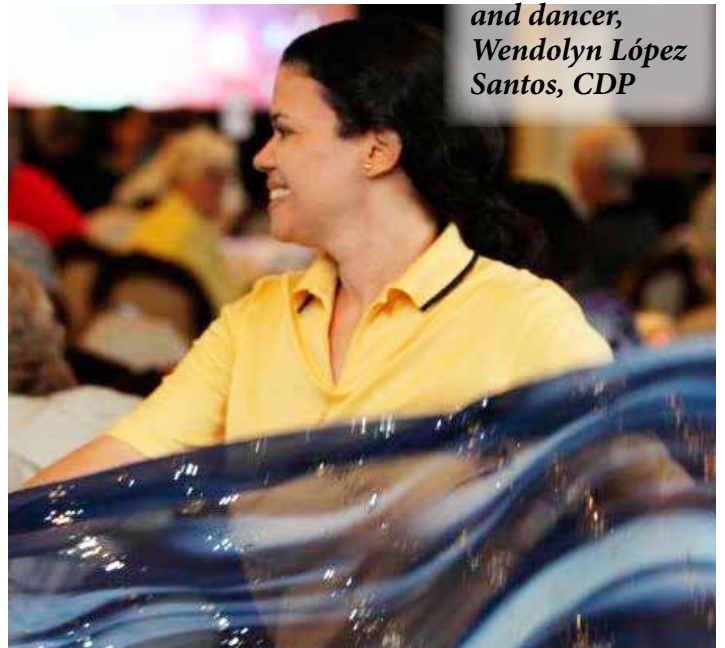
Ruth McGoldrick, SP, was honored as a co-founder of Women of Providence in Collaboration.



Sunday Eucharist and dancer, Wendolyn López Santos, CDP



Members of the First Steering Committee were honored with a rose.





Sunday morning choir



A participant looks at one of our sponsor's ads in the liturgy booklet.



Sign of peace at end of Sunday Liturgy.



People saying goodbye and leaving on Sunday at the end of the Providence Event.



CDP Associates Linda Hoefflin (left) and Diane Bailey visit the alpacas.

Visit www.wpcweb.org for additional photos from the event!

Bell Tower Receives Much-Needed Renovation

It's probably true of all our motherhouses. We have a special place of worship. This special place for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods is the Church of the Immaculate Conception, fondly called "the Big Church."

The Big Church has stood watch over our woods since 1886. Exactly 100 years after its foundation was laid, the Church was closed for nearly a year to strengthen the floor and bring the interior in compliance with the Second Vatican Council directives.

The beauty of the limestone façade belies the fact that the massive bell tower — from the dome at the very top to its base—is showing signs of deterioration. The mortar between many of the joints and cap stones has fallen out completely or partially. The rotting frames and broken panes of 39 windows, along with the mortar, will be replaced.

The original plan was to erect scaffolding around the entire church structure and to make the repairs from there. Then, as Providence would have it, a friend of one of our sisters put us in touch with Indiana Landmarks. They were aware of a company that does the same work from a crane, with workers suspended in a large wire-mesh platform.

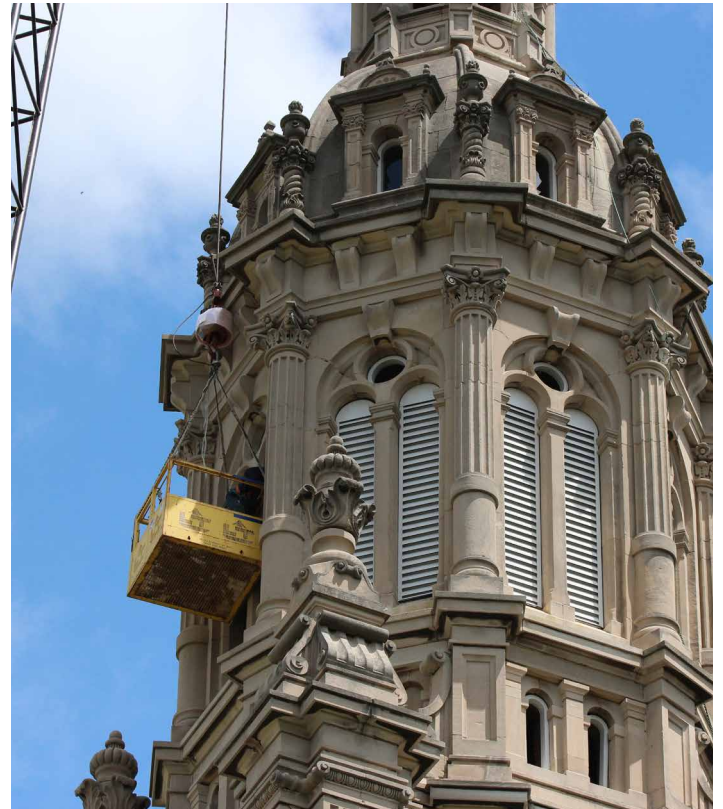


A worker operates the power-washer from the wire-mesh platform.

This "tip" caused the Church Capital Campaign to go from a goal of \$1.2 million to a goal of \$800,000. Other parts of the "bell tower project" include refurbishing the five massive doors of the church, power-washing the entire façade of the church and an adjacent building and replacing its many windows, making an outside entrance near the church accessible to people with disabilities and overall landscaping when the project is complete.

The Sisters of Providence are intentional about sharing our facilities and our beautiful, sacred grounds with the public. A recently completed renovation of Providence Spirituality and Conference Center and the new shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin have only increased the number of visitors to the church.

Many visitors attend Sunday Mass and our popular Sunday Brunch at the Woods. On the second Tuesday of each month, an average of 150 people of all faith traditions joins us for Taizé prayer. Throughout the year programs, tours and sponsored events attract visitors and guests. Come visit us!



A close-up view showing the new louvers and windows in the bell tower.

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

Moving On From Transition

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods have faced a time of transition and are moving forward. In April 2014, the sisters received funds through the National Religious Retirement Office to conduct a study of buildings and land holdings at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. In July 2014, the sisters started working with Hoffman Planning, Design and Construction, Appleton, WI. The firm recommended that the sisters transition out of Owens Hall and repurpose the former Woods Day Care/Pre-School as a new administration

building. Woods Day Care had closed in early 2014. "We're able to put it to good use," Director of Facilities Brad Bowen said. "It was Providence. There was no pre-determined discussion. It just happened."

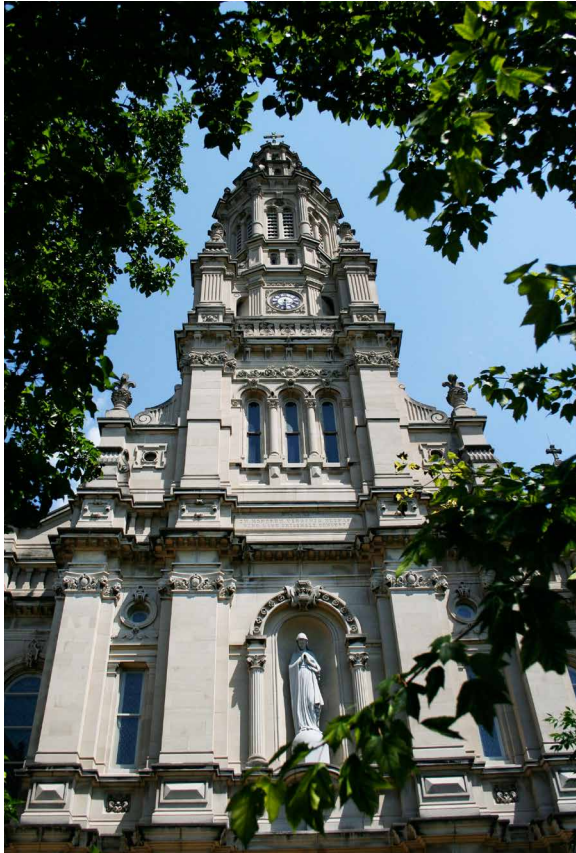
Analysis conducted found that the care and upkeep of Owens Hall was cost prohibitive. The hall was built as a novitiate in 1959, and has served in years as a residence for sisters and the primary location for administration offices of the Congregation. As a result, 37 sisters are moving from Owens Hall to other residences on campus, and approximately 45 people will be moved to office space in the new administration building.



The former Woods Day Care/Pre-School building is being renovated to hold the general administration and department staffs.

The remodeling of the former Woods Day Care began in May 2015 and is expected to be completed by the end of July. Bowen said the general administration and department staffs will begin moving into the new administration building shortly after.

Providence Center Offers Something For Everyone!



The Church of the Immaculate Conception is a peaceful place to visit, pray at and tour while visiting the Sisters of Providence.

Choosing a retreat, sabbatical or attending a spiritual program with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods provides the opportunity for time away from the usual activity of life to be quiet, pray, reflect, learn and grow. The beautiful grounds of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods provide an atmosphere of peaceful quiet that allows you to enter into sustained silence in order to pray more deeply, listen more carefully and respond more fully to God's movement within.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods is an inviting peace-filled environment featuring 1,050-acres with paths, old trees, alpacas, an organic farm and small lakes that make it an oasis of tranquility in the heart of west central Indiana. The Woods is also a place to rest, renew your spirit and reconnect in a meaningful way with the Divine.

Because each person is in search of something different when it comes to a retreat or sabbatical, you will have the benefit of one of our staff members to assist you in planning your time. Contact Providence Spirituality & Conference Center at 812-535-2952 or provctr@spsmw.org to start planning your retreat or sabbatical today.

To learn more about scheduled events, programs and workshops, visit Events.SistersofProvidence.org.

July through September events are also listed on the Women of Providence website: www.wpcweb.org.



Three Sisters of Providence Honored

Sister Kathleen Popko Honored with Justice and Peace Award

Sister of Providence President Kathleen Popko was presented the “Sister Agnes Broderick Justice and Peace Award” from Providence Ministries Service Network (PMSN) on April 7. The award ceremony took place during the agency’s Annual Meeting and 35th Anniversary Celebration.

Former Holyoke Mayor Elaine Pluta presented the plaque to Sister Kathleen, whom she described as her “friend and former Holyoke High School classmate.” Of the recipient, she said, “Sister Kathleen has dedicated her life to God and the community of people served by all of the many Sisters of Providence programs and missions. Families and children, young and old, the sick and the poor, have all been beneficiaries of her work.”

Karen Blanchard, Executive Director, added, “Just like Sister Broderick in the early years, Sister Kathleen has offered her unconditional support to the Ministries. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated person advocating for the continuance of our mission. She is truly carrying on Sister Broderick’s legacy of helping those most in need.”

Most recently, Sister Kathleen and her Council significantly refurbished the exterior of a Congregation-owned three-story brick building, including construction of new porches and handicap ramp. They worked with Providence Ministries to use the site for its new



Former Holyoke Mayor Elaine Pluta (left) presents Sr. Kathleen Popko with the “Sister Agnes Broderick Justice and Peace Award.”

ministry, a sober living residence for men, now opened and named McCleary Manor. Providence Ministries collaborated by completing a number of interior renovations to ready the building for occupancy.

Sister Senga Fulton Receives Human Service Award

Sister Senga Fulton, SP, received the Human Service Forum’s (HSF) “Robert J. Van Wart Manager Award” during HSF’s Annual Awards Banquet on May 20. Sister Senga is a licensed clinical social worker.

Currently employed by the Mental Health Association, she directs Annie’s House in Springfield. Annie’s House offers transitional congregate living to single women who are homeless and living on low or fixed incomes. Sister Senga co-founded the program in 1997. (On June 1, 2015, the program began offering permanent housing.)

The “Robert J. Van Wart Manager Award” recognizes

Sister Senga as an individual who is a leader in a non-profit or public service organization and consistently demonstrates leadership skills, which help her agency, the Mental Health Association, actualize its mission and improve the lives of those it serves. It is named for Bob Van Wart, one of HSF’s founders.

Barbara Pilarcik, executive director of the Association for Community Living, made the presentation. “Sister Senga’s sincere and tenacious focus on the needs of women, the poor, and the mentally challenged has resulted in more than one success,” said Pilarcik. “Sister Senga views unemployment and lack of affordable housing as the root causes of homelessness, and is always looking for solutions to address them.”

Continued on the next page.



Three Sisters of Providence Honored

Sister Margaret McCleary Honored When Ministry is Named After Her

Blessing and Ribbon Cutting ceremonies were held on May 29 for McCleary Manor, Providence Ministries' new sober living residence named in honor of Sister Margaret McCleary, SP. Sister Margaret founded Providence Ministries for the Needy in 1980. Now known as Providence Ministries Service Network (PMSN), the agency's newest ministry was developed to provide a safe, sober, and affordable housing environment for 25 men.

"I was stunned," said Sister Margaret referring to her reaction on learning the PMSN Board chose to name the ministry and its building in her honor. "I am so grateful," she continued, "because I know it will be a program that will provide supportive and compassionate care to the men who will call this place 'home.'"

Sister Margaret founded Providence Ministries 35 years ago when she opened Kate's Kitchen on September 27, 1980, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, her Community's patron. Kate's Kitchen offered "a hot meal, seven days a week, 365 days a year, no questions asked." During her ten years as Executive Director she advocated tirelessly for those in need by expanding Providence Ministries to include the Loreto House Shelter for women and children, and converting a former rectory building into Broderick House, a multi-service ministry of five programs: a shelter for homeless men; St. Jude's Center, which distributed donated clothes and furniture; Open Pantry; the Children's Kitchen; and St. Joseph of Arimathea Guild, offering assistance with wakes and funerals for people in need. Her wonderful legacy continues and evolves through the dedicated people at Providence Ministries who have followed in her footsteps.



Sister Senga Fulton after she received the Robert J. Van Wart Managers Award---thanking HSF for the honor.

"I knew Bob (Van Wart) and I am familiar with his many accomplishments and contributions to the human service field," commented Sister Senga. "So it is indeed both an honor and privilege to receive this award named in his honor." She added, "It's nice to be recognized for doing your job, but it is even more rewarding when the recognition is for doing something you love to do."

From left, those at the ribbon cutting were: Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse; Kathleen Anderson, President of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce; Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield; Sister Margaret McCleary, SP; Karen Blanchard, executive director of Providence Ministries Services Network; Sisters of Providence President Kathleen Popko; Holyoke City Councilor Anthony Soto; Providence Ministries Board Chair Jean Zaleski; and state Senator Donald Humason.



Sisters of Providence Dedicate Wall of Remembrance

The Sisters of Providence of Holyoke recently completed a Wall of Remembrance at Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, MA, as part of their 140th Anniversary celebrations. On April 9, Sister Kathleen Popko, SP President, joined with Dan Moen, CEO/President, in a ceremony of gifting the Wall to the Sisters of Providence Health System. The approximate 125 people witnessed the ceremony in the Deliso Center before moving to the Medical Center's atrium entrance to view the recently installed Wall in its permanent location.

Sister Kathleen Popko described the Wall as “a visible expression of the history and ministries of the Sisters of Providence. It is a reminder,” she continued, “of our Congregation’s 140 years (1873-2013) of preparing soil, sowing seeds, and reaping the fruit of our labors.” The Sisters’ dream, she shared, “is that those who come after us will continue to harvest from this field of rich blessings.” She affirmed that expectation, saying, the Sisters “are wholeheartedly confident that those who serve in all the ministries within SPHS will continue to plant new seeds, and tend the roots that have grown deep and strong over the course of 140 years.” Currently SPHS has 3,215 colleagues throughout western Massachusetts.

Titled, “The Sisters of Providence: A History of Providential Caring,” the over 50-foot, five panel exhibit

artistically depicts through photos, symbols, and text an impressive number of key moments and ministries throughout the Sisters’ 140 years of history.

During the ritual, Sister Kathleen addressed Daniel Moen, SPHS President, saying: “It is our heartfelt hope and desire that all those who pause to reflect upon this history will be inspired by the labor of love that was ours through these many years.”

Sisters Elizabeth Oleksak, Ann Horgan and Mary Caritas presented Moen with several meaningful gifts: a packet of seeds as a symbol and reminder that SPHS “continue to plant the seeds of hope and healing;” a candle signifying that the “God of Light will give you wisdom, insight and guidance as you lead this ministry into the future;” and a plaque, “marking this day of gifting” to accompany the Wall.

Moen accepted the symbolic gifts and called the Wall of Remembrance “a sacred reminder of the courage, vision and tenacity of our Sisters, past and present. The Wall,” he continued, “is a stunning piece of art that everyone who walks in our front door is going to see.” To the Sisters, he said, “Your work inspires us and compels us to not ever forget those in the community in need of our services.”



Visitors at the dedication view a section of one of the Wall panels.



U.S.-Latin American Sisters Exchange Program

Our providential God is always inspiring believers to find creative ways to respond to the needs of the people who are most in need. I would like to share about one of these new ventures that has called women religious from Latin America to become missionaries in our country.

As the Hispanic population in the Catholic Church continues to increase, Catholic Extension Society has launched a creative response to the pastoral needs, especially of Hispanic Catholics, in the United States. Last August, eleven mission dioceses were chosen to participate in the U.S. Latin American Sisters Exchange Program: Bismarck, ND, Charleston, SC, Des Moines, IA, Kalamazoo, MI, Little Rock, AR, Monterey CA, Richmond, VA, San Angelo, TX, San Bernardino, CA, Tyler, TX, and Yakima, WA.

Religious Congregations from Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, and Puerto, are collaborating with Catholic Extension, the mission dioceses, and the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), in preparing and enabling Latin American Sisters to reach many marginalized Catholics in Hispanic Catholic communities and, over time, develop new lay leaders for ministry for the Church in the U.S. as well as create new interest for vocations of service in the Church among young men and women.



This is a five-year project for a group of thirty-five Sisters. In preparation for their ministry, the Sisters participated in Sisters Intercultural Studies (SIS), an intensive nine-week training program at MACC in San Antonio, Texas, consisting of various components:

- Language: Intensive studies in English as a second language
- Pastoral: Sessions on issues in ministry in U.S. parishes and dioceses along with integration seminars
- Cultural: Sessions on popular religiosity in the contemporary Church and local cultural excursions
- Religious life: Introduction to the diverse models of living religious life in the U.S.
- Professional: Workshops in leadership for Hispanic ministry and multiculturalism
- Spiritual: Participation in daily liturgy and weekly spiritual direction
- Social: Gatherings for fun and sharing with other students and staff

Mentoring program: I serve as associate professor of pastoral theology at MACC and I am also coordinating the mentoring component of this project. This is a providential moment for me and for my community, the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence. We are being invited to journey with women religious who have generously accepted the missionary call to serve in the United States. We have the privilege of being bi-lingual and bi-cultural, born in the U.S. and ministering among diverse faith communities. Six MCDP's and two CDP's

are serving as mentors along with 12 women religious from congregations who have been ministering in the United States for a long time. They are hispanic, members of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word; Daughters of Charity; Missionaries of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; Benedictine Sisters; Cordi-Marian Sisters; Sisters of

the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament; Sisters of the Sacred Heart; and Sisters of Providence. Some are journeying with individual Sisters, others with groups of Sisters in the same religious order as they transition into a new culture, language, and ministerial context.

Some of the mentors met their mentees at a social gathering at MACC in August when the project was initiated, others joined them for a meal when they could be available. Some of the mentors also joined the Sisters when they returned to MACC for their Lenten retreat.

The role of the mentors is to be in regular communication with the mentees through phone, email, Skype, or other means. They provide support, affirmation, encouragement for the Sisters who are in transition and offer insights from their own experiences of religious life and pastoral ministry. They are able to empathize with the questions, concerns, and challenges that the Sisters may be experiencing and invite them to further growth.

I am looking forward to many more providential moments as we journey into more international collaboration in religious life.

--By Sister Guadalupe Ramirez, MCDP, D. Min.



Last Sisters of Providence Leave Ministry in Montana

Two Sisters of Providence took more than their luggage with them when they boarded a plane at the airport in Great Falls, Mont., in the crisp early evening of Monday, February 2. Sisters Maryann Benoit and Ann Dolores Ybarrola, with 152 years of religious life between them, were the last Sisters of Providence to serve the needs of God's people in Montana. They carried the faith, hopes, dreams, accomplishments and legacy of countless Sisters of Providence who have served in ministry in the state since 1864.

The first Sisters of Providence in Montana – Sisters Mary, Mary Edward, Remi and Paul Miki – arrived as missionaries. All were under 21 except for Sister Mary, who was 34. They traveled by boat from Fort Vancouver up the Columbia River to Fort Walla Walla, where there were joined by three Jesuit priests. The travelers came east across the Rocky Mountains, making their way on horseback for 400 of the last 700 miles. Escorted by Chief Saltese, they arrived on October 17, 1864, at St. Ignatius Mission, where they met the Indians they had come to serve.

Called "Lady Blackrobes" by the Indians, they were the first Catholic sisters to arrive in Montana. "You are the first white women who ever crossed the high Rocky Mountains," the chief of the Flathead Indians is said to have told them. "The Indians admire your bravery."

The sisters' initial focus was to introduce a "civilized way of life," beginning with lessons on Christian values taught to Indian children in schools for girls, some of them boarders. Boys were taught by the Jesuits. The schools were funded partially by the sisters begging in mining camps and by mission funds and personnel supplied by the Catholic Church. The first government financial assistance of \$2,100 arrived in 1874, grew to \$4,000 a year in 1878-1890, and then evaporated. Those early educational efforts later spread to other western states.

Wherever the sisters had settled since the arrival of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, foundress of the Sisters of Providence in the West in Fort Vancouver in 1856, they opened hospitals and/or schools, began social services and were asked to teach religion to the settlers' children. Following that tradition, the sisters in Montana pioneered early hospitals in Missoula (1873), Fort Benton (1886) and Great Falls (1892).



Maryann Benoit, SP

Sister Maryann traces her introduction to Montana to her days as a student at the College of Great Falls (CGF), where she earned a BA degree in education and English in 1953. After teaching elementary and secondary school, she returned to Montana as a professor in the English department of her alma mater, where she served for 19 years. She was invited to teach in Japan and was an advisor to Japanese students at CGF. In 2000, the University of Great Falls Alumni As-

sociation presented her with the Alumni Recognition Award for outstanding leadership, professional achievement and scholarly work.

Sister Ann Dolores is a Montana native, born in Havre, and lived in the state for much of her life. She was educated at St. Thomas School in Great Falls, where her father arranged for his children to be cared for after the death of their mother at 35. She spent classes in summer sessions at CGF to earn a degree like so



Ann Dolores Ybarrola, SP

many other Sisters of Providence, and then became an elementary school teacher. She delighted in the fact that the classroom she and other first- and second-grade boarders were taught in at St. Thomas Home in 1944-45 was the very same one she was assigned to teach first graders in nine years later. She later was a high school teacher, principal and office manager at Sacred Heart Academy in Missoula and Central Catholic High School in Great Falls. She served in ministry at the College (University) of Great Falls for 19 years, in institutional research, the registrar's office and financial aid. Upon her retirement, she was presented at the 1992 commencement

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Honors for a hero

Sisters Return to El Salvador for Beatification of Archbishop Romero

Images of martyred Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero and of Blessed Emilie Gamelin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence, are side by side in the logo for the sisters' Providence Scholarship Program. Three Sisters of Providence who follow in the footsteps of Blessed Emilie returned home to El Salvador last month for the beatification of the archbishop, one of their heroes.

Their native country and its people were racked by civil war from 1980 to 1992. The Sisters of Providence established a mission there in 1995 and for more than two decades have helped bring hope to young people through educational scholarships.

The beatification of Archbishop Romero was held Saturday, May 23, in the Plaza of the Savior of the World, in San Salvador. For the three sisters who traveled there from Spokane, Wash., Portland, Ore., and San Antonio, Texas, it was to be an intensely personal occasion and celebration.

Sister Vilma Franco, who lost her father and six brothers in the civil war, welcomes the honor for the man who kindled her passion for justice and for the poor. Sister Ana Dolores Orellana Gamero, of Portland, is thrilled that her father, a catechist for the archbishop, would be officially recognized as a martyr. Sister Margarita Hernandez, one of the sisters' early scholarship recipients, currently is enrolled in the Catholic Leadership Program at Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) in San Antonio, Texas.

"The strength of our three Sisters of Providence from El Salvador and their resolve to share the Good News of Jesus Christ comes from the depth of suffering with family and fellow citizens during the civil war," said Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais, SP. "The influence of Arch-



Vilma Franco, SP

bishop Romero is profound and is an inspiration to their ministry with those who are poor and vulnerable. Their love of life and concern for the marginalized is evident in their daily lives. It is an honor to have them present for the beatification ceremony."

Sister Vilma came to Spokane in 2006 from El Salvador, where she had been working as a catechist when she met the Sisters of Providence. Perhaps even more important than putting Archbishop Romero one step closer to sainthood is the hope and healing this moment represents. It is the kind of healing that helped Sister Vilma overcome her

distrust and anger at the United States for its role in the civil war in El Salvador. She became a U.S. citizen last January 6. Her ministry in Spokane is in early childhood education at St. Aloysius School.

Sister Ana Dolores only learned the truth about her father's death a year later. She had been told that José Estanislao Orellana Villalobos, known as Tanis to family and friends, had died of a heart attack a few months after Archbishop Romero's death. At the time, she was living in Rome, Italy, with the congregation of Mothers of the Orphans. She transferred her vows to the Sisters of Providence in 2005.



Ana Dolores Orellana-Gamero, SP

Sister Ana was reunited with her mother Transito, who had found sanctuary at St. Ann's Church in Spokane, and with her sister Luisa Westbrook, a Providence Associate in Yakima, Wash. Today, Sr. Ana works with the homeless and with couples seeking reconciliation in Portland. Her father's body has never been found.

Two of the three Salvadoran sisters who were featured recently in a story for Global Sisters Report, a project of National Catho-

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Sisters Honored

◆ Sister Margaret Mertens, CDP, was honored during National Catholic Schools Week as the 2015 distinguished graduate of St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville, MO. In the Fall of 2014, Sister Margaret was invited by St. Stanislaus to share her background, as well as the story of the La Posada Providencia ministry, with faculty and students. In speaking about Sister Margaret's presentation to the school, principal Mrs. Nancy Heberlie said, "You could feel her passion! It was through this presentation to the students and staff that my eyes were opened more clearly about the immigration issue in our country."



◆ Sister Ann Therese Connolly, CDP, was honored with the Veritas Award by Sacred Heart School at their annual gala. This award is presented to individuals whose lives are the embodiment of Veritas – the pursuit of truth; a truth that has been the foundation of the educational system for generations. Sister Ann Therese has dedicated many years of leadership at Sacred Heart Elementary and received the award amidst a standing ovation of parents, friends, family, and Sisters.



◆ Sister Linda Hylla, CDP, received the Catholic Charities Mary Alyce Beardslee Distinguished Service Award from Madison County (IL) Catholic Charities on April 11, 2015. Sister Linda received the award for her outstanding community spirit, compassion and her ministry with young children and their families. The award is named for Mary Alyce Beardslee who worked for Catholic Charities for many years placing children with adoptive families. Sister Stephanie Turck, CDP, received this award in 2014 and Sister Mary Thomas Jirauch, CDP, who is now deceased, received it in 2007.



Leave Ministry

Continued from page 18

with the Emilie Gamelin Award "for dedicated service to the College of Great Falls in the spirit and example of Mother Emilie Gamelin".

After their retirement, the two housemates threw open their hearts and home to people who needed but could not afford assistance with writing applications and essays, editing and occasional translating. Sister Maryann also mentored writers and teachers, including some of her former students.

Sisters Maryann and Ann Dolores stayed in Montana for as long as they could, until the demands of age and infirmity led them to accompany Provincial Leader Judith Desmarais to their new home at St. Joseph's Residence in Seattle. Their days are spent with the sisters there, but no doubt Montana figures prominently in their dreams.

Sisters Return

Continued from page 19

lic Reporter. In El Salvador, they shared share their stories of fear, hurt, loss and healing with other Sisters of Providence who serve in ministry in La Papalota and Angela Montano: Sisters Marita Capili, Marilyn Charette, Marcia Gatica and Kathryn "Kitsy" Rutan. Together, they operate the scholarship program and provide formation activities for youth.

"The sisters who minister in El Salvador are also enriched with the spirit of Archbishop Romero and our foundress, Blessed Emilie Gamelin," Sister Judith said. "They know that the key to overcoming poverty is education and are working with and supporting young people who are focused on creating a better future for themselves and others."



Myra Rodgers, CDP, Receives Woman of Providence Award

The Woman of Providence Award is given annually at La Roche College's Commencement to a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence whose life of service, as a part of the mission of the Congregation, is a compelling example of God's Providence made visible. This year's recipient is Sister Myra Rodgers, CDP.



Sister Myra Rodgers entered religious life in 1953 at the age of 15 from St. Martin parish in Pittsburgh's West End neighborhood. Following her high school graduation from Divine Providence Academy, Sister Myra entered Duquesne University, earning both a Bachelor of Science in Music Education and a master's degree in music. After teaching in numerous Catholic grade schools in the Pittsburgh area, Sister Myra spent 13 years at St. Basil High School in Pittsburgh's Carrick neighborhood.

From 1974 to 1975, Sister Myra participated with the prestigious Apostolic Religious Communities in Rome, presenting scriptural and theological foundations of Consecrated Life. In 1980, Sister Myra was a presenter and writer for the first symposium of Women of Providence in Collaboration, an association of religious congregations bearing the name and charism of Providence. At the Providence: God's Face Toward the World conference in Pittsburgh in 1984, Sister presented her paper "Who Shall Find a Providence Woman," which is now a well-known literary piece used extensively by many religious congregations.

Sister Myra served with La Roche College from 1979 through 1981 in campus ministry and served on the college's Board of Directors until 1995, when she was elected General Superior of her Congregation, a position she held until 2007. As General Leader, Sister Myra led the process of unifying her congregation's three German provinces, the American provinces and Puerto Rico. Sister placed great emphasis on understanding and living the Providence charism throughout the entire international congregation, promoting growth and understanding of the challenge and the gift of internationality. Sister Myra returned to La Roche in 2008 as Special Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry; as an adjunct teacher of Religious

Studies; and, once again, as a member of the Campus Ministry staff. In 2011, Sister held the position of Liturgist and Musician.

Currently, Sister is the Administrator of Providence House in Kingston, MA; the Director of Mission Effectiveness for the Congregation; and chair of the Committee charged with writing the book on the history of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Her enthusiasm for the Sisters' charism and the excitement she finds in living that charism creatively for the people of God, outweigh any difficulties. Sister Myra says, "I believe in the mission of our congrega-

tion — to be the face of God's Providence. The strength and enthusiasm of my Sisters as they strive to live our mission, sustains and challenges me."

Welcome Sister Angela

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. 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.



Sisters of Divine Providence, Marie de La Roche Province

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, CDP, 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!



From left: Sister Lisa Paffrath, CDP; Kellee Fletcher; Sister Maura Luffy, CDP; and Sister Veronica Gumja Kim, CDP

Sisters of Divine Providence Host Catholic Sisters Leadership Council's Water Program

The program, "Water: Sacred Source and Sustainer of Life," was held at the Sisters of Divine Providence's Kearns Spirituality Center in Allison Park, PA, on Monday, May 11, 2015. In celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life, the Catholic Sisters Leadership Council (CSLC) of Western Pennsylvania sponsored the program.

Sister Maria Fest, CDP, welcomed the program attendees and introduced the keynote speaker, Sister Suzanne Golas, CSJP, director of Waterspirit—an ecology and spirituality ministry.



Sister Maria Fest, CDP

Sister Suzanne focused on the spirituality of water, its beauty and sacredness from an experiential, theological and scriptural perspective; the global, national and local water situation; and how we can address water problems and contribute to healthier water that is accessible to all people and living beings. The program also included input, reflection, discussion and sharing by the audience, which included Sisters, Associates, Ministry Affiliates, staff members and individuals who partner with our religious communities.



Sisters of Providence, Montreal

Appointments – Causes of Canonization of Blessed Emilie Tavernier Gamelin and of the Servant of God Bernarda Morin Rouleau

It is with great joy that we share this good news with you concerning the two causes of canonization currently in process in our Community.

After receiving the nomination from the General Leadership Team of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, Father Éric Sylvestre, PSS, legitimate Postulator of the Cause of Blessed Emilie Gamelin Tavernier (Protocol 1320) appointed Sister Yvette Demers, SP to the position of Vice-Postulator of the said cause, with all duties and privileges pertaining to this mission, in Rome, on May 2, 2015.

On the same date, after also receiving the nomination from the General Leadership Team of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, Father Éric Sylvestre, PSS, legitimate Postulator of the Cause of the Servant of God Bernarda Morin Rouleau (Protocol 2124) renamed Sister Claudia (Bernarda) Vargas Collao, SP to the position of Vice-Postulator of the said cause, with all duties and privileges pertaining to this mission.

We thank our Provident God for the life and gifts of Sisters Yvette and Claudia! We assure them of our support and prayer.

--General Leadership Team



Sister Yvette Demers the new Vice-Postulator of the Cause of Blessed Emilie Gamelin



Madre Claudia: Sister Claudia Vargas, the Vice-Postulator of the Cause of the Servant of God – Bernarda Morin



Sisters Welcome Sisters from Madagascar

The Sisters of Divine Providence of Kentucky recently welcomed Sister Marie Rose Ravelonanosy, CDP, and Sister Emeline Herisoa, CDP, from the province of Madagascar. The Sisters arrived in Kentucky on May 18 and will experience the American culture and improve their English language skills until they return to France on July 27th and eventually go back to their ministries in Madagascar. Sr. Marie Rose and Sr. Emeline both teach English to students in elementary schools. Their presence among American Sisters is also an opportunity to be enriched by their culture and the experience to get to know them, who share our charism so far away.

Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP Provincial of the Sisters of Divine Providence of Kentucky attended an inter-congregational meeting in France recently and shares some thoughts about the experience.

“The world blooms with the Providence of God” these words of Diane Langford, CDP of Texas pretty much sum up the 23rd Providence Assembly held in Portieux, France. The forty-seven sisters, all in positions of leadership in their congregations, founded by Blessed John Martin Moye and Fr. Louis Kremp, were from a global church. Natives of Belgium, Brazil, Congo, Ecuador, France, Haiti, India, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mexico, United States, and Vietnam represented 3,000 women religious ministering in twenty-seven nations. While the sessions were conducted in three languages (French, Spanish, and English), Vietnamese, Portuguese, Malgashy, Flemish, and several other languages could be heard in informal conversation and in song.

Within all the diversity was a feeling of family, of sisterhood. We spoke of common foundations and appreciated the displays depicting ministries and statistics that clearly showed that sisters are the face of providence around the globe. Each congregation has challenges and they come in many varieties. A main worldwide concern was education of younger mem-



Sister Marie Rose Ravelonanosy, CDP



Sister Emeline Herisoa, CDP

bers for ministry and their spiritual formation. Everyone at the meeting agreed that in today's world, members need to have open minds and hearts to find God Providence expressed in expected and unexpected people and places and to be God's love to people everywhere. A spirit of justifiable pride was present as congregation after congregation told of the zeal and sacrifices made daily to bring God's word to poor and marginalized people, be they children, elderly, sick, persecuted, displaced, or lonely. Around this troubled world we are hope-filled women, from many cultures and with varying experiences, open to serve and to praise God. The God of Providence is joyful, alive and at work in us. This I know.



Triennial Meeting of the Leaders of Moye/Kremp Congregations

Three of our WPC members belong to another family of Providence as well. In 1762, Father Jean Martin Moye sent 4 young ladies to tiny villages in France to teach the children, especially the girls, who otherwise would have had no education. From this humble beginning there have emerged six congregations, including the MCDP, the CDP of St. Jean de Bassel, France which has a province in Kentucky, and the CDP Texas. The other congregations are headquartered in Champion, Belgium and in Gap and Portieux in France. Father Louis Kremp founded another congregation of Sisters of Providence in Ribeauvillé, France using Fr. Moye's model. Leaders from these seven congregations gather every three years to pray together, share ideas, and plan for their future.

May 2015 was the time for this triennial meeting of the leaders of Moye/Kremp congregations; it was hosted in Portieux, France. The theme was "The Providence Family: Challenges, Testimony, Future". The Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence presented the "Challenges" topic; CDP San Antonio presented "Testimony," and the Gap and Portieux Congregations presented the "Future" topic.

CDP Texas was represented by Sister Estela Guadalupe Tovar, Mexico Regional Superior; Sister Helen Marie Miksch, General Councilor; and Sister Ann Petrus, General Superior. There were about 50 participants from many nations. All of the congregations except

the MCDPs and CDP Texas have significant numbers of members outside of the U.S. and Europe. Portieux, for example, has three provinces in Vietnam, including about 2/3 of their members. Their superior for the last two terms has been Vietnamese. Gap has a strong presence in the Americas. Their last superior was Mexican and the current one is Brazilian. Susan Baumann from Kentucky is the first non-European superior at St. Jean de Bassel. The following table gives the numbers of members of the various congregations. Africa and Asia are the primary areas of growth.

	<i>Annual Professed</i>	<i>Perpetual Professed</i>	<i>Total</i>
CDP TX	3	147	150
Champion	46	384	430
Gap	25	450	475
MCDP	1	32	33
Portieux	187	623	800
Ribeauvillé	3	356	359
St. J de B	25	470	495
Total	290	2462	2752

The new inter-congregational mission in Haiti was a topic of a lot of discussion. There are now three Sisters there—two from Gap and one from Champion. In 2018 the "Providence Family" will meet in Champion, Belgium



Twelve Jubilarians Celebrate in San Antonio

The Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio are delighted to announce they have twelve jubilarians in 2015. Combined, these women have completed 795 years of service to God.

Sister Ann Linda Bell (80 years) was inspired to enter religious life by the devotion of her teachers in Broussard, LA. She loved teaching and was able to share her love of religious life with young women who became Sisters.



Sister Ann Linda Bell

She was awed by the Sister's love of Jesus.

Sister Patricia Ann Sullivan (75 years) entered a boarding school run by the Sisters of Divine Providence at a very young age following the death of her father. She admired the Sisters and wanted to be like them.

Sister Joanne Eustice (70 years) was inspired to enter religious life early. By the time she was in fourth grade she knew she wanted to be a sister.

Sister Genevieve Prochaska (70 years) was never introduced to anyone in religious life, so she felt her calling was truly from God.

Sister Mary Rose Zimmerer (70 years) had many religious in her family and was inspired by that. She was also taught by the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Sister Constance Christopher (60 years) felt all her assignments have been positive experiences. She immensely enjoyed working with junior high students when she taught; she also was a counselor.



Sisters Madonna Sangalli, Theresa Ann Billeaud, Adrienne Marie Schmitzinsky

Sister Madonna Sangalli (60 years) served many years as the Treasurer for the congregation, just most recently stepping down from the Finance Office.

Sister Fran Trochta (60 years) appreciates how God has interwoven the threads of her varied ministries. In ways unexpected and meaningful, God's hand led her in ways that brought her the different faces of ministry in teaching, parish involvement and ministering to the terminally ill.

Sister Theresa Ann Billeaud (50 years) grew up in a family of nine daughters in Broussard, LA, and followed the example of four of her sisters who entered religious life.

Sister Maria Eva Flores, (50 years) upon reflection at an uncle's funeral in Fort Stockton, TX, acknowledged her spiritual genealogy and call to religious life was rooted in that small town's church, San José.

Sister Carolyn Pelzel (50 years) was inspired to enter religious life by the CDP Sisters who taught her in Olfen Public School in Texas. Sr. Marie de Chantal was the determining influence because of the daily discussions of world news, social issues, and social justice.



Sister Barbara Lynn Hyzak Reflects God's Providential Love for All

In answering the call to “reflect God’s providential love for all of creation” (Constitution, Sisters of Divine Providence), Sister Barbara Lynn Hyzak has served in various places as a nurse practitioner. “I have always loved nursing for its direct nurse-patient relationship. Completing studies and certification as a nurse practitioner (an advanced practice registered nurse) allows me to continue to use my nursing skills working directly with my patients.”

Most recently, Sister Barbara Lynn served for 15 years as a Certified Nurse Practitioner with the Kendall Medical Center in Boerne, Texas. Her announcement in May, 2014, of moving to another clinic was met by one patient after another with deep regret.

A former patient, Karen Bradshaw, describes Sister Barbara Lynn as a “lovely soul who looks you in the eye, takes a true interest in what you have to say, validates your feelings, is non-judgmental and has a sense of humor that can help take the pain away.”

“There were cards and flowers that I got from so many patients,” Sister Barbara Lynn said. “What touched me so much was the recurring message from those cards and the words of my patients in those final weeks in the clinic: ‘You really listened, you really cared.’”

Dr. Elizabeth McRae, MD, Sister’s supervisor at the Kendall Medical Center, shared that Sister Barbara Lynn “set the tone for a more serene and spiritual atmosphere.” In times of stress due to the behind the scenes issues of billing and paperwork, Sister Barbara Lynn’s calm nature, warm smile and peaceful presence assured her staff that the issue at hand would be resolved.



From Kendall Medical Center, Sister has moved to the Hill Country Mission for Health, also in Boerne. This is a ministry she has helped to nurture and support, collaborating with the founder, Joyce Clair. This clinic serves persons and families who have no health insurance.

Another Providence-inspired ministry for which Sister Barbara Lynn was a pivotal person was Providence Home for infants and children who had AIDS or who were HIV-Positive. Established in 1990 at the request of and with the support of Dr. Mangos, then Head of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, this home provided services and care for over 200 children at a time unique in history. “At that time, so much was unknown about HIV and AIDS; many people were fearful of contact with such individuals, and/or they just were not equipped to provide the health care that was required” as Sister Barbara Lynn recounts. Consequently, there was an unmet need which Providence Home filled. With time, there were advances in knowledge about the disease along with attitudes about HIV and AIDS and the mission of Providence Home saw its goal fulfilled through families and healthcare agencies. However, for 10 years, Providence Home was there serving infants and children who had no other place to go.

With her confident professional skills in partnership with the gifts of truly listening and truly caring about those whom she serves, Sister Barbara Lynn is a woman of Providence whose presence and service to the poor and those in need reflect a merciful and abundant Providence.



Planning for the Future in Word and Deed

The Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston, Ontario sits on 30 acres of land in the middle of town. To give its historic significance, it's at the corner of the main thoroughfare, Princess Street, and a street named after Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald. In fact, Sir John A. rented a home on the property at one time, when it was called Heathfield.

The Sisters of Providence have been on the land since 1932, when they moved from their founding Motherhouse. The Congregation was in a time of growth and they built a larger novitiate to train women interested in becoming Sisters. In fact, the Motherhouse has had several additions over the years.

Early days of the Congregation saw the establishment of many ministries across Canada, including education, social services, music and health care. Growth must have seemed unending. But as we all know, society changed. Women took up new roles. At least in North America, religion and religious life moved onto the sidelines and, eventually, into decline.

But the Sisters know that their way of life is authentic. They know that their mission is important – it serves as the glue that holds the women of the Congregation together. Looking at their reality, the Sisters are putting plans in place that take their spirituality, mission and charism into the future.

So imagine the joy for the Sisters of Providence to come out of their Chapter, the decision-making meetings they hold every four years, with plans that move forward. The remaining 68 Sisters' plans bring them back to their beginnings and create a vision that Kingston can grow into. They believe that Providence is with them.

Making a statement

At their April Chapter meetings, the Sisters endorsed three statements that will direct their future. Their vision is short and to the point: A world where the vulnerable experience compassion, justice and peace.

Their new mission statement expands that by identifying themselves as “channels of God's Providence.” It

Continued on the next page.



At their April Chapter, the Sisters of Providence chose a new leadership team who were installed into office on June 14. From left, General Superior Sister Sandra Shannon, with councillors Sister Frances O'Brien, Sister Gayle Desarmia and Sister Diane Brennen



First Profession of Vows

On April 26th, we had the beautiful celebration of Sister Mary Phillips' First Profession of Vows during the Sunday Eucharist in our Providence Centre chapel, in Edmonton, AB. Auxiliary Bishop Gregory Bittman was the celebrant for this special occasion.

How providential that this took place during the year dedicated to consecrated life, and on World Day of Prayer for Vocations! In the opening prayer we read "... Inflammé Sister Mary's heart and ours with a charity that is always ready to serve, that we may become more and more the loving presence of God in our world".

Father Stephano Penna, friend of Sister Mary,



blessed the pectoral cross, and Sister Gloria Keylor, Provincial Superior, put the cross around Sister Mary's neck saying "Sister Mary, with this cross fear nothing. Go wherever the duties of Charity call you."

It was a privilege to celebrate this special occasion with our regular parishioners, Sisters, associates, family and friends. We were particularly happy that Sister Mary's mother, Mrs. Catharine Dusseault, and her two sons Karl and John-Otto were able to be with us. It was so evident that they are very supportive of Sister Mary's desire to be a Sister of Providence.

Providence of God, we thank you for all.

Planning for the Future

Continued from the previous page.

continues: Rooted in the mission of Jesus, we empower the vulnerable through compassionate service, advocacy and networking. Sharing our spiritual, human and financial resources, we promote justice and peace for all creation.

Finally, the directional statement of the next four years gets more concrete again. It accepts the Sisters' situation with joy as they "embrace our present reality from a contemplative stance." It entrusts the development of a long-range plan to their leadership team, and it offers full support to the Providence Associates, now 30 years old, who are determining their own future.

The three-point statement is the mandate of the new leadership team that were installed on June 14 at the Motherhouse. Well, one of the members is new. Sister Sandra Shannon remains the General Superior, a position she has held for the past four years. Also remaining in office are councillors Sister Frances O'Brien and Sister Gayle Desarmia. Joining them, newly returned from Edmonton, is Sister Diane Brennen.

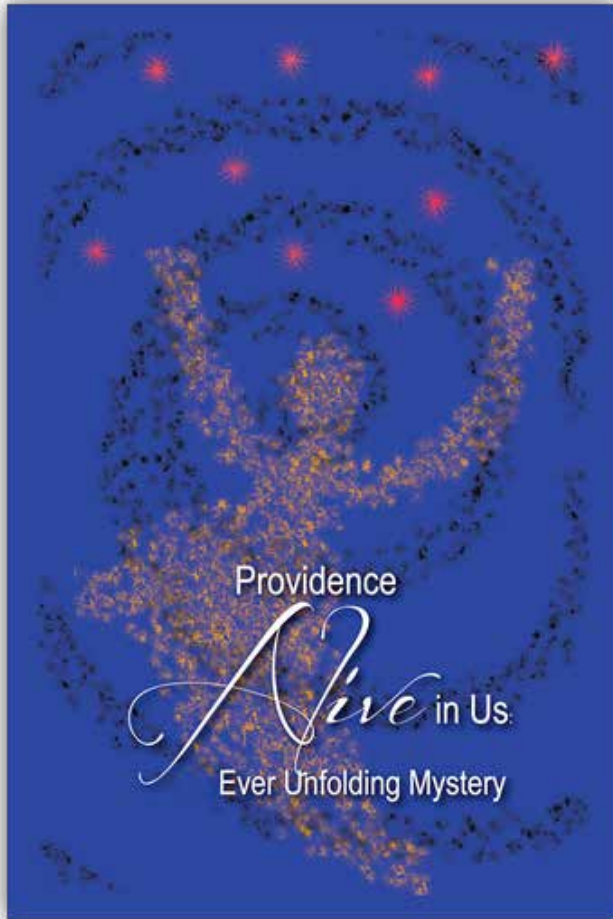
Making the vision real

Soon after their Chapter, the Sisters announced the concept of Providence Village. It would transform the 30 acres and the buildings of the Motherhouse into a hub of services that meet local community needs.

The full plan envisions many forms of housing, resources for the elderly and the challenged – a host of possibilities. But the centerpiece is to give a new home to Providence Manor. Providence Care's provincially-funded long-term care home, Providence Manor was originally founded by the Sisters. The ties are strong. Providence Manor needs a new site in the next 10 years and this offer of land looks most hopeful.

A feasibility study to be conducted over the next six months will indicate whether this plan can go forward and how it might be achieved. There are many players to bring to the table and, no doubt, there will be questions to answer. But the possibilities are great and the excitement of the Sisters is tangible. This is their mission come full circle. This is a living legacy, one of many.





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

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

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

Send order form and check to:

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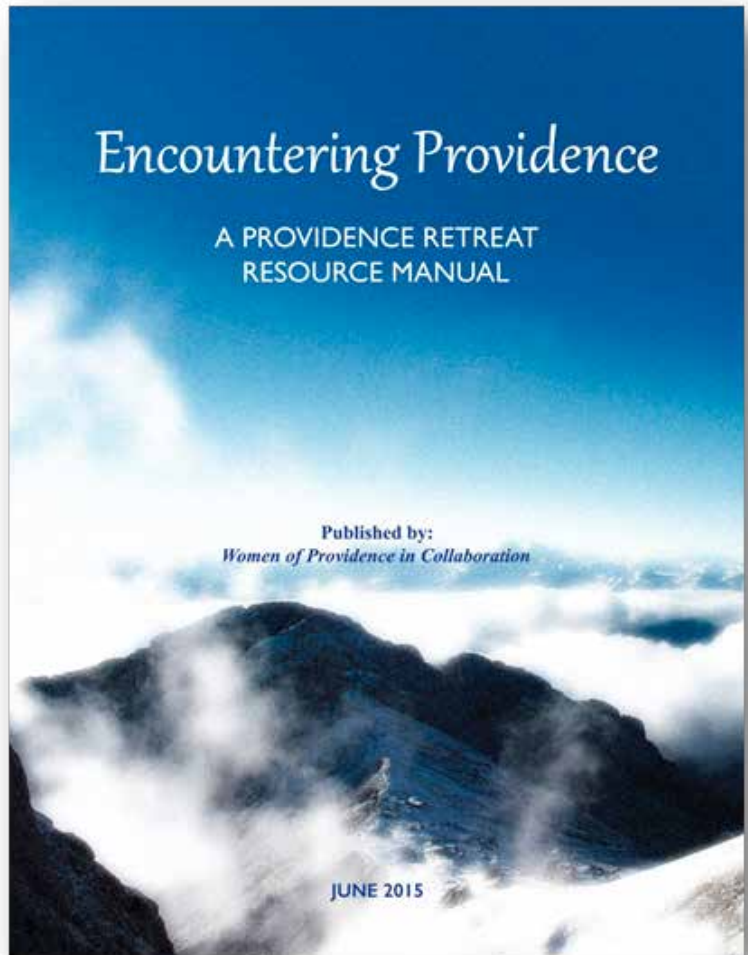
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***Encountering Providence
A Providence Retreat
Resource Manual***

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

The black and white manual includes a leader's guide, handouts, prayers, and listed resources for music, poetry, readings, etc. The shrink-wrapped package is printed on three-hole paper for easy placement in a binder of your choice. Each manual has an accompanying flash drive storing various color graphics, PowerPoint and video presentations, and ready-to-print prayer, reflection and leader templates.



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A Providence Retreat and Resource Manual***



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Correction...

In the Book of Remembrance, on p. 13, I left out a name that should be added to the Current Governing Board members:

Kathleen Popko, SP, President, Holyoke, MA. Please add this to your p. 13.

My apologies to Sr. Kathleen and the Sisters of Providence in Holyoke, MA.
---Sister Barbara

Future Dates/Coming Events

2015

November 2-3: WPC Executive Committee of the Governing Board meeting in Allison Park, PA

2016

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

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

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