

Collaboration

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Sisters of Divine Providence of Kentucky

Providence Montessori Celebrates 50 years!

In 1965, a group of parents established the Lexington Montessori Society. Their goal to promote the Montessori Method of education in that region was fulfilled in a very short time.

Sr. Marcia Jehn, a creative primary teacher interested in Montessori education, was assigned to St. Peter Claver School in Lexington in 1965. The hand of Providence took over and the new school was named Providence Montessori.

The following year, after Sr. Marcia's request and to her surprise and delight, Sr. Mary Cletus Hehman, another dynamic educator of young children, arrived to start another class of students.

Both sisters began "training" at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. Sr. Marcia was in the first XU Montessori class and Sr. Cletus in the second.

Providence Montessori flourished and very quickly reached capacity of 100 children. It soon became a training school for Montessori education, with Sr. Cletus taking several volunteer Moms under her wing.

As time passed there was growing interest to expand the school to include an elementary program and now fifty years later includes programs for toddlers through middle school.

The mission of the school is to provide a quality environment, holistic in its approach, to unleash the student's natural curiosity and their intrinsic desire for life long learning. The program is designed to further their innate ability to be citizens who better our world community.



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From your executive director...

Not too long ago we celebrated Christmas, the New Year, and Epiphany. As I write this page the days of gift-giving and gift-receiving are over, we've made resolutions and, most likely, we've had manifestations of the great love of Emmanuel for us. Thomas Merton once said: "Christ is born to us today so that He may appear to the whole world through us. This one day is the day of His birth, but every day of our mortal lives must be His manifestation."

We've celebrated Epiphany, and marked our doors, and called for blessings upon this new year. It got me to thinking about those doorways. Then, providentially, I opened a Facebook post from a friend with a picture of a doorway. She was sharing with us that the word "January" comes from the Latin word for door (*ianua*), and the month is named after Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions. So I begin this new year contemplating the image of the doorway.

Doorways are of great importance in our lives. Without them we remain stranded in place. We cannot pass into the next room, enter a different building, or even begin a new period in our life's journey without them. They mark beginnings and endings, entries and exits. We greet people in doorways, wave goodbye from them, carry loved ones across them, hang mistletoe above them, and in our churches, place holy water right inside them.

An open door is an invitation to journey—with one's



Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP
WPC executive director

self, with others, with God. What lies beyond the door? Am I willing to push a certain door open, to stretch myself, to go beyond my fear? Do I possess the secret of the door deep within me? Do I hold the key as I stand at the threshold, and am I ready to forge ahead? Am I ready to be a manifestation of Emmanuel to those I meet through the doorway and along the pathway? Can I dare to risk a new vision? Going through the doorway choice that only we can make. Fear stops us from opening that door, but if and when we do, new life happens—we hear the heartbeat of all creation—and nothing is ever the same again.

As you will read in these pages, the Women of Providence are opening doors for others. What wonderful work is being done! I leave you with something that I came across this Christmas season—it captures the spirit and stories of Providence.

Now the Work of Christmas Begins

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

-- Howard Thurman

Barbara



Sisters of Divine Providence of Kentucky

Gone But Not Forgotten

Sr. Ruth Kolkmeier, CDP, had a heart for the poor. In 1984 while working at an inner city parish in Newport, Kentucky she began a ministry outreach program at Corpus Christi Parish. It continues today. Now called Holy Spirit Parish Outreach, it is located in the First Baptist Church. The all volunteer staff from various Catholic and other neighborhood churches served 3,570 people last year with a variety of services: food, clothing, educational supplies, financial aid for rent or utilities, "homeless kits", Christmas and Easter dinners or assisting with some particular need. It is one of the many programs receiving toys from the CDP/Hasbro relationship. The good work which Sr. Ruth began still offers hope and Christian love in Newport.



Mary Dorgan, a former CDP was instrumental in beginning another inner-city ministry: The Interchurch Organization (ECHO) is a non-profit agency that serves the poor and homeless of Northern Kentucky. In 1991 ECHO was started by Sister Mary and other interested laity and ministers of Campbell County. ECHO was the first soup kitchen in the county. At its beginning, about thirty meals one day a week were served out of the fellowship hall of the First Church of the Nazarene in Newport. In 1992 ECHO was given a tremendous gift by David and Marcia Hosea who bought and donated a VFW hall and dedicated it as the Henry Hosea House. Today the ministry continues under the leadership of dedicated men and women who see that the mission serves those in need.



St. Bernard Food Pantry founded by Sr. Maria Maddalena Guidugli, CDP, in 1986 thrives in Dayton, Kentucky with the assistance of many helpful hands! Sr. Georgia Marie Messingschlager, a good friend of Sr. Maddalena is one of those volunteers. Open two days a week, the pantry feeds on average 350 families per month, approximately 17,000 people each year. What began in a small room behind the garage with twenty-seven bags of groceries distributed has grown considerably, serving many families in Bellevue and Dayton. The legacy of service continues!



CDP's Gather for Presentation on the Liturgy of the Hours

On December 28, ninety sisters began the day with Mass in Providence Hall. An inspirational morning followed with guest presenter, Sr. Deborah Harmeling, OSB, of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, Kentucky who led a discussion on the Liturgy of the Hours and praying the Psalms. Lively table sharing revealed a

depth of appreciation and commitment to this form of community prayer. Creative ideas sparked resolve to add meaning and new understanding to our participation in this prayer of the Church.

New Neighbors Attended the Celebration of Posadas at the Motherhouse

By Carrie Morales, MCDP Associate

The Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence, like so many religious congregations, have their Associates take the lead in several of their annual congregational activities. One of the most meaningful practices during Advent is the Posadas, a tradition from Mexico that re-enacts Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. Posada is the Spanish word for "Inn" or "shelter". The event brings families together for reflection, prayer and celebration as they prepare for Christmas.

Every year, the MCDP Associates organize a Posada at St. Andrew's Convent, the congregational motherhouse. No Posada event is ever quite the same because new Associates bring new ideas! This year,



the invitation to the celebration was extended beyond the immediate neighborhood. Invitational flyers were placed in restaurants and in small businesses. It was the Associates' way of getting the MCDPs known up-close and personal by new people.

They were not disappointed, because on December 14, almost 200 people attended the celebration; for many, it was their first visit to the convent grounds. As the MCDPs visited with the people during the time of refreshments, several families expressed their experience of this Posada as wonderfully different be-

cause of the time spent on Scriptural reflection before the traditional candle procession. To the people's surprise, when they entered the hall as the place where Mary and Joseph were welcomed, they were greeted with music by the BB Troop, a senior group of performers.

The celebration ended with the arrival of Santa and his elves. Every child received a bag of goodies, another tradition of Posadas. The people's positive response encouraged our Associates to look toward doing more for the coming year which is part of the charism of the MCDPs, to open wide the door to new guests as well as involve more laity in the planning of proclaiming the Good News!



Supporting Vocations BIG Time

The Sisters of Providence from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods were well represented at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) held Nov. 19-21 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference is a biennial event that invites youth to deepen their faith through prayer, activities, song, service and worship. Some 24,000 Catholic teens, parents, and youth ministers attended the event — the largest of its kind in the country.

The National Religious Vocation Conference representing 55 religious institutes took part. Vocation ministers hosted exhibit booths, volunteered as mentors to teenaged animators, and assisted as volunteers in a variety of capacities.

Sister Editha Ben, SP vocation director, served at the Inspiration Nook, a welcoming space where chaperones could ask vocation teams any number of questions and have meaningful conversation with and among religious sisters, brothers, and priests about such topics as service, ministry, the vows, prayer, discernment, spiritualities, Catholic Social Teaching, Mass or community life. All vocation personnel and vocation team members wore T-shirts with “Here I am” on the front and “Consider religious life: Ask us” on the back. In commemoration of the Year of Consecrated Life, 15 religious communities also shared their spirituality and led prayers in the NCYC chapel. Sister Editha distributed a guided meditation with the sayings of Saint Mother Theodore.



Sister Editha Ben, vocation director, (sitting on floor) talks with attendees of the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Others participating in the NCYC served at the Sisters of Providence information booth: Sisters Theresa Clare Carr, Ann Casper, Hannah Corbin, Tracey Horan, Jenny Howard, Janice Smith and Marsha Speth.

Diane Weidenbenner, director of communications/marketing, organized the volunteers for the booth. She and other Mission Advancement office staff also helped out. Sister Cathy Campbell served on the planning committee and put in countless hours prior to the event, while Sister Dina Bato served in a music booth and Sister My Huong volunteered wherever needed.



Mission Advancement staff member Cheryl Casselman (left) and Sister Tracey Horan, mission novice, share a light moment with young women attending the at the National Catholic Youth Conference. Collaboration Winter 2016

LCWR Delegation to El Salvador

In late fall, Sister Lisa Stallings traveled with a delegation to El Salvador sponsored by SHARE El Salvador in cooperation with LCWR. The journey, from November 28 – December 5, marked the 35th anniversary of the martyrdom of Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Lay Missioner Jean Donovan.

The delegates visited sites such as the National Cathedral and crypt of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the memorial to 30,000 victims of the civil war, the site of the assassination of the four American churchwomen, the graves of the Maryknoll sisters buried in El Salvador, and the campus of University of Central America, where the six Jesuit scholars were murdered in 1989 with their housekeeper and her daughter.



Procession to the memorial to the four women following the anniversary mass.

They attended presentations on the current social and political climate in El Salvador and heard the testimony of mothers and family members of victims of the civil war. They attended a forum on the root causes of immigration and the role of the civil war and U.S. policies on the social and political climate that affects immigration. They met with members of Christian base communities, with members of an agricultural cooperative and with representatives of women's leadership initiatives in rural areas of El Salvador.

They also crowded into a small chapel – or stood in the courtyard outside – to participate in an anniversary liturgy on December 2 at the churchwomen's burial site. The celebration was at once poignant and festive, complete with goats and fireworks, T-shirt and corn-on-the-cob vendors as well as testimonies by family members and others who had known and loved and been transformed by the four women.

Most of all, they met Salvadorans who welcomed them warmly and in many cases shared from their own want, opening their homes and their tables to these visitors from North America. Again and again, in broken English and translated Spanish, their message was repeated: "Please come again. The struggle is far from over. Your presence gives us strength."

For more information about SHARE El Salvador, visit www.share-elsalvador.org.



Family with whom we stayed overnight . . . hosted 6 delegates in their 4-room home. We still don't know where their children slept. (Sister Lisa Stallings second from right.)

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College Now Co-educational

In May 2015 Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College President Dr. Dottie King announced that the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to become fully co-educational. The college began accepting applications from men as commuter students for the current academic year. In the fall of 2016 it is anticipated that men will become residential students.

In making the announcement Dr. King said, "We have reached a defining moment in our 175-year history to enhance excellence amidst changes that are both challenges and opportunities."

In the process of expanding the student base, Dr. King said that she embraced the principles of the late Sister Jeanne Knoerle, SP, SMWC alumna and former college president. Sister Jeanne wrote in 2005, "There are two approaches to educating women for leadership roles: 1) teaching women in a single-sex environment; 2) teaching women and men about women's roles and modeling for them the value of women's leadership. The second method is rarely practiced in institutions established by men. It presents a new and important role for colleges founded and sustained by women."

General Superior Sister Denise Wilkinson, SP '68, issued a statement of support, which reads in part, "... While the decision is a significant change for the undergraduates of the on-campus program, it is also a decision rooted for tomorrow. It acknowledges the countless changes in religious, educational and civic arenas happening continuously over the past 175 years of the College's mission and ministry of education. ... (Quoting Saint Mother Theodore Guerin) 'May

we journey into the future with confidence in the Providence that so far has never failed us.'" Readers familiar with the SMWC campus will also see

a new building next time they visit. The Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center officially opened with a ribbon cutting celebration Dec. 3, 2014. The facility boasts a collegiate regulation-sized gym, a practice gym for auxiliary revenue and intramural sports, a spacious lobby, locker rooms, a fitness room open to the public, offices and storage space.

Speaking about the facility, Dr. King said, "This is more than a building. This is the time to reimagine, redefine and reshape our future."



Aging Gracefully

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods have a committee working on promoting aging well and in place as sisters grow older. Over the past two years much has been accomplished. Most recently a Wellness Week in November 2015 provided a variety of opportunities promoting brain health through physical and mental exercise, social activities, healthy eating and stress reduction.

With the assistance of NRRO elder care consultant Dayna Larson-Hurst, the committee has examined the practices and needs of congregation members in the aging process. Having learned from the sisters what they most need and/or desire, a team at the motherhouse is in the process of programming ongoing activities and opportunities for maintaining brain and physical health.

There has been serious collaboration among the motherhouse Food Services and Residential Life and Services staffs and the White Violet Center to provide healthy, quality meals using produce year round from the WVC gardens in all dining areas including those in Providence Health Care. PHC is a seventy bed, intermediate and skilled care facility for the sisters and other long term residents as well as short-term rehab patients. It has an assisted living facility with thirty-seven private rooms.

If you are interested in learning more about these developments at the Woods please contact Mary Beth Klingel, SP, mklingel@spsmw.org or call 812-535-2861.

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

Providence Has Provided ... Yet Again!

Seven months ago the former Woods Day Care Pre-School building began a renovation to serve as the administration building for the Sisters of Providence Congregation leadership and department offices, formerly housed at Owens Hall. Owens Hall is now vacant and we are awaiting word that developers hoping to obtain funding to re-purpose the building for senior low income housing have been successful.

The leadership's council room (below) anchors the surrounding circle of offices accommodating the five general officers, finance personnel and administrative assistants, a total of 13 offices in all. The area had been a large atrium housing an indoor playground.



Two classrooms became one large room to accommodate 12 cubicle work areas for staff members in Mission Advancement.



Sisters of Providence, Holyoke

Two Sisters Engaged in Volunteer Ministry

In 1956, Sisters Dorothy Young and Mary Horgan were young Sisters of Providence caring for Brightside toddlers in their Community's Our Lady of Providence Children's Center in West Springfield, MA. Now, close to 60 years and divergent ministry paths later, the two are back in the same building—this time as volunteer visitors to elders in the Mercy LIFE program.



Sisters Mary Horgan (left) and Dorothy Young are volunteer visitors for participants in SPHS' Mercy LIFE program located in the de Paul Center.

The building, now named the de Paul Center, houses Mercy LIFE's adult day center and medical clinic. Mercy

LIFE is known also as PACE, Programs for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly. "It's really providential that Mercy (Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts) started the program," said Sister Mary. "It meets the healthcare and socialization needs of seniors on every level."

Both Sisters commended Mercy LIFE's "wonderful staff" saying that the interaction between staff and participants is notable. The staff is there to do whatever is needed," they complimented. The program helps seniors live safely at home rather than in a nursing home.

Congregation Honors Two for Their Faithfulness as Associates

The Sisters of Providence President and Executive Council recently announced the Congregation's decision to honor Associates Mary Manning and Irene Meehan with the title Associate Emerita.

Mary Manning, 94, is a member of the 2004 Associate class. She formerly worked as the librarian in the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and then as Medical Librarian at Mercy Hospital, Springfield. Irene Meehan, 102, formerly worked as a secretary at Feldman's Insurance Agency in Holyoke. Following retirement from there, Irene was employed as parish secretary at Sacred Heart Church, also in Holyoke. She is a member of the 2001 Associate class.

The SP Executive Council's decision to confer the title requires Associates under consideration have



Mary Manning



Irene Meehan

histories of faithful and active participation in the life and mission of the Congregation. The deep bonds of prayer, spirituality, and friendship between those honored with this distinction and the Sisters of Providence remain unchanged. Yet, an Associate Emerita is no longer expected to attend SP events and meetings unless they are able or desire to do so.

Pastoral Associate Ministered in Her Home Parish for Close to 30 Years

Sister Theresa Lucier, a Sister of Providence in Holyoke, Massachusetts, recently retired after 30 years of ministry as a pastoral associate in her home parish of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Milford, Massachusetts. She grew up in Milford and St. Mary of the Assumption Church is the church where she was baptized, received first Holy Communion, made Confirmation, and attended the parish's schools from second grade until her high school graduation in 1947. Sr. Theresa returned to her parish as pastoral associate in 1986.

Her work encompassed sacrament preparation, training instructors for religious education programs, visiting elders, the sick and home bound, and working with families on end-of-life and bereavement issues. "I saw myself as bringing life and love," she said.

Sister Theresa has been a Sister of Providence for 63 years.



In this 1999 photo Sister Theresa Lucier pays a pastoral visit to Helen LaPointe, then at Sunbridge Care and Rehabilitation for Milford.

Sisters of Providence Welcome Two New Associates During Chapel Ritual

Margaret Fitzgerald and Margaret Lemire recently completed the Congregation's required two-year Associate Candidate orientation process and were welcomed as Associates during the Congregation's September 27th Missioning Day ceremonies.

Margaret Fitzgerald, a member of St. Patrick's Parish in South Hadley, is retired from her position as academic secretary at Mount Holyoke College. Now living at Providence Place, she says her "feeling of one-ness with the Sisters who live here" spurred her interest in becoming an Associate. "I wanted to be a part of that spirit, that sister-ship," she explained.

Sister Geraldine Noonan mentored Margaret during the Associate orientation process. She describes Margaret as "...a woman of strong, deeply rooted faith, realistically cognizant of the joys and sorrowful concerns of the Catholic church. Margaret is putting great hope in the vision of Pope Francis for the future of the church," Sister Geraldine continued, "and she is intelligent, motivated and a loyal supporter of all things related to the Sisters of Providence."

Margaret "Peggy" Lemire is a member of Blessed Sacrament Church, Holyoke. She is employed as a licensed practical nurse by the City of Holyoke and on staff at Holyoke's Council on Aging.

Peggy first became interested in the Associate program because of her close friendship with Associate Kathleen "Kathy" Blanchard. The two grew up together and now work together.

Peggy's initial interest in Association came from her "conversations about the Sisters with Kathy." She wanted to learn more about the Sisters' "journey over the many years of their existence. I'm interested in living out their charism," she said.

Sister Mary Martin de Porres mentored Peggy during her Candidate journey. She found her to be "a devoted Candidate." Since beginning the process, "Peggy came faithfully to all our monthly sessions which we held after her day's work. She is a grateful person and from the beginning spoke of the peace she experiences when she attends Congregational and Associate events."



New Associates Margaret Fitzgerald and Margaret Lemire (center, from left) sign Associate commitment papers as their respective mentors, Sister Geraldine Noonan (left) and Sister Mary Martin de Porres (right), look on with SP President Kathleen Popko.

Grant Supports Further Development of Life Satisfaction Scale for Women Religious

Sister Maria Clara Kreis, with Duquesne University, received a grant of \$390,000 from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Sister Clara is the primary investigator and author of the instrument entitled, “Life Satisfaction Scale for Apostolic Women Religious” (LSSAWR). The grant is to produce a manual that would guide apostolic women religious in the near future to use LSSAWR. The Life Satisfaction Scale, with its manual, could be used to assist women individually as they discern their call and commitment to religious life and to support women religious communally in discerning their call to service in the world. The grant will also support the translation of the Manual into Spanish and the extension of LSSAWR to the youngest generation in religious life. Clara will



do this work as part of her employment at Duquesne University.

The development of the “Life Satisfaction Scale for Apostolic Women Religious” was the focus of Sister Clara’s dissertation for her doctoral studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Clara is grateful to her dissertation committee, which included Sr. Janet Mock, CSJ. She is also grateful to the Sisters who supported her during her doctoral studies and to those Sisters in the Community who participated in the three studies she conducted in 2008. These studies led to the development of the LSSAWR. Sister Clara is again asking for support as she embarks on this new endeavor.

Oxford University Hosts Meeting on Religious Studies



The Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies is a forum for discourse and presentation of papers by scholars who have a particular interest in the study of religion. Held December 7-9, Sister Carole Riley— executive director of The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality (WVIS) in Charleston, West Virginia, and a professor of piano and music education at Duquesne

University—presented her abstract on Spirituality for Minorities in the Old Library at the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Sister Carole says of her experience, “We were told ‘conversations happen (in the Old Library) that change the world.’ For me that was true. The interfaith dialogue on humanitarian service, race relations and religious tolerance was profound for me. The international group of 30 scholars were engaged with my research as I was with theirs, and our work will be published in 2016. My paper addressed

service-learning and community engagement using the Science of Formative spirituality and the data from the freshmen and sophomores from Duquesne University. In addition, I cited the work of our WVIS associate spiritual director, Elaine Soper, who facilitates a group in Alderson Women’s Federal Prison. I was so honored to be chosen to present my paper, enriched by the dialogue and blessed by those who prayed me safely to and from the United Kingdom.”

Healing Garden Offers Safe Space to Enjoy God’s Creation

The construction of a Healing Garden for the Sisters of Divine Providence on the grounds of Providence Heights in Allison Park, Pennsylvania, was completed in September 2015. Located in front of the Ketteler and Mother of Providence houses, the area offers benches, a wide walkway, a ramp and plantings that include hydrangea, iris, black-eyed Susan, daylily, sage and maple trees. The Sisters are enjoying this healing, natural space where they can safely enjoy God’s creation.

Year Of Consecrated Life Event Focuses on Past, Present and Future

In celebration of The Year of Consecrated Life, the Sisters of Divine Providence held an event on November 22, 2015, at Providence Heights in Allison Park, Pennsylvania, which focused on heritage, legacy and spirit from the past, sponsored ministries of the present and the courage to move into the future.

The day's program included an opening prayer and presentation that remembered with gratitude some of the hundreds of remarkable Marie de la Roche Province ancestors. These women were celebrated for the witness of their faith lives in community and ministry; their vision

and values; their inspiration and challenge; and their encouragement and support. It was noted how these women, who were teachers, mentors and friends, have enabled the Sisters to move forward to today: serving in diverse ministries—and sponsoring several corporate ministries—that deal with current social concerns such as education, spirituality, refugees, single parents and homelessness. The program concluded with



participants viewing the film “Band of Sisters” by Mary Fishman. The film documents “the remarkable journey of Catholic nuns in the United States from daughters of the Church to citizens of the world.”

Conference Emphasizes Special Missionary Role of the Baptized

From October 1-4, Sister Wendolyn López Santos participated in Mission Congress 2015, sponsored every five years by the U.S. Catholic Mission Association.

She was invited and offered a scholarship for this year's conference, “Witnessing Mission: Called to be Missionary Disciples,” in Houston, Texas. The four-day Congress hosted a series of events featuring keynote speakers, workshops, breakout sessions, Mass at



the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, and local immersions trips, in order to help every baptized Christian discover their baptismal call to be what Pope Francis has called “missionary disciples.”

Sister Wendolyn saw this event as an opportunity to learn more about the Hispanic mission in the U.S., as well as an opportunity to meet other Latinas working in the United States.

Conference on Healing the Kingston Church

The invitation to heal the church by addressing the crisis in clergy sexual abuse was accepted by more than 320 people who participated in conferences at the Providence Motherhouse September 11-12. The response was a heartwarming surprise for the organizing committee who responded in turn by extending the conference for an extra day to meet the demand. People came from all over the archdiocese – from parishes, the clergy, Catholic organizations, and from beyond its borders as well.



Sister Nuala Kenny, SC

Presenter Sister of Charity Nuala Kenny, a paediatrician, was a passionate presence each of the two days the conference was held. She began by asking who got hurt in this crisis. And with audience help, drew the conclusion that many did. First, of course, are the young victims of sexual abuse. Not only did they suffer the physical and emotional trauma of being abused, it was compounded by the role of faith ... their trusted spiritual leader took advantage. As a result, Sister Nuala showed how this affected the victim's ability to access the spiritual life and their ability to feel comfortable in the church.

She also spoke to the pain experienced by families and parishes who have suffered tremendously because of these events. She spoke of the clergy who were caught

in the middle – with brother clergy to blame, parishes ripped apart, and through being associated with terrible acts and accusations, caught in the wide net of shame. Indeed, one of Sister Nuala's gifts is that she recognized the pain of the victims without demonizing the clergy involved. She named the problem and its many shades and hues – and how helpless clergy and church leaders have felt in the wake of the crisis. Sr. Nuala made numerous suggestions for healing,

encouraging participants to bring what they had learned to their own situations.

The "next steps" that participants brought forward have been collect-



ed, reports Sister Frances O'Brien, chair of the Healing Violence committee that held the conferences. In light of the conference, the committee has been asked to work with two parishes and has accepted these requests. All suggestions and feedback will be brought to the archbishop, as promised. The committee is considering what kind of follow-up they can offer, given the overwhelming call for more dialogue.

Saskatchewan Recognizes Sisters' Contribution

On October 1, a bronze monument was unveiled in Regina's Wascana Park in front of more than 500 guests and dignitaries. Those guests included Canada's papal nuncio, the bishops of Saskatchewan, officials from Catholic health and education, and representatives of the founding religious orders in the province. In their midst were Sisters of Providence leadership team members Sandra Shannon and Diane Brennan.

The monument, "Called to Serve," commemorates pioneering religious women who established hospitals and schools in Saskatchewan starting in 1860, thus laying the foundation for modern day education and health care institutions across the province. The monument features two Catholic Sisters, one representing a teacher, the other a nurse.

Indeed, the monument committee writes: Some 5,500 Catholic Sisters have served in the province, totalling over 85,000 Sister-years of ministry. The monument will be a lasting tribute to their legacy and their selfless service to the people of Saskatchewan.



Saskatchewan Catholic Connections organized the unveiling and the monument by sculptor Jack Jensen of Prince Albert.

It was in 1912 when the Sisters of Providence stepped onto the map with the arrival of Sr. Mary Angel Guardian and Sr. Mary Camillus in Moose Jaw. They founded Providence Hospital and, in 1939, the con-

gregation's ministry in Moose Jaw expanded with the founding of St. Anthony's Home.

Both Providence Hospital and St. Anthony's Home closed in 1995 and were replaced by Providence Place for Holistic Health. The Sisters transferred sponsorship of Providence Place to the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation in 2002 and the last Sisters left Moose Jaw in 2005. For 93 years the Sisters of Providence served the people of Saskatchewan through the ministry

of 163 of its members.
Archivist Veronica Stienburg

WPC Lenten Reflections

WPC will be sending Lenten reflections for each of the six Sundays of Lent and the holy days of the Triduum. They will also be on our website.

Look for them in your email!

Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul

Kingston Open House Brings Together Congregations and Many Guests

October 17 was cold but sunny and it may have been the perfect combination to bring Kingston and area folks out to an Open House at the Motherhouse. Organizers estimate at least 400 visitors as guests attended the event in honour of the Year of Consecrated Life, hosted by four religious congregations.

Tours of Providence ministries were offered on the main floor, with a sumptuous tea in the Sisters' dining room. Sisters and Associates worked together, as did volunteers from the staff and the Sunday community.

William Vanderhelm greeted cars in the parking lot for the first shift, until joining his wife Beth and daughter Kristina for a tour and tea. He heard again and again, "We always wondered what was behind the walls."

Sister Irene Wilson, SP, staffed the Sisters of Providence display downstairs. "I was amazed how interested people were in hearing about our history." She noted that many pamphlets were picked up and many questions asked. Four people from her apartment building came and that was a particularly neighbourly touch.

Sister Barbara Thiffault, SP, oversaw the dining



Visitors were particularly interested in the future plans.

room. Her experience? "There was such a good spirit, a spirit of excitement and joy."

The busiest tour stop held a display of future plans, the dream that would see the Motherhouse grounds transformed into Providence Village. There was a lineup outside the door for most of the afternoon as folks carefully read through the displays.



Sister Irene Wilson, SP, tells the Sisters' story to her neighbors.

General Superior Sandra Shannon answered questions at that tour stop throughout the afternoon and found people came with a lot of curiosity and a strong sense of appreciation – for the open house, and about the vision of the future. While she received many kudos for the Sisters, Sister Sandra felt particularly affirmed by a woman in town from Mississauga who said, "I'm a firm believer that small groups of women can be very powerful," and that the tour and Providence Village just "proved the point."

A dream realized

Sister Georgette Bayless Awaits New In-Patient Hospice Center in Everett, Washington

“Let’s do something,” has long been her response when 93-year-old Sister Georgette Bayless encounters unmet needs. Suffering and sorrow spur her to action, and to enlist others to join in creating solutions. Back in the 1970s, she felt called to respond to the inability to fulfill a cancer patient’s simple wish to die at home and began advocating for a hospice program.

That dream was realized in 1978 by the opening of a hospice program in Snohomish County that provides services to dying patients in their homes, in addition to bereavement services and respite care. Last year, the program served 1,942 adults and 34 children, plus offered bereavement services and respite care.

But Sister Georgette didn’t stop there. By 2003, when the hospice program was celebrating its 25th anniversary, she was championing a new dream: an in-patient hospice center for individuals whose end-of-life care

is more complex, requiring a clinical setting. Unfortunately, the recession thwarted plans to purchase a site for it in 2009, but the dream did not die. “We had the vision. We didn’t let it go,” Sister Georgette says.

Early in 2016, Snohomish County will have its first in-patient hospice service at Providence Regional Medical Center Everett, on the Colby Campus. It will be the first in-patient hospice service opened by Providence Health & Services and one of six such programs in the state of Washington.

The \$5.3 million center will serve up to 16 patients. One of its rooms has been furnished by a donor in honor of 93-year-old Sister Georgette’s 70th Jubilee this year.



Sister Georgette Bayless holds a plaque that will decorate the in-patient hospice room furnished by a donor in her honor.

“Let’s get this show on the road,” she told a reporter for The Everett Herald. “We want to open the doors for those people.”

Sisters of Providence Mark 25th Anniversary in the Philippines

On the warm, bright sunny afternoon of October 24, the three Sisters of Providence in the Philippines, Sisters Lucy Vasquez, Beth Rayray and Julie Macasieb, celebrated God's faithfulness to them and the people with a liturgy and reception at the Saint Augustine Seminary in Quezon City. Sister Judith Desmarais, provincial superior of Mother Joseph Province, extended a welcome to all present, including Sisters Karin Dufault, general superior; Linda Jo Reynolds and Josie Lerios, general councilors; Josie Ramac, provincial councilor; Sister Hong Nga Nguyen, Providence Associates from Punta Sta. Ana and Bataan, clergy, relatives, friends and colleagues. Two special guests were former Sisters of Providence Avelita Formeloza and Josepha Aquino.



Sister Judith Desmarais (center) was delighted to visit with former sisters from her class, Josefa "Josie" Aquino (left) and Avelita Formeloza (right).

The liturgy ended with Sister Karin expressing gratitude to the Augustinian sisters who first welcomed the Providence sisters upon their arrival in October of 1989, for all those who have been a support throughout the years, and for all that Providence has accomplished through the sisters in the Philippines. The beautiful flower arrangements were provided by Sister Hong Nga, who was in the Philippines for a cross-cultural experience, assisted by Hoang Nguyen, who was with the sisters for a "Come & See" experience.

The following is an excerpt from remarks made by Sister Judith Desmarais, provincial superior of Mother Joseph Province, at the anniversary celebration.

"Who has been called by the Lord to go to the Philippines?", was the question asked in 1989 of 15 Sisters of Providence participating in a discernment process for starting the mission in the Philippines, Sister Judith recalled in her remarks at the celebration. Five sisters ultimately received confirmation of that call and became foundresses of a new Philippine Sector.

The response to the call to serve in the Philippines was an answer to prayer for a group of Filipina Sisters of

Providence who belonged to the three western provinces, two in the United States – Sacred Heart and St Ignatius, and one in Canada – Holy Angels. The Filipina sisters invited other Sisters of Providence to minister in the Philippines to work with children, youth and families, to do pastoral work and nursing, and also to promote vocations.

The Philippine Sector was established August 1, 1989, with Sister Gloria Keylor, SP, provincial of Holy Angels Province in western Canada, as administrator. She arrived in the Philippines on October 14, 1989, along with the five chosen to begin the sector: Sisters Clarella Fink, Fidela Adriano, Lina Afinidad, Linda Jo

Reynolds, and the late Sister Renate Hayum. Sisters Fidela and Lina are native Filipinas. As noted by the date of arrival, the 25 years actually occurred in October of 2014.

The Providence sisters began by simply being with the people, immersing themselves in a new culture, re-learning a culture after living in the United States, and becoming familiar with life in the Philippines. Incorporation as the Sisters of Providence-Philippine Sector, Inc., came on August 17, 1990, the same year that they opened the first house for aspirants. The following year, 1991, they received Julia Macasieb as the first candidate.

Over the years, the sisters were engaged in various ministries: Basic Ecclesial Communities, education, parish ministry, support and community service – including disaster relief, campus ministry, collaboration – with prison ministry, with justice and peace work, and with the Association of Major Religious Superiors. They lived in a number of areas: Quezon City, Dagupan in Pangasinan, Punta Sta. Ana, Sta. Mesa, Balick-Balick, San Miguel, Paco, and Bataan.

Continued on the next page.

Sisters Put Their Own Spin on #Giving Tuesday

#Giving Tuesday is about more than money. Sisters of Providence at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle gave “awareness” against the death penalty, in addition to sending personal individual letters to inmates on Death Row, giving them prayers and concern.

The message from the Committee Against the Death Penalty was simple and straightforward. “MERCY: Pope Francis’ Jubilee Year of Mercy” kicked off on December 8. May we pray for all on death row and work for structural change in our broken criminal justice system.” Sisters participating also declared their support for the Catholic Mobilizing Network.

Their actions made a difference, Daniel Flynn, director of advancement for CMN, told Sister Joan Campbell in a message of thanks. “It was a great day for CMN as we were able to reengage some fallen donors, meet some new donors, and spread wide our pro-life message of mercy. You were a big part of this. We are grateful for your partnership and support!”



Sister Lois Murray participates on #Giving Tuesday by advocating mercy.

25th Anniversary in the Philippines

Continued from previous page.

On February 19, 2007, the anniversary of the birth of foundress Blessed Emilie Gamelin, the Philippine Sector had grown large enough and became Our Lady of Providence Vice-Province. The first Providence Associate group in the Philippines began in Punta Sta. Ana in 2007; a second group was begun in Bataan in 2009.

On May 17, 2014, at the close of the General Leadership Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Mother Joseph Province welcomed the three remaining sisters in the Philippines to membership in the province.

Providence of God, we thank you for all!

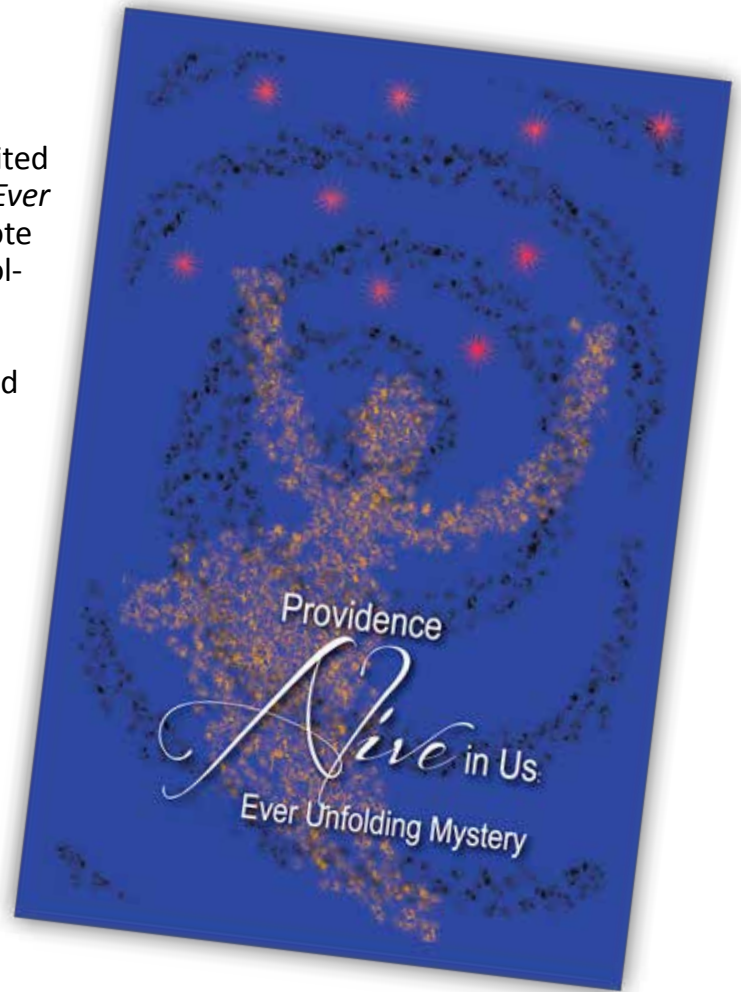


Provincial Councilor Josefina "Josie" Ramac (left center) is joined by Providence Associates in the Philippines.

Providence Alive In Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery

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.

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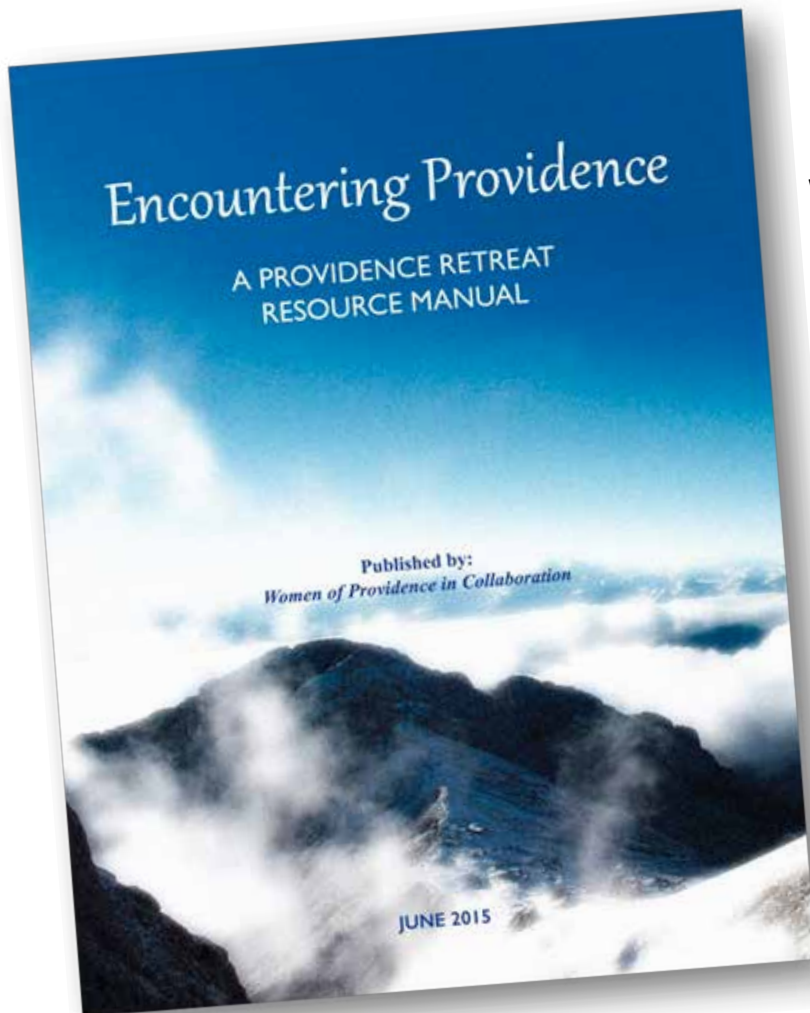
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Encountering Providence A Providence Retreat Resource Manual

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, motherhouses, health-care 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

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Future Dates/Coming Events

2016

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

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

2017

September 18 - 20: Associate Leadership Gathering at Genesis Spirituality Center, Westfield, MA

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