

Conservation award in Massachusetts

The Trustees of Reservations presented the Holyoke, Mass. Sisters of Providence with its 2009 conservationist of the Year Award on Sept. 26 during the Trustees Annual Meeting in Dover, Massachusetts. The award recognizes the Sisters earlier donation to the Trustees of 25 acres of prime farmland along the Connecticut River. The Trustees will preserve the land's development "in perpetuity" for agricultural purposes only and establish the acreage, now named "Land of Providence" as a new conservation area to be enjoyed by the public.

Sister Elizabeth Oleksak, who has been very involved in the



Congregation's efforts to preserve the property, accepted the award for her Community.

The mission of The Trustees of Reservations (www.thetrustees.org) is to preserve for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts, is a mission closely akin to the Sisters' stance of caring for Earth.

Attending award ceremony, from left, Andy Kendall, President Trustees of Reservations, Jocelyn Forbush, Trustees Regional Director, Sisters Geraldine Noonan, Ann Horgan, and Elizabeth Oleksak, outgoing Trustees Chair.

Read more about the Holyoke SPs on pages 8-9.

Mother Joseph: Portland Heroine

Walk of the Heroines, a garden gathering place and interpretive center on Oregon's Portland State University campus, celebrates the lives and accomplishments of three centuries of women, including Mother Joseph. At the June 17 opening event, more than 400 attended the reception, strolled the grounds to read the names inscribed on a memorial wall, and took pictures as keepsakes.



Sisters of Providence who were among the throng were delighted to walk

continued on page 5

Pictured at the Walk of the Heroines are (from left): Sister Lynda Thompson, SNJM, director of pastoral care at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center; and Sisters of Providence Margaret Bischoff, Joyce Green, Jeanette Heindl, Ana Dolores Orellana Gamero, Rita Ferschweiler, Karin Dufault and Lenora Donovan

Read about the Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods SP's recognition on page 3.

Women of Providence in

COLLABORATION

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, to give keynote address at Providence Event 2012

Fr. Ron Rolheiser will address the theme of Providence mystics at the next Providence Event June 15-17, 2012, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN. The core planning team includes: Julie Crane, SP, Holyoke, MA, Jeannette Filthaut, SP, Kingston, ON, Diane Langford, CDP, San Antonio, TX, Marie McCarthy, SP, St. Mary of the Woods, IN, Marilyn Webb, associate, St. Mary of the Woods, IN, and Mary Alice Zander, SP, St. Mary of the Woods, IN. The planning team will meet January 25, 2010, in Chicago.



Corporate Actions Resource Team plans Lenten Reflections

The Corporate Actions Resource Team was established after the last Providence Event to expand education regarding ecology and eco-spirituality. As their first response, the planning team will offer Providence spirituality reflections during Lent to members and associates of WPC congregations. Members of the Corporate Actions Resource Team are: Janet Folkl, CDP, Barb McMullen, CDP, and Kathleen Popko, SP.

Initial formation gathering set for July 7-11, 2010

WPC members in initial formation will gather July 7-11, 2010, at St. Joseph's Family Center in Spokane, WA. The purpose is to reflect together on Providence and to get to know each other. Scholarships are available.

The planning committee includes: Bev Dunn, SP, Beatrice La Framboise, SP, Mary Beth Klingel, SP, Josie Ramac, SP, and Vilma Franco, SP.

Vocations/Formation/Leadership to gather March 17-21, 2010

VFL members will gather March 17-21, 2010, at the Providence International Center in Montreal, Quebec. The theme of the conference is "Providence as Good News to the Poor." Presenters are Sr. Marie Azzarello, CND, and Rev. John Emmett Walsh.

Associates and directors to gather at NACAR June 2010

Associates and their directors will be invited to a social gathering during the NACAR annual meeting June 4-6, 2010 in St. Louis. This will allow them to get to know associates among all member congregations.

An Margaret

New postulant, statue at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods



Saint Mother Theodore Guerin has come home to the woods! At least a newly placed bronze statue of her is now located just outside the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., on the motherhouse grounds of the Sisters of Providence. The statue was created by artist Teresa Clark and donated to the Sisters of Providence by the late Larry Fleschner of Terre Haute, Ind. The statue dedication was held just prior to Eucharistic Liturgy June 28, 2009.



Hannah Corbin entered the Sisters of Providence postulancy Sept. 14. As the tradition goes, Hannah knocked on the Providence Hall door and was welcomed inside where a brief but touching ceremony commenced, followed by a reception. Hannah is a 2006 graduate of the University of Indianapolis with degrees in German and youth ministry. In June 2006, she was a PVM in the organic and biodynamic vegetable gardens and orchards at White Violet Center for Eco-Justice.

Chamber of Commerce Award

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., were recently honored by the Terre Haute (Ind.) Area Chamber of Commerce. Twelve Sisters of Providence walked to the stage Sept. 15 to accept the Vision – A Level Above award and received a standing ovation from banquet attendees. The award recognizes an individual, individuals, an organization or business for making significant progress toward enhancing quality of life issues, growth and economic development promising future growth in the community to help move Terre Haute a level above other communities.

Water from Dimes

What does a wine bottle full of dimes have to do with water?

No, we are not changing wine into water. The wine bottle, a particularly tall bottle with a long, narrow neck, originally held good French wine given to the American



Sisters from the American Province present dimes to help fund new wells in Madagascar as a way to carry out their Chapter commitment to reverence Earth and their call from the General Council to take action in the area of water.

Province by Sister Pascale during our Chapter of Elections in February. During the Chapter of Business in June, Sister Fran gave the bottle back to Sister Pascale, this time filled with dimes rather than wine.

The Sisters of the American Province had been filling this bottle with dimes, with the intention that the money in the bottle be changed to water in the form of wells in Madagascar. This is one way that we are carrying out the decision made to honor

the call of the 2008 General Chapter to reverence the earth, and the call of the Enlarged General Council to do a province-wide action in the area of water.

Sister Alphonse Marie ANTONINY spoke about the continuing need in her home country of Madagascar for deep wells that would provide a safe and reliable source of water for the villages. Sister's affirmation reinforced the determination of the Sisters to raise money for wells in Madagascar for the next four years, and so this was adopted as one of the Province-wide actions that we will take to reverence the earth.

The other action has to do with the privatization of water resources. In this country, the water that is processed as water to be used in our homes in most cities is taken from a local lake or river, and then it is purified and distributed by the city. Thus purification of water, distribution of water, and by extension the actual sources of water are owned by the public.

In other countries, private companies have been buying the water treatment systems from the governments, and then using the water for bottled water to be sold out of the country. This leaves less water for the local population, and the cost to the people for water services rises. We would not like to see this happen anywhere, but in our own country we have some resources that can be used to try to see that this does not happen. So the second resolution taken by the Provincial Chapter is to educate ourselves and others on the issue of privatization of water resources and advocate for changes when appropriate.

Congratulations to the newly elected leadership of the Congregation of Divine Providence in Melbourne, Kentucky. Elected were Sisters Frances Moore, provincial, Alice Gerdeman, vicar, Marilyn Hoffman, councilor, and Carleen Schumacher, councilor.

Former and current sisters gather for reunion

On June 12-14, ninety former and current Sisters of Providence gathered for the Providence Women Reunion 2009 in Renton, Wash. It began with a reception on Friday night at the Hilton Garden Inn, where some participants stayed for the weekend. For many, it was a time to reconnect by visiting and sharing with former novitiate class members and others.

The next day the women gathered at the new Providence Health & Services Conference Center. Mary Kaye Nealen SP, and Provincial Superior Margaret Botch, SP, spoke on "Providence Spirituality in Today's World" and "Providence Women in Today's World", respectively. Their thoughts provided the basis for later small group discussions. Triads were formed and each person was invited to share how the



Providence experience had touched their lives.

A panel of former and current sisters: Glenda Moyers, Geni Van Iderstine (Kemper), Barbara Schamber, SP, and Karin Dufault, SP, was also well received. Also, throughout the weekend photos from the Providence Archives ran and brought back memories. On Saturday night a banquet sponsored by the Sisters of Providence gave

participants another opportunity to visit.

There was much unanimity on wanting a future reunion. A number of people volunteered to be part of the planning committee for the next one. Many expressed that the warmth, hospitality and openness that they experienced during the weekend will remain as a wonderful memory.

— Kay Van Stralen

Participants of the Providence Women Gathering 2009 gather for a photo.

Heroine walk, *continued from page 1*

along the Iris Rill Garden that is dedicated in honor of Mother Joseph. It features a natural waterway from east to west that symbolizes the journey that Mother Joseph and four other Sisters of Providence made from Quebec to Fort Vancouver in 1856.

Sister Karin Dufault, one of the speakers at the opening event, said the garden was a most appropriate choice for a tribute to Mother Joseph. "The seeds planted are reminders of the seeds she planted and nurtured in the Northwest." In Oregon alone, the fruits of her labors include seven hospitals, 42 clinics and a center for medically fragile children, said

another speaker, Russ Danielson, vice president and chief executive of the Oregon Region of Providence Health & Services.

The Walk of the Heroines also features Mother Joseph's quote, "My sisters, whatever concerns the poor is always our affair," carved in the stone walkway. Her bio and photo are included in an educational kiosk onsite and on the project website. (<http://www.woh.pdx.edu>)

You can find the Walk of the Heroines at the juncture of Portland State University and the South Park Blocks in downtown Portland, across from PSU's Hoffman Hall.

Sisters say farewell in two ministry sites



Mary Sisters of Providence worked at St. Mary's Montreal, including (left to right) Sr. Evelyn O'Grady, Sr. Mary Mona and Sr. Marilyn Kearns.

Montreal

by Christine Ross

Calling it the most rewarding ministry in all her years caring for the sick, Sister of Providence Marilyn Kearns reflects on the last five years as sole caregiver to her friend Sister Evelyn O'Grady.

These best friends lived together for almost 50 years. The pair graduated from nursing school in 1959 and after various appointments, both were assigned to St. Mary's in Montreal, Quebec in 1967. Sr. Marilyn remained there until this June when she moved to Kingston, two months after the death of her best friend. Sr. Evelyn died in Kingston in April, just eight months after returning to Providence Motherhouse infirmary from Montreal.

Despite Sister Evelyn's advancing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, she continued to enjoy a great quality of life thanks to Sr. Marilyn. The two travelled, shopped, vacationed and spent time with family in Toronto and Quebec and remained active members of their parish community.

"It was a gift and privilege to care for Evelyn. She was so appreciative, kind and loving," says Sr. Marilyn. "To this day, I reflect on a prayer given to me by Sr. Dianne McNamara, which beautifully describes my ministry of care for Evelyn. The last line still moves me."

"...May abundant love lift you and gratitude bless you as you live the mission of care entrusted to you. Amen"

Blessing: © Sisters of St. Joseph, LaGrange, IL

Sr. Marilyn's departure from Montreal in June brings another chapter of religious history to a close and an end to the 66-year presence of the Sisters of Providence of Kingston in Montreal. When asked about this void, Sr. Marilyn explains that SP's are called to compassionate service, in all locations. After a rewarding and varied career in health care as a teacher, nurse manager and pastoral minister, this marks a new chapter in Sr. Marilyn's life. She is living in Kingston again for the first time since her novitiate years and her sabbatical ends in the fall as she ponders her next ministry

"I will likely work with the poor in some capacity. I'm also looking into working with the Kingston Alzheimer Society, however I'm not quite ready emotionally."

Fall Equinox celebration

Autumn officially arrived at 5:19 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009 — the autumnal equinox, or fall equinox. Technically speaking, an equinox is a day when the Sun will spend an equal amount of time above and below the horizon. This

happens twice a year, in Autumn and Spring.

The peak of harvest season was welcomed with prayer, song and celebration at the Heirloom Seed Sanctuary barn on the grounds of Providence Motherhouse in Kingston. Guests were invited to sow winter rye in the gardens as a cover crop for the cold weather ahead. The

Autumn Equinox reminds us all about restoring balance in our busy lives.

This is the second big event at the Heirloom Seed Barn this month. On Sept. 5, a steady stream of visitors sampled over 30 tomato varieties at the 10th annual Heirloom Tomato Day. The cool start to the summer delayed the tomato crop this



Perth

by Christine Ross

The end of an era was marked with laughter, tears and memories during a special Thanksgiving Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish in Perth on Sunday, June 21. After 116 years of dedicated service, pastoral ministry and teaching, the Sisters of Providence are leaving Perth.

Sister Josephine (Joey) Doiron, the last Sister to serve the community, was overcome with emotions as she spoke to the congregation following Sunday service on a beautiful first day of summer. Referred to as the "diminutive dynamo" Sr. Joey was greeted with a steady stream of well-wishers and offered many gifts, including a soccer ball signed by students at St. John elementary school. Perth Mayor John Fenik thanked Sr. Joey for her hard work, generosity and spirituality. He gave her a picture book on Perth called "This Fair Town".

Eighteen Sisters of Providence attended the event and were presented with a large plaque engraved with the name of every Sister of Providence who ministered in Perth since 1892. It will be erected at the entrance of the parish.

General Superior Sister Pauline Lally addressed the congregation.

"Are we are entering another era where the laity is called to take its rightful place in the church? Is God calling the Sisters to be smaller, to something different? Something new? What does Providence have in mind for us? And so, as in days of yore, we go forward in



hope, knowing God is indeed with us as we dream religious life into its new future."

Sister Pauline expressed disappointment at never having the opportunity to minister in Perth, and acknowledged all 130 Sisters who made a difference there.

"Sharing our individual giftedness we have carried out diverse ministries in collaboration with many of you and others to bring about the Reign of God. Now it's your turn to do the same. You are called to live out your Baptismal promises by sharing in our charism, spirituality and mission in their own lifestyle. This is one way that the "Providence Presence" can live on," said Sr. Pauline.

As for Sister Joey's future, travel and rest top her "to do" list.

A special Thanksgiving Mass for Sr. Josephine Doiron and the Sisters of Providence was held at St. John in Perth on Sunday, June 21



The beautiful bounty of the Autumn harvest at left marks the beginning of a period for thanksgiving and celebration.

year, but judging by the turn out, it was worth the wait!

Autumn Prayer

Generous Giver of Life, as I

look at autumned earth today, I marvel at her gracious generosity, at her willingness to share her gifts.

Unlike Earth, I am not always so gracious. I want the fullness and the fruitfulness, but I fight the emptiness of giving away. May I have her grand spirit of generosity and be willing to give of my own produce for the future well-being of the cosmos. Amen.

New leadership for Holyoke SPs

The Holyoke Sisters of Providence closed their June 10-14 General Chapter with the election of Sister Kathleen Popko, SP, as their

sions, overseeing facility operations in five northeastern states. Before joining CHE, she worked in several capacities for the local Sisters of Providence Health System, including serving as its president and chief executive officer from 1994-1997.



Above, the newly elected leadership of the Holyoke Sisters of Providence, from left: Kathleen Popko, SP, president, Caritas Geary and Ann Horgan, SP, councilors.

next President and Sisters Ann Horgan and Mary Caritas Geary as Councilors on the SP Executive Council. They will begin their four-year terms following installation ceremonies on Sun., Sept. 27, in Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at Providence Place.

Sister Kathleen Popko, a Holyoke native, is currently executive vice president of strategy and ministry development for Catholic Health East (CHE), a national health care system, and previously served as president of the Sisters of Providence from 1985—1993.

Prior to her current position with CHE, Sister Kathleen served for eight years as executive vice president at one of CHE's operating divi-

Sister Kathleen earned a BS in Nursing from Marillac College in St. Louis, MO, and a MSW and a PhD in Social Policy from Brandeis University's Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Policy in Waltham, MA. While there, she was a research associate for the Levinson Gerontological Policy Institute and an adjunct assistant professor. Sister Popko also authored a book on the implications of regulatory controls on hospitals.

Sister Ann Horgan, a native of Worcester, is acting administrator of Genesis Spiritual Life Center in Westfield and served on the SP Executive Council from 1997-2001. An experienced retreat and spiritual Director and a Focusing Facilitator, she also serves the Congregation as vocation and formation director.

Earlier, Sister Ann served for five years as a member of the Campion Renewal Center Team in Weston. Prior, she ministered as a nurse in SP-sponsored facilities including Mercy Hospital in Springfield where she was supervisor of the ambulatory services department, and at Providence Mother House where she was administrator of the Mother House Infirmary.

She is a graduate of the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago and earned a master of arts degree in psychology and religion at Andover Institute in Newton. She holds a bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Sister Mary Caritas Geary, a native of Springfield, served the SP Congregation as president from 1969-1977 and on the SP Executive Council from 1985-1993. She served as president and CEO of Mercy Medical Center from 1977-1993 and during those years served on the Boards and as chairperson of both the Catholic Health Association and the Massachusetts Hospital Association and as a Board Member of the American Hospital Association.

Currently, Sister Mary Caritas, with Sister of Providence President Joan Mullen, is leading the building of the Congregation's newest ministry, Mary's Meadow at Providence Place. She also serves on the Board of Providence Place at Ingleside, the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts

Catholic Conference, the Diocesan Foundation Board, the Catholic Charities Board and the Boards of several civic organizations locally. She is also chair of the Catholic Health East's Advocacy Committee and on CHE's Board of Hope Ministries and Sponsors Council.

An R.N., she is a graduate of the former Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Springfield, and earned an A.B. Degree at Regis College in Weston. She also holds a master of education degree from Tufts University in Medford, a certificate in executive management from St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, and several honorary doctoral degrees.

Mary's Meadow: new concept in long-term nursing care



Above, from left, a blessing from the Bishop, exterior view of Mary's Meadow's "small house" concept, and interior of the central shared Chapel.

The Sisters of Providence of Holyoke held a Blessing and Dedication Ceremony for their newest ministry Mary's Meadow at Providence Place on Tues., Sept. 15, at 10:30 a.m. outside The Garden, one of four newly constructed houses at 12 Gamelin Street.

The four residential-style, 10 private bedroom homes,

though separate from one another, all share the lovely central chapel named in honor of Our Lady of Providence. Designed around the "Small House" concept for the delivery of long term skilled nursing care and as the setting for the delivery of short term rehabilitation services, it is the first of its type to

open in Massachusetts.

For more detailed information about Mary's Meadow and the "Small House" concept please visit www.marysmeadow.org.

Bringing Providence into the future

This past summer, more than 225 Sisters of Divine Providence and Associates from all over the country (Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Kingston, MA, Puerto Rico, and Santo Domingo) gathered at Providence Heights in Pittsburgh for the congregation's Annual Assembly. For the first time in the history of the Assembly, many of those who could not be present were included through video technology.

This year's theme, Being Providence into the Future, addressed the continuation of a journey of possibilities for living the challenge of the Sisters' mission to make God's Providence visible in

the world.

Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, provincial director of the Marie de la Roche Province, shared the following remarks with the Assembly: "This is a time to review what we've done, where we've been, and what's needed for our future together. Right now, religious life in the 21st century is in a major period of transition, a time that will so change it, that what it will be cannot be envisioned. No one person has the answer for what the future will be or how religious life will change. No one community is taking all the right steps that will bring them safely

into a new way of living as women religious. No group, large or small, has the whole vision.

"They didn't have that in the past either. Our sisters left Germany and lived in new ways in the U.S. Our sisters left the U.S. for Puerto Rico and made many new adaptations similar to those that had been required when the Sisters first left Germany. This has been our common history for the sake of Mission. As we seek together new ways of living and serving for Mission, our Provident God is calling us to dare to risk together for the future."

Congregation presents Ketteler Award for Social Justice

The Sisters of Divine Providence instituted the Ketteler Award to honor individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice. The award was named for Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, Bishop of Mainz, Germany, and co-founder of the Congregation. Bishop Ketteler, honored as the "Worker Bishop," was a tireless fighter for the rights of the working class.

The recipient of the 2009 Ketteler Award was Liguori Rossner, SFCC, co-founder and executive director of the Jubilee Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization supported and operated by concerned citizens of the greater Pittsburgh metropolitan area. Sister Liguori was recognized for her more than 30 years in ministry to the people of Pittsburgh as a strong advocate for those whose lives are challenged by poverty, illness, joblessness, or homelessness. Her lifetime of advocacy on behalf of those who are poor and without voice parallels Bishop Ketteler's unwavering support

of the disenfranchised in Germany in the 1800s.

Past Ketteler Award recipients include Helen Prejean, CSJ, Betty Sundry, CDP and Fr. Don McIlvane, Monsignor William Kerr, Joan D. Chittister, OSB, Bishop Emeritus Leroy Theodore Matthiesen, Roberta Grzelak, CDP, Jim and Kathy McGinnis, Anita Green, CDP, Miriam Therese MacGillis, Edwina Gateley, and Elizabeth Vines, CDP.



Provincial Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP (right) presents Ketteler Award to Liguori Rossner, SFCC]



Sisters in various stages of Incorporation with their mentors include (left to right) Sisters Juanita Torres Acevedo, Mary Jane Beatty, Pre-Novitiate Candidate Sally Vega Alvarado, newly transferred to the Marie de la Roche Province, Sister Guillermina Nieto Fernández, Sisters Alice Marie Lyon and Lu Haidnick, Novice Bethsébé Palamino Montalvo, Elena Almendárez, Discernment Director, and Theresa Stegman, Novice Director.

Welcome, women of Providence

Sally Vega was welcomed as a pre-novitiate candidate in a joyful celebration in Bayamon, Puerto Rico in July 2009. Family and friends attended the ceremony. Sister Ana Lydia Sonera has known Sally for the past nine years. Sister Inesita Velez Negron worked with Sally during the discernment process, and Sister Juanita Torres Acevedo is her mentor. Sally will move to Santo

Domingo, where she will live with Sister Juanita and participate in the intercommunity program sponsored by CONDOR, the Dominican Republic's Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Sister Guillermina Nieto Fernández was received into the Marie de la Roche Province as a transfer from the region of Peru during a recent prayer service. Sister Guillermina has been living

with the Sisters in the American province and studying English since August of 2006. In addition to attending La Roche College for ESL classes, she has spent time at Camp Mishannock, the Providence Family Support Center, Room at the Inn, and La Posada Providencia. Sister Guillermina will complete her ESL studies this fall and begin preparation for ministry within the province.

New and improved website

The Marie de la Roche Province launched its newly designed website in late summer. The web address is the same, but the site has had a complete redesign.

Staff in the Office of Mission Advancement now has the capability to update and post information at a moment's notice. Visitors receive timely news of the Sisters and their ministries. There is a calendar of events, a prayer line, and the opportunity to donate to the

Sisters through online contributions. The Members section of the site includes a directory for vowed members and one for Associates, which can be updated by the individual who is listed in the directory.

The new site promises to provide many new ways in which to connect with people and, in so doing, to make Providence more visible! Visit us at www.divineprovidencweb.org.

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NEWSLETTER

MINISTRIES

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COLLABORATION fall 2009

How can you recognize a Woman of Providence?



The MCDPs bless their newly constructed prayer labyrinth this past May.

MISSIONARY CATECHISTS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

MCDPs offer new means to prayer

“Meditation is the great means to salvation. It aids us powerfully in the pursuit of our destiny; to know God, to love Him, to serve Him that we may be happy with Him forever. It helps us to know ourselves as we are.”

Sr. Benitia Vermeersch, CDP

The Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence held their Chapter of Affairs during their annual Assembly Gathering May 29 - June 4. The process leading to the Chapter began in the Fall of 2008 with the Chapter Committee facilitated by Sister Joan Murray, OP and Sister Bea Eichten, OSF. The process developed was then processed and reflected in the member's area groups. One of the hopes from the Chapter Committee was to give the Chapter of Affairs and its process more of a contemplative stance. This would mean taking a long, loving look at reality from a contemplative stance. It invited members to a deeper listening and being in dialogue with one another regarding the future of the congregation. A day of prayer before the Chapter was held on May 3.

Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM mentions in one of her articles, “As we try to get in touch with the God

within and become open to the Spirit, we are doing some of the very difficult inner work so essential if we are to respond in new ways.”

In order to help the members get in touch with the God within and be open to the Spirit, several forms of prayer were available for the day of prayer. Among them was the investment of a labyrinth on St. Andrew's grounds.

Sister Esther M. Guerrero called several local religious congregations to inquire about a labyrinth, and no one had a labyrinth on their property. The MCDP's are elated to have built a labyrinth, not only for themselves, but to be able to offer it to the public who are interested in using it as a form of prayer.

It is with much joy and sacrifice that the MCDP's have a

labyrinth on the city's west-side. The labyrinth was created from reuse and recycling of bricks from an old tool shed that used to be on the property many years ago. The shed was knocked down about a year ago due to safety concerns. The reuse and recycle of bricks not only brought the cost down and helped the environment but also a part of history is in this sacred space.

The Biblical Catechetical Program, one of the MCDP's sponsored works, have a weekend retreat prior to the year long study on scripture and catechesis. The participants were exposed to the labyrinth and several made use of it for prayer, as well as the associates and friends who gather once a month. During the evenings, one can usually see one of the older sisters walking along the sacred space.

Speaking from a personal experience, the labyrinth has brought clarity, inner healing and peace to me. My mother suffered a sudden death on Dec. 12, 2006. In March of 2007, I attended a directed retreat with the Sisters of Providence in Melbourne, Ky. who have an indoor labyrinth. It was there that I experienced the power of the labyrinth and hoped that one day a labyrinth would be constructed on the grounds of St. Andrews.

The labyrinth was blessed with a ritual on May 31. The labyrinth is open to the public on Wednesdays from 4 - 9 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Groups who want to use it on any other day may contact St. Andrew's Convent at 21-432-0113.

Submitted by: Sister Esther M. Guerrero, mcdp

Upcoming retreats at White Violet Center for Eco-Justice Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

May 6-10 2010: **Directed Retreat**

Daily spiritual direction with your choice from our team of spiritual directors, all while enjoying the beauty of our beautiful Woods.

July 12-17, 2010: Immerse yourself into Earth to contemplate its impact on your spirituality. In-depth presentations on the Universe Story, food issues, energy needs, water crisis and what this all has to do with our own lives and faith. Get your hands dirty and spend quiet time in prayer.

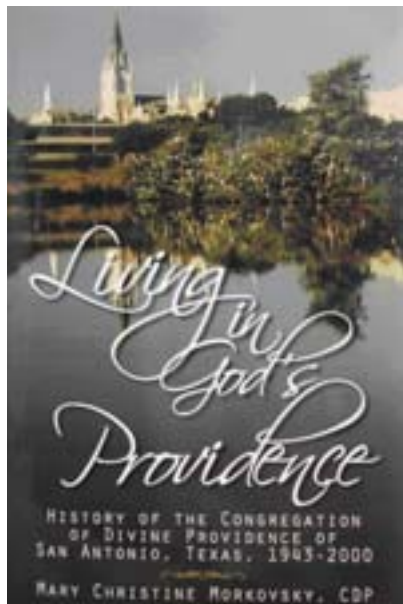
Aug. 8-14, 2010: **God Jesus Prayer and Liturgy in a New Universe Story** Michael Morwood, with over 30 years experience in retreats, education, parish and youth ministries in Australia is interested in helping Christians examine what they believe and why they believe it. He strives to help Christians articulate faith in Jesus in ways that resonate with contemporary understanding of our place in the universe.

To register or for more information, contact Sister Maureen Freeman at 812-535-2930 or mfreeman@spsmw.org or visit www.WhiteViolet.org

CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Congregation releases historical book

The Congregation of Divine Providence, San Antonio, proudly announces the



release of Sister Mary Christine Morkovsky's book, *Living in God's Providence*. The book was written to preserve for the Sisters of Divine Providence as well as for the general public significant events in a time of momentous changes, 1943-2000. All Sisters alive in 2000 were interviewed for the book. Their personal reactions and reflections illuminate the inner life of the Congregation, especially during and after the second Vatican Council. The archives of the Congregation and Our Lady of the Lake University as well as interviews with former

members, co-workers, and others associated with the Sisters also provided valuable material.



Books can be ordered through www.xlibris.com, www.Amazon.com, and Barnes and Nobles book-sellers.

Available form WPC

Texts:

Providence: God's Face Toward the World: Proceedings of the Women of Providence Colloquium, May 1984.

On Keeping Providence: Proceedings of the Women of Providence Colloquium, March 1991.

Come and Dance a New Song at Cana: Providence and Discipleship through Mary: Making Providence Visible, proceedings of the Providence Event, June/August 2003.

The Cosmos within the Providence Dance: Proceedings of the Providence Event and 25th Anniversary Celebration, June 2005. (includes DVD)

Video/Audio Recordings

Providence People Tread Lightly on Earth: Proceedings of the Providence Event, June 2008. (DVD or VHS)

Our Vows through the Prism of Providence: Proceedings of the WPC/VFL Conference 2005 (cassette tapes)

Shall We Dance? Our Life in Community as Vowed Women Religious Named Providence: Proceedings of the WPC/VFL Conference, 2006 (DVD)

Contact Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP at 812-535-2502 or aohara@spsmw.org for more information.

Join us for Sabbatical Time at Genesis Spiritual Life Center

"I would recommend Genesis for the peaceful and beautiful ambiance as well as its welcoming spirit I had time to relax, walk pray and steep myself into ecology. Time spent in spiritual direction and various programs such as Focusing were highlights of my stay."

— Ann Pender, County Westmeath, Ireland

Genesis is located on 19 wooded acres at the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains in western Massachusetts. Providing space for rest and solitude, Genesis offers an atmosphere of gracious hospitality and healing presence.

Design your own sabbatical program, combining it with holistic workshops and retreats. Take time to be renewed and enriched, and enter into the healing presence of God.

GENESIS SPIRITUAL LIFE & CONFERENCE CENTER

53 Mill Street, Westfield, MA 01085

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