



Providence
Associates



Dear Providence Associates

175 Years of Blessings, Compassion and Charity!

The anniversary year of the founding of the Sisters of Providence began very well on March 24, 2018. The opening ceremony took place in the Providence room at the Motherhouse. The presence of a significant number of Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates was



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truly remarkable. The Providence Associates are part of the blessings that we celebrate; each and every one is a sacred story in the design of Providence. Through your "YES" to live the charism for the neediest of the society, following the example of Mother Gamelin, the charism continues to bear fruit in its time. The 175th anniversary celebrations will continue everywhere in the world with the participation of Providence Associates. Up until now, our activities demonstrate our unity and our sense of belonging to the Providence Family for the good of the Mission for those who are poor. Following the example of our predecessors: Mother Gamelin, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph, let us continue to sow love, compassion, joy, respect and charity among ourselves and in our respective milieus. In this way, our Anniversary Year will be a real year of blessing.

Thank you for sending us articles describing the variety of activities you are carrying out in different countries of the world.

I wish a good and happy Anniversary to each and every one of you.

Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP
PA General Coordinator

Providence Family



The Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates and Collaborators joyfully have begun the commemorations of their 175th anniversary. On March 24, 2018, the four provinces of the Congregation began, each of them in their corresponding countries or region, the celebrations and activities that will end on March 29, 2019.

The General Leadership Team participated in the celebration organized by Émilie-Gamelin Province at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal. More than 250 people, including Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates and collaborators, gathered in Providence Hall to attend this beautiful ceremony, which was transmitted live on Facebook. Watch the video: <https://www.facebook.com/Providenceintl843/> To



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Providence Family

date, nearly 600 people from different countries have watched these images steeped in union and thanksgiving for all those years of blessings.

The Communication Office of the Providence International Centre offers you three sections on its international website about the 175th anniversary. The first is Providence Voices, which offers a weekly reflection from a Sister of Providence about the Sunday Gospel: <http://providenceintl.org/en/2018/03/01/providence-spirituality/>.

The two other sections are historical flashes and news about the actions related to the 175th anniversary: <http://providenceintl.org/>

Here are a few pictures of the ceremony that took place at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal (Emilie-Gamelin Province), as well as photos from Holy Angels, Mother Joseph, and Bernarda Morin Provinces:





Mother Joseph Province



Holy Angeles Province



Bernarda Morin Province



THE MARCH 24 CELEBRATION AT THE ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE, AS SEEN BY A PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE



Sister Madeleine Gascon e and Claire Paquette, PA

I would like to share about my experience of the ceremony that took place on March 24, 2018, at the Providence room of the Motherhouse, for the inauguration of the celebrations for the anniversary of foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence. For me, that day was wonderful and full of joy; but my personal implication in the party started earlier, since I had the opportunity to help Sister Lucille Vadnais and other sisters for the preparations of this memorable event.

I also had the chance to see the joy on the faces of those of the Sisters of Providence who were present at the celebration. They were very happy to celebrate their anniversary and I shared their enthusiasm; I was very proud of being a Providence Associate and to be a little bit like Mother Gamelin.

Moreover, I had the occasion of meeting some sisters I had not seen in years, among whom was Sister Georgette Bertrand. This was such a beautiful gift! What touched me deeply is that when the sisters were faith-sharing, I could feel their happiness, and as the clock was going, the more the circles grew. One could witness and feel how remarkable was the moment. I also shared with Sister Madeleine Gascon, who some years ago nursed persons with AIDS; she is a real Mother Gamelin. She continues to be in contact with some of her former patients. I saw the elderly sisters who are open to the world's suffering; they bear witness to the world with their prayers, and with their concern to remain in a "spirit of service."

The activities came to a closure with a snacks and friendly conversations, which gave us the opportunity to meet other Providence Associates and other women religious from various sister-communities that had attended the ceremony.

Providence of God, I thank you for all!

Claire Paquette, PA



**FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY
EMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE**

Providence Associates of the Émilie-Gamelin Province expressed themselves, after attending the opening celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Congregation, on March 24, 2018.



"Today's celebration, the 175th anniversary of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, gives us the opportunity to tell you that you have been so precious for us since the beginning of the Providence Associates.

It is important for us that you introduced us to Emily, her childhood, her entire life, her love for the poor and the unfortunate, and her faith in Providence in all the challenges she lived throughout her life.

She never doubted that God was with her in all that she experienced and in the love she shared with everyone she met.

In the world we live in today, we all need her example, and we also need all of you sisters, who are showing us the path of courage, confidence, hope, and love for all those who are with us on the way and for those who are far from us.

Thank you for being who you are.

With immense gratitude, we continue our life with the help of the Lord and our Mother of Sorrows, who make miracles with their love for all who are on earth, and especially for those who are marginalized.. ”

From the PA of Montreal, by *Elizabeth Boutray, PA*
Mother House Group



**PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES OF ST VERONIQUE IN TORBECK
EMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE - HAITI**

Choosing one's life means to put oneself to the service of life,
where it is threatened,
where it needs to be supported.
(Father Daniel Cadrin, OP)



With their commitment, the Providence Associates choose life; they collaborate, according to their possibilities, to proclaim the Providence of God and the compassion of Our Mother of Sorrows by demonstrating compassionate charity in their different milieus.

To this day, 175 years after the foundation of our Congregation, women and men let themselves be touched by Emilie Gamelin's mission and charism. They give their attention to the needs of the sick, of the lonely and to all forms of poverty. In the parish of Sainte-Véronique of Torbeck, a dynamic and committed group

makes the difference in this small parish community.

As liaison, I have accompanied some Providence friends for more than a year. Sunday, March 12, had been set for the first commitment as Providence Associates of these ten persons, who are local women and men.

On March 9 and 10, I welcomed this group in our house for a time of reflection intended as an immediate preparation. This intense time ended with an hour of adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament, at our house. We are grateful to Father Michel Borgela, the parish priest, for this opportunity to gather together, the sisters, the novices and all the Associates, in a prayer of praise and intercession for the needs of the Church and of humanity.

During the Eucharistic celebration on March 12, after the homily, in addition to the commitment made by the new members, sixteen Associates renewed their commitments. Sister Estelle Boisclair, Local Superior, was mandated by Sister Claire Houde, Provincial Superior, to receive these commitments.

This was a significant event and gave witness to all the attending faithful.

After the Mass, the local community was happy to open its doors to welcome the group under its roof. Sharing simple refreshments in a spirit of a friendship allowed the participants to continue their joyful thanksgiving.

We continue to assure this group of our prayers and our solidarity with their project. I believe that every member accepts the words of by Pope Francis when he urges us "to go to the margins" of society.

Valiette Messeroux, s.p.

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BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE



Several events have taken place in Chile, at the Provincial Motherhouse as well as in the various houses, works and schools, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation, always keeping in mind the Mission of the Sisters of Providence. The Providence Associates have actively participated in these celebrations. Let us share with you some of these events.

A liturgy was held at the front of the Providence Church in Santiago. This ceremony was led by Sister María Antonieta Trimpay, Provincial Superior, together with Sister Jaquelina Juárez, Provincial Councillor. Some videos prepared by the

Providence International Centre Providence (the Providence Archives and the Emilie Gamelin Centre) were showcased 1. The event ended with a cocktail hour at the Nuestra Señora de los Dolores Residence.

The Sisters of the Bernarda Morin community and other communities watched the live broadcast of the opening ceremony, which took place at the Motherhouse in Montreal, Canada. It is still possible to watch the recording of this ceremony on the international Facebook page of the Sisters of Providence: <https://www.facebook.com/Providenceintl1843/>.

At the San Vicente de Paul Home in Limache, there was a



celebration and the people gathered there shared emotionally about the presence of the Sisters of Providence in this town. The number of participants was more than had been expected, which permitted a very profound sharing. At the Providence Home for elderly women in Valparaiso, the residents celebrated in a large

room decorated with beautiful golden ornaments.

Commemorative events, involving all educational levels, were held in the schools.

For example: in the Carmela Larraín de Infante →



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College in Maipu, a liturgy was held, in which three members of the staff dressed in the original habit of the Sisters of Providence to represent our Mothers, Emilie Gamelin, Bernarda Morin and Joseph of

the Sacred Heart. The Providence College in Linares, celebrated the founding of the Congregation at the local Cathedral, which was festively decorated for the occasion. At Providence College, in



Concepción, a liturgy was celebrated and a sister taught the Hymn to the Divine Providence to the people gathered for the liturgy.



The same song was performed by a chorus of preschool children in the Providence Kindergarten of Valparaíso.

Providence of God, I thank you for all.

Communication– Bernarda Morin Province

1. On the international website of the Sisters of Providence, you will find information about the International Providence Centre, the Providence Archives, the Emilie Gamelin Centre, some news, reflections and more : <http://providenceintl.org/>

COMMUNITIES OF PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES ELECT THEIR NEW NATIONAL BOARD DURING THEIR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE



The Providence Associates found a space for communion, strengthening and mutual support at their recent annual assembly that was held last March 17, at our Provincial Motherhouse. On the same occasion, the PA communities also elected their new national executive board and presented their respective work plans for 2018.

The new Executive Board that has received a two-year mandate is composed of:

- National Coordinator: Ms. Elizabeth Farías Navarro (PA Community of Llo-Lleo).



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- Vice Coordinator: Ms. Flor Hernández (PA Community of Llo-Lleo).
- Secretary: Ms. Ana Hermosilla Zamorano (PA Community of Llo-Lleo).
- Treasurer: Ms. Cintia Morgado Tapia (Emilia-Gamelin PA Community of Santiago).
- Director: Ms. Juanita Tapia (Emilia-Gamelin PA Community of Santiago).
- Director: Ms. Yolanda Vergara (PA Community of Maipú).
- Provincial Councilor and Liaison for the Providence Associate Movement: Sister Rebeca Malhue, SP.

Some representatives of most of the communities in Chile came to the gathering. They have planned many activities to continue sharing the mission and spirituality of our Congregation, such as: visits to seniors social clubs, visits to homes for elderly women of the Province, tables of the king, recycling projects, activities of spiritual accompaniment of migrants, bingos and fundraising activities, participation in pastoral works for parents and guardians and initial formation meetings, among other actions.

Some sisters accompanied the attendees and participated in this assembly. They were Sister Rebeca Malhue, Liaison with the Provincial Council, Sister Herna Astorga, Sister Inelia Muñoz, Sister Teresita González, Sister María Eugenia Arancibia, Sister Gooldye Fuentealba, Sister Teresita Alcayaga and Sister Ana Delia Silva.

Communicating and expanding Providence spirituality

The PA community of Ovalle presented a new contribution to the assembly when the Coordinator, Ms. María Cecilia Martínez,

explained that they have worked on promoting and spreading the knowledge the work of the movements in their city through different means and methods. The Providence Associates have participated, among other activities, in secular radio programs, as well as in Church ones, in order to communicate about the activities that they carry out; they also use e-mails, social networks and text messaging.

“This has served to increase and strengthen the participation and cooperation in activities as, for example, in the Table of the King,” said María Cecilia. “There is a lot of ‘left hands not knowing what the right hands are doing’,” she added, “but we live in a world of image and communication. When we communicate about the Table of the King, and about the donations we give to persons in need, we discover that people collaborate.”

We, the members of the Provincial Council, are proud and happy about all the initiatives that the Providence Associates continue to take, and we show our support so that the movement becomes stronger every day.

Note: Members of the Providence Associates communities from all over Chile gathered at our Providencia Campus.

*Boletín Provincia
Bernarda Morin,
March 2018*



SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP “COOKING WITH OUR IMMIGRANT SISTERS”, ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNITY OF PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES OF OVALLE BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE



It is with great joy and gratitude that the Chilean cooking workshop “Cooking with our immigrant sisters” ended on Saturday, May 5, in the afternoon. After four Saturdays using the facilities of La Providencia de Ovalle College, the closure event took place and the participating immigrant women received certificates and cookbooks.

Due to the increasing immigrant population in Chile, and especially in our city of Ovalle, the Providence Associate community decided to take action and contribute to their integration, providing them with the basic tools to get acquainted with our local

cuisine and, this way, expanding their chances of employment within our community.

The group of immigrants, twelve Haitian and two Venezuelan women, were grateful for the work of the local Providence Associates community, since many of the participants were not familiar with Chilean meals and had not had the opportunity to sample them. The workshop, held on three Saturdays, included preparing the following dishes: cazuela (stew), empanadas, beans and lentils. Once the meals were ready, they were shared and savored by all at the table. The fourth and last class was a practice one and each of the participants chose to cook their favorite dish. The Associates evaluated the cooks while they were preparing their meal and then each one received a certificate and an award.



Providence Associates
from Ovalle,

**PROVIDENCE CALLS ~ ENCOURAGES ~ PROVIDES
MOTHER JOSEPH PROVINCE**



East Lake Washington Region: L-R: Shirley McKay PA; Ann Buchanan PA; Kathy Mulvaney PA; Mary Wilson SP and Phyllis Silva-Keith PA

Sometimes, it just takes a while and a heartfelt prayerful discernment, to be inspired as to how to meet the needs of those who are called to join together and serve others.

During the summer of 2017, the Executive Director and Executive Secretary of Providence Associates of Mother Joseph, Kathy Bouche, PA and Margaret Bauer PA, visited Associates living East of Seattle and Lake Washington. The Associates spoke of having difficulties with transportation and availability for week-end meetings and activities scheduled in Seattle. Kathy and Margaret kindly listened to our needs, hopes and request to re-establish our East Lake Washington Region.

Providence Provides! With the blessing of the PA Board of

Directors and encouragement of Sister Jo Ann Showalter, Provincial Councilor and GeriAnn Johnson, PA Province Liaison, the East Lake Washington Region was joyfully re-established. Monthly week day meetings began last September. Sister Mary Wilson, SP, accepted the invitation to become our Sister Liaison and Phyllis Silva-Keith, PA, was tapped to be the Regional Coordinator.

One of our members, Susan Keyes, PA, lives in Rathdrum, Idaho, and is unable to be present for monthly gatherings but we and Susan continue to share by phone, and email. We keep each other surrounded in our daily prayers which is encouraging us and drawing us closer in community.

Our individual ministries include prayer; donations to parish food banks; preparing sandwiches for a homeless shelter; providing Eucharist for the home bound; writing letters to prisoners; caring for children and visiting elders.

Recently, Ann Buchanan, PA, told us about The New Bethlehem Day Center in Kirkland where homeless families are welcome from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM daily. The center provides food, laundry facilities, showers and computers along with offering social services to help the families to improve their circumstances. We unanimously decided to make this a regional ministry. We have collectively donated eight shopping bags plus a box filled with a much needed variety of hygiene items and laundry soap. We will continue donating needed items on a bi-monthly basis. Shirley McKay,

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PA, has volunteered and been approved to drive the center van to help take families to the over-night shelter in Bellevue.



We are very grateful to have the opportunity to gather and meet closer to our homes and to serve together again. The blessings of guidance and encouragement are now re-vitalizing our associate, personal and spiritual lives. Thank you!

Phyllis Silva-Keith, PA
East Lake Washington Regional Coordinator



OTHER ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE



Sister Vallette Vallette Messeroux, s.p. visited Sister Fleurette Beaudoin to thank her for the multiple works she has carried out for the PA and SP mission in Haiti. Picture taken at the Motherhouse in Montreal

Providence Associates and Sisters in initial formation celebrate the beginning of the anniversary year in Edmonton, Alberta



Sisters and Providence Associates prepare a Table of the King in Spokane, USA.



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