



Providence Associates



Dear Providence Associates

I am pleased to greet you warmly. Let me share with you the cry of distress of all the children who are under the burden of forced labor. Each year the International Labor Organization (ILO) makes June 12 the World Day against Child Labor.



...continuation of the letter

The theme for this year is: "The only thing children should put to work is their imagination!" However, hundreds of millions of boys and girls around the world are engaged in works that violate their fundamental rights to freedom, education, health and recreation. Of all these children, more than half are exposed to the worst forms of child labor, such as work in hazardous environments, slavery or other forms of forced labor, illicit activities like drug trafficking, prostitution and armed conflicts.

The concept of "child labor" brings together all labor activities that deprive children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity and which hamper their education, health, and physical and mental development. It refers to work that is hazardous for the health and for the physical, social or mental development of children that interferes with their education by forcing them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to participate in academic and professional activities that are excessively long and too difficult for them. In its most extreme forms, child labor reduces children to slavery, separates them from their families, exposes them to serious diseases, and / or leaves them to fend for themselves on the streets of major cities, often at a very young age.

Article 32 of the UNICEF Convention on Child Rights reiterates children's' right to be protected against economic exploitation and any kind of work that endangers their

health, education or physical, mental or spiritual development. Despite this Convention, 152 million children (64 million girls and 88 million boys) are involved in forced labor throughout the world, accounting for almost one in ten worldwide. They are engaged in hazardous work that directly jeopardizes their health, safety and moral development.

It is clear that most child labor is done within the family. Others are exploited in hazardous conditions like toiling in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture, handling dangerous tools or as domestic workers. Others are forced into sexual exploitation for commercial purposes.



**215 million children
are still forced to
work, or 1/7
worldwide**

This fundamental reality tells us that there is still much to be done to eliminate child labor. This

means, above all, the need to integrate child labor policies into broader social development policies, and not deal with child labor as an isolated problem. The International Day on Child Labor aims to increase awareness of the cycle of poverty that is created when children have to work, thus being deprived of educational opportunities. ➡

...continuation of the letter

Associates, let us pray that children around the world may be freed from the burden of forced labor, so they may fully realize their right to education, recreation and a healthy development. Let us pray for the eradication of poverty and respect for the human rights of children. Let us pray for the leaders of governments to take immediate and effective measures to eliminate forced labor, to end modern slavery and human trafficking, to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor including the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to end child labor in all its forms

Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP
Providence Associates General Coordinator



A boy in the Democratic Republic of Congo holds a screening net in a copper mine in the southeastern province of Katanga, where an estimated 25 percent of children under 14 work in hazardous conditions.

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Providence Family

THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE CELEBRATE THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY! BLESSED EMILIE TAVERNIER GAMELIN, PRAY FOR US!



by Sister Yvette Demers, SP
Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Emilie Gamelin

On Friday, March 29, at the Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, 5655 Salaberry St., Montreal, was held the closing Mass of the celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the foundation by Bishop Ignace Bourget, March 25, 1843.



The canonical establishment of the Congregation by Monsignor Bourget, Bishop of Montreal, was held on March 29, 1844. Seven novices, including Madame Gamelin, pronounced the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service of the poor, in the chapel of the Providence Asile. On the following day, Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, who was called Sister Gamelin, was elected superior of the community, a position she occupied until her death on September 23, 1851.



Providence Family

175 years later, at the Thanksgiving Mass, presided by Archbishop Monsignor Christian Lépine, many people came to give thanks for all these years of service to the suffering and the poor.

Among the participants were representatives of social services in Quebec and the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville, members of religious communities, priests, deacons, many members of community organizations and of course, many sisters from different provinces of the Congregation worldwide.

There was live broadcast on the Facebook page of the community. The celebration represented the international presence of the Congregation. The entrance procession included Sisters of Providence from the nine countries where the community is active: Canada, the United States, Chile, Argentina, Egypt, Cameroon, Haiti, the Philippines and El Salvador.

Sr. Karin Dufault, Congregational Leader, welcomed the participants with the following words: "Throughout this



year, we have deepened our understanding and appreciation of how Providence has blessed our congregation for 175 years, and has worked through the sisters. For 175 years, we have met the needs of those who are poor and suffering.

As we look to the future, we are grateful. We may quote Henri Lacordaire and say, 'What I know about tomorrow is that Providence will rise before the sun.'"

In his homily, the Archbishop recalled how the mission of the community is still actual and important for our society, "Blessed Mother Emilie Gamelin saw herself with Mary at the foot of the Cross. She saw herself with Our Mother of Sorrows, taking care of Jesus Christ and the poor. This mission was important 175 years ago, is still important today, and will still be important tomorrow. "

For Serena Chappell, a prenovice who traveled from Calgary to attend this event, this Thanksgiving Mass was memorable: "It was just wonderful! I believe that this celebration has raised our awareness of the legacy the Congregation has given to our society, and I hope it will continue for another 175 years! "

When asked about how the work initiated by Mother Emilie Gamelin is still relevant today, she explained that "the needs of the poor have not changed: some ways to help them have certainly changed, but the poor still exist in our time and unfortunately will exist forever."



Providence Family

After being reinvigorated and inspired by an inspiring choir (*Ensemble Vocal Épiphanie*), the participants proceeded to the banquet given by the Sisters of Providence.

"Divine Providence, whose bounteous hands bestow on us the goods of this earth... be forever praised, adored and thanked!"

From : Demers, Yvette, SP. « 175 ans d'amour et de charité compatissante », *Jésus Marie & Notre Temps*, vol. 45, no. 532 (June 2019): 12.



NEWS FROM MOTHER JOSEPH PROVINCE

1. VISIT TO PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES IN THE PHILIPPINES – JANUARY 3 -11, 2019

Communications from the Province



Kathe Boucha, PA and Sr. Josie Ramac visiting with Arlene Bentican, a worker at the women's prison in Bataan.

In early January, Sr. Jo Ann Showalter and Kathe Boucha, PA, executive director of the Providence Associates of Mother Joseph, flew to the Philippines. Their goal was to meet up with Sr. Josie Ramac already there and then, with the sisters living in the Philippines, visit the two groups of Providence Associates and the probable new members who would be forming a new group in another province of the nation of islands. Accompanied by Srs. Julie Macasieb and Lucy Vasquez, they began their visits by traveling to Dagupan City in the province of Pangasinan.

A new group is going through orientation in the process of forming a new region. This is a group of about 12, some of

News...

whom traveled to Seattle last year when Sr. Julie celebrated her Jubilee. After spending the night in Dagupan, the group traveled to Balanga City in the province of Bataan where



Kathe Boucha, PA, Josie Ramac, SP, and Jo Ann Showalter, SP at Bataan.

they visited the women's prison. While at the prison, the sisters were able to deliver the two boxes of donations, including a new sewing machine, given by the Providence Associates from Holy Angels Province. The group met with the Balanga PAs the next day and then returned to Mystic Rose in Quezon City. The following day PAs from Punta Santa Ana joined the group for dinner and conversation. Later there was an opportunity for first, a jeepney ride and to visit a museum to learn more about the history of the Philippines. The group attended Mass at the mall, which was not a new experience for most of them. Sr. Beth Rayray kept the hospitality flowing as the group ventured in and out of Manila.



2. PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – JANUARY 2019

The Providence Associates of Mother Joseph Executive Committee met at North Lake house in late January. This small group of associates and sisters came together to look at the current and possible future status of the Providence Associates of Mother Joseph. As with most associate groups around the continent, future membership, future leadership and economic viability are concerns. Sr. Jo Ann will be stepping back from this wonderful group as a provincial council liaison to the PAs and Sr. Josie Ramac will be stepping forward until the end of her term Dec 31, 2019. In addition, Kathe Boucha, Margaret Bauer and Geri Ann Johnson will soon be rotating off this executive committee. Each and every one has worked from the heart and will be greatly missed in that role. The group has agreed that the orientation manual needs to be updated and a committee will be formed to move ahead with that.

3. MARY DOHERTY, PA - IS RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 FR. JACK MORRIS, S.J. AWARD

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest announced that Mary Doherty, PA is the recipient of this year's Fr. Jack Morris, S.J. Memorial Award.

Mary Doherty has a deep heart for the mission and work of JVC Northwest



and has selflessly served as a support person, mentor, and guide to members and former members for many years. Mary was on the Board of Directors for 12 years and is celebrating her 50th anniversary as a Jesuit Volunteer. The JVC Northwest stated they were privileged to honor her for all the ways she has lived a life of service.

The Fr. Jack Morris Memorial Award honors a former Jesuit Volunteer who is inspired by and lives out the four values of JVC Northwest: community, simple living, social and ecological justice, and spirituality. The honoree works to foster the development of their local community, encourages spiritual growth and exploration, strives for social justice, and embodies a sustainable presence on earth.

Mary Doherty was honored at the Annual Seattle Benefit event on May 19, 2019. Many joined in celebrating her during that wonderful day of community, spirituality, and unity with friends and family.

4. NEW PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE RECEPTION – MAY 5, 2019 YAKIMA, USA

Sunday, May 5, was not only a celebration of Cinco de Mayo for the Providence Associates in Yakima. It was also a day of joy for the Yakima region, because after more than a year of orientation and preparation, Obdulia Rubin was received as a full member of the Movement. Obdulia shared her personal commitment and a reflection of her hopes and

dreams in becoming a Providence Associate, followed by the signing of her acceptance. She was given the Providence Associate's pin and Blessed Emilie's medal. The members gave her warm welcome hugs and shared simple reception treats. Sisters Roberta Rorke and Dona Taylor were present at the ceremony. They accompanied the group as they finished the planning for their summer project to feed the homeless. Welcome Obdulia!



5. MARCH FOR MIGRANTS FAMILIES MAY 11, 2019 - TACOMA, USA



Providence Associates (in the upper row) and Tacoma Dominican Associates.

On May 11th, the Seattle Providence Associates joined the Tacoma Dominican Associates in support of "March for Immigrant Families" held at the NW Detention Center on the Tacoma flats. Sisters Clare Lentz & Ann Mary V, also joined us. More than 500 supporters walked and drove from points as far away as Bellingham and Vancouver, WA to join Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and two other priests who celebrated Mass from the flat bed trailer drawn behind a truck.

To the pilgrims, the Bishop affirmed that "we will keep walking as long as needed to finally reach a place where



everyone may enjoy freedom, joy, love and peace as all members of this precious human family deserve.”

What an inspiration to be in communion with all these present, supportive people. To our surprise, the students of St. Patrick’s School of Tacoma prepared tasty sack lunches and bottled water for all those present on this warm beautiful day. The Dominican associates invited us to join them at their meeting place at the Dominican Sisters in Tacoma to eat our lunches. We shared our thoughts of this pilgrimage and affirmed that we, as Associates, will continue to support and continue to pray for a just resolution for those held in detention.

Kathe Boucha, PA
Alaska, USA

**3RD INTERNATIONAL PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES GATHERING
PLANNING COMMITTEE 1ST MEETING -
MAY 7-10, 2019 - PROVIDENCE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**




We have invited a Providence Associate and a Sister of Providence to share their experiences with us after the first Planning Committee for the 2020 Providence Associates International Gathering.



By Fresia Flores, PA: Last May 7-10, the Planning Committee for the *3rd International Providence Associates Gathering*, to be convened in May 2020, was held at the International Centre of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal, Canada. One Providence Associate and one Sister of Providence from each province of the Congregation participated, as did Sister Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, Providence Associate Liaison from the General Leadership Team and Sister Annette Noël, General

Councillor-Secretary. Sister Gloria Garcia and I represented Bernarda Morin Province.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and with the heavenly energy of each of the great Providence women, Emilie, Bernarda and Mother Joseph, came the idea of a International Gathering of Providence Associate by the General Leadership Team of the Sisters of Providence. We are only the means through whom this great success, in the history of the PA Movement and the Sisters of Providence, may be achieved. With the multiculturalism of the members of the Committee and everyone's eagerness, we hope all that we agreed upon does represents us and is what we, the PA from the different provinces, would like or need.

The beginning of the meeting was difficult. Although we began with the missioning of Light that the General Councillors gave us, it was not easy. We noted the differences represented in the backgrounds, cultures, languages, experiences and realities of each participant and of the meeting facilitator, Providence Associate Kathe Boucha. United in prayer and, with the symbols of Light with Mother Emilie and the pregnant Blessed Virgin, we received new light and guidelines for rebirth and for new life, it was the beginning of a change in understanding the meaning of being a Providence Associate. Clearly, we are not "the arms of the sisters". We are Providence Associates, sharing in the Mission and Charism bequeathed by the foundresses, and planted into each PA by sister formators, the cornerstones of who we Providence Associates have 

become in each region today. After four intense days, the Holy Spirit inspired us and we arrived at a common ground on the themes for the international gathering and on how they are to be presented: International, Intercultural, Intergenerational and Interdependence - Each Province will develop one of these themes.

We lived a great experience that revitalized our commitment of love and service. We received an invitation to play an essential part in the beginning of a new era for the Providence Associates and the Sisters, a renewal of our connection and our listening as we continue working together as members of this vine bequeathed to us by Mother Emilie.

I cannot fail to mention and give thanks for all the love received from Sister Françoise Paillé, SP, as well as for the detailed translations, the snacks, the comfortable rooms and the sisters' concern for every detail to make sure that we were feeling well.

Forever grateful for this call of the Father, with affection,

Fresia Flores, PA




Sister Gloria Garcia, SP is in charge of the PA Mouvement on Bernarda Morin Province and she also shares her experience:

Same Charism, Same Vision

Being a member of a committee responsible for the organizing of a new international gathering of Providence Associates, the first in almost 20 years, is a



real challenge, a challenge of love and vision. It is a big commitment to make our intentions to reach the heart, allowing us to grow together, Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates, with the founding charism we've received through Mother Emilie, while being carriers of the Providence flame in an international, intergenerational, intercultural and interdependent reality.

How will we do it, what do we want or wish to achieve, and towards what will we aim? These questions surfaced and we would like to respond to them with the wisdom of the PAs who have had the charism engraved in their hearts for many years, but also from the point of view of those who are new to this call they have received from the same God. We are responsible for the legacy passed on to new generations, who are coming together with hope, enthusiasm and commitment in the different provinces. They are open to the transmission of the Providence Associate values, and become messengers of charity, humility and simplicity in a world that needs so much love, goodness and 

transcendence. The world needs to recognize that the God of life is in everyday journey; for God has given us a common home to share so that we may participate in God's glory, God's reign.

For all these reasons, each province will devote their time and generosity so that together we may give life to this new Providence vision that emerged from a dream from of our General Council. With their blessing, they are inviting us to implement this gathering, and we accepted with great enthusiasm. "Laudato Si'," praised be to you, my Lord, for showing us a new path whereon which we, the Sisters of Providence and the Providence Associates, from our committed common roots can walk together. We desire to be the human face of Providence, as Emilie was, for today's world, a world that is constantly evolving, and we would want it to be sustainable and comprehensive for all (Pope Francis) as God's loving plan for all of us.

May the Holy Spirit, in this new Pentecost, accompany us and allow us to realize the dream of Providence, abandoning ourselves to God and confiding in God's grace.

Gloria Garcia, SP

PA T-SHIRT PROJET ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE



The Providence Associates, affiliated with the Notre-Dame-de-la-Providence group in Montreal, are pleased to inform you that :

- ❖ In a spirit of unity with the Providence Associate Movement around the world, we are selling a unitary T-Shirt, in the three official languages of the Congregation, whose purpose is to promote the PA Movement and raise funds for the different causes that are important to you.

Prices and other details: Brigitte Martin, PA
(brigmart26@gmail.com)



News...

- ❖ Last April, we set up an Easter Market with the goal to promote the PA Movement at the Mother House and raise funds for our joint project, the construction of a community bakery in Torbeck, Haiti. Thank you all: Sisters of Providence, Sisters of sister communities, friends and colleagues of the Providence International Centre and the Mother House, collaborators and loyal customers .

Net total of the day, including sales and donations:
\$1024.00 CAN.

😊😊😊 Thank you from the heart!!



The photos in this article illustrate some of our benefactors: Providence Associates, Sisters of Providence, Providence International Centre employees, Sisters of Providence Collaborators, and friends. Send us your photo with your t-shirt and a short description at nbertoluci@providenceintl.org and we will be happy to publish in our next issue!

Thank's to all who support us in this project! May Emilie continue to guide us and be our example in the Mission to support the poorest in society.

**THE "ESTRELLA DEL MAR" (STAR OF THE SEA)
PA COMMUNITY IN VALPARAISO CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE**



On Sunday, June the 2nd, the "Estrella del Mar" (Star of the Sea) Providence Associates community in Valparaiso celebrated 25 years of love, devotion and service with a meaningful and emotional liturgy presided by the permanent deacon Mr. Vergara. This community, is committed especially to a home of elderly women sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, with effort and tenderness serve the elderly ladies in the twilight of their lives, giving them their love and a home. This work continues to exist, even after the closure of the Valparaiso Home for Girls, which the Providence Associates also supported with motherly love.

The Providence Associates have carried out their mission for more than 25 years and for many years have given of their time, and their lives for this great and worthy cause, because they see Christ present in the needy.



This group of Providence Associates came into being in June 1994, and since then, these Associates have walked with the Providence hallmark and commitment, but not without difficulties. However, the love of God and of Our Mother of Sorrows, patroness of the Congregation, has allowed the continuation of this work, still contributing a its "grain of sand" to our society.

The "Estrella del Mar" community has five Associates working silently, making Christ's message live through their commitment to others. We entreat them to continue walking on this great path, as we call the 14 Providence Associates communities of the Bernarda Morin Province to work with dedication and love, making present our Provident God and Father in the society in which we live. Congratulations and blessings to this beautiful group of Valparaiso Associates and thank you for your example.

Elizabeth Farías Navarro, PA
Providence Associate National Director
of Bernarda Morin Province



**CELEBRATION OF AN ENTERTAINING EVENING
WORK PROJECT - LLOLLEO
BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE**



On June 5, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. we began a friendly gathering scheduled this year as one of the activities included in the Providence Associates Work Plan for our Llolleo community in Chile.

The invitation was extended to the retired teachers of Santa Teresita High School in Llolleo, who worked with us for over 30 years. Attending the gathering were Ruth Lopez Offerman (former PA), Susana Romero, Josefa Piñeiro and Francisca Valenzuela (PA), all former teachers at our school.

We were also accompanied in this activity by a number of current personnel, including: Marcela Leiva (head of the UTP), Marcela Polanco (professor of history in charge of the ARC), Pia Hinojosa (physical education teacher), María Inés Galleguillo (math teacher) and Luisa Aedo (philosophy teacher).

Our director, Alejandro Pereira, his assistant, Sister Ana Teresa Araya and his councilor Sister Claudia Vargas enjoyed the activity. They had never met the guest teachers before. They had the

opportunity to share experiences and many good memories of the years spent in Santa Teresita school. Actually most are former high school students who fondly remembered the teachers of their student years, and also the values they had been taught, such as the Providence spirituality, which they live out on a daily basis. They remain grateful for the education they received from the Sisters of Providence both as students and over the 30 years they worked in the school, that provided their formation.

The Providence Associates of the Llolleo community thank our Provident Father for allowing them to carry out this activity with former colleagues. We pray our foundresses, Mother Emilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph, to continue to inspire us so that we may reach more persons and open our community to alumni, parents or guardians so they may participate in this beautiful mission of commitment to the poor.

Erika Straube Ríos, PA

Coordinator of the Llolleo Community, Chile.

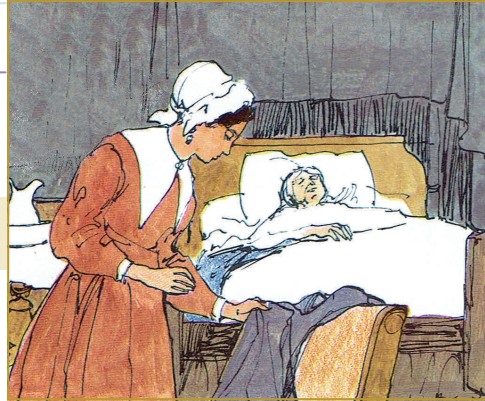
PA Leadership, Chile, assistants to the activity: Elizabeth Farias (National Director); Flor Hernandez (Vice-President); Ana Hermosilla (Secretary)

Assistant Associates: Gloria Hernández (Llolleo Community Secretary); Vesna Agnic (Treasurer); Carmen Castañeda (Former child tutor).

Providence Friend: Julio Córdova.

Reflection

BLESSED EMILIE



Blessed are you, Emilie,
Love and charity for the poor you lived,
Example of confidence in Providence you were.
*S*he considered a field and acquired it.
Supported by our Mother of Sorrows, you
Exhorted others to relieve suffering, and sent out
Dughters by the hundreds, filled with hope. / They

Embarked with the dream of an awakened and unified
Church.
Motivated by love and compassion for their
neighbours, the poor, / they
Imagined themselves following the footsteps of
Emilie.
Ladies of Charity, you shared her values,
Impelled by Charity, with Emilie, to be the human
face of Providence, giving
Evidence of Love, Peace and Goodness for 175 years.

Rose-Hélène Corriveau, SP

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