

# Providence Missive

*A publication of the Sisters of Providence*



The Communication Office of the General Administration:  
 Nancy Arévalo, SP, General Councilor, Nadia Bertoluci,  
 communication and Information Agent. Perla Moore, assistant  
 Alice Tanguay, translator and Guy Richard, IT informatique  
 REDACTION:

In collaboration with the General Leadership Team and  
 provincial contributors.

PROOFREADING:  
 Nancy Arévalo, SP, Annette Noël, SP, Berthe-Alice  
 Collette, SP, Claudette Chénier, SP

TRANSLATION : Alice Tanguay, Laura Bolivar

COMPUTER GRAPHICS, PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION:

Nadia Bertoluci

To communicate & send an article:

[nbertoluci@providenceintl.org](mailto:nbertoluci@providenceintl.org)

Online copy

<http://www.providenceintl.org/fr/missive-providence.php>

*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.

OFFICES

Providence International Centre

12055 Grenet Street

Montreal, Quebec H4J 2J5

Telephone: 514 334-9090

Fax: 514 334-1620

<http://www.providenceintl.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/rovidenceintl1843/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgwryhZJL5r0wWh32XJr1w)

[UCgwryhZJL5r0wWh32XJr1w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgwryhZJL5r0wWh32XJr1w)

**In this issue :**

<b>Letter from the Congregational Leader</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Special Report</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Harvesting the Fruits . . .	
<b>SP world and Culture</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>JPIC</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Providence Treasures</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>The 3 Is</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Short News</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Across the Community	
<b>Initial Formation</b> .....	<b>24</b>

Cover:

Closing Mass of the  
 festivities of the 175th  
 anniversary of the  
 Sisters of Providence




# Dear Sisters,

Sister Karin Dufault welcomes the invitees at the Closing Mass of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation.



## ***Harvesting the Fruits . . .***

 wonderful reality! We have just added another memorable year to our ***175 Years of Blessings*** since the foundation of our beloved congregation by Blessed Emilie Gamelin and Bishop Ignace Bourget!

A year ago, as we opened the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I quoted Judith Rodin in the March 2018 Missive editorial. In the *Harvard Business Review*, November, 2012, she stated that “Anniversaries are not to be wasted.” With everyone’s active participation, we have assured that our anniversary year was not wasted in the least. The year has been filled with planning and implementation of a myriad of internal and external activities initiated both within the provinces and through our General Administration. The monthly

publication of the 175 e-newsletter has expanded our awareness of our ministries, past and present, and challenged us to respond to the yet unfolding unmet needs with the same Providence spirit exemplified by Blessed Emilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph.

We are especially grateful for the contributions of the 175th Anniversary Committee: Sisters Gloria Keylor, Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, Lucille Vadnais, Toyleen Fook, Susanne Hartung and Mariana Pena, and Providence Associate, Nadia Bertoluci. We are also grateful for the collaborative work of Celine Brousseau, Francoise Paille and Gladys Flores. The Committee and the General Leadership Team had **many** generous people assisting them, including all of our colleagues in General Administration and the staff at Carrefour



Providence. Every detail was given proper attention for every event, especially during the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>, when we welcomed many from all parts of our Providence congregation.

The fruits of this year have been abundant! In this issue, you will read the reflections of some of our sisters, Providence Associates, and collaborators on fruits they experienced. We encourage you to share with one another your reflections on the fruits you have harvested this year and expect to harvest in due time.

From the imaginary mountain top where I am standing, I see a super-abundant harvest with a long harvest season, promising even more fruit, yet to come. I give thanks, most especially for the fruit of the People of Providence joining as one and taking pride in the richness of our international, intercultural, intergenerational and interdependent reality enlivened with hope, welcoming the future. Together, we are so much more of what Providence has intended for us to be and we have so much more to share with our sisters and brothers in need of relief from their suffering. Our anniversary has drawn on the creativity, imagination, and

collaboration of so many; gifts given and guided by Providence.

Our year culminated with the activities during the week of March 25: 1)the pilgrims walked the footsteps of Blessed Emilie-Tavernier Gamelin and visited the Museums, Archives and Exhibition at the International Centre; 2)the Resource Day of prayer, presentations, and reflections on Providence Spirituality, Mission and Charism, 3) the magnificent celebratory liturgy; and 4) the festive, inclusive, beautifully decorated and delicious banquet. Technology, interpretation and the expertise of so many assisted us in welcoming everyone's participation, near and far, for the resource day and liturgy. The sisters and other guests from Bernarda Morin Province delighted in adding the footsteps of Mother Bernarda to their schedule before leaving Montreal.

In my welcome at the festive liturgy celebrating the closure of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 29, I shared the wisdom of former General Superior, Mother Marie-Julien Tremblay (1910-1922) at the time of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our foundation. "As it would be inappropriate to limit ourselves to mere external

manifestations, we will aim above all to draw a lasting spiritual benefit from these anniversary celebrations.” That is my hope, as well: that all of us, sisters, associates, companions, colleagues and collaborators in ministry, may draw “**a lasting spiritual benefit**” from these 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations that impels us to reach out ever more lovingly to one another and to those who are suffering, especially the most vulnerable. As we are more deeply aware of the 175 years of blessing bestowed upon us by the love of God-Providence, may we be strengthened in our vocational commitment to joyfully manifest Providence and Our Mother of Sorrows to our hurting world and to be instruments of peace, hope and justice. In God’s providence, our anniversary year ended with our freshly printed and bound 2018



Constitutions and Rules being available to inspire and guide all of us. What better time than now to study and **live** our Constitutions – together!

This 175th Anniversary Year has been laden with innumerable “little miracles” or FRUITS manifesting the reality that “*Our provident God is a creative God who made all things with a loving purpose, who involves those created in the process of creation, and who is always on the move.*” (Mary Kaye Nealen, SP, ***A Fire to Warm – and Ignite – the World: The Providence Prophetic Call***, in Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery, 2015, pg. 40).

I close by asking you: What is the “lasting spiritual benefit” that **you** draw from **this** year of blessing? How do you see all the effort expended being worth it? How are you assuring that this 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is not wasted? We would love to hear your responses.

Affectionately in Providence,

*Karin Dufault SP*  
Congregational Leader



# SPECIAL *SP* REPORT

Experiences, reflections



## Harvesting the Fruits . . .

*Testimonials of some invitees present at the closing celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal, March 26-29, 2019.*

ERICA STRAUBE, PA,  
BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE

My name is Erica Straube and I am from Chile. I represent the group of Providence Associates of LLolleo, of which I am the Coordinator. The Sisters invited me to come to this gathering and it is marvelous. People treat us very well. Reading about the Congregation and its history is very different from experiencing it. So far the most beautiful part of our time here has been to share, to get to know different places, and to meet different people from other countries who are all so kind and so very loving. I invite laypeople to learn more about our Providence identity and to

participate simply by helping the poor, for such is our Mission: to help the neediest.



REZEBETH NOCEJA, SP,  
HOLY ANGELS PROVINCE

It was an amazing experience to be able to come to Montreal where the history of the Congregation began. Being able to see all the archival collections was fascinating and having the chance to walk in the Footsteps of Mother Emilie puts into concrete perspective the stories I read and learned since I

entered the community. I appreciate the inclusion of times of prayer and reflection so that the walk was not merely a tour of the historical sites but most of all, a time of pondering and being immersed in awe at the small beginnings of a Congregation started by the gentle, compassionate, and faithful Mother Gamelin. →



I enjoyed the talks during the conference, and the panel interview afterwards. The Eucharistic celebration was creatively beautiful and reflected the culture of our community. Lastly, one thing I truly enjoyed during the 175th anniversary celebration was the opportunity to meet the Sisters, associates, and friends of the community from the eastern side of Canada, the US, and Chile. I will always remember with fondness their welcoming embrace and joyful friendship.”



## MARIELLE SYLVESTRE, PA, ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE

### ***March 29, 2019 ... An unforgettable day !***

We celebrated the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Providence at the Motherhouse in Montreal. What a festival with the new colors of the providential heritage bequeathed by Blessed Emilie Tavernier Gamelin! It seemed that everything had been long thought about, prayed and reflected over and orchestrated with great art! Congratulations to the marvelous planning team who organized such a magnificent day of celebration.

Upon opening the front doors of the Motherhouse, we were surrounded by warmly welcoming persons. We were given a name tag and the way was reassuringly indicated, a veritable GPS system. We arrived at the chapel and lived the grand liturgical celebration presided by Monsignor Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal.

There were more than 500 attendees, with 15 concelebrating priests and a rousing choir that

delighted our hearts and souls.

What a wonderfully sung Eucharistic thanksgiving!

The celebration continued as we proceeded to the dining rooms, decorated in a country style with vine leaves and countless grapes.

Emilie planted a vineyard over 700 seasons ago! We lifted our glasses of wine to Emilie and to all those who have helped this great garden of love, →



charity and simplicity to blossom... The scents of this garden remain with us. And what can we say about the food? It was a true *Table of the King*, where flavors and delights enchanted us. The incomparable waiting service was carried out by the awesome team of *La Corbeille*, who demonstrated skills, a thoroughness and good order that elicited our admiration and applause.

The opening and closing blessing prayers were

sung to the tune of *Edelweiss*. And we departed left with hearts bursting with enthusiastic hope...

Emilie, your name is a moment of eternity in our present!

Let us sing and express the unpredictability of your wonderful story ... We seem to hear from on high, *God saying with a happy heart, "It is beautiful, it is good,"...* (Robert Lebel).

With gratitude and awe.

LILIAN ROUZAN, PA,  
MOTHER JOSEPH PROVINCE

"The Love of Christ impels us."

It is a privilege to be a member of the Providence Family---to be a Providence person! To wake up each day and feel the miracle of our Provident God is so rewarding!

I have been given great opportunities to be renewed and energized by our Provident Family. Walking in the wonderful footsteps of our dear Mother Gamelin was such an awesome experience again! I am proud and honored to be part of this Families' 175 years existence. I was reminded that I am called to give, to serve and to love!

\*Just a side note, I love that Mother Gamelin was a knitter and did bead work. I do both, wonderful times to pray! Providence of God I thank you for all!



DELIA GARCIA, PA,  
BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE

My name is Delia García and I come from the fourth region of Chile. I am the Providence Associate Formator in Ovalle. The highlight of our activities is to follow in Mother Emilie's footsteps and serve the Soup of the King, as we call it. At first in Ovalle, we used to serve the soup in the street; but thanks to God, the new director facilitated the access to the school's annexes, so we can work there and continue this beautiful ministry of feeding the hungry and serving the most needy.







## COLOMBE GOBEIL, SP, ÉMILIE GAMELIN PROVINCE

What remains from the beautiful 175th Anniversary?

Certainly, some of the anniversary activities helped us to experience happy moments, such as: the day at Place Émilie-Gamelin where we walked in the footsteps of our Foundress and rubbed shoulders with persons similar to persons whom she knew, the day in September with the presentation of an exhibition of etchings and their origin and the "Song of the Ministries" which tells the story of the Sisters' charitable life experiences.

I don't have enough words to talk about the many articles and documents (the monthly Newsletter) we received that reminded us of our history and how Providence has supported us in our mission for the service of the poor. Thanks to the Internet, the Providence Associates and several friends and relatives were happy to learn about the actions of the Sisters of Providence and to have their trust in Providence strengthened. Indeed, this jubilee year has enabled us to heighten our sensitivity towards the poor here in our mission in Lanoraie.\*



We thank God for our health and for being able to participate in and experience together this Jubilee Year which concluded with two outstanding days of reflection and thanksgiving, celebrated in joy, peace and harmony. Our two Providence Associates, who were able to come to the Motherhouse and live these moments of grace with us, are still amazed.

A grateful Thank you to the team who organized this beautiful 175th Jubilee! A sincere Thank you to the General and Provincial Leadership Teams!

Providence of God, I thank you for all!

## PATRICIA (PAT) NEX, PA, HOLY ANGELS PROVINCE

What a week of enlightenment, spirituality, joy, information, community spirit, and a feeling of being Blessed in so many ways!

From the comfort of our individual rooms and warm inviting sitting rooms at the Salaberry residence, to the abundance of comforting wholesome foods for our bodies, and spiritual

food for our minds and souls... We were lacking nothing!

The enthusiasm for Mother Emilie Gamelin was palpable and seen on the faces of everyone, in their smiles and their curiosity to learn more and more about her life and her love of the poor and needy. Walking in the footsteps and stomping

grounds of Emilie Gamelin, made all that we had read and heard about her, so real--so tangible! The Conference was stimulating, and made everyone feel included, as the information was available in 3 languages. The culmination of this wonderful celebration was the Mass. It was a vibrant Mass with the Bishop, many priests and nuns, flags from countries where our Providence Sisters are doing Mother Gamelin's good work, a dynamic choir, and even Liturgical dancers from the Holy Angels Province! Then we were all spoilt with an incredible banquet that everyone enjoyed to the fullest.

None of this would have been possible, without the efficiency, and unselfish generosity, love and kindness of the Sisters of Providence, and their

devoted workers! "Service with a smile" appears to be your motto!

Thank you and God Bless you all!



## HÉLÈNE CASAUBON, PA, ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE

\*Lanoraie is a small village located on the shore of the St. Lawrence River, between Montreal and Trois-Rivières. This year, two Sisters of Providence, ten Providence Associates and one Providence Friend make up our group.

Throughout the year, we received many newsletters describing the work that is done in Providence's name in different regions. Here in Lanoraie, we are especially proud of our Carrefour Émilie, founded in 1994 by Sister Rita Mondor. Some thirty volunteers help us to continue this work, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. In Lanoraie, we proclaim trust in Providence and in the intercession of Blessed Emilie Gamelin.





## VERA GUTIERREZ, COLLABORATOR FOR THE PROVINCE HOLY ANGELS PROVINCE

I began my journey with the Sisters of Providence in Edmonton in December of 2018 so I'm just new. I was pretty thrilled when Sister Anne asked me to go to Montreal for the 175th Celebration and didn't quite know what to expect. This whole week was very special to me and though it went by fast it was filled with so many precious moments that it seemed like it was a long time, really. It was so impressive to see the archives and the museum; the records handwritten with such care and precision, the beautiful artwork along the walls and of course I loved learning about Mother Gamelin's life story. This moved me deeply. Already at the end of the first day I felt that if I went home that day, I was happy and grateful for all, and moved. All the days that followed had their own beauty and learning



opportunity for me yet what touched me the most was the kindness, warmth and sincerity I felt with the Sisters and with everyone I met. Thank you so much for everything.



## My Providence experience

*I know the plans I have for you, projects of peace and happiness,  
to give you a future and hope.*

*Francine Blanc, SP*



### **The Lord has done great things for me and holy is his name.**

Yes I want to thank God for being constantly present in my life, for my community and for our Congregation. Since my formation in the Novitiate, I have been connecting to the information of all the provinces to better embody the good deeds of Providence in my life, in my formation, in my integration as a Sister of Providence, and for a better communion with the

different realities of each province. I often look for information about events in the Émilie-Gamelin Province, to which I belong, in order to remain in solidarity, to provide my help and make myself available. I was ready to go where Providence wanted me to be the human face of its loving presence.

Since my arrival in Torbeck, where I carry out my



ministry, I am in awe. I am happy to be here to answer the call of God and to be a caring presence. I respond daily to this call: in addition to my ministerial commitment to Emilie Gamelin School, I contribute to vocation ministry, youth ministry in the diocese and the pastoral ministry for preparation for baptisms in the parish.

Mother Gamelin passed on to us this legacy of compassion, and for me, I also draw on the discipline of Bishop Bourget. At Émilie-Gamelin School, there is a balance between these two aspects that allows me to express my creativity and to witness to the love of our Provident God by my loving presence with the children and the staff. I feel motivated every time I watch the children and see their progress. In the first grade class, where I spend most of my time, I am often amazed because the children are pearls; despite all the problems they experience at home, they have confidence in me. Seeing their enthusiasm, as they engage in handicrafts, motivates me. In this ministry, I can really experience what compassion for the weakest is. I give the children my attention and in every activity, I try to be with each child individually. One of the things that delights me is to witness the joy of the children, for them, this is a time not to be wasted. I am able to recognize behaviors and skills of each one of the children through their activities, even if they are eighty-one in total. Sometimes I feel intoxicated with their cries, especially when they really enjoy an activity, "Sister Francine, look!" Really, working with children, especially outside the classroom, is a grace!

Vocation ministry is really new to me. I chose to be responsible for the *Rendez-vous Providence*. With the help of the sisters, I believe I can further

this ministry. I facilitated a meeting for the first time and I was a guest speaker on the topic of "self-knowledge"; both of these experiences were satisfying for me.

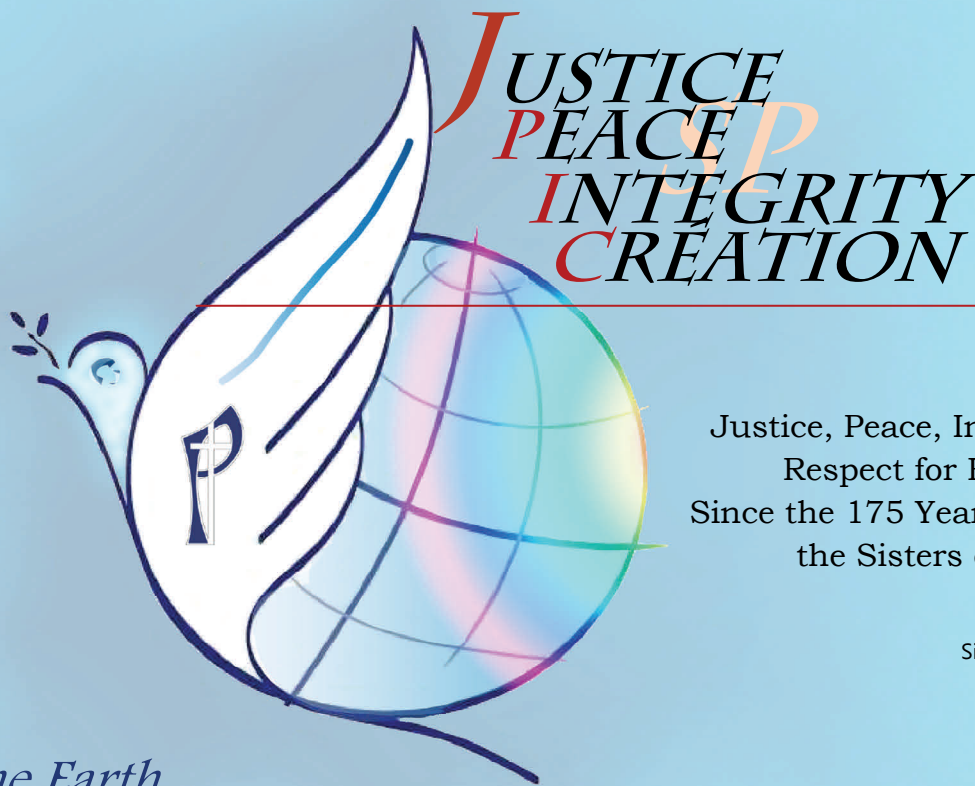
I'm happy to be part of the executive team for the youth ministry in the Diocese of Les Cayes. Through this ministry, I am discovering more and more the needs of the youth. I am a co-host in the radio program RMK "*radio men contre*" that focuses on youth pastoral. In this program, we inform young persons about subjects of interest to them.

I helped with the baptism pastoral at the Sainte Véronique Parish, where about thirty children were baptized.

I want to thank my local community for its support. Greetings to all my sisters and all those who read this article. I am united with you in prayer. Thank you, Lord, may You continue what you have initiated in me.



Sister Francine (2nd from left) participating in the celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the Congregation in June 2018, at Place Emilie-Gamelin on the occasion of the Providence Event.



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

Sister Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP

*The Earth,  
our Nurturing Mother*

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is World Earth Day, a day in which we remember and thank our nurturing mother, the Earth. It is her ecosystems which nourish and sustain us in our journey throughout life.



The purpose of World Earth Day is specifically to raise everyone's awareness about the challenges our planet Earth is facing today, challenges to her ability to continue to support life on the planet. This day gives us an opportunity to get an overview of what is being done, or not being done, for our beloved planet, in order to better care for her and to better connect with nature. This day of celebration is an invitation to review our daily actions in relation to how we are caring for the environment. Today, it is our turn to worry for our planet and to become more aware of climate issues.

Our planet is suffering. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has sent us an invitation in the following words, "I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which

includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." - Pope Francis

Earth Day is dedicated to raising awareness about our habits of consumption with regard to the Earth. Celebrating World Earth Day provides an annual opportunity to reflect on the damage being visited on the planet and about the very simple, everyday steps we can take to participate in its preservation. For example: practicing green

consumption, recycling practices and supporting sustainable development. We can all do our part by making modifications in our habits of consumption, knowing that even small steps contribute a great deal. Whether in our eating, our travels or our habits of hygiene, it is a simple matter of reducing our environmental footprint, the impact our living has on planet earth.

In short, it is all about “living in harmony” with nature and the planet. It is about leaving the least possible “print” of our passage on this earth. Pope Francis reminds us, in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, it is about “caring for our common home”. He calls us to a kind of a conversation. He wants us to realize that our “common home” is being seriously threatened and he hopes that we will think about what we can do to reverse this threat.

The first step in this process is to open our hearts to the concerns of planet Earth and to the possibility of making changes in the way we are living. Also, we can promote positive changes in the groups and communities to which we belong. It is for us to pay attention and to take responsibility for the impact that each of our actions can have on others and on the environment.



### ***Let us pray for and with Creation***

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe

and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live

as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to

recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice,

love and peace. *Laudato Si'* (246)



Under this heading, we would like to highlight the ministries of some sisters who are ready to be the “Providence of the poor.

# PROVIDENCE ... in action MISSION

## My Mission in Alberta



Sister Dolores Blanchette participated in the celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the Congregation and she kindly accepted to share with us about her missionary life in Holy Angels Province:

Hello from Calgary

After spending 24 years in McLennan, Alberta, working in the Nursing Home of 70 beds, I received the obedience to move to Calgary.

Here I continue to work in Pastoral Care in a home of 106 beds.

Lacombe Home Care Centre started in 1909 by Father Albert Lacombe, an Oblate Priest.

In those days, Father Lacombe asked the Sisters of Providence of Montreal to take care of this mission and we have been here since.

My ministry is similar to the one that I had before: Mass every day at 11 a.m. and, in the afternoon, I accompany the residents in a variety of activities.

In my free time you can find me at the grotto or at our cemetery taking care of the flowers.

Calgary has beautiful weather, good for gardening, but often the wild life takes a taste of the products before us.

Thanks be to God for all his kindness.



## My Intercultural Experience, in Émilie-Gamelin Province

By Jessica Taylor, SP  
From *Inforoute* no 2, 2019

*Sharing allows us to appreciate our culture  
through these differences*

When I departed from Seattle, I was very excited and a little nervous considering the five and a half months to come. I arrived in Montreal around 1:00 AM; Sisters Sandrine Aimée Tsélikémé and Maria Nagui, from Residence de Chambly, were waiting for me at



the Montreal Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau International Airport. I was happy to arrive, since I had undergone a nasty cold and I felt a little under the weather.

We took a taxi to the Residence de Chambly and, upon our arrival, they showed me to my room. I said a prayer and started to unpack my suitcase a bit before going to bed. The next day, I was introduced to the sisters of the house, and at that moment I realized how little French I spoke.

During the first two months here, I could ask questions in English to two sisters. Google became essential and helped me in many situations. A concrete example occurred when

the closet light burned out and needed a replacement. I wrote my request to Google Translate and I showed it to a sister who went for a new bulb and everything was back in order.

After about a week, I began to attend classes every day with Sister

Germaine Desrochers; later in the month, I enrolled in courses at the *Institut linguistique* for twice a week, two hours per lesson. These courses have been very helpful and I am beginning to understand better the language. Sister Germaine was a great support in my understanding of the religious language, in learning my prayers and in conjugating verbs. She was a good translator and she encouraged me to speak French as often as possible, even for only a few words.

During the first week of November, I began to accompany Sister Yvette Renaud and other sisters to the Mass for the Deaf in Joliette and in



Montreal. I was very well received by the community and, even though I used the American Sign Language, there are still some similarities. I was able to understand them and they were able to understand me a little too. I learned a little French sign language too.

I also helped at the Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc Church Bazaar. It was nice to work at displaying the clothes and selling all kinds of items. When someone came to me and started speaking quickly in French, I replied: "*Je parle un peu français!*" (I speak a little French). So people talked to me in English or I called someone who speaks French. I loved my helping experience at the Bazaar.

Sisters Maria Nagui and Danielle Charron invited me to visit the Providence Saint-Joseph long-term care facility. I appreciated seeing the residents and the wonderful ministry for the elderly being carried out by Sisters Danielle and Murielle Cholette, SP. What a great ministry!

The ministry that I liked the most so far is visiting the women in prison. It is a ministry of compassionate presence and an opportunity to celebrate Mass with them. It's so beautiful to see these women take the time to be with us and to build relationships with each other. This is one of the most difficult times in their lives and I am honored to be present and to do everything I can to help ease their burden. I also pray for every woman who writes an intention after the Mass.

I pray the Lord to help them in what they have written and where healing is needed. This experience has been a blessing, a challenge and it has showed me the grace of God while I try to learn another language. I begin to understand and I improve my vocabulary, and I express myself through short sentences. I still have two and a half months to go and I hope that at the end of my stay I can make simple sentences and understand French better. I know this is only the first step in learning French and I will continue to progress.

Another area that has been very rewarding for me is the time I spent with the Sisters of Émilie-Gamelin Province. I see and understand better the similarities and differences between our two provinces. We have so much in common and the differences seem minimal. Sharing allows us to appreciate our culture through these differences, for example, how to celebrate and prepare events, money management and community life. The differences do not relate to our values, as they are the same, but they reflect our understanding and our way of honoring our own culture.

\* Sister Jessica stayed in Montreal from October 11, 2018, through March 20, 2019.



## Émilie-Gamelin Province



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

### Outstanding Award: Social justice

by Thérèse Drainville, SP and Micheline Larche, SP  
From *Inforoute* no 2, 2019



The University of Vermont Annual Awards Banquet was held on Tuesday, March 19, 5:00-7:00 PM in the Silver Maple Ballroom of the Davis Center. This celebration is an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions and activism of community members who work to dismantle systems of oppression.

This year, Sister Patricia McKittrick is the recipient of the 2019 Outstanding Social Justice Activist Award! This award is given to a person who has worked in anti-sexist endeavors and has drawn connections between various communities to end multiple forms of oppression. The award recognizes that various forms of oppression (sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, religious discrimination, for example) are linked and support one another. Sister Patricia spoke about her twenty-five-year career in the building of coalitions, of dedication and work within the Winooski community, serving various people, and her work to raise awareness about human trafficking. Her stories, historical perspective and her "joy" have been appreciated by all. Congratulations and thank you, Sister Patricia! A well-deserved honor!

### A Second Gilles-Carle Home in Boucherville

TVA Nouvelles - Published and updated on March 25, 2019,

"The Legault government announced its support for the opening of a second-Gilles-Carle Home in the Province of Quebec. It will be located in Boucherville. These homes welcome the sick to

provide respite to their families. During the election campaign, the Coalition Avenir Québec promised to support the opening of 20 Gilles-Carle Homes within 10 years. "The story of the



Gilles-Carle Home is the story of a cure, a cure for the disease, said the singer Chloé Sainte-Marie, Gilles Carle’s widow. “When will the day come when no one is sick? And when those who care for the sick do not need care?”

“Because caregivers suffer burnout, can bear no more; they want to help, but are sometimes frustrated, sometimes impatient,” said the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Caregivers, Marguerite Blais. “We want to help and support those who feel stressed; we want persons to be able to continue to live their lives and not become exhausted as you were when you took



care of Gilles, the man you loved.” The Gilles-Carle Home in Boucherville will open next fall, probably in September, in a building currently owned by the Sisters of Providence. It will be able to welcome 24 persons, 365 days a year.”

## Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

## Sister Marita Capili professes final vows as a Sister of Providence

by Anita Wilkins, Communication Director

Renton, Wash. – Sister Marita Nolasco Capili made profession of perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as a Sister of Providence in a liturgy on Sunday, March 24, 2019, in the chapel at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, Wash.

Sister Marita entered the Sisters of Providence religious community as a novice on September 11, 2011. Her call to religious life came as a surprise to friends and family, but came clearly to her after several years on a corporate career path that left her feeling unfulfilled.

As one of eight children born to a poor family in the Philippines, Sister Marita moved with family members to Guam where she attended high school and college, earning an associate’s degree in hotel management.

For 13 years she worked for Hyatt International Hotels as a front-desk agent and then began advancing into higher-level positions at hotels in Chicago, Egypt, Saipan, Los Angeles and Seattle. Through it all – the 10-12 hour days and the world travel – she was restless. She eventually settled in



Sister of Providence general superior Karin Dufault, SP, and Fr. Stan Malnar, bless Sr. Marita Capili at her final vows ceremony March 24, 2019, in the chapel at Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, Wash.



Seattle as reservation manager then revenue manager for various Hyatt hotels.

Things changed after a trip to Haiti organized through her workplace where Marita spent time in service to children experiencing poverty. Later she recognized that was the beginning of God's call to religious life.

Marita explored her calling through discussions with a pastor and conversations with Sisters of Providence about whom she had learned in a national magazine for people considering religious life. After contacting the religious community, she embarked on a period of discernment that led to her request to become a candidate a year later.

As a candidate, she moved to Spokane and became involved in ministries as a volunteer at Women's Hearth, at Ronald McDonald House and at Mount St. Joseph. She also participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) on Sundays. In 2014 Sister Marita began her mission

in El Salvador as administrator of the youth Beca scholarship program.

The theme for Sister Marita's perpetual vow ceremony was "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) The liturgy, celebrated by Father Stan Malnar, was followed by a reception. The event also coincided with the feast of Oscar Romero, saint and martyr of Central America where she has been on mission in El Salvador; celebration of the 175th anniversary of the congregation of Sisters of Providence; and her mother's birthday.

"I have received so much love, grace, blessings, richness and support from God, the sisters, and the people we serve—how could I say no to the call of discipleship," said Sister Marita. "Taking my perpetual vows is my expression of my full commitment to love and serve God as a Sister of Providence. It is a celebration of gratitude to God





for the gift of my vocation, and for the support and prayers of my Sisters of Providence community, family and friends.”

“We are grateful to God for calling Sister Marita to the Sisters of Providence to share God’s love and compassion with those who are vulnerable and most in need,” said Provincial Superior Judith Desmarais, SP. “Already Sister Marita has combined practical experience from the corporate world with a passion for helping underserved youth to make a

significant impact on the Salvadoran communities she serves.”

In lieu of gifts, Sister Marita requested that donations be made to the Sisters of Providence for the mission in El Salvador where she ministers to youth in a scholarship program. Nearly \$3000 has been raised to date. Contributions can be made by check to Sisters of Providence, Provincial Administration, El Salvador Mission, 1801 Lind Ave. SW #9016, Renton, WA 98057-9016, or online at [sistersofprovidence.net/support-us](http://sistersofprovidence.net/support-us).

## Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

## Bernarda Morin Province Colleges work to highlight Providence Spirituality as one of their principal hallmarks

by the Bernarda Morin’s Communication Office

At this time, an important focus on the *Colleges of the Educational Foundations of the Bernarda Morin Province* is to ensure an appropriate balance between spiritual and academic formation and to become known as Catholic schools which live the Providence charism and share in the spirituality of our Congregation.

This goal, although it has always been a strong characteristic of the provinces’ schools, is receiving a new impetus after the *Service Coordinating Office for the Providence Foundations in Chile* started working in 2018. On March 14, 2019, this Office held a first-time, fruitful meeting with the principals

of the educational institutions in the Province. In this meeting, attention was given to the need to place emphasis on the Providence Charism as a key dimension in the administration and management of the colleges, incorporating key concepts such as spirituality and ecclesiology, the personal encounter with God, the shared Mission and the involvement of lay collaborators into the management function.

“The educational project of the province focuses on the formation of the whole person. This approach is difficult to achieve because it requires a balancing of the formation of the human and the spiritual dimensions with the academic and curricular



formation,” said Augusto Blanco, the facilitator of the meeting, a university professor who holds a master's degree in educational management.

In agreement with the focus expressed above, the *Department of Animation of the Providence Charism and Mission* has been working for the past year on carrying out regional meetings where the educational works of the Province come together in order to unify the work being undertaken and to establish communities that exercise, in a permanent manner, a pastoral approach. In order to achieve this goal, the *Department* can also count on the active collaboration of the Province's *Spirituality Centre*.

As a result of these meetings, the coming year will see the launching of a Pastoral Plan shared by all the educational institutions with common plans and programs for the subject of religion and a Pastoral Team Support Plan intended to



foster formation and self-care.

This work is part of a unified institutional action plan shared by all the province's colleges. This action plan will incorporate key processes in the management of these educational institutions, in light of the *Providence Education Project* which considers the Mission and Charism of our Congregation as its principal foundation. This principal will be the focus for all future development of the Educational Projects in each of the province's colleges.



# INITIAL Entrances, vows *FORMATION*

## *Entrance to the Noviciate*



Manise Augustin  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
February 2, 2019



Milineda Brice  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
February 2, 2019

## *Perpetual Vows*



Marita Capili  
Seattle, USA  
March 24, 2019