



## Providence Associates



### *Dear Providence Associates*

*I*n the core of our being is energy impelling us to communion, joy, care, compassion, tenderness, connectedness, and welcoming. With fidelity in prayer and availability for deep listening-dialogue, we shall be there to heal, reconcile and unite.

Each book contains many pages and one central theme. Each page bears varying texts and/or images, even blank spaces. When all the pages are bound together, each single page exists no longer in isolation – it becomes a part of the whole – ONE BOOK.



## *... continuation of the letter*

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We are one; we all need each other. In a presentation through TED Talk by Pope Francis, he mentions: "A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you. And then there will be another "you", and another "you", and it turns into an "us". And so, does hope begin when we have an "us"? No. Hope began with one "you". When there is an "us", there begins a revolution of tenderness."

Similarly, this message of being "us" was expounded by an Anglican Archbishop, Desmond Tutu. He is a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his lifelong struggle to bring equality, justice, and peace in South Africa. When interviewed about his book, entitled God's Dream, he said:

God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion. In God's family, all belong. When we start to live as brothers and sisters and to recognize our interdependence, we become fully human. We are people through other people. We cannot be fully human alone. We are made for interdependence, we are made for family...you embrace others...you are generous, compassionate... This is God's dream.

An essential component of interdependence is to listen also to the silent cry of our "common home". Everything is connected. A sincere love for our fellow beings, an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society need to include concern for the environment. Everything is related. We are on a pilgrimage, as brothers and sisters we are woven together by the love of God for his creatures. (cf. *Laudato Si'* 91-92)

Our world is craving for the gift of nurturance of creativity, vision, dreams, healing, reconciliation, and the sense of the sacred. We are a family. We are one, made for togetherness, for goodness, encounter and compassion.

The profound “us” and the unwavering fidelity of Ruth to her mother-in-law Naomi in the Scriptures inspire our commitment to put right what has gone wrong in our society: “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you will go, I will go and where you will stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16).

Our Provident God is with us, among us and beyond us. Easter blessings to all!

*Josie Lorio, SP*  
PA General Coordinator

1. TED Talk by Pope Francis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36zrJfAFcuc>



**Did you know?**

**There is a lot of information and news on the website of the Providence Family:**

<http://www.providenceintl.org> and

<https://www.facebook.com/Providenceintl1843/?ref=hl>

**United in prayer:** let us pray for all PAs who are sick or in need around the world.



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# Providence Family

## **BLESSED EMILIE TAVERNIER GAMELIN** **Novena to Obtain a Favour through** **the Intercession of the Blessed Emilie Gamelin**



### **1<sup>st</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie came to know early in her life, open our eyes to the light of your presence and, following her example, may the poor always have a place in our lives. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie learned to discover in daily events: the joys, sufferings, grief and loneliness, let us learn, following her example, how to meet you and understand your love towards us, whatever happens. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie learned to serve in complete loyalty in the duties of Christian and family life and in a heroic acceptance of the trials inherent in the human condition, let us learn to accept in faith, following her example, whatever makes up our lives. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

### **4<sup>th</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie discovered in the poor and marginalized and whom she wanted to serve in being providence to them, following her example, let us always be available to help others with their problems. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

**5<sup>th</sup> day :**

Provident God, you whom Emilie loved, prayed to and praised as the author of all gifts, following her example, help us to love, to pray and to praise you. May all our requests find in you the accomplishment of your greatest glory. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

**6<sup>th</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie wanted to serve and love in the holy state of marriage and of religious life, following her example, allow us to live intensely our lives as baptized persons wherever we find ourselves. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

**7<sup>th</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie recognized in the orphan, in the young unemployed person, in the couple experiencing problems, in the loneliness of the sick, in the poor without shelter, in the elderly without friends, let us comfort and give our time to serve you through them, following her example. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

**8<sup>th</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie wanted to love more every day, and also wanted to love in words and in act, in the person of all her brothers and sisters, following her example, let us learn how to forget all that causes pain and to forgive in complete serenity. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

**9<sup>th</sup> day:**

Provident God, you whom Emilie was happy to know, to love and to serve on earth, following her example, let us walk with you, in this life, to find and glorify you eternally. Allow us to obtain the favour we are soliciting by her intercession... if it is your holy Will. (Final Prayer)

Please inform of any favour obtained to the Office of the Cause:  
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(514) 334 9090 # 208

### **MISSIONING WHEREVER PROVIDENCE MAY SEND ME SISTER SILVIA TRONCOSO'S STAY IN CHILE BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE**

Gathered in Chile for this very special moment: L to R: Sisters Silvia Troncoso, Rebeca Mallhue, Jaquelina Juárez, Hortensia Tapia and Josie Lerios.



In January 2017, Sister Silvia Troncoso traveled to Chile; she has been part of Mother Joseph Province for twenty-five years, (United States, El Salvador, the Philippines), where she has been dedicated to parish work with Latin American families on American soil. During her visit in her birth country, she attended the Providence Associates Annual Gathering in Vicuña. Her presence was highly emotional, since many of the Associates knew Sister Silvia from when they were children. Sister Silvia was missioned in Chile for more than thirty years before working in the United States.

She shares with us about the gathering of the Providence Associates: "The most important thing was to reconnect and remember the Mission with them .... I was very moved to see students of Llo-Lleo, where I had been a teacher; those students graduated during my time there. I also saw students of Vicuña, who told me that I did not only give them intellectual knowledge, but also taught them to be women, to cook, knit, sew, and to

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embroider. A major experience of this gathering was the impression that these people continue the Mission of the Sisters of Providence and keep the Charism alive.”

Sister Silvia explains her ministry in United States with Spanish-speaking persons, many of them undocumented migrants: “These people’s most important need is accompaniment, for being in an unknown country involves suffering and great discomfort, and even more if they don’t have papers. Then, when they get papers, things change; but for those who do not have papers, it is a permanent suffering, a source of great anxiety. Another thing about the communities there [Yakima, Washington], that are composed roughly of 89% Mexicans, is that their most important need is formation. Parents and adults need formation because the children are receiving American education; therefore, the children and the parents do not understand each other. Those families need help, listening and guidance.”

When asked about how she sees her life, she answers: “My dream at the moment is to continue working. With sixty-seven years of religious life, I believe that I can work about three more years, continuing to accompany and teach because these give me life. I’m a very contemplative religious; I like prayer a lot. I really enjoy staying informed ... Only God knows what is to become of me; for now, I feel free and available.”

Congratulations for such a beautiful life, dearest Sister Silvia. May the Lord bless you with good health to carry out your dream: the Providence Mission.

Adapted from the Bernarda Morin Province Bulletin, April 2017



**TRAVEL TO THE WASHINGTON STATE CAPITOL, USA,  
FOR A HEARING ON THE DEATH PENALTY  
MOTHER JOSEPH PROVINCE**



On a cold, wet, rainy, February 15th morning, Sisters Charlotte Van Dyke, Lenora Donovan and Charlene Hudon, along with Providence Associate Geri Ann Johnson, sacrificed sleeping in and carpoled from Seattle to Olympia for an 8 a.m. hearing against the death penalty in the State of Washington. The proposed legislation, HB1935, reads: "Reducing criminal justice expenses by eliminating the death penalty and instead requiring life imprisonment without possibility of release or parole as the sentence for aggravated first-degree murder."

Individuals who signed up to speak were called to testify in order. There were th

ree times as many individuals who spoke in favor of this bill to abolish the death penalty as those who spoke against it.

Speakers for the bill included Attorney General Bob Ferguson, a Catholic deacon who spent 30 some years at the prison and was



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present for many executions, a man from the Episcopal Church who read a letter from its bishops, and a woman from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Also speaking for the bill were a mother, Teresa Mathis, whose son was murdered but who spoke of forgiveness for his killer, and her daughter Shirley Mathis, who spoke of the pain and suffering the family experienced through the trial process. Both women expressed concern that the defendant did not receive proper legal representation.

Those who spoke in favor of the death penalty commented that if counties couldn't take up the death penalty because of cost (estimates for prosecuting death penalty cases run into millions of dollars), then the state should pay for it. Another man said that families want closure and that putting the murderer to death brings justice.

Sister Charlotte had the last word. She began her remarks by referencing the Book of Genesis, where God banished Cain to a lifetime of wandering for killing his brother Abel and said that "he who kills Cain shall be avenged sevenfold." She also said that most of the European nations had abolished the death sentence and that the United States, in continuing the use of capital punishment, is in the company of countries notorious for their violations of human rights. On behalf of the 120 Sisters of Providence and over 200 Providence Associates who have adopted a corporate stance against the death penalty, she concluded by urging the members of the House of Representatives to pass this bill.

*Jennifer Roseman,*  
Communication Director (Caritas, Spring 2017)

**NEW PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE  
ACCEPTED IN GEORGIA REGION  
MOTHER JOSEPH PROVINCE**



Provincial Councilor Sister Josie Ramac (in the center) and Edie Beasley (right)

Edie Beasley was received as the newest Providence Associate in the Georgia region on February 18. Edie had developed a special deep regard for Blessed Emilie Gamelin and it was the example set by Emilie that drew Edie to be received. The date became especially significant when Sister Josie Ramac reminded all who were present that the very next day, February 19, would be the anniversary of Emilie's birth.

The ceremony was held in the first chapel at New Beginnings Ministry, in Martin, Georgia, and was well attended. A lovely reception was held in the main dining area. This region continues to grow and there are additional persons interested in belonging. Time and discernment will give the answer to their interest.

*Jennifer Roseman,*  
Communication Director  
(Caritas, Spring 2017)

**TELL ME ABOUT A BAZAAR...  
ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE**



Juedie Élismat, novice, and Mimo. During the last fundraising event for Torbeck, Haiti.

Since my prenovitiate, I have often heard of bazaars. I didn't know they were still as useful as in Mother Gamelin's time. In fact, I have gotten to know what bazaars have represented in the history of the Congregation. I noted that our foundress, Blessed Emilie Gamelin, held sales to meet the needs of her protégés. In my observations and in discussions around the table about ministries, I've notice that the sisters are very motivated when it's time to prepare a bazaar.

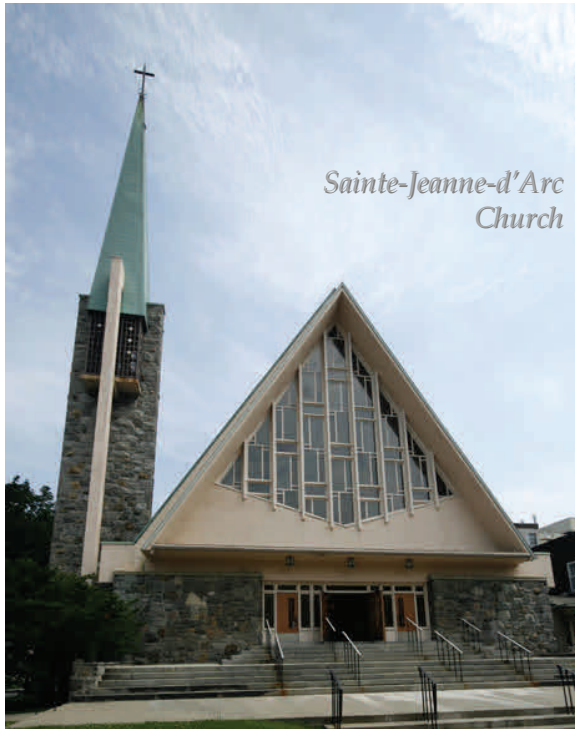
The bazaar in the parish of Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc, in Montreal, is a unifying event. Friends gather there to spend a beautiful day together and do some bargaining. Parents arrive with their children, finding the space safe for their rambunctious children. Women come with their big bags for endless haggling; they leave us with the impression that they will sell what they buy. All this establishes a beautiful atmosphere of gaiety and joy. It's a remarkable moment that allows us to meet people and interact with them.



## *Continuation of the News...*

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All the sisters living in the novitiate house of De Chambly Street, that is, the novices and sisters with perpetual vows, participate in the event. Sister Annette Coutu is the one in charge. This is a time to live and work together. The bazaar encourages the collaboration of parishioners, Providence Associates



*Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc  
Church*

and the participation of another religious community, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, who also live in our parish.

The time of organizing this annual bazaar gives the occasion to immerse ourselves in Quebec culture and fosters a rich inculturation for us, the young sisters in formation. In addition, this allows us to meet two needs. On the one hand, there is the survival of the Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc parish community and on the other hand, this allows people in the neighborhood to find what they need at a ridiculous low price.

Somehow, it's a wonderful way to be in contact with the poor and to exercise our life's mission. We can also show the tenderness and compassion that characterize a Sister of Providence.

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The sharing I experience allows me to say that the active presence of our sisters reflects a passionate commitment. Their love for the Mission gives one the impression that they are in their 30s and yet...

In my reflections, I feel that the strong involvement of the sisters makes me want to become a Sister of Providence who takes to heart the ministry entrusted to her. This isn't about a single person, all sisters do their part. I'm lucky to live my novitiate with such committed women. With these words, I invite you to pay us a little visit so you might experience similar beautiful moments.

Sainte-Jeanne d'Arc Church  
2345 De Chambly Street  
Montreal, near Joliette metro station

*Juedie Elismat,*  
Novice, Sister of Providence  
Info-route April 2017

**This superb text by Sister Juedie also allows us to invite you on May 26-27, 2017, to participate in the annual grand bazaar to support the mission of the Sisters of Providence in Torbeck, Haiti. It will be held in Providence Hall at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence, 5655 Salaberry Street, Montreal. Young and old will find unexpected treasures!**



**VISIT OF MRS. SOPHIE GRÉGOIRE TRUDEAU  
FIRST LADY OF CANADA AT KANGAROO HOUSE  
ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE**



Sister Annette Coutu, SP, Mrs. Madame Sophie Grégoire Trudeau and Madame Josée Fortin, PA



The Kangaroo House had the honour to receive Mrs. Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, First Lady of Canada, on April 8, on the occasion of Women's Week. When Providence Associate Josée Fortin, founder and Executive Director of Kangaroo House, hosted the first fundraising event at the Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal for Kangaroo House in December 2016, she had invited Mrs. Trudeau and her husband, the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, to "The Starry Night" event. However, as the couple was not available, Mrs. Trudeau decided to send us a video in which she welcomed our guests and stated that she supported the



cause of Kangaroo House, the first front line centre and emergency accommodation for children in the Province of Quebec. Kangaroo House allows parents to bring their children in an emergency situation 24/7, when they are experiencing temporary problems.

Later, Mrs. Trudeau decided to visit Kangaroo House and its beneficiaries, while learning about its operations. It was an unforgettable day for us all.

*Annette Coulu, SP*  
Info-route April 2017





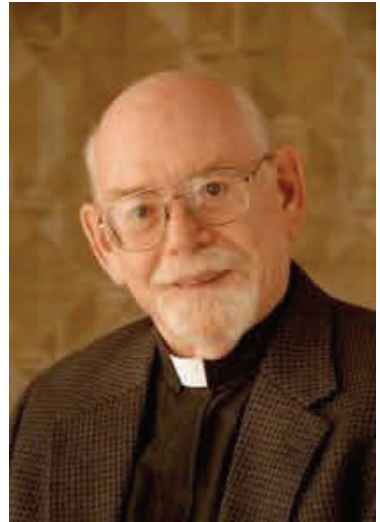
## *Gone on before us...*

The Providence Associates who left this world for their Celestial Home remind us, with their life and their dedication to the most destitute, the Father's unconditional love here and now for eternity.

We give thanks for the life of Mary Bischoff, PA, sister of Margaret Bischoff, SP, who passed away in Oregon, USA, in February 2017.

### **TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARLES "CHUCK" E. SCHMITZ, SJ PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE**

Reverend Charles "Chuck" E. Schmitz, SJ, died February 18 at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Center, Los Gatos, California. He was 78 years old and was a Providence Associate. A devoted priest and religious, "Padre Carlos" opened wide his heart to the needs, hopes, dreams, fears, and faith of the Spanish-speaking peoples of the Northwest. From celebrating the sacraments to championing human and legal rights, Father Schmitz brought a deep passion and energy to people, places, and institutions in and out of the Church.



Born in Seattle on June 29, 1938, to Charles E. and Florence (Karst) Schmitz, Charles Emmitt Schmitz was the oldest of three siblings. He grew up in Salem, Oregon, and attended St. Joseph Grade School and Sacred Heart Academy. Chuck graduated from Seattle University in 1960. Originally set to be a commissioned military officer through the ROTC program, he chose a different calling: religious life and the priesthood. Chuck entered the Jesuit Novitiate in Sheridan, Oregon in September 1960 and did the

regular course of liberal arts and philosophical studies there and in Spokane, Washington.

Chuck volunteered and was sent to teach (with other Oregon Province Jesuits) in the minor seminary in Zambia, Africa. He returned to the United States two years later with great zeal for this work as he began his studies in theology for priesthood. Ordained a priest on June 17, 1972, in Spokane, Father Schmitz undertook graduate studies with hopes of returning to Zambia. Unfortunately, his offer to help seminarians in their educational goals was refused.

What follows is a short list of the works and ministries Father Schmitz did after his ordination: graduate work at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California; head of the Campus Ministry Department at Seattle University; pastor at St. Leo's Church, Tacoma, Washington; Central America liaison for the Jesuit Conference; minister and rector of Gonzaga Prep, Spokane; superior of St. Luke, Woodburn, Oregon; socius to the provincial, superior/coordinator of Ignatian Spirituality at St. Joseph in Yakima, Washington; and pastoral minister to Prince of Peace Church, Belfair, Washington.

Prior to entering the Jesuit Tertianship program in Jalisco, Mexico, Father Chuck immersed himself in the Spanish language and became a fluent speaker. A great joy of his was to lead Spanish speakers through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius or other forms of prayer.

Father Schmitz joined the Regis Community in Spokane for assistance in his health-care needs in 2013; he joined his brother Jesuits in Los Gatos in mid-January 2017 to receive skilled-nursing care at the infirmary there. In the early morning hours of February 18, he quietly passed away.

*Jennifer Roseman,*  
Communication Director 

## *Gone on before us...*

### **TRIBUTE TO OMER WILLIAM ENTEL, PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE**



Omer Entel, PA died on April 12 in Spokane, Washington. He was born in Colton, Washington, to Theresa and William Entel on August 1, 1931, the second of four children. On July 16, 1955, he married Carolyn Rose Dahmen and for the next 62 years they lived in Spokane, Washington, where both were longtime Providence Associates.

Omer had a long and distinguished career repairing aircraft in the military, beginning with enlistment in the U.S. Navy followed by enlistment in the Active Navy Reserve at Geiger Field, in Spokane, until that base closed. He then enlisted in the Washington Air National Guard, retiring in 1991. Afterward, he worked in the Right-of-Way Department for Spokane County, retiring from that job in 1996.

Besides being a Providence Associate, Omer was a life member of BPOE No. 228, Spokane Elks, serving in the role of Exalted Ruler (1976-77) and later as PGER District Deputy and as Secretary. Other affiliations included being a founding member of St. Peter Catholic Church, a lifetime member of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), and a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Southside Senior Center, Navy and Air Guard retirement associations, and the Dirty Dozen Social Club.

In addition to his wife Carolyn, Omer is survived by siblings Eileen Schmidt, Audrey Guettinger and Marvin (Linda) Entel; and his children, William (Rose Doulas) Entel, Cheryl (Bruce) Townson, Robert (Lavina) Entel, and Daniel Entel; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass was celebrated April 21 at St. Peter Catholic Church.

*Jennifer Roseman,*  
Communication Director



Sister Maria Nagui is a young temporary vow Sister of Providence; she currently lives in Egypt where she shares in the Providence mission with two other Sisters of Providence. She generously shared a reflection based on the recent attacks perpetrated in her home country.

I know that the news of what happened in Alexandria and Tanta, Egypt, on Palm Sunday, has traveled to all countries.

Needless to say, we were deeply affected by the news after learning the number of victims, be they individual or members of families. We immediately called our friends to make sure that there were no victims among them.

I can say that Christians are not discouraged despite the physical or material damage endured by the community; Christians in Egypt are deeply attached and loyal to their Church. It is inspiring to see them returning to the churches without thinking that there could be another attack. On Easter, the celebrations were very pious, especially in the Orthodox Church, which was the most affected.

The visit of Pope Francis to Egypt at the end of April is an encouragement. All are counting on the prayer of the Holy Father and are confident that it will have an effect in the hearts of the people.

We pray for the victims, but also for those who have caused this disaster, asking the Lord to forgive them as he himself forgave his executioners.

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