

Women of Providence in

COLLABORATION

VOL. IV ISSUE 1 • FALL 2007



FROM YOUR NEW DIRECTOR

As I move into this new ministry with all of you, I am grateful for the spirit of Providence that lives in us and all creation. What a wonderful group of women to be with on this Providence journey!

I want to express my personal gratitude to Barb McMullen, CDP, for her ministry as Executive Director of WPC. She served well in so many ways, but I think her shining hour was the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Barb and I had transition days in July in St. Louis. Of course, she was extremely prepared and supportive.

About 30 of us gathered at the WPC dinner during the LCWR Assembly in Kansas City in early August. A picture is in this issue.

Plans are in place for the Vocation/Formation/Leadership conference March 26-30. Members will be welcomed by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston, Ontario. Nancy Sylvester, IHM, will explore the theme, "Contemplation: Opening to Providence." The Governing Board will meet in Kingston immediately after the conference.

Providence Event 2008 brochures are in the mail and also being sent in electronic form for our June 8-15 gathering at St. Mary of-the-Woods, Indiana. We are pleased to have several national and international presenters with us: Brian Swimme, Sister Gail Worcelo, Mary Lou Dolan, CSJ, Ann Sullivan, SP, Maureen Freeman, CSJ, and Scott Russell Sanders. Members and associates may register by returning the form or via email. First priority to Providence Earth Plunge, June 8-12, will be given to persons in initial formation and those in the Vocation/Formation/Leadership group. Registration is limited to 50 participants.

May each of you continue to know the movement of Providence in your lives.

Ann Margaret

PROVIDENCE WOMEN AT LCWR



WPC members attending the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Assembly August 1-5 in Kansas City, KS, represent seven member congregations: Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Allison Park, PA; Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne, KY; Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, San Antonio, TX; Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence, San Antonio, TX; Sisters of Providence, Holyoke, MA; Sisters of Providence, Seattle/Spokane; Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN. Annette Noel, SP, Executive Director, Canadian Religious Conference, was our guest



DON'T MISS PROVIDENCE EVENT 2008!

Providence Earth Plunge June 8-12, 2008

Providence People Tread Lightly on Earth
June 13-15, 2008

*Learn from experts as you network with Women of
Providence. Sign up today!*

IN MEMORIAM: KATHRYN LA FLEUR, SP

All of the WPC women mourn the death of Sister Kathryn La Fleur, past general superior of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston, Ontario, and member of the Governing Board of WPC.

In Kathryn's welcoming greeting to her chapter last Easter, she called the community "to choose to live fully as long as Providence grants. We embrace and witness to our mission statement serving with compassion, trusting in Providence, we walk in hope. During these days may we be compassionate with one another, trust in Providence for the Spirit's guidance and walk in hope for the revelation of life-giving direction for the future."

Pauline Lally, SP, general superior, reflected on Kathryn at the celebration of her life. "Over these past four years Sister Kathryn lived in confidence within her reality... No pity parties for our Kathryn. She lived in great faith with a strong hope in her Provident God... She went to her treatments in an unbelievable upbeat fashion, giving hope and strength to the others who were receiving treatment with her... And she lived that kind of spirit for the whole congregation."

At Kathryn's invitation, Pauline missioned her during their last visit. "I mission you into the hands of Providence. And when you get to heaven, don't you dare forget us. Send us a sign with some roses or those purple flowers that you and St. Louise de Marillac loved so much."

"Believe it or not, the first flowers to arrive in my office after her death were a beautiful bouquet from the Women of Providence with purple flowers in them!"

We believe it, we believe that Kathryn's spirit with her passion and compassion, laughter and joy, are always with us.



Biblical Catechetical Program

"The single most critical factor in an effective parish catechetical program is the leadership of a professional trained parish catechetical leader." NDC

The Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence have initiated a Biblical Catechetical Program to better respond to the needs of adult lay Catholics, especially Hispanic, who want to deepen their knowledge of Scripture. The program is composed of three main components:

1. How to Pray with Scripture
2. Scripture Formation
3. Catechesis

The program begins with a weekend silent retreat to help the participants pray with scripture. The uniqueness of the Biblical Catechetical Program is that it combines scripture knowledge and catechesis,

which offers the participants a means to integrate scripture in their everyday life. Before each session, the group and the professor pray for about 20 minutes using the Ignatian method "Praying with Scripture."

Every book in the Bible is covered within the four-year program. The first year participants study Old Testament Foundations: Genesis through Kings, Year II study New Testament Foundations: Jesus and Discipleship, Year III- Old Testament Foundations: Exile and Restoration, and Year IV: Old and New Testament Concluded: The Word in the Hellenistic World. There are two options for people to participate: a three week intense summer course in June, Monday – Friday from 9 a.m to 5 p.m., or twice a month in September through May from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Presently, there are 14 summer participants and 17 during the school year. Participants include lay ecclesial ministers such as DRE's, Youth Ministers, Deacons, Religious, Pastoral Ministers and people who come for personal enrichment.



Comments from participants are: "The program is an invitation to journey deeper into the biblical text

and then to echo it to the community. I would recommend it to those who are at the point of their journey where they are willing to dissect the text; question, revalue and formulate new thoughts." Pastoral Minister

"This program exceeded my expectation. We not only learn to understand but apply it in our daily words and actions." Youth Minister.

If you would like more information on the program you may contact Sister Esther M.





Above, General Superior Kathryn Rutan tells Sister Gabrielle Nguyen, "With this cross, fear nothing." Upper right, Sister Ana Dolores Orellana was delighted that the Guadalupanos of Pasco joined in the celebration of her transfer of vows. Lower right, Sister Vilma Franco performs a liturgical dance in Salvadoran dress at the profession of first vows by Sister Margarita Hernandez.

SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, SEATTLE/SPOKEN, WA

Vocations and Vows Take the Spotlight

Summer and early fall brought celebrations of Jubilees, first vows and vow transfers in Mother Joseph Province. Participants smiled and nodded as The Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, Bishop of Spokane, noted that the Sisters of Providence were "on a roll."

August, the month of the community's annual gathering days, included the Jubilee celebration for 11 sisters celebrating 25, 50, 60 and 70 years of religious life. Next came the profession of first vows by Salvadoran native Sister Margarita Hernandez. Then, in September, Sisters Gabrielle Nguyen, a native of Vietnam, and Ana Dolores Orellana, another Salvadoran, completed their transfer of vows into the community.

The vow ceremonies, in which each sister dedicated her life to serving the poor, celebrated the culture of each sister and reflected that this is an international community of joyful women of faith.

Church Centennial Celebration

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., began a year-long celebration Oct. 21 for the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, on the mother-house grounds. The Church has a cathedral-like appearance, having been fashioned

after the Church of the Holy Trinity in Paris.

The year commemorates "church as people" and "church as building." To that end, several events are planned which celebrate both aspects of this significant anniversary.

Church as people

The anniversary year opened with Eucharistic Liturgy Oct. 21, as worshippers gathered in the church as they have for more than 100 years to offer praise and gratitude to God. Sisters of Providence in the assembly remembered other celebrations in this hallowed spot: ceremonies of entrance into the Congregation; profession of vows; jubilees; gathering for prayer to begin General Chapters, assemblies and the centennial/sesquicentennial years; and assembling for funerals in celebration of the life of countless sister companions.

Others who assembled may have reflected on times when they gathered with the sisters for Sunday Liturgy, ecumenical observances or came to pray after 9/11 or assembled for prayerful witness against the death penalty or came just to enjoy the beauty of the church.

A Centenary Organ Concert sponsored by the Wabash Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was held in the church that afternoon.

Other events planned in anniversary year highlighting "church as people" include:

- Advent Concert, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., presented by Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) Chorale and Madrigals. The Terre Haute Children's Choir



Above, Sister of Providence Sue Pietrus directs the Centenary Choir, comprised of the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College Chorale and the Sisters of Providence Schola, during the Eucharistic Liturgy of the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Oct. 21.

Right, Lectors for the Eucharistic Liturgy of the 100th Anniversary dedication of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Oct. 21 were Dr. David Behrs, President of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, and Sister of Providence Norene Wu, who proclaimed the second reading in Chinese.



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SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE, MONTREAL
New Leadership Takes the Helm

The new General Council in Montreal, from left to right: Sr. Elizabeth Kaczmarczyk - General Assistant; Sr. Rollande Malo - General Councillor-Treasurer; Sr. Alba Letelier - General Councillor; Sr. Claudette Chénier - General Councillor-Secretary; Sr. María Antonieta Trimpay - General Councillor; and Sr. Kathryn Rutan - General Superior.

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, *continued*

will participate in this concert with the chorale.

- SMWC performance of the play, "The Quilters," Feb. 22-24 in the Cecilian Auditorium, with prior program notes presented in the church.

- SMWC Spring Concert, Sunday, April 20, at 2 p.m. in the church.

Church as building

- Architectural tours of the church are available after each of the three musical concerts and prior to "The Quilters" play.

- The Sisters of Providence-sponsored Second Annual

Youth Art Contest in March will have as its theme the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The public is invited to all events and the Sisters of Providence would be honored by your presence and by your celebrating with them. The Web site, www.SistersofProvidence.org, will be updated periodically with more details; be sure to check it out closer to the time of events.

By Sister Ann Casper , executive director, Office of Congregational Advancement

MISSIONARY

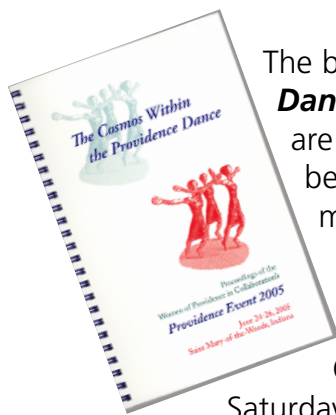
CATECHISTS, *continued*

Guerrero at 2318 Castrovilla Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78237 at 210-432-0113 or srestherm-cdp@sbcglobal.net

"Providence never abandons us in the works which we undertake by its directions."
 Sister Benitia Vermeersch, CDP

By Sister Esther M. Guerrero, mcdp

Providence Event Materials Available



The booklet *The Cosmos Within, the Providence Dance*, proceedings from the 2005 Providence Event are available in the WPC office. Additional copies may be purchased by WPC members for \$10 or for non-members \$15

Also available is the **five set video series from Providence event 2005**. The set includes:

Opening Ritual and 25th anniversary celebration; Saturday morning prayer, overview of the day and presentation by Barbara Doherty, SP; Saturday afternoon presentations by Lucy Zientek, CDP and Mary Christine Morkovsky, CDP; Saturday dinner, Women of Providence awards; and Sunday morning prayer, process and engagement and Sunday closing Liturgy. If you wish to order a set please contact S. Ann Margaret in the WPC office at 812-535-2502 or aohara@spsmw.org

DATES TO REMEMBER ...

Jan. 18-20, 2008: Providence Event 2008 Core Team meeting at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN

March 31 - April 2: VFL, Kingston, Ontario

April 1-3, 2008: WPC Board Meeting, Kingston, Ontario

June 8-15: Providence Event 2008, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN

COLLABORATION

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Member Congregations:

Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence: Allison Park, PA ✕ Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence: Melbourne, KY ✕ Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence: San Antonio, TX ✕ Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence, San Antonio, TX ✕ Oblate Sisters of Providence, Baltimore, MD ✕ Sisters of Providence, Holyoke, MA ✕ Sisters of Providence, Montreal, Quebec, Canada ✕ Sisters of Providence, Seattle/Spokane, WA ✕ Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN ✕ Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston, Ontario, Canada ✕ Sisters of Providence, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

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