



Providence
Associates



Against Human Trafficking

Dear Providence Associates

Each year, February 8 is celebrated as the *World Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking*. I take this opportunity to share with you about this scourge that plagues our society, a practice that infringes on the human dignity of women and children in particular. The December 10, 1948, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* stipulates,



Continuation...

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. (Article 1)" and, "respect for human rights and human dignity is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world." Trafficking in human beings is a complex and delicate issue, the breadth and scope of which is known to very few people in our society today. The surprising silence about trafficking cases gives evidence to the unawareness of the phenomenon, hence the need to break the silence and denounce the injustices of human trafficking.



The Palermo Protocol is a fundamental instrument in the fight against human trafficking, and its first goal is to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking of persons in general and, in particular, the trafficking of women and children, but also, to protect and assist victims, whose vulnerability is unquestionable. Article 3(a) of the *Protocol* defines trafficking in persons as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person under the control of another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, exploitation for the prostitution of others or other forms of

sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.¹”

Moreover, we must openly denounce trafficking as a crime against humanity. It is a true form of slavery, unfortunately, increasingly widespread, which concerns all countries, including the most developed. Those who are victims are the most vulnerable members of society: women and girls, children, the disabled, the poor, those in family and social breakdown situations. Pope Francis, impacted by this plague, urges us saying, “The work of raising awareness must begin at home, with ourselves, because only in this way will we be able to then make our communities aware, motivating them to commit themselves so that no human being may ever again be a victim of trafficking.”

We, as Christians, religious and Providence Associates, must exercise courage and honesty, when in our daily lives, we meet or deal with someone who could be a victim of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items which may well have been produced by the exploitation of others. Our contemplative listening can be a big help to the victims, because through it we engage ourselves in making this world more just.

We must make our own the message exceptionally issued by Pope Francis in two tweets on the occasion of the *World Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking*.



“Let us welcome victims of human trafficking, and all those fleeing from war and hunger, with a compassionate heart.” he wrote in his first tweet on the morning of February 8, 2018, before sharing a second message: “We cannot remain silent before the suffering of millions of people whose dignity has been wounded.”

Together, in this month of February, let us pray especially for trafficked women and children and for social justice in the world. The lives of all these people must be respected as well as their physical and moral integrity, and they must be the beneficiaries of judicial guarantees. They must, in all circumstances, be protected and treated humanely, without any distinctions.

Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP
PA General Coordinator



1. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Article 3 (a), Palermo, 2000.

In this issue:

Letter of the PA General Coordinator 1
Providence Family 3
News 8
Gone on before us... 22
To contact us 24



Providence Family

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARIE-ROSE ST-AMANT, SP
passed away on December 27, 2018

Sister Marie-Rose St-Amant was born on September 22, 1933, in Saint-Tite, Quebec, the second child in a family of twelve. Her religious vocation was nourished under the influence of religious teachers, especially during her high school years with the Sisters of Providence. She entered the postulate on November 17, 1952, pronounced her temporary vows on November 19, 1954, and her perpetual vows on November 19, 1957.



As a young professed religious, Sister Marie-Rose began her nursing education at the Christ-Roi General Hospital in Verdun, Quebec, and continued her education until she graduated from the Institut Marguerite d'Youville, a branch of the University of Montreal, with a specialty in obstetrics. During her three years of temporary vows, she was a companion in the pediatric department at the hospital in Verdun and in 1962, she was appointed Head of the Department of Obstetrics at Sacred Heart Hospital in Montreal.

Sister Marie-Rose left Quebec in 1963 for Latin America. To prepare herself, she traveled to Mexico to study Latin American culture. Her first ministry was at the Hospital

Providence Family

Vecinal in Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina. There she served as Head of the Obstetrics Department from 1964 to 1969, Director of the Practical Nursing Course from 1969 to 1977 and Director of the Home for the Elderly in the years 1977-1978.

Sister Rose-Marie demonstrated excellent leadership abilities in her various ministries. In Caleta Olivia, she facilitated the catechesis classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation and was actively involved in the Caritas movement. For seven years, she was devoted to family catechesis in which she recognized the value and effectiveness within families. Also, during her stay in Caleta Olivia, the Providence Associates Movement was born. With her Sisters of Providence, she contributed to keeping the sacred fire of this new initiative alive, which is, in fact, a living testimony to the vitality of a Church that takes charge of its own life.

Sister Marie-Rose ended her journey in South America in Santiago, Chile. Having followed a refresher course at the Institut de formation et rééducation (Formation & Reeducation Institute) in Montreal, Sister dedicated herself, from 1989-1993, to the accompaniment of persons and groups in the process of actualizing their human qualities and strengths.

It did not occur to Sister Marie-Rose to rest on her laurels. The facts speak for themselves. In 1993, motivated by her missionary charism, she went to Cameroon, Africa. As a Formation Director, she accompanied women who were discerning a call to religious life as well as the Sisters in temporary vows. Sister Marie-Rose ministered in a small village in the bush with a population 1,000 people – sometimes, it was impossible to travel there during the rainy season.

She ministered alongside the Providence Associates and felt great satisfaction in seeing the Associates grow both psychologically and spiritually. At the same time, it was important for her to meet the challenges posed by differences in culture and values. "I try to communicate as best I can the spirit of Mother Gamelin. For this, we must combine patience and knowledge in order to pass on Providence Spirituality to those who are exploring a vocational call," she said.

Sister Marie-Rose returned to Quebec after 22 years in Cameroon and 30 years in Latin America.



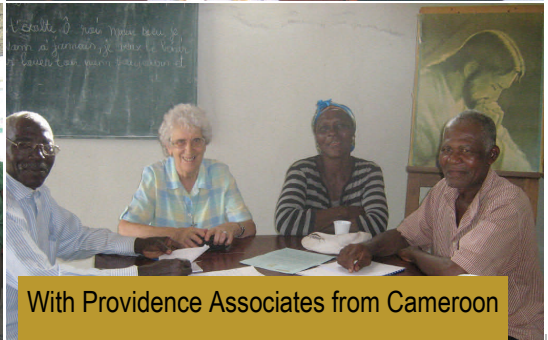
In Comodoro Rivadavia



With Providence Associates in Argentina



At the Providence Centre international during a Mission-Talk



With Providence Associates from Cameroon

Providence Family

These years of missionary service illustrate a life of ministry that is worthy of praise.

You went on long roads.
You defied bad weather and doubts.
This rough ascent is precious;
You tamed it and that was your passion.

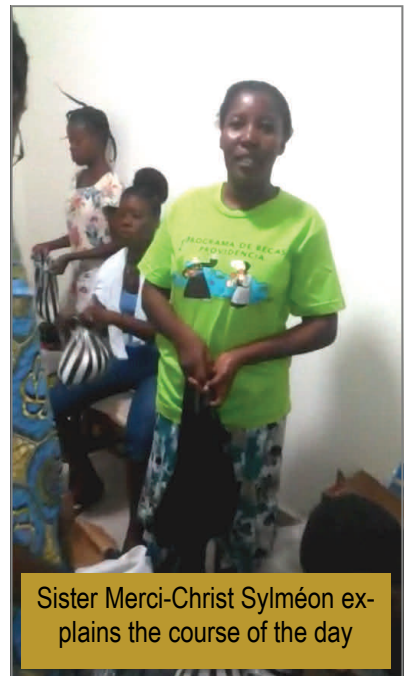
Sister Marie-Rose, your zeal was a fire that consumed you throughout your life. You are one of those Sisters of Providence who have contributed to building our church on rock for 175 years. This is your legacy.

Sister Annette Aspirot, SP

News

“I WAS SICK AND YOU CARED FOR ME” PA & SP WORK, TORBECK, HAÏTI ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE

As part of the Jubilee celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation, the Sisters of the local community of Sainte-Veronique, Torbeck, in Southern Haiti, planned an activity of presence to the sick persons of the parish. The dynamism of our foundress continues to inspire us and, in this time of acknowledging the blessings of the Lord for what



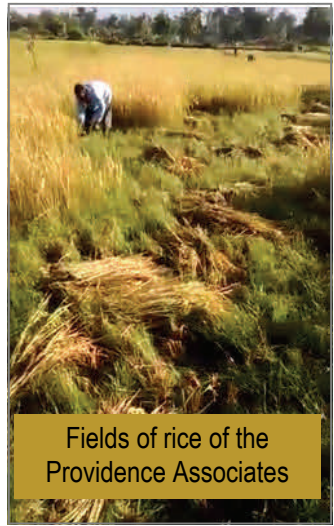
Sister Merci-Christ Sylméon explains the course of the day

has been achieved over the years, we chose to be present to a group of vulnerable persons for whom life is a daily challenge.

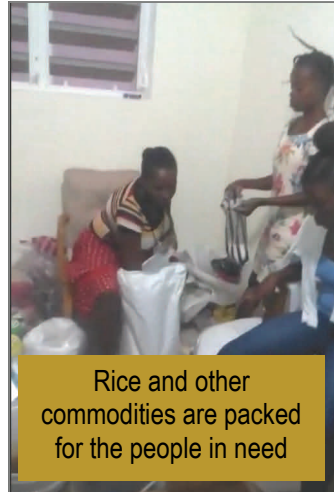
The chosen date was January 20, 2019. The target set by the sisters of the community was to reach out to 45 sick people through a friendly visit, taking the time to speak some words of comfort and pray with them. We also planned that each one of them would receive a parcel containing some rice, oil, sugar, pasta and soap.

The Providence Associates carry out this ministry regularly and it is with enthusiasm that they agreed to contribute to this mini-project. On Friday, January 18, at 4:00 PM, in a joyful atmosphere, several Associates came to our home to collaborate with us in preparing these parcels to bring to the families.

On Sunday after Mass, we formed teams. The Associates divided the different sectors of the parish among themselves. Each group had a list of designated persons and was missioned to spread joy and hope where illness makes life more difficult. On each visit, we were welcomed



Fields of rice of the Providence Associates



Rice and other commodities are packed for the people in need

cordially and each of the sick persons gave witness to his or her faith in accepting their situation, which, in some cases, is quite painful. On their faces we could read serenity and confidence in spite of their suffering. Caring for an elderly or ill person remains the responsibility of the person's family and they know how to make room for a sick relative. The sick family member experiences gratitude towards those who give them the care they need for their condition.

The road seemed long before we reached each of the homes we wanted to visit. The quiet of the countryside, the peaceful spaces, the beauty of nature, and the presence of gardens led me to contemplate Providence in the lives of these simple people. They are full of life and able to recover after each natural catastrophe. As Mother Emilie Gamelin in her time, we left with baskets on our arms to distribute what we hoped would give some comfort of the soul and body. In this experience, each of us was proud to be a living Providence by coming close to those who help us to grow in compassion.

When reflecting on this activity, we realized that sixty-two persons had received a visit from the compassionate and charitable daughters of Mother Emilie Gamelin and the Providence Associates from Sainte-Véronique Parish.

Providence of God, I thank you for all.

"I have prayed that you may always love the poor..."


**BENEFIT DINNER TO SUPPORT THE PA MINISTRY
IN TORBECK, HAITI
ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE**



As part of the fundraising activities for the construction of a community bakery in Torbeck, Haiti, some Providence Associates,

helped by Novices Daveline Livert, Nathalie Jean-Philippe, and Valencia Pierre, prepared a benefit dinner. On January 26, 2019, participants in this activity dined in the lovely and friendly atmosphere at *El Tío Luis* restaurant in Valleyfield (Quebec),

We could count on the presence of the entire Provincial Leadership Team, Sister Hortense Demia-Mbaïlaou, General Coordinator of the PA Movement and Sister Annette Noël, General Secretary of the Congregation. Some other Sisters of Providence, employees of the Providence International Centre and relatives and friends completed the group of guests.

On the menu, from appetizers to dessert, all the meals were cooked with love and according to traditional 



Haitian recipes. In this way, the diners could taste different flavors from this beautiful country. Our Haitian sister novices presented a traditional dance and a song and gave a touching testimonial.

The evening provided a great opportunity to publicize Emilie Gamelin, the Sisters of Providence and the Providence Associates Movement. The attendees who learned about the existence of the Providence Family and its foundress, Emilie Tavernier

Gamelin, were very interested to learn more. They want to continue supporting us at our upcoming fundraising activities that will help us to complete the construction of a bakery in Torbeck.

Though a big challenge for us all, the fundraising gave us

very special moments to be working together for the Providence Mission.

We are most grateful to everyone who contributed to make this evening a moment of joy and generosity. These proceeds are for the ministry of the Providence Associates in Haiti who are following Emilie Gamelin, our guide and inspiration.

Please note that more activities are planned for this year. More details will be made available as soon as possible. Thank you very much and see you soon!

Brigitte Martin, Nadia Bertoluci and Hélène Chèvrefils
Providence Associates and Friend

**JOYFUL CHRISTMAS TABLES OF THE KING AT
THE COMEDOR EMILIA GAMELIN
SANTIAGO, CHILE – BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE**



On December 15, 2018, the *Comedor Emilia Gamelin* (Emilie Gamelin dining room) held the traditional Christmas *Table of the King*, which was organized by the volunteers of the ministry, the Sisters of Bernarda Morin Province and the Providence Associates.

The entire event was facilitated by Jorge Alfonso ➡



Iturra and Alejandra Valdés from the Providence Associates communities of Emilia Gamelin and Santa Clara, respectively.

Nicolás Silva, who supports this ministry and who also works there daily, performed two artistic numbers as well as a repertoire of well-known songs. There was also a performance by “Bravas de la Cueca”, a band of singers and dancers of the urban *cueca brava*, a folk dance company, who invited many attendees to participate in the dances.



The following Providence Associates communities of the central zone collaborated in the celebration: Maipú, Santa Clara, San José, Santa Rosa and Emilia Gamelin. They supported the volunteers, together with the sisters, for the cooking as well as for the serving of our homeless brothers.

Thanks to the bingo fundraising drive conducted in December by the volunteer group, some money was made available to support the Province in making delicious fruitcakes. The proceeds from the sale of these cakes resulted in a gift of new shoes for every attendee at the *Comedor* and a total of more than a 100 pairs of shoes were handed out.

Also we appreciated the presence of a group of representatives of the Residencia Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, who gave socks to each guest.

Sister Jaquelina Juárez, Provincial Secretary, was present and thanked those involved in this celebration for their great commitment and effort. She also offered some words to our homeless brothers and sisters and highlighted the wonderful work being led by Sister Ana Maria Montenegro, who received a warm applause.



**PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES PARTICIPATED IN
ANNUAL PROVINCIAL GATHERING
Linares, Chile - Bernarda Morin Province**



On January 3-6, 2019, the Providence Associates (PA) Movement of Chile conducted the annual gathering, which this year was held at the College Providencia in Linares. More than eighty people came to this event.

Many of our sisters participated: Sister Ana Georgina Rozas, Provincial Councillor, Sister Herna Astorga, Sister Claudia Vargas, Sister Gooldye Fuentealba, Sister Teresita González, Sister Hortensia Tapia, Sister María Angélica Alvear, Sister Teresita Alcayaga, Sister Ana Teresa Araya, and Sister Ema Maureira. As in other provinces, many Sisters of Providence in Chile play a key role accompanying the various PA communities of the country.



Our Provincial Superior, Sister María Antonieta Trimpay, could not attend, but she sent her regards from Santiago on behalf of the Provincial Council, and she expressed her deep gratitude to the Providence Associates, for their cooperation in the Providence Mission. “[We want] to thank you for your commitment and your generous dedication in being Providence Associates,” she said, inviting each PA to continue living “the creativity that our Charism is about: ‘Creativity at the service of the challenges of today’s world.’”

Days of togetherness and joy



The community of Linares, the host of the meeting, began the third day thanking all those present for their





participation, since they had traveled many kilometers with effort, hope and enthusiasm to live these days of happiness, united by their faith and by the legacy of our foundresses and pioneer Mother Emilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph.

As every year, there were different formation workshops, which on this occasion were given by Father Fernando Macías CM (subject: "Holiness in Providence Spirituality"), Mrs. Bárbara Barros, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at the host college (subject:

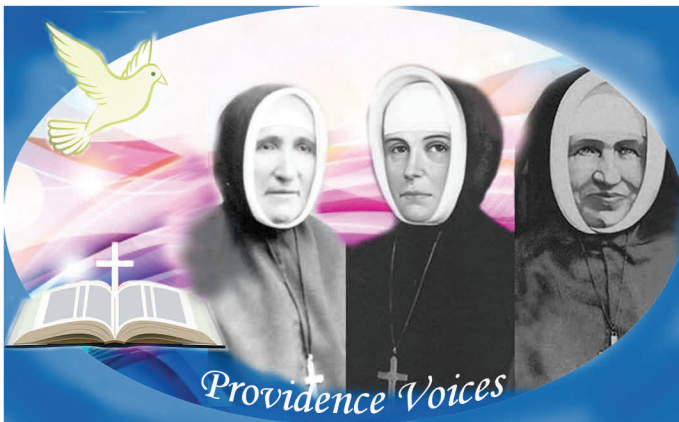
"Blessed Providence") and Mrs. Ema Benítez Valdivieso,

director of the same college (subject: "The Marvels of God's Providence").

"These were beautiful days where we could share and exchange experiences to strengthen our commitment as members of the large community of Providence Associates in Chile", said the PA community of Linares.

We are confident that our Provident God and Mary Mother of Sorrows will bless the Providence Associates as individuals and as communities in this New Year. On behalf of the Province, we would like to thank you for making the Providence Charism and Mission live in each of your locations.

Source and images: Communications of Linares Providence College and the PA Community of Linares.



Follow the weekly reflections of the Providence Family on the web: <http://providenceintl.org/>

**PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES HIGHLIGHTS
MOTHER JOSEPH PROVINCE**

Providence Associates are caring women and men of all backgrounds who desire to share the mission and spirituality of Providence without becoming vowed religious. Associates and Sisters of Providence come together in community for mutual faith-sharing, prayer and reflection, workshops, retreats, community gatherings and as co-workers in ministry. They support and challenge one another in living the mission of Jesus Christ.

Here are few highlights from around Mother Joseph Province:

- ✧ October was quite a month for receiving new associates. Colleen Simmonds, Kathleen Schlicht and Olive Wilkins were received during Mass at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, on October 7. Tim and Lana Pham were welcomed October 20 at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle.



New Providence Associates Colleen Simmonds, Olive Wilkins and Kathleen Schlicht celebrate at a reception in Spokane.



Sister Clare Lentz, center, welcomes Lana and Tim Pham, new Providence Associates in Seattle.

❖ Roberta Sample has always been an extra special PA. as

the very first Providence Associate introduced in 1976, she opened the door for more than 250 associates throughout Mother Joseph Province. On October 10 she was recognised by Quilts of Valor Foundation in Gresham, Ore., for another distinction: serving as an Army nurse in the 1960s. In honor of her service, Roberta was awarded a handmade quilt as a reminder of our country's appreciation and gratitude to service members like her.



Roberta Sample, PA

❖ The Portland/Vancouver PAs know how to throw a party! Members of the local Providence religious community, companions, associates and friends came together October 28 at Providence St. Vincent Medical



Center, Portland, as part of the annual Dinner of Thanks. It was an evening of gratitude, great food and learning about the work of Immigration Legal Services for Catholic Charities – for which they raised \$500 by “passing the hat”.

Caritas, Winter 2019

Gone on before us...



Ella Mae Kirby Pitre, a faithful Providence Associate for 30 years, died November 10 at age 86.

Ella was an advocate and tireless volunteer for the community. She was active at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Seattle, where she was a member of the first ever parish council. She volunteered at St. Mary's Food Bank. She was a longtime member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She was also a charter member of both the knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court 218 and the Ladies of Grace Our Mother of Africa Chapter 38.

In addition to her volunteer work in the community, Ella made an indelible mark as attendance secretary at Franklin High School in Seattle. During her 30 years on staff, she was regarded by the Alumni Association and Foundation as the matriarch of Franklin High School.

Ella is described as a caring, giving and strong woman, and a second mother to many. In her leisure time she enjoyed fishing, gardening, sewing and crocheting.

Born September 28, 1932, in Prescott, Ark., to John and Rosezena Kirby, Ella was the seventh of nine siblings and three stepsiblings. She was the beloved wife to her husband of 62 years, Edgar Pitre; and mother to sons Edgar, Jr. (Sharon), Lawrence (Yun), Tillman (preceded in death) and Keith. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and her sister Orene Kirby Scott.

Funeral Mass was celebrated November 17 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Seattle.

Caritas, Winter, 2019

Available Soon!

In a spirit of unity within the Providence Associate Movement, we are currently fashioning a T-shirt that will come in the three official languages of the Congregation. It is intended to promote the PA Movement and to raise funds for the various works that are dear to your heart.

For the price and other details, please contact :
Brigitte Matin, AP (brigmart26@gmail.com)

PA T-shirt

Sister Coordinators and/or Liaisons for the Providence Associates

Bernarda Morin Province (Chile, Argentina):

Rebeca Rosa Malhue Olguín, SP: rebecarmo@gmail.com

Émilie-Gamelin Province (Quebec):

Berthe-Alice Collette, SP: bac5864@yahoo.fr

Émilie-Gamelin Province (Haiti):

Valiette Messeroux, SP: valiettem@yahoo.fr

Holy Angels Province (Western Canada):

Christina Wong, SP: wongsp@gmail.com

Mother Joseph Province (USA, El Salvador and Philippines):

Jo Ann Showalter, SP: joann.showalter@providence.org (English)

Josefina (Josie) Ramac, SP: josie.ramac@providence.org (Spanish)



Providence Associates Bulletin

Editor: Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP

hdemia@providenceintl.org

Proofreading: Annette Noël, SP, Kathryn Rutan, SP, Berthe-Alice Collette, SP,

Claudette Chénier, SP, Nancy Arévalo, SP and Laura Bolivar

Printing: Providence International Centre

Editing and Computer Graphics: Nadia Bertoluci, PA

Translation: Alice Tanguay, Laura Bolivar and Richard Dumont

To contact us: nbertoluci@providenceintl.org

12055, Grenet Street

Montreal (Quebec)

Canada H4J 2J5

Tel.: (514) 334-9090

Fax: (514) 334-1620

<http://providenceintl.org/>



[SP International-Internacional](http://providenceintl.org/)