

# Providence Missive

*A publication of the Sisters of Providence*



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throughout the world.

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Cover : The Providence Tree « communicates » with the other trees  
in the forest.

# Dear Sisters,

Sister Karin Dufault presents her conference to the participants of the 2019 MACC gathering.



*“Communication is the channel through which life is conveyed, through which ideas and the energy behind them are transmitted, and through which the mind, body, and spirit are merged into a force for right action.”*

*Michael Gerber*

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/michael\\_gerber\\_863109](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/michael_gerber_863109)

## ***A Culture of Authentic Communication***

*H*ave you ever had a word that keeps coming up in your thoughts and prayers? Does that word seem to appear in one form or another in what you are reading or listening? I have had such experiences and the word that keeps popping up for me especially since May has been ***“Communication”***.

Maybe it is because of the gratitude we received for using live-stream communication technology to provide the opportunity for all who wished throughout our community and ministries to experience our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary liturgy

and resource day. Maybe it is because of emphasis at the Union International of Superiors General (UISG) Assembly in Rome and my attendance at the UISG communication workshop. Maybe it is because I was asked to give a presentation that focused on “communication is Mission” and communication spirituality at the June Providence International Museum, Archives, Communication and Causes (MACC) gathering.

Maybe it is because I have noticed the word often in our recently approved Constitutions and Rules (especially, C 49, 36 and Chapter VII) and in our Governance Model document (key values, fruits, model structure, and



unifying services). Maybe it is because I hear stories of people not feeling listened to or understood and also the difference it makes for those who do experience contemplative listening and dialogue. Maybe it is because I have been struck by the media's power both to communicate important news well and also to miscommunicate on so many levels giving rise to the term "false news".

Maybe it is because of our dependence on interpretation to communicate with persons whose language may be other than one's own. **Maybe** it is Providence whispering in my ear to pay special attention to how I and we, as Sisters of Providence, communicate with each other and with the people of our world, in our community life and in our ministry, in spoken and written word, in our gestures, in our images and photos and in our use of social media .

So what is communication? Wikipedia describes **Communication** (from Latin *communicare*, meaning "to share") as the act of conveying meanings from one entity or group to another through the use of mutually understood signs and symbols, speech, visuals, writings or behavior. It involves a message being sent and received

and decoded for meaning. In an intercultural, international and intergenerational community like ours, the "mutually understood signs and symbols" can be a challenge, as it also can be in our multicultural multilingual society. One can often miss the meaning and misinterpret the signs and symbols which leads to miscommunication if one fails to clarify what has been understood.

Pope Francis said it so well: "Communicating means sharing, and sharing demands listening and acceptance. Listening is much more than simply hearing. Hearing is about receiving information, while listening is about communication, and calls for closeness. Listening allows us to get things right, and not simply to be passive onlookers, users or consumers. Listening also means being able to share questions and doubts, journeying side by side, banishing all claims to absolute power and putting our abilities and gifts at the service of the common good." (Message for World Day of Social Communications, Jan. 22, 2016 [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco\\_20160124\\_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20160124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html)).

Consider this! *Communication is **Mission*** if we take our Providence Mission statement and Providence spirituality seriously. In all our communications we can be about proclaiming Providence "*as the loving presence of God, active in us and through us, watchful over the created universe, and attentive to the needs of all.*" In our communication, *we* can see the other/others with a graced eye, as Sister Annmarie Sanders, IHM, states it, finding meaning and nurturing communion in connecting our stories. We have Jesus as a model, the perfect communicator, who used story-telling and life experiences to teach and heal individuals and to open crowds to new possibilities of communion with God and other people. He opened himself to questions when he was not understood and found parables to help illustrate his points.

I believe that probing our Constitutions and Rules and engaging in contemplative listening and dialogue related to our transforming governance process will aid us greatly in developing a culture of **authentic communication** with prophetic voices for peace, hope, justice and communion within our community

and our world. This culture will be reflected also in our Providence publications and messaging in social media as well as in our personal individual encounters.

So I encourage you to think and pray about your own contribution to communicating as Jesus did and proclaiming Providence in words and actions within the community and in ministry to God's people. Continue to develop your communication skills of listening, seeking understanding, and speaking truth respectfully. It is indeed a life-long process!

As a General Leadership Team, we have placed a high priority on authentic communication in many forms and we hope it has been noticed. Some may say, we communicate too much and others may say, not enough. Since communication is a two way street, we appreciate your feedback.

Let us respond with our prayers to the media communication we have received about those affected by Hurricane Dorian and other natural disasters in our hurting world and take actions to address the climate crisis in solidarity with the UISG



Sowing Hope for the Planet campaign and with Christians around the world celebrating the Season of Creation 2019.

I close with a quote from a Mormon elder, L. Lionel Kendrick, and a Prayer from Pope Francis with which he concluded his 2018 World Communication address:

*May we treasure the divine gift of communication, and may we use it wisely to build and to assist others on this marvelous journey through mortality”.* L. Lionel Kendrick

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/general-conference/1988/10/christlike-communications?lang=eng>.

Affectionately in Providence,

*Larin Dufault SP*  
Congregational Leader

**Référence : Annmarie Sanders.** *Union International of Superiors General (UISG). Communicating the Mission Globally: Communications Manual for Institutes of Women Religious.* 2018.

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication  
that does not build communion.  
Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.  
Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.  
You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds  
Of goodness for the world:  
where there is shouting, let us practise listening;  
where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;  
where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;  
where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;  
where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;  
where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;  
where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;  
where there is hostility, let us bring respect;  
where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.*

*Amen.*

*Pope Francis, January 24, 2018*

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco\\_20180124\\_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20180124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html)





# SPECIAL Experiences, reflections REPORT



## *A Culture of Authentic Communication*

*Let us present some of the impressions of the participating provincial teams at the 2019 MACC Gathering, specifically following the presentation of Sister Karin Dufault on communication - Montreal, June 2019*

### HOLY ANGELS PROVINCE MACC TEAM IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE 2019 MACC CONFERENCE



L. to R.: Vera Gutierrez, Diane Lamoureux, Sister Margarete St. John and Juan Francisco Tapia - Sharing of our impressions of MACC 2019.

The theme, *Let us Connect in Providence*, reminds us that it is God who is leading us to 'the new'. Providence is active in us as we live that Communication **is** Ministry and **is** Mission. We experienced the conference as very inspiring. Communication can transform us

both personally and communally and is an important work.

We found that the idea of us all working on a common mission and exploring opportunities for collaborations was well stressed during the sessions. Thinking as a congregation, we certainly felt more a part of a team and looked forward to opportunities that allow us to move forward together. We also found the presentations were well-suited to the discussions and provided us with ideas on how to forge ahead in the province and as a congregation.

Our hope is that the various groups within MACC can continue to meet regularly via technology and collaborate on projects, to be made accessible through social media, that will allow us to tell our story and get the message out about the Sisters of Providence and our mission.



MACC was indeed a very captivating and uplifting experience. We enjoyed meeting so many new collaborators from different areas and provinces. There was much to learn from the presentations and about the different ways each province communicates. We particularly enjoyed learning how effective and fun social media is when used by provinces and the International Centre in sharing Mother Gamelin's Mission with the world.

We look forward to meeting with our local team regularly and to implement new ways to share the spirit of Holy Angels Province with the congregation and far beyond. We have already begun to update our website and have discussed ideas for circulation in the web world.

Providence of God we thank you for all.

*Diane Lamoureux* - Archives and Museum

*Vera Gutierrez* - Administrative Assistant

*Margarete St. John, SP*, Provincial Councillor/Secretary

## MOTHER JOSEPH PROVINCE AT MACC



L. to R.: Elizabeth, Jessica, Anita, Peter and Loretta sharing the prayer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the 2019 Gathering.

Staff from Mother Joseph Province (MJP) were pleased to participate in the 2019 MACC gathering at the Providence International Centre in June. Representing MJP were Loretta Greene, Archivist; Peter Schmid, Visual Resources Archivist; Elizabeth Russell, Associate Archivist; Jessica Long, Artifacts Collection Cataloguer; and Anita Wilkins, Director of Communications.

Our three days were packed with learning and sharing, professional exchanges and personal connections. We all appreciated the opportunity to be present in-person with our colleagues from near and far. For those of us experiencing Montreal and the motherhouse for the first time, it was particularly meaningful. Here are some of the highlights of our experiences at the conference:

"It was great to get a better sense of what the archives and communications staff at the General Administration and in other provinces are working on and their major accomplishments over the last several years."

—Elizabeth

"Bringing everyone together for a conference was a great way to actually connect with our counterparts in other provinces. I think it's a lot better to get to know someone in person





rather than through email, for example. I also was impressed with how many projects all the MACC participants were involved in, which certainly inspires enthusiasm and ideas.” –Jessica

“I think it is important that we meet in person from time to time to share our work and spend time with each other in a way that online platforms simply cannot replicate. It was good to see those who had participated in the 2014 meeting and to meet new staff. Now when we send emails and participate in meetings online we have a deeper connection to each other and our work.” –Peter

“MACC provided a sense of professional renewal and connectedness. It would be most beneficial if we could find a way to continue that connection, to work collaboratively to continue sharing our work with each other, to learn from each other. The Lexicon from Alice is a perfect example. The monthly e-newsletter in which we all shared about the historical and contemporary living of the mission and ministries of the Sisters of Providence is another example. I learned so much that I would not have had an opportunity to, otherwise.” –Loretta

“As a relatively new member of the Sisters of Providence family, I appreciated meeting all of the wonderful people I had ‘met’ only through digital means, learning about their work, and exploring the rich history of the Sisters of Providence at the International Centre. It was

professionally invigorating and personally moving.” –Anita

When Sister Karin Dufault spoke of communication and connection as mission, her inspirational words resonated with all of us. We recognize the great privilege of sharing 175 years of the rich legacy of the Sisters of Providence, and the joys and challenges of communicating and connecting effectively with our multicultural colleagues and congregation.

We view our work as ministries that promote understanding of the Sisters of Providence past and present, amplify their voices, and advance their mission. We are messengers who, through archives, museums, public relations and communications, are entrusted with the power to educate, transform and ignite others in support of the sisters’ work to help change lives. Through our areas of expertise — whether processing, cataloging, researching, and preserving history; or cultivating connections and telling stories through various means — it is an honor to be of service to the Sisters of Providence.

*Anita Wilkins*, Communication Director





## PROVIDENCE COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION ARE MISSION IN BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE



L. to R.: Sister Jaquelina Juarez, Juan Francisco Tapia and María Inés Ojeda on a work meeting.

From their beginnings in Chile, the Sisters of Providence have taken advantage of different platforms to present and to be the Providence Mission. For over 100 years, they counted on San José printing company to “contribute to the diffusion of Christian thinking (Historia de la Congregación, Hermanas de la Providencia en Chile, Volume IV, p. 78)”, and also on a second printing company in the northern city of Antofagasta. The social impact of the ministries in Chile was always such that in the late nineteenth century and during the twentieth century, the mission of the Province was habitually carried by major Chilean media.

Over the years, the Province published various print magazines, books and newsletters on a more or less regular basis. With the arrival of this century, they also began using digital tools, sharing news and bulletins via e-mail and keeping the blogs updated by volunteers, especially regarding the Beatification Cause of

our foundress in Chile, Mother Bernarda Morin, Servant of God.

Since 2013, the Province has focused, through periodic publications, to strengthen and promote the permanent natural connection and communication that already existed. In the same year, the Province began, among other activities, to publish a monthly newsletter, which featured activities, news and reflections, and was distributed to all the sisters. Then the main writings of this newsletter began to be shared in the recently inaugurated website. This meant going into more systematization, but always with the understanding that the concern for communication would continue beyond 2013.

What had been strengthened in that year reached a new phase in 2017 with the birth of the Communications Office in the Provincial Administration and the hiring of a specific person for this job. With these actions, the regularity of the internal and external communications was formalized with special attention to design and visual communication.

In this way, the internal newsletter, the website, our presence in social networks, the newsletters with reflections and photographs, the various calendars, the permanent use of email, the bulletin boards, brochures, flyers, posters and various other publications and tools, concretely help to proclaim the active loving presence of Providence, through the Sisters of Providence and their ministries and their collaborators throughout the country.

*Oficina de comunicaciones de la Provincia Bernarda Morin*



## Communication is a very important tool

During the MACC meeting last June, Sister Karin Dufault, SP Congregational Leader, suggested that we ask ourselves if we were aware of the importance of communication in our lives? It is important to understand that **communication is a very important tool, because today we are living in the information age** and that today people have access to social networks: Internet, Facebook, Twitter and others. The task before us is to develop good communication systems, trying to use these resources wisely, with good judgment and being conscious of what it is we are communicating.

In order that our communication serves a good end, we are motivated to unite our talents and our gifts to complement one another, so that our communication is done with a **generous and loving spirit**.

As daughters and sons of God, we must communicate the Gospel. We can do this in various ways and in different forms and styles, but we always want to convey our personal spirituality and our Providence spirituality to everyone who receives the communication.

To communicate is to have an opportunity to serve. We all share the same goal: TO SERVE. We desire that there is no one who is without the opportunity to SERVE. Communication is a commitment to daily service.

We are confident that day after day, our Provident God perfects our work, which we do always with God and for God. Perhaps our greatest work is to see how we can, in our specific fields of action, encourage readers and users to find **Jesus Christ** in what we communicate with our words and/or our actions.

*Sister Elvira Letelier and Claudia Mardones*

Team of the Cause of the Servant of God Bernarda Morin

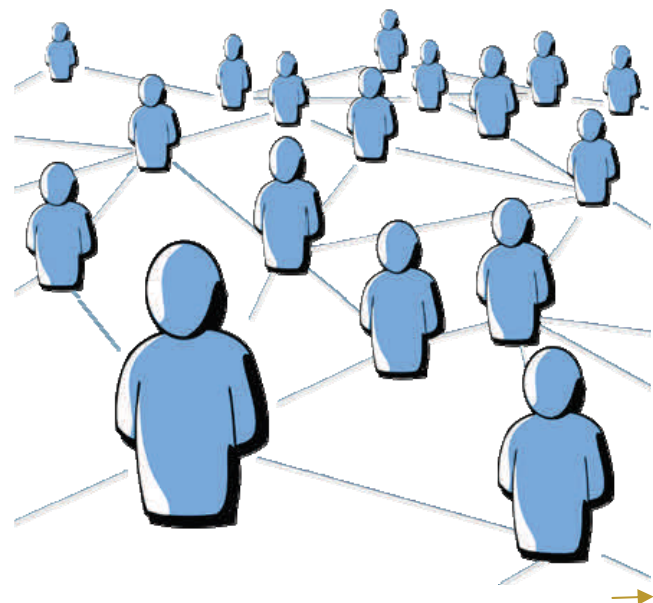


L. to R.: Claudia Mardones, Sisters Rollande Malo, Yvette Demers and Elvira Letelier participating on the 2019 MACC Gathering.

## PROVIDENCE COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION FOR THE MISSION IN ÉMILIE-GAMELIN PROVINCE

For Émilie-Gamelin Province, communication is essential and is part of our mission. The team of the Provincial Administration Communications Office and Secretariat is multidisciplinary and its members' skills complement each other's.

The Secretariat emits direct communications, written or oral, with members of the Congregation, the Province, sister communities, Providence Associates and other partners, while the Communications Office facilitates contacts with a larger public, especially on social networks, mainly



Facebook, Twitter, the online virtual community and Émilie-Gamelin Province's website.

Our mandate is to facilitate contacts with all those who are interested in the Providence Mission, as well as to promote the legacy of Emilie Gamelin and the Sisters of Providence. By facilitating communication, we want to revive communion and keep the on-going history for the next generations.

As technology plays an important role in this field, our dream is to have a well-established communication office with a trilingual director who can research information, ensure the updating of social networks, be involved in determining relevant subjects for the provincial bulletin, and manage photos and publishing. However, we are

aware that quality communication takes time and energy to create, correct, translate and publish in the three languages of the Congregation.

Nonetheless, as "communication" comes from the Latin *communicare* which means "sharing" and we know that "To live is to communicate", we try to find solutions that will guarantee the quality of our internal and external communication and will provide the most relevant information to strengthen the bonds of sisterhood with the entire Congregation and all those who are engaged, here and elsewhere.

Team members :

*Sœurs Monique Beaulieu, SP, Thérèse Drainville, SP, Micheline Larche, SP, and Ms Dora Maria Conceição, Dominique Dugas and Cristina Rakši*



### *World Youth Day*

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."*

*By Maria Nagui, SP*

#### **Year of grace and blessing! An enriching and unforgettable experience!**

I would like to share with you three highlights of my experience at the World Youth Days.

Firstly, the generosity, joy and pride of the Panamanians is for me a wonderful example of brotherly love. Their culture is beautiful and they welcomed us in a way beyond all

expectations. I was especially impressed by my host family. Mr. Alfonso and Mrs. María welcomed me together with four other young Quebecers. We were warmly welcomed with open hearts and arms; and they did everything to make us happy and comfortable in their home. This is an outstanding family; they are very generous and affectionate. What touched me personally were their simplicity and their



Jesus Christ and put ourselves under the maternal mantle of his Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pope Francis has a special charisma to attract the attention of 700,000 youth



gathered around him; we were people of all backgrounds, wearing the colors of the flags of different countries. His words and messages touched the heart of each pilgrim. The Holy Father asked us some questions that can lead us further in our faith in Jesus Christ. He said assertively that he believes that young people can make a difference in the Church and in the world. He trusts them. The Pope also invited us to take courage and say YES to the call of God, just like the Virgin Mary who did not hesitate to say "yes" in all circumstances. She trusted God. Thus, the Pope added that we young people need to be like Mary and prepare to "encounter Jesus, the living Jesus, in the Eucharist. Face to face with Jesus, have courage and don't be afraid to open your heart to him so that he may renew the fire of his love, so that you can embrace life with all its frailty and flaws, but also with its grandeur and beauty. May Jesus help you to discover the beauty of being alive and awake," the Holy Father exhorted.

strong faith in Jesus. For me, they compose a model family, united and confident in God.

This experience with my host family also gave me a new perspective on Quebec youth, as we could share and pray together. I was very impressed by their deep faith and their thirst for God. I am convinced that it is Providence that put these four people on my path so I could see in them what I have not seen here in Montreal; as a result, I am more and more certain that there are strongly believing youth among us here in Quebec.

Second, the meetings with Pope Francis represented a great experience of solid and profound moments in prayer. I was at awe to see young people from around the world experiencing such solidarity. In catechesis, teachings and daily Masses, we prayed in the light of faith to glorify

Following this line of thoughts, dear young people of the world, walking with Jesus will always include grace and risk.





A grace because we commit to live in faith and to know him by entering deeper into his heart and understanding the strength of his words.

A risk, because Jesus, his words, his gestures and his actions are in contradiction with the spirit of the world, with human ambition and with our propositions of a culture of rejection and lack of love.

My third highlight is the exchanges among the youth. At this level, what especially caught my attention was the attitude of young people among ourselves. Each youth behaved with other youth as if it had been awhile they knew each other. It was a beautiful and wonderful sight! There were no barriers, and not speaking the same language was not even a problem. Communication was achieved in a natural and creative way. The emotions were so strong and sincere! Everyone lived in an atmosphere of total fraternity with the strength of the atmosphere of prayer. Proclaiming the motto of WYD, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:38)." This theme evokes the position of Mary facing the call of God. She is the One who welcomed God's plan with confidence. She invites us to open our hearts, the same way she did, to welcome God's plan for each one of us. I

thank the Lord for this experience that allowed me to reencounter with the powerful love of the Virgin Mary. Mary has now become a real mother to me, a good companion and with Her, I am able to become more available and open to listening to what the Lord wants from me.

I was very happy to live this beautiful adventure that brought great enrichment, hope and joy in my life. I am very grateful to our Provident God and Blessed Emilie Gamelin for their spirit and their presence throughout the pilgrimage, and also to all the Sisters of Providence who gave me this opportunity and who accompanied me with their prayers.

I imagine most participants experienced their first WYD as I did. I can also imagine their change, transformation and conversion in faith in Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, our Mother. I believe that when we returned from Panama, each one of us had a special calling in life and the centre of this call is Christ! "Realize that you have a mission and fall in love; that will decide everything. We may possess everything, but if we lack the passion of love, we will have nothing. Let the Lord





## Let Us Connect in Providence

*Museums*

*Archives*

*Causes*

*Communications*

In June, 2019, the second joint international meeting of the personal from the Museums, Archives, Causes and Communications departments, commonly referred to as MACC, met at the Providence International Providence Centre.

A total of thirty participants from Canada, the United States and Chile answered the call of the MACC Planning Committee. The Committee managed the feat of organizing this international meeting in just two months.

The theme of the meeting was “**Let us connect in Providence**” and the objectives set by the Planning Committee were:

- ☞ The promotion the Mission, Values and Charism of the Sisters of Providence through our work in management, preservation, use and development of the Providence heritage;





☞ The encouragement of collaboration and communication in the entities and between the entities.

This collaboration and communication is to ensure that the heritage of the Sisters of Providence is properly managed, used and protected now and into the future, and also to develop and/or strengthen the professional ties between members of the departments and entities.

The three days of this 2019 MACC were facilitated by the expert hand of Beatrice Prado, CEO of ATTIR, who helped to create an energetic atmosphere and was careful to ensure that everyone understood the items on the agenda.

During the three days of the meeting, we heard from speakers who spoke about their experiences related to the Providence heritage and Mission; this part of the meeting was entitled: “**TransMISSION**”.

The first day of the meeting, July 25<sup>th</sup>, began strongly with the **TransMISSION** of Sister

Karin Dufault, Congregational Leader, who offered us a presentation entitled “*Providence Communication and Connection are a Part of the Mission*”.



Throughout the meeting, each entity shared information on the activities that took place during the Jubilee year of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition, the participant departments delighted us with their **#Providence Hashtags**.

**# Providence Hashtags?!?** But what are these? These are the results of projects and/or researches where the archives, museums, communications and causes were able to enlighten those beyond the Congregation in recent years. For example: archive images were used in a book, artifacts were borrowed for a museum exhibition, a team member gave a presentation at a conference, etc.



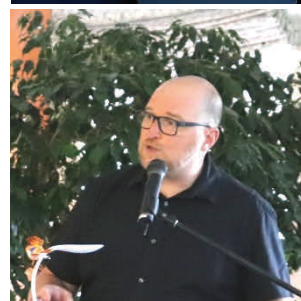
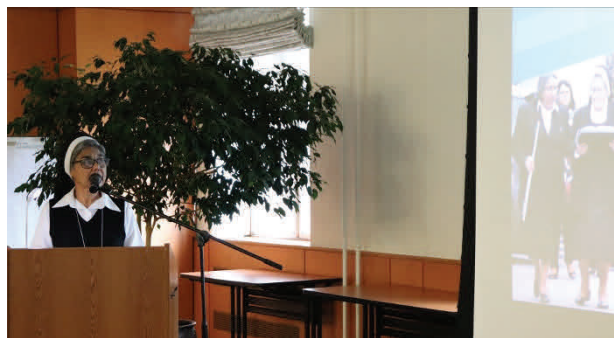
In all, fourteen **#Providence Hastags** were presented for our great pleasure and interest.

On the second day, July 26<sup>th</sup>, David Bureau and Jean-François Royal, speakers respectively from the archival and museum communities in the Province of Quebec, spoke to us about their professional experiences with the conferences they have given: *"The Transmission of Religious Heritage, It Is Possible!"* and *"Why Pass it on? Case Study: the Case of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (SASV) and the Museum of World Religions of Nicolet."*

June 27<sup>th</sup> was under the sign of the **TransMISSION** for the Causes of the Congregation. First, Sister Yvette Demers, SP, spoke about the values and virtues of Emilie Gamelin. In her turn, Sister Rollande Malo, SP, explained how a cause is administered, while Sister Nancy Arévalo, SP gave us news of the Cause Bernarda Morin.

During the last day, we attended sessions separately, by departments, and the sessions were called **"Data Sharing"**. The participants exchanged thoroughly on topics related to their own departments and on their vision for the future.

The Planning Committee had previously assigned to each participant the task to reflect on their personal contribution to the Providence Mission. It was very inspiring to see the outcome of these reflections. For your benefit, and in conclusion, we share some excerpts below.



M

*"I think that knowing about the past helps to find orientation for the future [...]" (Lawrence D.-Houle)*

A

*"[...] As laity, we are entrusted with the duty to respectfully protect and promote the heritage and life of the Sisters of Providence" (Loretta Z. Greene)*

C

*"I work on the beautiful task of advancing the process of canonization of Mother Bernarda. [...] Personally, I believe that our Providence is the hand of the Father intervening in the lives of everyone." (Claudia Mardones)*

.com

*"It is my privilege to share the stories of the Sisters of Providence in a way that honors the congregation, advances its ministries, and demonstrates how the sisters continue to make an impact on those who are poor and vulnerable in our contemporary society. Through these stories, it is my intent to inspire others to understanding, compassion and action in support of the mission." (Anita Wilkins)*

### TransMISSION in progress...

*By Marie-Claude Béland and Nancy Prada*



## Mother Bernarda Morin and Mother María Luisa Villalón, H.S.J.

Mother Bernarda Morin Province  
Communication Office

As a part of our 3 I's section, we are pleased to present an interview conducted by the Bernarda Morin Province Office of Communications with Sister Yolanda Guajardo, HSJ. It is very interesting to note that, inspired by our foundresses, other women religious communities were born and flourish today, answering the call to serve in different ways in the society.



At the closure of the exhibition "Bernarda Mother in memories and hearts", the Bernarda Morin Province, as an act of sisterly relationship, gave to the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Joseph Protectors of Children a folder with copies of documents from the Provincial Archives that are related to Mother María Luisa. Included in the folder were copies of the first vows of Sister María Luisa, her request to profess final vows and some of her letters to different sisters.

"Mother María Luisa Villalón, foundress of the Daughters of St. Joseph Protectors of Children, HSJ, carried the spirituality she had received from Mother Bernarda Morin."

During the exhibition, "Mother Bernarda in Memories and Hearts," we shared a few words with Sister Yolanda Guajardo of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Joseph Protectors of Children, who, along with the Superior General of the Congregation, Sister Rosa Bahamonde, HSJ, visited us for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Here is an excerpt from the conversation, "Sister Yolanda, could you share with us a little of history of your foundress and how it is related to the Sisters of Providence?"

"It's a very beautiful story. The Villalón family, here in Santiago, was very Catholic and was composed of several brothers and sisters all of whom were religious. Virginia Villon entered the Canadian Congregation of the Sisters of Providence and when she took the habit, her sister Carmen Eliza also felt strongly the call of



God. She entered and was given the name Sister Maria Luisa Villalón. Mother Bernarda Morin, as a visionary, observed the qualities of Sister Maria Luisa and began her formation. In this, she discovered a gem. Years later, the separation of the Sisters of Providence Congregation from Montreal occurred but Mother Maria Luisa had been long in service in this Congregation and she had experienced many kinds of ministry. When I mention this to the novices, I always emphasize the fact she took care of the soldiers after the Pacific War, in the nursing sector. One of the favorite mottoes of Mother María Luisa was, "Here, all are like brothers," and "All are in the house of God." For during this conflict the Chilean government decreed that we must care for the wounded of Bolivia and Peru as well as our own; consequently the wounded soldiers were all together and some conflicts occurred. Mother Maria Luisa, known as a woman of peace, was called and she calmed the atmosphere and tended to everyone equally."

"Do you keep writings of your foundress, just as we do in the Bernarda Morin Province?"

"In our files we have compiled many things. We have a collection of Mother María Luisa's letters. We provided materials to the Sisters of Providence that were needed for the Cause of Beatification of Mother Bernarda Morin. Mostly, though, we are left with the spiritual legacy of Mother María Luisa, her words, her sayings. Her way to educate people was through verbal messages and her example, seeing Jesus of Nazareth in every child. Her legacy of teaching is our dearest treasure."

"What did you think of the exhibition, 'Mother Bernarda in Memories and Hearts'?"

"I was moved to see all this. I have used it in my teaching, since I work in formation, and seeing the roots of Mother María Luisa here helps me to see and convey how Mother Bernarda Morin imbued Mother María Luisa with Providence spirituality; we have a strong sense of Providence that Mother Bernarda Morin transmitted. Though we are a distinct congregation, Mother María Luisa received the spirituality of Providence from Mother Bernarda Morin. That was God's way of nourishing Mother María Luisa and from that, our congregation was born. The Congregation of the Daughters of St. Joseph Protectors of Children is a work of God, because we will soon celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our foundation and we know that the works of God are those that last. The separation of the congregations was meant to happen in order for us to be founded and for the emergence of a beautiful heritage that has borne fruit here in Chile."





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

*By Sister Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP  
General Leadership Team Liaison for JPIC*

## The Vincentian Family



It is a great joy for me to share with you my experience with the Vincentian Family in Paris from August 2 to 26, 2019, a time of grace and rebirth, going back to the source.

I discovered another side of St. Vincent de Paul: his action at the political level in his interventions

for the causes he championed. St. Vincent is known as the saint of charity, justice, peace and human dignity. He is presented as the one who was able to raise awareness, bringing to light the virtues of goodwill and charity. He realized that to help entire areas out of poverty, private action only is not enough. He emphasized that



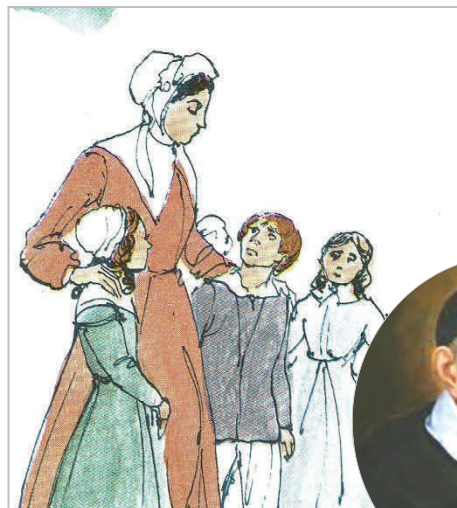
we cannot act alone; we have to work with those who control the levers of decision-making.

Vincentian spirituality is still very present today in the women and laypeople who are involved in the various institutions St. Vincent founded to serve the poor. The components of the Vincentian spirit stem from a committed and active pro-poor stance, since for Vincent "the poor are Jesus Christ."

What has delighted me most about St. Vincent de Paul today is this wonderful continuity between mission and charity, faith and action, prayer and commitment, and the poor and Jesus Christ. The experience with the poor is a mystical experience. Vincent said that "we must bear witness to our love for God by our ministries. All of our commitment is in our actions." The Vincentian Family must have a spirit of ACTION because Jesus was active, He did not save the world by remaining with his arms crossed, Jesus was completely dedicated, with his body and soul, a missionary and servant. Christ is always on mission. Vincent speaks and acts.

Also, my other wonder is the similarity and complementarity between Vincentian spirituality and Providence spirituality. Mother Gamelin embraced Vincentian spirituality; she took into account all human misery without exception, as Father Vincent had done. He did not write very much and neither did Mother Gamelin. For them, action was more important, taking care of others, especially the poor, was

really at the heart of their mission. Both experienced the passage of Matthew 25 throughout their lives, advocating for human dignity. Both had great confidence in Providence and they left us their beautiful testimony of life, following, in the poor and humble, Christ's footsteps. St. Vincent de Paul said, "Humility is my gospel" and Mother Gamelin left us a treasure, "Humility, simplicity and charity." Now it is we who commit ourselves to a creative reach-out type of charity in the light of our times.





## Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

### Sister Judith Desmarais visits the Philippines – July 11-14, 2019

by Judith Desmarais, SP



All PAs - Back row left to right: Rosalinda Basilio – Bataan; Caridad Arevalo – Punta; Lizzy Tolentino – Punta; Father Franklin Vargas CM; Jocelyn David – Punta. Middle row: Vivian Verania – Dagupan; Gloria Garcia – Punta; Alejandra Barrera – Punta; Blanca Montemayor. Front Row: Primitivo Verania – Dagupan; Abalos – Dagupan; Puring Siapno – Dagupan; Julieta Cruz – Dagupan

“I arrived in Manila on the evening of July 12. The next morning, Sister Lucy Vasquez and I flew to the island and city of Iloilo to attend the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) joint biennial assembly of congregations of women and men at the Hotel Del Rio. Among the 200 participants in attendance were members of Mission Partners of AMRSP, including Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP), Office of Women and Gender Concerns (OWGC), Urban Missionaries, etc. The

theme, “Consecrated Persons Accompanying the Filipino Youth in Mission: Beloved, Gifted, Empowered,” was the focus of every talk. In the Philippines, 2019 is the “Year of the Youth.” Therefore, the theme was most fitting and each speaker addressed the theme from various aspects.

One speaker, Leslie Ann Rosal, a theology teacher at Ateneo University, has worked extensively with younger people. She noted the





final document from the Synod on Youth, which says that youth offer favorable conditions to be engaged because they are dreamers and seekers, they are relational and life-giving. As they search for their identity, they can be called to act even though they need to be guided and formed. They don't see themselves as the future, but the present in the world, in society, in the church; they are bearers of the seeds of life. They are more spiritual than religious. They live in a hyper-connected world but still feel left out. Youth are expecting love and companionship.

On Saturday, July 20, Providence Associates from

Manila, Bataan, and new associates in Dagupan City, came together at the Vincentian parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Father Frank Vargas, CM, parish priest, gave a talk about St. Vincent de Paul. Then in the early afternoon during Mass, the six new Providence Associates from Dagupan, made their commitment, and the remaining associates renewed their commitment. It was the first time the associates from the three areas in the Philippines came together for a day of renewal and commitment. It was very beneficial, and they are planning to do it again in the future. "

## Novice from Bernarda Morin Province experiences religious life in Mother Joseph Province

Anita Wilkins, Communication Director



Sisters Margarita Hernandez (left) and Ana Orellana (center) taught Sister Maria Fernanda about the vocations ministry when she visited Spokane, Wash.

Sister Maria Fernanda Apablaza, a novice from Bernarda Morin Province in Chile, recently spent three months with sisters in the Mother Joseph Province. The international formation experience gave her a valuable opportunity to get to know the sisters, ministries and culture of the American West.

From December 18, 2018, through March 16, 2019, Sister Maria Fernanda lived with Sisters Josie Ramac, Huong Nguyen, and Marie-Thérèse Gnamazo in their West Seattle home. Sister Maria Fernanda expressed gratitude for her hospitable multicultural, multigenerational living companions. Sister Josie Ramac, who speaks Spanish (in addition to English, Tagalog, French and Vietnamese) helped her navigate through daily life and language challenges. Sister Marie-Thérèse Gnamazo, also a novice, and Sister Huong Thi Nguyen, who has made temporary vows, offered helpful advice and camaraderie.





Between English classes, traveling to other sisters' local communities, and participating in various ministries, Sister Maria Fernanda packed a lot into her three months of formation in the Mother Joseph Province.

"I was able to meet a majority of the sisters, learn what they're doing, how they live and how they dedicate their time," said Sister Maria Fernanda. I studied English with Sister Paula Cosko who teaches ESL (English second language), continued my formation with Sister Celia Chappell, the novitiate director, and participated in activities and Masses with the sisters at St. Joseph Residence."

One of Sister Maria Fernanda's most memorable experiences was a trip to visit the Providence sisters and associates in Yakima, Wash. Here she learned about Sister Marisol Avila's ministry with Hispanic youth and the legacy of Sister Silvia Troncoso, a Chilean missionary from Bernarda Morin Province who spent 26 years ministering to the Hispanic community in Yakima before returning to Chile in 2018.

"Sister Marisol's ministry is a beautiful one," said Sister Maria Fernanda. "I enjoyed being with those who were able to share their spirituality and also their rich dish of posole. How happy I was and with such emotion to see places where the Providence of God was felt strongly, especially among undocumented people."

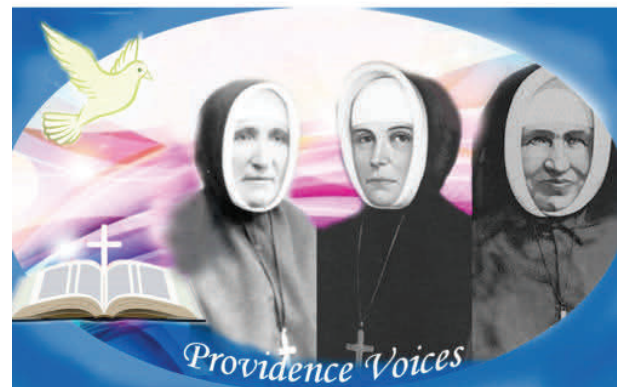
Sister Paula Cosko's English classes were another highlight. As a former physical education teacher, Sister Maria Fernanda was impressed with Sister Paula's patience as a teacher. "There are many adults still learning the language, and she has a delicate and sweet way of teaching them. It left a



Sister Maria Fernanda studies English with another student in Sister Paula Cosko's class at North Seattle College.

big impact on me — the challenge not only to learn the language but how to be a good teacher."

Sister Maria Fernanda wrapped up her trip with visits to the sisters in Portland and Spokane, before departing Mother Joseph Province for Edmonton, Alberta, on March 16. There she continued her formation for six months, then returned to Chile August 8, 2019. She will return to Holy Angels Province this fall for her canonical year.



<https://providenceintl.org/>



## Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

### Spreading the Life and Work of our Foundress with the Exhibition “Mother Bernarda in memories and hearts”

By Communication Office of Mother Bernarda Morin Province



From August 19 to 30, 2019, we experienced some very special moments in our Provincial House, since we were able to share deeply about our founding in Chile with all the people who visited us for the exhibition, “Mother Bernarda in memories and hearts”. The objective was to consider the life and work of the Servant of God, her legacy, and the presence of the Congregation today. To do this, some objects that belonged to Mother Bernarda were rescued from the fire-destroyed museum, like

her glasses and her pen, and were exhibited. In addition, relics and various liturgical objects that originally belonged to provincial houses/communities were exhibited.

The exhibition was organized by the Committee of Laity for the Beatification of Mother Bernarda, in collaboration with the Provincial Archives, the Office of Communications, the Center for Providence Spirituality (CEP) and many of the province works which volunteered their time and effort. Yerko Quiral, scientist and curator of art and heritage objects, provided his crucial support for the professional cleaning of the exhibited pieces.

The exhibition also featured visual and auditory booths, where one could listen to songs and music and watch video presentations about the life of the sisters in their works, the Province and the



Congregation. There was also a reading corner with interesting material provided by the Provincial Archives. Details on panels and exhibition-related conferences will be reported in subsequent news.

The exhibition was visited daily by many people close to the province, including delegations from schools and from retirement homes including management teams, teachers, staff, students and aged residents.

### Opening and Closure

The inauguration took place on August 19 with an opening ceremony led by Loreto Fernández, from the Provincial Archives, and Sister Jaquelina Juárez, Provincial Secretary who, beginning in 2019, is the liaison from the Provincial Council with the Committee of Laity for the Beatification of Mother Bernarda Morin.

For the inauguration of the Exhibition, the ballet group from *College Providencia Carmela Larraín de Infante* gave a beautiful presentation. We were also blessed with the presence of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Joseph, Protectors of Children, Sister Rosa Bahamonde, HSJ, who attended the event with Sister Yolanda Guajardo, HSJ.

For the closure, the sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Joseph were invited again. We

enjoyed the presentation of the *Maria Luisa Villalón College Choir*, of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Joseph and named after its foundress, Sister Maria Luisa, in addition to the Dance Workshop presentation by the Santa Clara Educational Center.

The Province, as an act of fraternal relationship, gave Sister Rosa Bajamonde, HSJ, a folder with copies of documents from Provincial Archives that are related to Sister María Luisa, who began her religious life as a Sister of Providence (see the interview with Sister Yolanda Guajardo HSJ in the Providence Voices section). Among the documents are: the first vows of Sister Maria Luisa, the request to pronounce the vows and some letters to different sisters.

Mr. Fernando Aliaga, Historian of the Bernarda Morin Center, stressed the importance of this gesture, which he described as "charismatic", adding that it was "a moment of great importance in the journey of the two congregations, a presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of both."

We would like to thank each and every one who made it possible to keep this exhibition open for two weeks. We are confident that other similar occasions will happen in the future so we can continue to present actively the life and work of our beloved Mother Bernarda.





## Providencia College of Ovalle: Second Vocational Gathering “I Learn to Hear your Voice Lord”

Communication Office of Providencia College of Ovalle



On August 22, the Second Vocational Meeting for students with religious and vocational interests was held in our high school for students from the tenth to the twelfth grade.

Forty-six students with religious and vocational interests participated in the gathering. We were blessed with the presence of the Sisters of the local community of Providencia Ovalle: Sister María Eugenia Arancibia, Sister Gladys Núñez and Sister Ema Maureira, in addition to Teacher and Pastoral Coordinator, María Cecilia Martínez and our Youth Pastoral Coordinator, Johanka Véliz, along with Providence Associates of Ovalle.

Cheered by reunion and prayer, the young people heard a testimony from Sister María Eugenia Arancibia Álvarez, with her greeting and motivation; Sister Gladys Núñez, with her sympathy and experience who talked about «The first time I heard your call, Lord»; and Sister Ema with her missionary imprint, her singing and guitar.

The core of the Vocation Workshop was the Word of God: “The Calling of Samuel”, a process of

Lectio Divina with group reflection. The youth were in two circles, sharing the responses and thoughts generated in their reading and reflection on the Word and facilitated and guided by Professor María Cecilia.

From the perspective of youth in ministry, Johanka Veliz led the youth in a time of personal silent reflection on the theme of the gathering: “Searching for the way that God is proposing to me.” At the end of the day, the Providence Associates of Ovalle served refreshments to the young people.

These encounters aim to emphasize the development of the Vocation Ministry Sector, which is included in our school’s Pastoral Annual Operating Plan. This vocation project is entitled “A Provident Journey” and includes three gatherings, two of which were held already, plus a vocation breakfast involving ninety students which took place on August 14. The next gathering is scheduled in October for all of the students who participated in this second vocational gathering.



## Émilie-Gamelin Province



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

### Joan Chittister Institute for Contemporary Spirituality

by Patricia (Pat) Mckittrick, SP

A number of months ago I saw this message on the Joan Chittister website.

"The 2019 Joan Chittister Institute for Contemporary Spirituality (JCICS) is open to women of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life. During the Institute the participants will have the opportunity to study some of Sister Joan's writings and engage in meaningful dialogue about Benedictine and feminist spirituality with Sister Joan and other Benedictine sisters and oblates. The Institute will be organized around the five Benedictine values of prayer, lectio, good work, study, and building community."

Immediately, I applied to the Institute and was accepted. The experience was life-giving.

Another participant Pat McDonough, shared her thoughts in her local newspaper. Many of these words are her words, which reflect my experience also.

"I returned from a week-long retreat with Sister Joan Chittister at her Benedictine monastery in Erie, Pennsylvania. Sister Joan has been a Benedictine sister for more than sixty years. In that time she has earned a Master's and a Ph.D., in addition to authoring fifty books and more than 700 articles for the Catholic press. She has been prioress of the Benedictine Sisters for twelve years, president of the LCWR, and now serves as co-chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women. And yet, she has not been invited to speak in a Catholic church for 35 years because she is an advocate for women's ordination and the use of inclusive language in our prayers and liturgy.

The prayer book, *That God May Be Glorified*, authored by the Benedictine sisters serves as a



guide for prayer, with the intent of only using inclusive language to pray. There are no male pronouns in the book, no mention of brotherly love, nor would you find the word Lord. The Our Father is translated by those who are in the chapel as Holy One, or Our God, or Our Father and Mother; I heard many terms of endearment for our Creator, each expressing an individual's personal relationship with God.

The Benedictines, and millions of other people



around the world, believe that the consistent use of sexist language in our church perpetuates a negative attitude toward women; negatively impacts female development, divides the church, limits its resources and perpetuates injustice. In the language of our 21<sup>st</sup> century church, exclusive language often ignores the reality that at least half of its members are female.

Did God save all men, or all human beings? Jesus embraced humanity as a man, but the theological point is that he became human, not that he became male. All of us are called by grace to the same relationship with God that Jesus shared, regardless of our gender. Could those who pray benefit from using language that reflects who they are and who they believe God to be? Studies say yes.

The gospels reflect the fact that Jesus actively sought to change the dynamics between men and women of his day so that all would feel less alienated from one other and from the formation of healthy communities that reflect the truth of our humanity. Can we do the same?" --Pat McDonough

Joan Chittister has been a passionate voice for women's rights for over 50 years.

Moreover, if you have not seen the play: *Her story, My story, Our history*, you are missing a great experience! I truly encourage everyone to see it. You may invite them to bring the performance to you. For more details:

<http://www.joanchittister.org/>  
<https://joanchittistertheplay.com>  
[pat.mckittrick@uvmhealth.org](mailto:pat.mckittrick@uvmhealth.org)

## Holy Angels Province



West Canada



"It was a grand celebration on August 15, 2019 as the Sisters of Providence of Holy Angels Province, family, friends and Sisters of other communities gathered for the Novitiate Entrance of Sister Serena Chappell in Edmonton. "



# INITIAL Entrances, vows *FORMATION*

## *Entrance to the Pre-noviciate*

## *Entrance to the Noviciate*



Natacha Gracia  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 21, 2019



Edeline Noël  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 21, 2019



Serena Chappell  
Edmonton, Canada  
August 15, 2019

## *Temporary Vows*



Nathalie Jean-Philippe  
Montreal, Canada  
August 17, 2019



Daveline Livert  
Montreal, Canada  
August 17, 2019



Valencia Snyrve Pierre  
Montreal, Canada  
August 17, 2019





# INITIAL Entrances, vows *FORMATION*

## *Renewal of Temporary Vows*



Mary Theresa Phillips  
Edmonton, Canada  
April 10, 2019



Maria Nagui  
Montreal, Canada  
August 19, 2019



Nagwa Gameel  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 15, 2019



Eugena Nogaüs  
Torbeck, Haiti  
September 15, 2019



Juedie Elismat  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
September 15, 2019



Marie Eméline Ezami Atangana  
Montreal, Canada  
September 15, 2019



Francine Blanc  
Torbeck, Haiti  
September 15, 2019



Guerla Alexis  
Torbeck, Haiti  
September 15, 2019



Jude Merline Bernard  
Torbeck, Haiti  
September 15, 2019