

*A publication of the Sisters of Providence*

# *Providence Missive*







*Providence Missive* is the bulletin of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence published by the General Administration three times a year. It presents news, activities, articles for reflection, and personal testimonies of the life and mission of the Sisters of Providence throughout the world.

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**Cover:**

**The three great Providence women :**  
Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Emilie  
Gamelin and Bernard Morin



# Dear Sisters,



In August 2018, after the profession of their first vows at the Motherhouse, the newly-professed sisters met with the General Leadership Team, (l. to r.): Sisters Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, Nancy Arévalo, Annette Noël, Jude Merline Bernard, Francine Blanc, Guerla Alexis, Josie Leries, Karin Dufault and Rollande Malo

We are truly in the midst of LIVING our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! I hope that you have had the opportunity to read the monthly 175th anniversary e-newsletters. They have provided a wonderful sampling of creative anniversary events, as well as of Providence sisters and ministries past and present. Each issue adds to our understanding of our “years of blessings.”

The priceless photos provided by the province and general archives included in the e-newsletter tell great stories in themselves. The ministries focused upon to date in the newsletters have been visits and care for the sick, education for children and adolescents, and providing food for those who are poor and hungry. If you have missed any of the issues, I encourage you to communicate with the Communication Office (nbertoluci@providenceintl.org), to receive a

numerical copy and have the stories and images.

How inspiring it is to see and hear how our sisters and associates are using the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an opportunity to reach out and be with those in need of emotional, spiritual and physical nourishment and human friendship. I can imagine the conversations that Blessed Émilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph are having as they watch how Providence has been manifested and remembered during this special year.

What a privilege it was for our General Leadership Team to be invited to join Émilie Gamelin Province on June 19 in the “*Table of the King*” soup and sandwich luncheon at *Place Gamelin*, former site of our first motherhouse. The event was provided in



collaboration with PRESENCE COMPASSION, a ministry to homeless people, in which some of our sisters and novices are volunteers.

All the people at Place Gamelin, young and old, homeless people and business people, differently abled and able bodied - diversity personified, were warmly welcomed by the sisters and associates. Every person was treated to a wholesome lunch, friendly conversation, and delightful entertainment by renowned vocalist Natalie Choquette, a friend of the Sisters of Providence.

Everyone learned about the origin of the name of Place Gamelin and the woman whose statue is right there at the Berri-UQUAM station. Blessed Émilie Tavernier Gamelin was also present handing out bread and kind words. She was depicted by three women in period costume as a young woman, a mature lay woman and as a Sister of Providence. We met some wonderful people who regularly use Place Gamelin as an oasis from life's hardships. These sacred encounters were with Blessed Emilie's people; these are the people sent by Providence to be our teachers! We truly learned from them that special day.

The General Leadership Team looks forward to participating in 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in Mother Joseph Province and in Bernarda Morin Province during the time of their regional conferences in September and October, respectively. The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

will meet at the International Centre October 29-31, 2018 to continue the planning associated with the closing liturgy which will be held March 29, 2019 in our Providence Motherhouse chapel. The committee will also discuss events taking place in the provinces. We are grateful for all who are participating on the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and for those serving on the committees in the provinces.

We have proclaimed that an important part of this anniversary year is to welcome the future with hope. Certainly, our getting more deeply in touch with our "roots and our branches" right up to the present time reinforces our hope for what is yet to come. Hope comes naturally to women who profess "Providence as the loving presence of God, watchful over the created universe, attentive to the needs of all, active in us and through us." (Constitutions & Rules #6). Our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary invites us to be attentive to all Providence is revealing to us and to share the insights with one another. These revelations pave the way for us to embrace opportunities to live our mission amid the evolving realities of our suffering, divided world and to proclaim God's dream.

These months since the opening of our anniversary year have also brought their share of living the pascal mystery as we bid farewell to beloved sisters, including Linda Jo Reynolds, Madeleine Leblanc, Laurenda Chassé, Thérèse Cossette, Madeleine Larivière, Thérèse

Deschamps, Juliette Pépin, Juliette Lanciault, Thecla Becher, Simone Brissette, Pierrette Chalifour, Thérèse Mondor, Marie-Anna Boissé, Rebecca Berghoff, Claire Dumont, Éliane Lanteigne and centenarians Hélène Simard, and Rollande Leduc. We miss them and call on them to aid us from heavenly home.

We appreciate the assistance provided to the General Leadership Team by Sister Kathryn (Kitsy) Rutan and Sister Mary Kaye Nealen during these past months. They each returned to Mother Joseph Province at the end of June with our love and prayers of gratitude accompanying them. We are very grateful that Sister Annette Noël joined the General Leadership Team as General Secretary – Councillor on July 1 and is quickly learning her new role and responsibilities. By the time you receive this Missive, our General Leadership Team will have engaged in a week of reflection and planning. These are precious days of faith-sharing, team-building and discerning together how we can best carry out the mandate entrusted to us at the 2017 General Chapter.

In this issue of Missive, we will delve more deeply into the mystery of Providence reflected in the lives of Blessed Emilie Gamelin, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph which has had a significant influence on sisters who are sharing their experience. Through their words we can see Providence active within our diverse cultures from generation to generation.

We hope this issue reinforces your sense that our anniversary year is truly “a time of grace,” a time of growth and deepening our trust in Providence and our call to serve, faithful to the legacy we have inherited from great women. May this year be a blessing that speaks to us, to those we serve and with whom we serve, that Providence is alive and well, loving, caring, teaching and healing just as in the days of Blessed Emilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph.

Affectionately in Providence,

*Karin Dufault SP*  
Congregational Leader





# SPECIAL SP REPORT

Experiences, reflections



## The Providence of God from the perspective of Emilie, Bernarda and Joseph

The legacy of our Great Providence Women –  
how the Providence is lived  
from our different cultures

### THE THREE GREAT WOMEN OF OUR CONGREGATION

Isabel Cid, SP, was born in Argentina and she is fluent in the three official languages of the Congregation. She entered the Sisters of Providence in 1967 and today, she lives in Alberta, Canada. As she is a citizen of the world and a missionary of Providence, she has lived and missioned in several countries.



From the very beginning, three great women of our Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, that is Mother Emilie Gamelin, Mother Bernarda Morin and Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, affectionately welcomed God's gifts and discerned very well how these gifts

could be shared with the impoverished of their time. Thus glorifying our Creator giving life abundantly, just as Jesus did.

These three women fully committed, in great confidence surrendered themselves into God's hands, "and all else was given them." With confidence and courage, they beheld the suffering Christ in society, giving them strength and wisdom to love, to comfort, to feed, to dress, to encourage, to heal, to educate, to visit, to give hope, and God made miracles.

For 175 years the Spirit of Mother Emilie Gamelin, Mother Bernarda Morin and Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart has lived on. In their footsteps we continue to live an international, intercultural, intergenerational and intercommunal lifestyle.

This is how I feel since I have met the Sisters of Providence in Argentina more than fifty years ago. Their Spirit was conveyed to me because it was very much alive in the hearts of those women dedicated to serving in inhospitable lands.

Today God manifests Himself in each one of us, allowing us to take Him to a shattered, yet hopeful world.

We ask God to help us participate in the coming of His Kingdom. Providence of God, we believe in you, we hope in you, we love you with all our heart and we thank you for all.



## “EMILIE GAMELIN, THE LIGHT THAT HAS ILLUMINATED MY PATH.”

Silvia Troncoso Salas, SP was born in Chile and she has 69 years of consecrated life to her credit. She is very dynamic and was missionary in the western United States for twenty-six years. Currently back in her native country, she coordinates the Nuestra Señora de Dolores Community in Santiago.



Surely you will ask “what has been my life during so many years.” My life is a miracle from God. My health is good and I have ministered faithfully for the Church and for the Community.

I can say that at my age, I have had a happy life and loved the ministry I accomplished in the Congregation, making present and bearing witness of the charism and mission to today's society in the hope of projecting them into the future.

Every day I convince myself that Mother Emilie Gamelin has been the light that has enlightened my path. She was a woman of fast and constant action. Her life was a continuous action. Action was very present in my mission life. What can I say regarding her charity for the poor and the unfortunate? The lives of Mother Emilie Gamelin and Mother Bernarda Morin were meaningful for me. Since I was very young, I desired to be with the poor, specifically with sick children, youth, adults and now the elderly; who have help me to live the Mission in today's world. Our founding Mothers lives have encouraged me to visit inmates in the Vicuña prison, in Llo-Lleo, and celebrate with them some of the holidays.

I thank my good Mothers, their examples truly convey life and action. Their love for the Church and their great spirit of faith have led me to teach those in need of knowledge, in the various schools in Chile. I also taught and evangelized in parishes in Chile, in San Alberto in Recoleta, and in

Antofagasta. More recently, I spent twenty-six years in the San José Parish in Yakima, Washington (United States). The Presence of Providence became real during these years and I know that our Provident God will long remain in the lives of these people. I believe that our foundresses established these great works of charity because of their great spirit of faith, humility and simplicity. And what about their deep contemplative prayer? Their example has enlightened my entire apostolic life in the Congregation; for we cannot touch hearts if we are not ourselves filled with provident love gained through contemplative prayer.

I will never forget the pain that I felt when a loved one of my family died in Chile while I was far away, ministering in the United States. What gave me strength? The spirit of Mother Bernarda, for she suffered the loss of her loved ones, but she knew how to move forward with great faith and trust. Thank you Mother for your exemplary life.

In this time of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Congregation, I say thank you Mother Emilia Gamelin, thank you Mother Bernarda, thank you Mother Joseph, you have modeled my life.

I think that if my sisters and I live the example of these holy Mothers: the Congregation will continue to be present in the future and throughout eternity.

*O Mother Bernarda!  
You are a model of Holiness  
Chile worships and remembers you  
I ask you to send workers  
To the Lord's harvests  
To the Church and the Congregation*





## EMILIE, MY INSPIRATION

Juedie Elismat, SP, is a temporary vowed Sister of Providence. She was born in Haiti, and she began her novitiate in Montreal in 2015. With a nursing background and a heart of gold, she is always concerned about the well-being of her patients. She is currently ministering in Port-au-Prince.



My life, my choices and my ministry are all evidences of my deep attachment to Emilie Gamelin, as an active woman seeking to respond to the various needs of the most vulnerable. Knowing more about Emilie's life and

letting my heart speak, guided by the Lord is how everything became clear regarding my vocation and the path I was to follow. Here is a short account of my life following in Emilie's footsteps, a token of my admiration for her.

Having pronounced my temporary vows and soon after my arrival in Haiti, I presented my resumé at Saint-François de Sales Catholic hospital. I began the internship on the eve of the Carnival and in my heart was bubbling joy, to finally have the opportunity of serving the sick and the needy, giving them their physical dignity, respecting them as persons. It is this aspect of Mother Gamelin that nourishes me the most and invites me to reach out to patients. This is what has earned me the nicknames of "Miss Big Smile" or "The Nice Miss".

When I return home in the evening, at table, I can't stop talking about how my day was: it was

so new and interesting. My greatest joys were the encounters, either with a man or a woman, washing patients, talking to them and listening to them as they talked about their sufferings; I sympathized, saying what I thought. On many occasions I referred to our Lord, He who knows better than anyone what true suffering is. At times I also refer to our Blessed Emilie, to bring comfort or a word of encouragement. My personal motto is "listening more than medicating, the mind rather than the body, and foremost, dignity". With this inner attitude, I have cared for many sick people; my joy is great when they return home in good shape. I also share the grief of relatives who suffer the loss of a beloved family member. I remember them in my prayers, entrusting them to the infinite mercy of a loving Provident Father. Some of the patients and their relatives question me if I would not be a religious. I am always happy to inform them of my identity as a Sister of Providence. I would like to be Providence for these poor patients. May our Blessed Emilie Gamelin give me the impetus to bear witness to charity for all vulnerable persons.

Emilie Gamelin, Bernarda Morin, and Joseph of the Sacred Heart are women who built our Community, thus building our present. Now, drawing from their example, we too engage in the path of Providence.



## Trip to El Salvador

By Ema Maureira, SP

*I experienced great joy and gratitude when I learnt I would travel to El Salvador and so I want to share with you something of what this trip meant to me.*



Sisters of Providence from El Salvador or who have already missioned in this country. From L. to R.: Vilma Franco, María Antonieta Trimpay, Margarita Hernández, Marita Capili, Kathryn Rutan, Marcia Gática, Monica Campillay, Ema Maureira and Marilyn Charette

I do not deny that I had dreamt about it, but did not think it would happen so soon. I thank God for the 175 years since the founding of our Congregation in Canada, the 165 years since of the founding in Chile and the 23 years since the founding in this beautiful country of El Salvador.

I infinitely thank the sisters of the Provincial Council for giving me this opportunity to travel. I take it as a gift from Providence to return to this beautiful mission of "PAPALOTA", where I could once again see those beautiful places, decorated by God, in this sister country. I was able to see

once again the faces of hundreds of people with whom, for many years, I shared their pains and joys. I have only to say: "The Lord is good." I am so grateful to have made this trip with my sisters María Antonieta Trimpay and Mónica Campillay, since we had shared many good moments together in PAPALOTA.

August 11 was for me, and I believe for them also, a special day. We left the Provincial House at 3:15 heading to the airport; we soon flew to Lima (Peru), and later to El Salvador. This was on Saturday. Upon arrival we were welcomed with



much affection by Sisters Marita Capili, Kathryn Rutan (Kitsy), Marcia Gática, Margarita Hernández, Vilma Franco, Marilyn and Aracely, the latter is a future Sister of Providence, God willing.

Sunday, August 12th, was the festive day with a super early rise. We went to San Marcos church, about a kilometer from the house. Upon arrival, I realized how crowded the temple was, with more than 600 people. I immediately began greeting people nonstop with expressions of joy, soon turned into cries of joy, tight hugs and kisses. With warm weather, humidity was apparent. How these people are beautiful and joyful! What a joy to greet those who were teens when I left and are now parents of cute children. On Sunday the 12th, we had a beautiful Eucharist prepared in detail in the church that now, after almost 20 years, resembles a Cathedral: beautiful, neat, painted, with curtains, pews, a fabulous choir in which Sister Marcia took part with her guitar, and a nice liturgy team. They have no reason to envy other parishes of the Usulután Department; really, we noticed a big change. Father Angel presented the homily on Providence.

The PAPANOTA now has potable water and power. Families are slowly rising from the level of poverty; they had no desire to overcome their condition and thus remained in this state. Today, there are young people who have gone for studies and are now graduated, thanks to grants

distributed by the Sisters of Providence. Among them some are nurses, union leaders and physicians. All are young and serving their community. How can we not be grateful to God? God loves those who trust in HIM.

August 13-14 were days for sharing with the sisters. Sister Kitsy had fractured her knee and was with a cast and in a wheelchair; on the 14<sup>th</sup> she returned to the United States, for further treatment, Marilyn left with her. As for me, on the 14<sup>th</sup>, I went with Sisters Vilma and Margarita to visit other families in another region.

On the 15<sup>th</sup>, we returned to Santiago, filled with beautiful memories, songs and dances that were presented for us. I thank God and my Providence community, whom I love with all my soul. Thanks to all my sisters and may God bless us with many new vocations.



## Montreal

*Revived memories during the visit to our former Mother House on Fullum Street in Montreal to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregation*

Compilation of texts by Sister Yolande Mongeon  
and Sister Lucille Langlais



Among the programmed activities during the year celebrating 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Congregation was a visit to our former Motherhouse on Fullum Street, in Montreal. Several sisters have long desired to visit once again the place where they had lived their novitiate years, preparing their journey to becoming a Sister of Providence. Seven groups were formed for these visits and about fifty Sisters of Providence enjoyed the opportunity.

Our sisters were anxious to see the transformations to the building that other sisters had already described. Sister Yolande describes the visit: "What a joy to see from afar the imposing grey stone building still intact. However, I was somewhat disoriented upon entering the front door. Indeed, only the front desk and a sign reminded me that I was entering the building where, on November 17, 1953, I began my novitiate and pronounced my perpetual vows five years later, on November 19, 1958.





Upon entering, the contrast of the stone up against the warmth of the wood of the grand staircase leading to the parlor impressed me. There were more surprises to come. The simplicity and kindness of Mrs. Caroline Perron, our guide, reassured me about what I was about to see throughout the visit. On the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, the elevator was unrecognizable; it was modern and better adapted for the residents and services offered within the house. As for the attic, it also has been renovated and is more accessible than during my Postulancy years. At times we would escape there and discovered coffins that were stored there. The area reserved for residents is tidy, cozy, intimate and multifunctional. The only thing I could recognize were the beams.

The tour continued down floor by floor, along the long multicolored narrow corridors, lined with room doors, very different, in width, from my time, 65 years ago. A few pictures on the wall reminded me that the sisters' dormitories were on that floor. At every picture, I gave further details about our previous lifestyle, sometimes funny ones, to the novices Daveline Livert, Nathalie Jean-Philippe, and Snyrve Valencia Pierre, and Sister Helene Mamert Nga Amogo who accompanied the novices that day.

Some remnants of the past awoke memories such as the stairs on St. Catherine Street side of the building where, on Saturdays, while doing cleaning chores, we could watch weddings at the





church from across the street; in the balcony of the chapel, I could picture the Casavant organ where it once stood; the confessional; the rotunda where our "elderly" sisters could live Eucharist; the niche of the statue of Our Mother of Sorrows; the Stations of the Cross; the balconies; the interior courtyard; the St. Vincent Pavilion; the Gamelin Nursing Home; the workshops.

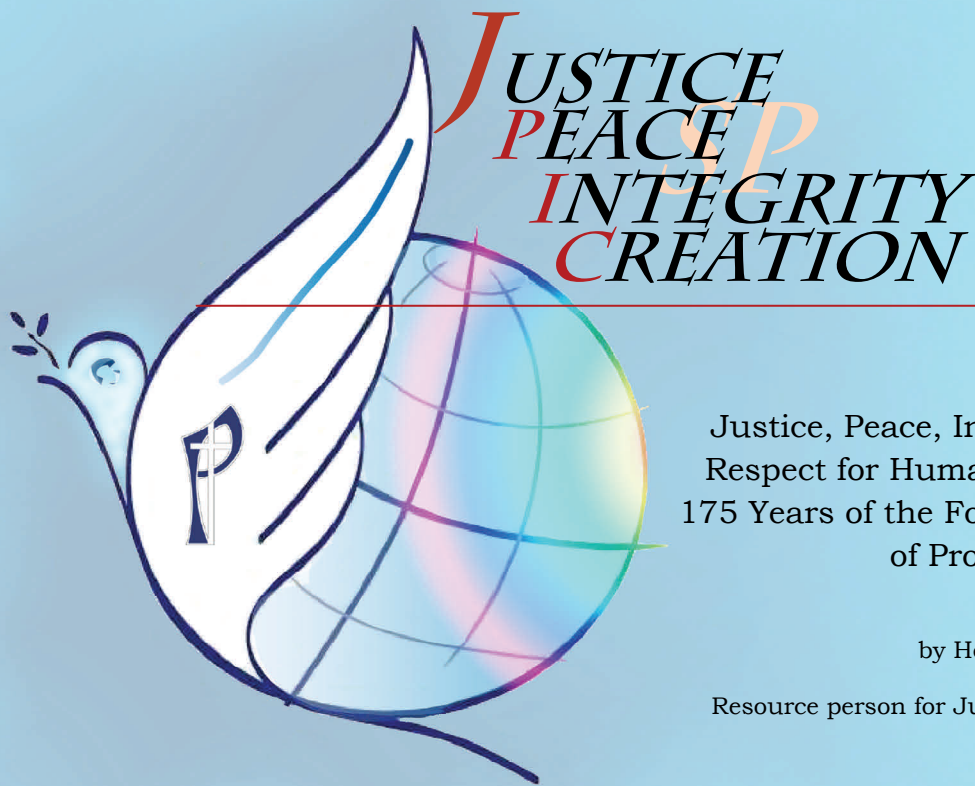
Our guide made us appreciate the warm and functional decors the changes and improvements made to this dwelling for the accommodations and greater comfort of the current residents.

During the visit I was a bit nostalgic but it quickly dissipated with Mrs. Perron's information about the new vocation of the house and the social organizations that share the space. All who gravitate there are engaged on continuing humanitarian works with those most in need as did Mother Emilie Gamelin and the religious who ministered at Providence House. It's an impressive conversion; a new life circulates within the walls that still speak of the past.

Sister Lucille Langlais added a few comments about the magnificent old chapel of the house: "The pews were replaced by pretty little round tables, covered with tablecloths that invite you to share or to play, furnishing the spaces in the balcony. Then we arrived at the most desired place, the one where we prayed, meditated and maybe cried: the chapel. Who would have ever thought that a chapel could be transformed into such an inviting dining room?"

This residence is now called "Habitat Fullum" and is part of the group "Les Habitations la Traversée". It is a home for seniors, continuing, without a doubt, the mission of the Sisters of Providence.

Thanks to the organizing committee for allowing the Sisters of Émilie-Gamelin Province to experience such a visit filled with emotions.



Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation,  
Respect for Human Rights; Since the  
175 Years of the Founding of the Sisters  
of Providence

by Hortense Demia-Mbaïlaou, SP  
General Councillor  
Resource person for Justice, Peace and Integrity of  
Creation and UNANIMA

Since the founding in 1843, the promotion of justice, peace and human rights has always been an important part of the Mission of the Sisters of the Providence. Particularly in the nineteenth century, when Emilie Tavernier Gamelin was a "Lady of Charity", she and her companions advocated, in the name of justice, for the rights and human dignity for people living in poverty, the marginalized, the elderly, the homeless, the orphans, the prisoners and the Irish refugees. From this tradition, the "Sisters of Charity, Servants of the Poor", who later became the Sisters of Providence, have kept the same Charism to this day. Above all, they have kept the flame and passion for justice and peace, for the integrity of Creation and human dignity. We owe profound gratitude to our Mother Foundress for bequeathing this important legacy to us. In general in the Congregation and particularly in the provinces,

the theme of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) is spoken of in documents, Mission-related community life objectives, and in daily actions by local community members ministering with people suffering from poverty, in small practical and feasible projects that are promising for the future. Our commitment for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is for us to make of justice and peace a way of being and living in today's world.

The Sisters of Providence have constantly kept in mind, throughout the years, the desire to adjust their lives, their projects and their structures to the practice of justice, peace and human dignity. They found creative ways to helping by donating their time and sharing prayers or a compassionate gesture towards those surrounding them. They did and still do advocate in defense of human rights, fight against human trafficking; assist immigrants, →



refugees, homeless, and other punctual solidarities.

In this year that celebrates the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding, we rejoice in the sisters' efforts to achieve justice, peace, and integrity of Creation, the restoration of human dignity, in order to improve children's living conditions, such as in Chile and Haiti, through education, assistance to families and developing countries, by our involvement in the Roncalli International Foundation, and the environment. Another way is the promotion of *Laudato Si'* as a tool for

teaching integral ecology, which combines the well-being of human beings and of all Creation. The same zeal as our predecessors still drives us to promote and bear witness to a more human life, in harmony with the integrity of Creation, because all are responsible for the protection and care of Creation. May we renew our passion for Justice, each of us in her milieu or with other religious congregations to promote even more Justice, Peace and respect for Creation.



# SHORT NEWS

Across the Community

Holy Angels Province



West Canada

*Together let's celebrate!*

## Serena Chappell Enters the Candidacy

by Anne Hemstock, SP



We have a reason to celebrate and give thanks. Serena Chappell entered the candidacy of the Sisters of Providence with a simple ceremony held in Emilie Community

Room at Providence Centre on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Serena has come to know the Sisters of Providence following the summer live-in experience in August of 2017. She says: "I felt so at home [with you]." She has had an extended "Come and See" experience spending weekends with the local community of Providence Residence, Calgary over the last year where she has come to know the reality of community life,



its joys and challenges. Sister Dolores Blanchette in giving witness to Serena's readiness said: *"You are one of us, you come to pray with us, you are at home with us and we are at home with you."*

Serena has a passion for teaching young children and uses her many gifts with her Grade One class at St. James School in Calgary where she will continue to teach in the fall.

Serena's parents, Doug and Candice from Peachland, BC, her sister Kimberly and her husband Steve with their three children were present for the ceremony. Many of the Sisters of the province and sisters of other communities living at Providence Centre were also present for the celebration. Providence of God, we thank you for all!

## Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

*Starvin' for Justice!*

### Sister Joan Campbell joins annual fast and vigil to abolish the death penalty

by Jennifer Roseman

From June 29 to July 2, hundreds of death penalty abolitionists from around the country gathered on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to call for an end to capital punishment in the United States. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> year for this gathering for grassroots training, advocacy, action, community and education. Each evening featured stories from murder victims' family members, and from death row exonerees, death row families and leaders in the national abolition movement. One of those attendees was Sister Joan Campbell of Mother Joseph Province, who has been tirelessly crusading against the death penalty for decades.

"From our capitol in Olympia, Washington, to the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., I have lobbied, talked and

testified against the death penalty! At the 'Starvin' for Justice' event I was privileged to be invited to tell the story of my life against the death penalty,"

Sister Joan declared. Her story was featured live on Facebook on June 30. If you missed it, you can watch it at: <https://www.facebook.com/fastandvigil/videos/1809500202451070/?t=1031>





*Standing with refugees and immigrants*

## Mother Joseph Province local community visits Refugee Women's Alliance day care in Seattle

by Charlotte Van Dyke, SP



Sisters from Esperanza Community in Mother Joseph Province visit the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) daycare program in Seattle

On June 28, the Esperanza Community of Mother Joseph Province took a small step into the life of refugee and immigrant families by visiting the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) day care program in Seattle. We were greeted by Mahnaz Eshetu, executive director of the agency which was founded by four refugee

women over thirty years ago to help refugee and immigrant families adjust to life in America, or more particularly in Seattle.

Our visit was our way of commemorating Mother Gamelin's early care for children and for the refugees from Europe who immigrated to Canada during wars and famine in Europe. Our request was to witness the day care program in particular, although ReWA has a vast array of services stimulated by the expressed need of the population served by the agency. These services have changed and increased over time.

Our visit began with an overview of ReWA and an introduction to Susan, the director of the day care program. Susan came to the United States from China as a 7-year-old. She explained that the staff/teachers in the day care are all immigrants, all certified, and are encouraged to continue their own education with support from ReWA to increase their skills and to obtain advanced credentials in their chosen professions. All of the staff of the ReWA day care program are bilingual.







The centerpiece of our visit was the children! We were introduced to the 3-year-olds, who were seated on tiny chairs around a low table, intently coloring under the watchful eye of their teacher, who was “delivering” the crayons as “ordered” by each child. One child was clinging to “grandma,” a woman from Ethiopia. “Grandma” has been dubbed with this title because of her loving, understanding touch with the “babies.” She seemed to be the “go to” person for comfort or assurance when needed.

The babies in the program were introduced in the arms of their attendants. The 5-year-olds are served in another program located offsite on Beacon Hill. Susan explained to us that the Beacon Hill program is tailored more directly to the needs of the Vietnamese families who have formed their own neighborhood in that area.

The beauty of this day care program, as with all of the services of ReWA, is the sensitivity to the clientele’s cultures. The tiny children in the day care program are the

*What a fantastic example of the gifts, talents, dedication and willingness of four courageous immigrant women to bring “New Life” for many immigrant families! Their facility, ReWA, is now thirty-three years in existence – another milestone! . . . One of the greatest advantages here is the educational component of the program. These children are learning each moment. Each child seems to be content and happy in this environment . . . Staff who go through this program will be well prepared to handle future challenges because of the many skills they have learned that are lifetime values . . . These women in their ministry give me great hope. --*

*Sister Helen Brennan*

*. . . Our main purpose was to observe the care and activities of the children in classrooms according to age – infants and 3-, 4 - and 5-year olds who spend their days learning a wealth of age-appropriate activities and skills with the help of doting, loving adult attendants and teachers. I was very impressed with the attention and interaction of a caring, loving adult to each child's needs. This has stayed in my memory since . . .*

*-- Sister Lenora Donovan*

youngest of the families who have immigrated to America from all over the world to escape war, violence and poverty in their own countries, and to seek opportunities to work to better their lives and the lives of their children. Their parents are working and studying not only to better their own lives, but also the lives of those they touch in their adopted country. These families have turned to ReWA for help in not only caring for their children, but also to access the multiple services that ReWA provides such as counseling and job placement.

Esperanza Community is more than grateful for the hospitality shown us in our visit. God bless you and the people you serve.





## Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

*Help the NEEDY*

### The DONATIONS Received by the Comedor Emilia Gamelin

By the Communication Office of Bernarda Morin Province



The campaign, whose primary goal was to receive regular donations for Comedor *Emilia Gamelin*, has proven to be successful. The monies received will help to assist or improve the lives of the homeless. The contributions come not only from individuals interested in collaborating, but also from companies who know this work via the web and Facebook.

Daily, requests come by e-mail asking how to donate used clothes, shoes and blankets to the brothers and sisters; thus we have received abundant clothing kept in a room

used as a wardrobe, and subsequently delivered to those in need. Also, an online retailing company donated forty fleece blankets for the sisters and brothers, as well as snacks, which were personally delivered by the company's staff. In addition, recently we received on-off donations of money for the *Comedor*.

Moreover, thanks to the donation of a water heater, the kitchen and bathroom now have safe-heated water.

As a result of the amount of donations received, Sister Ana María Montenegro, SP,



with volunteers from the *Comedor*, were able to help another institution. Baby and children clothing, as well as toys, were delivered to the nursery Marcela Paz. Our thanks to



Providence for being able to serve as instruments that channel the generosity of many people and organizations desirous of helping those in need.

## Émilie-Gamelin Province



Eastern Canada and Eastern United States,  
Haiti, Cameroon, Egypt

### First Profession

by Lucille Vadnais, SP



L. to R.: Sisters Jude Merline Bernard ,  
Francine Blanc and Guerla Alexis

On August 26 , the first profession of Sisters Francine Blanc, Guerla Alexis and Jude Merline Bernard took place in the chapel of the Motherhouse, Montreal; Father Réjean Vigneault, OMI, presided the celebration.

The theme "Lord, to whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life" was the opening song by Jean-Claude Gianadda, inviting us to keep our lamps lit, for the flame is so fragile... Only you can

guide me. Yes, indeed, we share in their joy. Our Provident God guided them throughout their journey. With the grace of God, they answered, "Yes, Lord, I want to follow you."

Together, we give thanks to God who chose them to become, at the example of Emilie, women of compassion and trust in Providence. Providence of God, may you be forever praised and thanked.







# INITIAL *SP* FORMATION

Entrances, vows

*The Sisters of Providence joyfully give grace to Providence as they welcome some women engaged in following the path of religious life through simplicity, humility and charity, for the good of the poorest of our society, just as Blessed Emilie Gamelin wished for.*

*You may read below two texts written by our sisters on formation, and we invite you to access our website for more on the same topic:*

<http://providenceintl.org/>

## First Profession of Vows – Sister Mary Truong, SP



On August 4, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel of Providence Centre, Edmonton, AB, Sister Mary Truong made her first profession of vows surrounded by her family, the Sisters of Providence and many friends. The Mass was presided by Most Reverend Frederick Henry, Bishop Emeritus of Calgary. In his homily he said, "...I couldn't help but think about her namesake, Mary the Mother of Jesus. When God called her through Gabriel, I don't think she really understood very much about what was in store for her. She understood enough to step forward and say, 'Yes, be it done to me according to your word.' And in a very real way, you're kind of cast in the same sort of position. I think as you look ahead, you understand a little about walking with the Lord and what it's all about

and focusing on his kingdom, but there is an awful lot that is still very unclear in terms of what that might mean. We are given some insight...from *St. John Paul II Vita Consecrata*. 'The Consecrated Life, deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit. By the profession of the evangelical counsels *the characteristic features of Jesus* — the chaste, poor and obedient one — *are made constantly "visible" in the midst of the world* and the eyes of the faithful are directed towards the mystery of the Kingdom of God already at work in history, even as it awaits its full realization in heaven.' Thanks for showing up!" he said in response to Sister Mary's "yes" when God called. Sister Anne Hemstock, Provincial Superior



received her vows. Then Most Reverend David Motiuk, Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton blessed the pectoral cross, and Sister Anne placed the cross over her head, saying, "Sister Mary, with this cross fear nothing. Go wherever the duties of Charity call you." It was an international, intergenerational, and intercultural celebration.

Sister Mary's thank-you speech ended with, "Look around. This is the body of Christ, where all different members are united in the love of Christ. And this is what I dedicate the rest of my life to, building this Kingdom of God wherever I am and with all that I am." Providence of God, we thank you for all!

## A Special Day for Bernarda Morin Province

By the Communication Office  
of Bernarda Morin Province



Last August 18th was a very special day for Bernarda Morin Province, since we experienced moments recalling our history and our Founding Mothers in Chile. Moreover we glimpsed into the future of the Congregation in this country. With profound joy, in the Bernarda Morin Community Chapel, our sisters and our beloved foundresses of the Congregation in Chile Mother Bernarda Morin and Mother Victoire Larocque, we gathered for a ritual during which we gave thanks for the life and ministry of these great Providence women. Father Fernando Macías

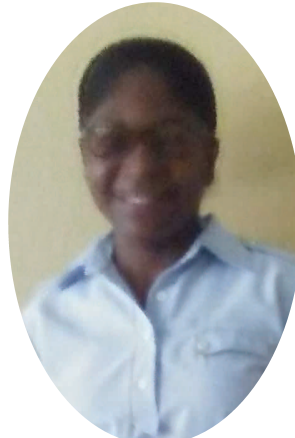
accompanied us in this blessing. It was a very special moment, in which each sister experienced the event, with solemnity, feeling closely the presence of our mothers. Following we shared in a joyful community meal.

In the afternoon, we celebrated the Eucharist, during which we welcomed María Fernanda Apablaza in our Community. By entering the novitiate, she continues the formation she initiated two years ago. Father José Casali presided the ceremony. During the offertory procession, objects representing various meanings were presented: the candle, a sign of the presence of the risen Christ; the flowers, a sign of our joy and desire for growth in religious life, and lastly, the bread and wine, nourishment for our faith and symbols of the love and joy that we share in our Congregation. We are grateful for the presence of the sisters on this special day and ask our Provident God's loving blessing upon each represented community.





*Entrance to the Pre-noviciate*



Serena Hope Chappell  
Edmonton, Canada  
August 8, 2018

Myriame Colin  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

Fabienne Laguerre  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

Eveline Maître  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

Pablo Voltchalynedjie Daniel  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

*Entrance to the Noviciate*



María Fernanda Apablaza  
Santiago, Chile  
August 18, 2018

*Temporary Vows*



Mary Thuy Loan Truong  
Edmonton, Canada  
August 4, 2018

Francine Blanc  
Montreal, Canada  
August 26, 2018

Guerla Alexis  
Montreal, Canada  
August 26, 2018

Jude Merline Bernard  
Montreal, Canada  
August 26, 2018





*Renewal of Temporary Vows*



Mary Theresa Phillips  
Edmonton, Canada  
April 10, 2018



Huong Thi Teresa Nguyen  
Seattle, United States  
August 5, 2018



Nagwa Gameel  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 15, 2018



Maria Nagui  
Montreal, Canada  
September 15, 2018



Daphné Bélance  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 15, 2018



Eugena Nogaüs  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 15, 2018



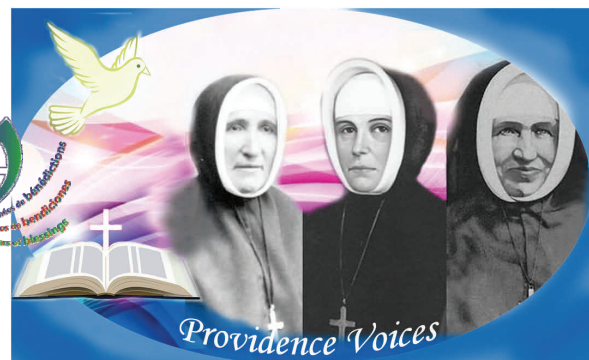
Juedie Elismat  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 15, 2018



Marie Eméline Ezami Atangana  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 15, 2018

In 2018, as we celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregation, we provide the Providence Family with a common reflection tool offering a view from our Providence spirituality.

Indeed, a reflection on every Sunday Gospel is offered by a Sister of Providence on our website, in the News section, under the heading Providence Spirituality: <http://providenceintl.org/2018/02/14/spiritualite-providence/>



*Providence Voices*