



May 2020

*P*rovidence *M*issive

A publication of the Sisters of Providence

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

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Dear Sisters,

“Anniversaries are not to be wasted.” We were recently reminded of that when we celebrated Years of Blessings for the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Providence. This year, 2020, we have another very important anniversary, fifty years, since the Sisters of Providence of Chile were re-united canonically with the Sisters of Providence Congregation on July 1, 1970. We will not waste this significant anniversary!

This anniversary is a time for remembering and giving thanks for the marvels God has done in those 50 years and how our whole Congregation has been enriched as we have grown in our understanding of who God has called us to be as an international, intercultural, intergenerational and interdependent community.

Throughout the year, we will deepen our understanding of and love for Mother Bernarda Morin and her legacy as well as explore what she teaches us for today’s challenges. We will review the factors that led to the forming of the Sisters of Providence of Chile and the implications at



that time. We will also explore the Providential journey that led to the re-union and what it has meant for the sisters in Chile and the whole Congregation. What might the journey of the next 50 years be like?

It is a time also to continue to pray for the Cause of Mother Bernarda as we are entering a new phase in the development



Editorial

of the *Positio* required by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Action based on the *Positio* is a necessary step before beatification, as is the verification of a miracle.

2020 is a great year and decade to sharpen our Providence vision. Our world is experiencing tremendous challenges at this time especially as everyone copes with the disruption of and threats to life by the effects of the Coronavirus. Perhaps we can derive lessons from the stories of our sisters in Chile that can serve us well today including how we can help our world live with hope and love in the midst of uncertainty and fear.

We are grateful that the sisters who tested positive at Salaberry Residence are recovering and there have been only a few new cases there. We continue to pray for each of them. The sisters are receiving daily visits of a physician and nursing support in collaboration with Sister Celine Brousseau, local Superior, and Council. Everyone has been cooperating with the restrictions that have been put in place, though it has not been easy. We have been inspired by the number of people who have offered to be of assistance after a newspaper article described the experience of some religious

communities with the coronavirus. We continue to encourage everyone everywhere to follow the health administration guidelines including social distancing and use of masks whenever leaving our facilities.

The Coronavirus prevented a scheduled trip to Chile for Sister Nancy and me on March 16, 2020. We had looked forward to being present for the entrance of Fabiola Reyes Gonzalez as a pre-novice on March 19th and for the gathering of the sisters of the province for their follow-up with Kathia Laszio related to the Transforming Governance processes. With the necessity to close our Chilean infirmary and local house to visitors as has been done in each of our provinces and the travel restrictions in Chile as well as Canada and the United States, the gathering of the sisters was postponed. Other schedule changes will likely be needed. While we are all very disappointed, we know that the common good demands it and we are in solidarity with the rest of our world experiencing similar disappointments and much more.

We are making other difficult decisions also. In consultation with others, we are postponing the Providence Associate Gathering which had been scheduled for



May, 2020, until May 3-8, 2021. The General Leadership Conference which had been scheduled to be held at Providence Centre in Edmonton was held instead by videoconference. We are grateful that we have the means for keeping us connected even in difficult circumstances. We are also postponing the Initial Formation Gathering until July 2021. Our Emilie Gamelin Province official visit has yet to be completed and will resume in the Providence Pavillon (Infirmary) only after the restrictions related to coronavirus are lifted.

Perhaps Providence is granting us this special 50th anniversary of the reunification of our sisters in Chile in order to acknowledge the joy and happiness of the whole congregation for how we have been blessed by our Chilean sisters and ministries. Such expressions can be a means of strengthening our trust in Providence amid the challenges we are experiencing in 2020. We look forward to the days when we can celebrate this important anniversary together and share our joy! In the meantime, we say "50th Anniversary blessings be yours."

We have been living the Holy Days and the Easter Season in new and unexpected ways. Through all the joys and sorrows of our

present time, let us truly be Providence Sisters who are Resurrection people, born into new life with great hope and peace as we grow in our solidarity with each other and our world. Let us be open to all the lessons we are learning and share them.

Affectionately in Providence,

Karin Dufault SP
Congregational Leader

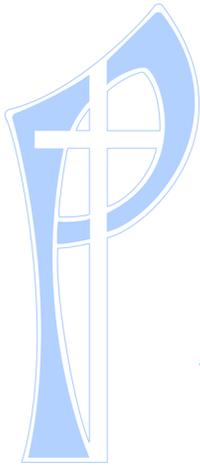


Sixtieth Anniversary of Religious Life - Congratulations to Sister Karin Dufault!



Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Religious Life - Congratulations to Sister Nancy Arévalo! Congratulations to all our 2020 Jubilarians!





Special **SP** Report

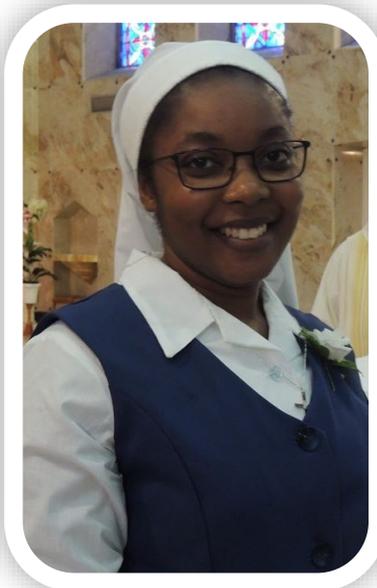
Experiences, reflections



*Being reborn in Providence,
we increase in sisterhood*

*Supported by their life in community,
here is the point of view of some Sisters of Providence
on their role as the human face of Providence,
for the most needy and for all those around them.*

BEING REBORN IN PROVIDENCE,
WE INCREASE IN SISTERHOOD



Since the **Old Testament** days, Yahweh, the God of the people of Israel, has never ceased to manifest Himself as the God of Providence who saves and

He has shown solidarity with us, taking upon Himself our humanity. Saint John reminds us that He became man: **"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us"** (Jn 1:14). He thus became **Emmanuel, "God with us"** (cf. **Mt 1:23.24**).

It is this Emmanuel who showed us the human face of our Provident Father throughout His earthly life, and who invites us to be that loving and compassionate face today by proclaiming the **Good News of salvation** to and among our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. Is it not He, Jesus Christ, who said to His Apostles: **"Go into the world and**

forwards (see the **Book of Exodus** about the people of Israel and their coming out of the bondage of Egypt). Also, in the **New Testament**, through the coming of His Son,



proclaim the Gospel to all creatures”?
(Mk 16:15; cf. Mt 28:19)

Yes, it is the Provident God who created me, and who granted me the gift of such a noble mission to be ***bearer of His joyful news*** not only among my Sisters in Torbeck, but also to the Providence Associates whom I accompany. For me, to speak of Providence means to recognize the action and benevolence of a loving God, so that where others see the effect of mere chance, I can affirm it is Providence as an act of faith, gratitude and trust.

Indeed, the privileged place that the Lord gives me to ***experience and show the human face of Providence*** is the house where I am missioning in Torbeck. To me, sisterly life and community life are characterized by self-giving, mutual forgiveness, respect, growth in faith, service, co-responsibility, and solidarity in the fulfillment of God's plan. My joy of living in community leads me to a trustful personal blossoming and to great hope as I follow Christ as Mother Gamelin did.

In addition, for several months now, my ministry has been diversifying as I am working with and accompanying the Providence Associates. It is an interesting and enriching experience for them as well as for me. Every third Sunday of the month, we meet to reflect on the Word of God. It is



An archival photo of the first group of Providence Associates in Torbeck.

always an opportunity for me to inspire them more with our common role of testifying to the merciful love of our Provident Father always and everywhere. I also take the opportunity to hear about their activities. Indeed, they visit the sick, the elderly, the destitute and the abandoned, in the spirit of Mother Gamelin. Last March 15, for example, some twenty of them renewed their commitment while another group of four persons made their first one-year commitment. It was a beautiful witness for the parishioners of St. Veronica parish to see, alongside the Sisters of Providence, lay people like them committing themselves to further the work of our foundress.

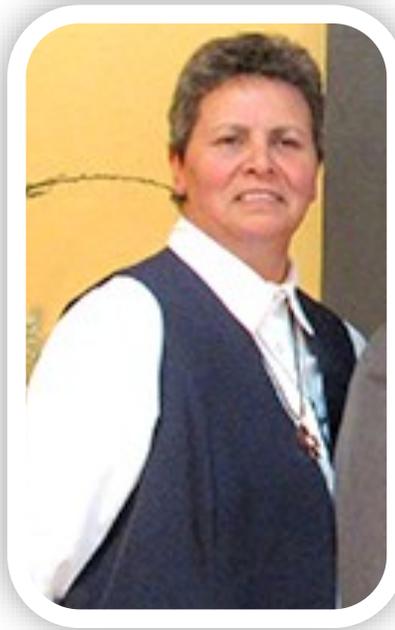
Dear Sisters of Providence, let us continue to grow in mutual respect and let us continue to live in fraternity and solidarity. I

would even say, let us continue to be a community that gives a better witness to today's world which undoubtedly needs witnesses more than teachers, as Pope Paul VI pointedly said in his *Address to the Members of the Council for the Laity* (October 2, 1974) : **"The contemporary human beings listen more willingly to**

witnesses than to teachers, or if they listen to teachers, it is because they are also witnesses" (a statement repeated in his Apostolic Exhortation **Evangelii Nuntiandi** on the evangelization of the modern world, on December 8, 1975). Thus the world will say of us: "See how they love one another..."

Jude Merline Bernard, SP

GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS



Every day, the Lord calls us and invites us to welcome his tenderness and kindness in order to live our leadership out of love. This means

that we understand things from deep within and that we take upon ourselves the needs of others. This experience makes our words credible, relevant and welcomed. From this confidence is born the affection and closeness that leads

us to take to heart all the pain and suffering of the people.

In Chile, there are many vulnerable people, and in each place of our ministry, we, Sisters of Providence, have engaged very well in the fourteen works of Mercy and what the Gospel of Saint Matthew tells us (25: 31-46).

I thank God for the gift of listening with my heart. From 2012 to 2019, I worked at the Educational Foundation of La Providencia School in Ovalle, where I dedicated time to organize Growth and Healing Days with a team that included Providence Associates and two priests, one of whom is a religion teacher at the school and the



other is in charge of accompanying the students.

Each year, students from grades one to four participated in these days. In recent years, parents and guardians of upper grade students participated. Each year, the staff of the institution organized two days during which participants were guided to accept the Lord's love and thus be freed from

deep suffering. One of the invitations given was "To forgive what I have never forgiven".

During my years in Ovalle, I accompanied the team that guided this life process. Everyone was very grateful to welcome God's tenderness and mercy.

María Eugenia Arancibia Álvarez, SP

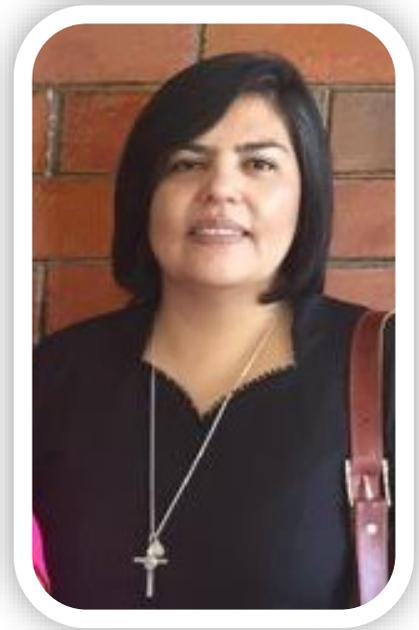
SISTERHOOD: A CONSTANT NEED...

"What would become of us women without our mothers, our daughters, our grandmothers, our close relatives? What would become of us without our partners and friends? What would become of us without our ancestors?" (Lagarde, 2005) and, in our context: What would become of us without our sisters?

Reviewing our history and identifying the women who have written about solidarity in our lives is something likely to revolutionize your history and clearly mine! This is sisterhood. In this sense, it leads to self-transcendence, breaks with the dynamics of submission, becomes aware of dehumanization, upsets language

patterns and creates new models of relationship with and among us (Riba, 2016). Sisterhood manifests itself in our intentions but

also in actions which, woven together, become our life experiences. When shared, these are transformed into songs whose melodies soar and influence history itself.



What would become of us without our sisters? Throughout the history of our El Salvador mission, I can see and acknowledge with deep gratitude the legacy of our sisters. They have made a deep impression on women and young girls by transforming their lives through education, simple human sharing and the experience of God. Today LIFE invites us to continue opting for the trenches of solidarity and mutual cooperation, such as: Sister Vilma Franco in her ministry in the San Bartolomé parish of Arcatao, Nueva Trinidad, provides leadership and sisterly sharing with women marked by war, who today struggle to save their memory and dignity; and Sr. Marita Capili, and the author of this article, from the mission in the "Bajo Lempa" and in the islands of San Sebastián, Punta Arena, La Pirraya and Rancho Viejo, contribute to the education and formation of young people and give our psychosocial support to their realities, families and communities.

Like our sisters in many different contexts, all of us, those of yesterday, today and tomorrow, are bearers of a message of hope that emerges, transformed by and with God's Providence, while the presence of Mary confirms our sisterly voices that rise up and demand justice and liberty.

Marcia Gatica, SP

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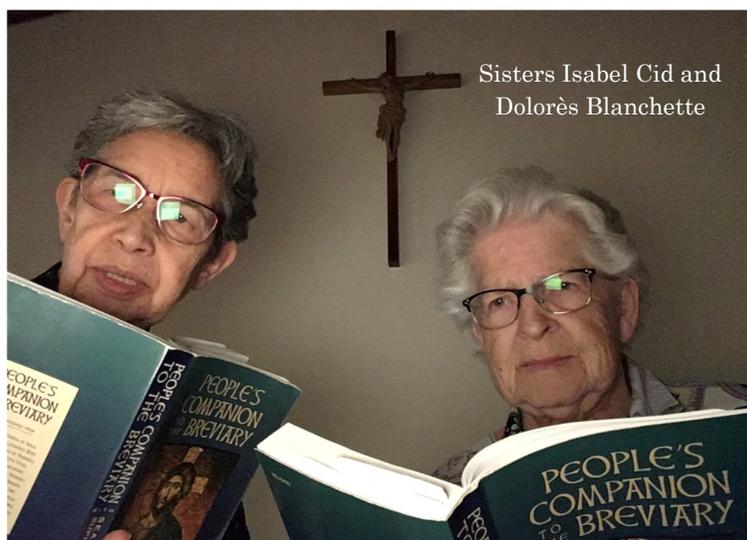


Sister Marcia Gatica with Sisters (L.to R.) : Marita Capili, Marisol Avila and Vilma Franco

CONSIDER THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND THE MYSTERY OF JESUS' EASTER

*Being reborn in Providence,
we grow in sisterhood.*

"O dearest Providence, whose Divine Gift is poured abundantly into our hearts, who he could forget the Author of such a gift and not give generously of their life and love?"¹



sisters who remain at home, the spontaneous commitment to intensify mutual accompaniment and to listen to each other with kindness and with quality of presence in daily simple tasks: meals, prayer, Eucharist on TV, information about reality and conversations that help us know each other better.

The first words of our Providence Hymn are a source of reflection as we consider the challenges of today and the mystery of Jesus' Easter.

How do we connect the Passion and the Resurrection of Christ with the experience of the COVID-19 so as to *be reborn in Providence and grow in sisterhood?*

God loved us first, and God's Providence blesses us with the most precious gift: God's own Son; he gives us his Life, he pours it into our hearts, into our humanity that needs so much compassion in this time of anxiety and isolation.

How can we forget the Author of this gift and not respond with generosity?

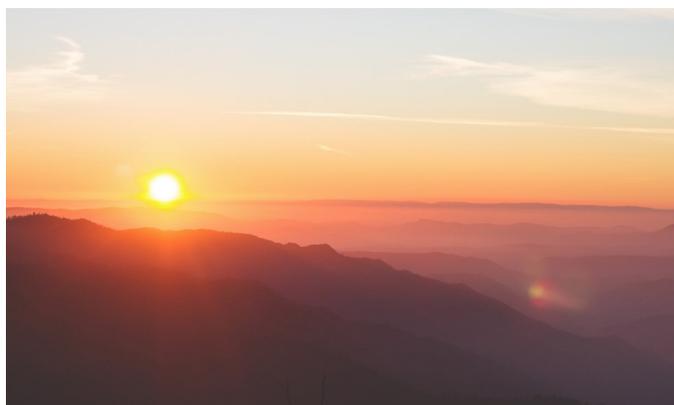
Here and now, in our vulnerable community and in connection with the fragility of the whole world, there has arisen between the two

Because we believe in connections, we offer our contribution, which is small, humble and compassionate, and we give it in Christ to our wounded humanity and to our Mother Earth who more than ever needs *to be reborn in Providence and grow in sisterhood.*

Thank you!

Isabel Cid, SP and Dolorès Blanchette, SP

¹ Text based on the Spanish version of the Providence Hymn.





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

JPIC - A way of being and living in this world

How can we talk about justice in this period of crisis when it seems that everything has stopped, the economy, the schools, traveling, outings? Not to mention the loss of human lives, especially among the elderly! How can we speak of peace when our hearts are troubled by a pandemic that continues to sweep the planet? Yes, how can we make the integrity of Creation effective while the world is fighting a pandemic?

Yet, amid all this turmoil, I want to present JPIC as a simple way of being and living in this stay-at-home and social-distancing world, a way of living out the small daily gestures of our communities.

Stay-at-home restrictions invite us to create more space in our hearts for the world around us, which needs to be nourished by hope. Compassion and charity are part of our DNA. We are called to create bonds and to offer hope to a severely tested world by living our Providence spirituality, for we are called to be the hands and heart of our Provident God in

the midst of this locked-down world.

Stay-at-home restrictions also invite us to take time to deepen our understanding of life and ecology, to pay attention to what the Lord wants to tell us, to seek the essential in His words and to adjust our lives, our projects and our structures to the practice of justice, peace and the integrity of Creation.

Thus, we will experience our freedom from these strictures in another way, as did the Magi. We too will find a new route. By seeking peace, we make of this period an avenue towards something greater. We can find creative ways to help those who need us. We can share the gift of our time. We can make telephone calls, listen, and encourage our sisters and others who are in lock-down and alone. We can share with them a prayer or a gesture of compassion. Let us always remain sowers of hope and give thanks to the universe for all the blessings that we receive, hence the need to live with a sense of wholeness and the integrity of creation.



Pendant le confinement les animaux sauvages s'emparent des villes.



On the other hand, it is difficult to imagine that such confinement has had a positive and beneficial effect on the environment. Yet, if there is some advantage somewhere in this situation, it is the planet that has come out the winner. As human activity is reduced by force of circumstance, nature once again has taken back its rights and its natural beauty. The planet is breathing better. This is a truth expressed everywhere. All over the world, the decrease in human activity is having a positive impact on air quality and on the quality of life of both the flora and fauna.

Pollution, greenhouse gases and nitrogen dioxide have been substantially reduced in several regions of the world, according to NASA's Earth Observatory. On a global scale, stay-at-home restrictions are also having an impact on air and ground transportation, sectors that contribute to pollutant emissions. The OAG (Official Navigation Guide) website speaks of a 68% reduction in the number of flights worldwide.

In addition, there has been a return of wildlife and birds to some cities. Beneficial effects are also noticeable on human life and especially family life, as family ties are being strengthened and people are getting to know each other better.

In times of crisis, it is more important than ever to show our love and gratitude to others, to our older sisters, for example, by rekindling in them the love of life.

Let nothing stop us: neither Coronavirus nor discouragement, since we possess a great capacity for love.

In all things, let us give thanks to God, and as Daughters of Mother Gamelin, let us trust in Providence who always rises before the dawn.



Holy Angels Province



Western Canada

News from Holy Angels Province

by *Margarete St. John, SP*



“Rosary for the World in Pandemic.” - Sisters of several congregations living at Providence Centre in Edmonton gather together daily to pray together using social distancing.



“Uplifting Love during Covid-19.” - Sisters Serena Chappell, Holy Angels Province novice, and Maria Fernanda Apablaza, Bernarda Morin Province novice, visited the Sisters at Providence Centre who have been in lockdown since early March 2020. Through the dining room windows, the novices brought uplifting love, cheer, smiles, and unity of heart.



“Mini Mart” - The Sisters at Providence Centre were in lockdown due to the pandemic and no outside trips for shopping needs. The staff provided a Mini Mart for the Sisters of the house to purchase needed items like shampoo and soap as well as treats and puzzles. This was greatly appreciated.

Mother Joseph Province

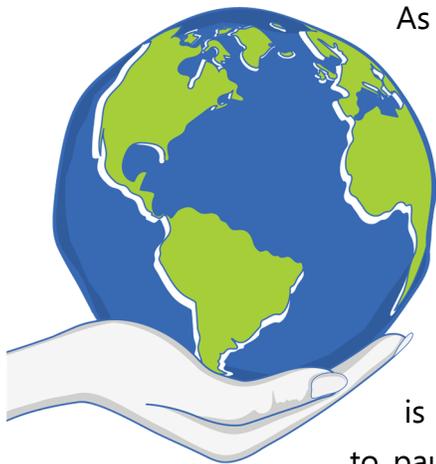


United States, El Salvador, Philippines

Reclaiming Earth, one drop at a time

By Jo Ann Showalter,

Sister of Providence and Congregational leader for Tacoma Dominicans



As we move from winter into spring and watch the gift of new life begin to emerge in its seasonal cycle, it is the perfect time to pause and consider the state of our beautiful planet, Earth, and what we are doing to heal our home.

This year, 2020, includes significant events for reflection and action. It is the fifth anniversary of the encyclical “Laudato Si” by Pope Francis on

Care of Our Common Home, the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement – the United Nations effort to combat climate change – as well as the 50th anniversary of Earth Day celebrated on April 22. These international milestones create opportunities for us to be more attentive to what is being done locally and globally, what is being neglected, and, perhaps most important, what you as an individual can do to reclaim Earth – actions I call “drops in the bucket.”

It is hard to hear about such complex and enormous issues without feeling overwhelmed and helpless. But everybody can do something to make a difference. Even if you think it’s not





much, all of the small efforts, when many people are participating, add up to a meaningful impact in our lives, in our communities and in this ball of wonderful creation God has entrusted to us. Enough drops, and the bucket gets full.

In "Laudato Si," Pope Francis explained the concept of integral ecology – the complex ways in which social and environmental crises are interrelated. "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live," wrote the Pope. "We are part of nature." In other words, when the environment degrades, the community degrades – and it hurts those on the margins first and foremost.

Taking action

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) recently made a statement, supported by the Sisters of Providence and the Sisters of St. Dominic of Tacoma, expressing disappointment about the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement citing concern for the Earth and humanity: "Catholic teaching is clear – climate change is a grave moral issue that threatens our commitment to protect human life and dignity, exercise a preferential option for the most vulnerable, promote the common good, and care for God's creation. The failure of the U.S. to fulfill its 2015 commitment dishonors our nation and threatens our common home."

There are many ways Sisters of Providence and the Tacoma Dominicans have used their

voices, advocacy, ministries and prayers to reclaim Earth. We participate in local, national and international organizations and committees. We collaborate with other religious communities to support climate justice and work for systemic change. One less well-known strategy is responsible investing.

For over 25 years both congregations have used their investments to call for and support care of the Earth. As members of the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, they collaborate with faith-based investors in shareholder advocacy by dialoguing with corporations on environmental issues, filing shareholder resolutions and voting.

For example, in 2019 the Sisters filed a shareholder resolution with Tyson, the largest industrial meat producer, addressing the company's failure to adequately manage water quality risks and provide remedy to impacted communities. In 2020 the Sisters joined a coalition of shareholders calling on ExxonMobil to respond to our climate emergency by aligning its operations and investments with the Paris Agreement's goal of maintaining the rise in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

More drops in the bucket!

Learn more about climate justice

This is a great time to get educated about the issues and start making your own drops in the bucket. Here are some helpful online resources.





- tinyurl.com/lauditosi
- earthday.org
- globalcatholicclimatemovement.org
- ncronline.org/earthbeat
- earthministry.org

10 ways to do your part for the environment

We all know we're supposed to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; conserve energy and water; and try to avoid using the car. Here are some other ways to take action:

- Reduce food waste
- Swap out meat and dairy items for plant-based options
- Eat locally
- Use less food packaging

- Carry reusable beverage bottles and utensils
- Use or make non-toxic cleaning products
- Purchase products from renewable resources
- Choose secondhand goods (clothing, furniture, tools, toys, etc.)
- Say no to the throwaway culture
- Get involved in an Earth Day activity or community cleanup



Planning the Providence Associates 2020 International Gathering

By Kathé Boucha, PA, Provincial Executive Director Providence Associate



V o w e d congregations for a long time have relied on the talents and gifts of lay people, known as associates, to serve in communities and in their international missions.

Planning the future and the succession of the Providence Associates is an important part of sustaining the ministries of the Sisters of Providence. A gathering of sisters, associates,

and guests from all four Sisters of Providence provinces could provide the forum for our planning session; the gathering was planned to take place in Montreal, May 18-23, 2020.

Strengthening the relationship between the sisters and the associates was one of the primary goals of the meeting. The theme was "Bearers of the Providence Flame in our 'I' World." The "I's" refers to the international, intercultural, intergenerational, and interdependent nature of the Congregation as outlined in their Constitutions and Rules. Each province had responsibility for preparing and presenting the program for one day of the gathering: international - Mother Joseph Province: western U.S., Philippines and El





Salvador; intercultural - Holy Angels Province: western Canada; intergenerational- Emilie Gamelin Province: Quebec, Haiti, Cameroon; interdependent- Mother Bernarda Morin Province: Chile and Argentina.

Providence Associate leaders and Sisters of Providence liaisons from the four provinces met in Montreal in May 2019 and again in January 2020 to plan for the Providence Associates 2020 International Gathering, which was to be hosted at the Sisters of Providence Motherhouse in Montreal.

The committee includes Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP, general councilor and PA General Coordinator; Annette Noel, SP, general secretary and councilor; Berthe-Alice Collette, SP, Emilie-Gamelin Province PA coordinator; Gloria Garcia, SP, Bernarda Morin Province PA coordinator; Christina Wong, SP, Holy Angels Province PA coordinator; Lucy Vasquez, SP, Mother Joseph Province/Philippines PA coordinator; Mary Tyllia, PA, Mother Joseph Province; Mary Anne Nissen, PA, Holy Angels Province; Fresia Flores, PA, Bernarda Morin Province; René Lefebvre, PA, Emilie-Gamelin Province; and Kathe Boucha, PA, facilitator, Mother Joseph Province.

A team of five excellent, simultaneous translators from Montreal speaking English, French and Spanish supported the multi-lingual committee and will be available to provide their services for the International Gathering, as well.

With more than 130 registrations already received, this could be one of the largest gatherings thus far. The last Providence

Associates International Gathering was held in 2001 with about 50 in attendance. The sisters and staff in Montreal were working diligently to prepare for the welcoming, ground transportation, lodging, meals, technology, venue and much more. Visas are required for many of the attendees, so the sisters of the General Leadership Team were preparing the required visa letters and documents to assist in this process.

One of the highlights of the gathering was to be an opportunity to learn more about the lives of the Sisters of Providence foundress, Blessed Emilie Gamelin, and the two women who established the Sisters of Providence in the western U.S./Canada – Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart – and in Chile – Mother Bernarda Morin. Pilgrimages were planned for the last two days of the event.

Then, in the first quarter of 2020, the Covid-19 virus entered our lives globally. With compassion, concern for safety, patience, and prayer, the Gathering committee (PAs and SPs) decided to put all the planning on hold and to postpone the PA International Gathering until May 2021. We watched and learned that we had made the right decision, the same decision as the planners of gatherings worldwide have done. Associates continued their communications through the tools of video conferencing, discussing their wishes for the world right now. Weekly inspiring conversations will continue until we can with enthusiasm safely meet in Montreal. Knowing that what really matters right now is making a difference in the lives of others, the Associates are focusing on the needs of their



communities in the present time. We have always known that there is so much that can be made better for so many. The Associates are going through the waiting process from wishing to hoping to happening. The International PA Gathering in 2021 will include the lessons learned from a year of moving humanity forward, one person at a time. Until

then, we will continue to support each other and our communities in the virtual environments, seeing opportunity in this crisis.

Learn more about Providence Associates at <https://providenceintl.org/en/becoming-a-sister/providence-associates/>

Like the Sisters of Providence, the Providence Associates are inspired by the love, compassion and charitable works of Blessed Emilie Gamelin, foundress of the congregation, depicted in this new art installation in the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré in Québec.



Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina



Bernarda Morin Province welcomes Fabiola Reyes at her entry to the pre-novitiate

Communication Office of the Province

In the midst of the social upheavals of recent months in Chile and the dangers that weigh on public health throughout the world, we had the good fortune to remember that Providence always watches over her daughters, as we saw again on March 19, feast of St. Joseph, when Bernarda Morin Province welcomed with thanksgiving Fabiola Reyes González to the pre-novitiate.





Fabiola, who used to work as a teacher in one of the secondary schools of the province, asked to join the Congregation after a process of meditation and discernment, which began when she worked as a special educator in the school, accompanied by Sr. Gloria Garcia, then director of the institution. At that same time, Sr. Silvia Troncoso was also acting as spiritual director for Fabiola. In this new stage, Sr. Silvia will be formator in the pre-novitiate.

Thanksgiving was celebrated in the chapel of the Bernarda Morin community by Father Elias Hidalgo, former parish priest of Santa Clara. Fabiola's family members participated: her sister Vanessa, her mother Hortensia, her grandmother Esperanza and her aunt Maria Sandra. Ana Teresa Araya, SP, welcomed all to the Eucharist, while Sisters Mariana Peña, Silvia Troncoso, Orietta Coopman, María Elisa Muñoz, Gloria García and Ana Delia Silva were involved in different parts of the liturgy and we express appreciation for their kind service. As a precaution, many Sisters of the province who wished to attend were also unable to do so

because of current recommendations to limit personal contacts and to reduce the number of people gathered in one place, in order to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

The entrance ceremony was led by the Provincial Superior, Sr. María Antonieta Trimpay, following which Father Elias blessed the medal of Our Lady of Sorrows, patroness and protector of the Congregation. The medal was presented to Fabiola by Sr. María Antonieta and Sr. Silvia for her use during the pre-novitiate.

As is customary, Fabiola was invited during the celebration to come to the altar to sign the act of entry. This was joyfully and gratefully applauded by all the Sisters present. Thus Fabiola joined the local community of San José, composed of Sr. Silvia Troncoso, local superior, Sr. Ana Delia Silva and Sr. Amelia Cerda.

We thank God's Providence for this moment of joy in the Chilean province and we invite the sisters from all over the world to continue to pray for Fabiola, and also for all those in formation in our Congregation.

One Friday, May 8, 2020 - we had lunch with Jesus

Herna Astorga, SP

In this time of pandemic and lockdown, God's love moves us to take risks. We looked around us and we then saw many Christs carrying their heavy crosses. So we organized a distribution of hot meals for 30 people living on the street, among other challenges, and who make a living

cleaning cars. The Providence Associates and Friends, accompanied by the local pastor, Father Gilberto Garay Cortés, gathered for this fraternal lunch at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish.

Thirty-two people showed up to help and in less than an hour, our small luncheon



contribution was prepared and delivered. This time we couldn't sit around a table, but

everything was distributed in bags, respecting all the measures established for this time of COVID-19 quarantine: "I'll look after you and you look after me." We thank God Providence for allowing us to carry out this work in Tocopilla. There is much to do. We lack hands to continue this work, and collaboration is in short supply. Thank you Patricia (PA), Karen, Joaquín, Daniela, Father Gilberto, for putting your shoulders to the wheels of cooking and delivery. May God bless this mission.

Émilie-Gamelin Province



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

50th General Conference of the Sisters of Providence 2020 - An experience by Zoom during the period of COVID-19

by Monique Beaulieu, SP, Councillor and Provincial Secretary

The meeting took place May 4 - 7, from 10:30 am to 6:30 pm. In Montreal, from day one, I was locked down in my room, sitting at my desk, ready, feverish and a bit fearful, when I received an email with a link, to be clicked... and magic, what a surprise to see twenty-seven distant people, each in her own office, appear on the small screen of my laptop. Familiar faces, embedded in small windows with which I am in communication in the three official languages of the Congregation thanks to technology.





Translation was done simultaneously thanks to our interpreters and the good services of our "Providence technician", Guy Richard. Everything took place in calm and harmony.



After the greetings, Sister Karin Dufault, Congregational Leader, invited the group to say the opening prayer, prepared by the General Leadership Team. She introduced the first day speaker, Sister Teresa Maya, a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word. The theme she developed was: *Bridge builders and hostesses: leadership in our religious communities.*

On the remaining days, each general team member participated as facilitator for different subjects:

- Realities of the Sisters of Providence: Life and Mission;
- Opportunities for growth, a tribute is paid to the jubilarians: the 60th anniversary of religious life of Sister Karin Dufault, Congregational Leader, and the 25th anniversary of religious life of Sister Nancy Arévalo, General Councillor;
- Themes touched on communication, immigration, the sustainability of sponsorship, governance and management of ministries and initial formation;
- Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) and Unanima; Update on Special

Funds for Ministries, Congregational Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Update on the Causes of Blessed Emilie Gamelin and Mother Bernarda Morin.

The session concluded with a closing prayer and the ritual of collecting the list of names of suggested members for the Planning Committee for 2022 General Chapter, prepared by the General Leadership Team.

For me, it was a destabilizing experience, but one that invites me to go beyond myself while at the same time being an enriching one which allowed me to enter into communication with others and to come out of it completely different. My gratitude goes to the leadership of the Congregation of the greater Providence Family who allowed me to benefit from this richness and to master a new technology.

Despite the lockdown and social distancing, there was really no distance!



A first, ever!

Total lockdown in my room (A-22) at the Résidence de Salaberry, in Montreal, ever since May 1st, 2020! Without warning, Covid-19 infiltrated my home... It came with a loss of appetite and mucus in the back of the throat needing to be cleared causing insomnia.

Nevertheless, the lockdown gives me time to enjoy precious television programs on the "Salt and Light" network such as Masses from the Montreal Cathedral and from Rome with Pope Francis, as well as the rosary to Our Lady of Lourdes. Not to mention the novenas and rosaries broadcast daily through our chapel's audio system.

This privileged time allows me encouraging moments of reflection in which I can focus on the essential. I realize that the bonds of affection with my religious and personal families and friends and also sustained prayers keep my morale high.

Even after going through tests with results swinging from positive to negative, I take comfort in the fact that "I may have Covid-19, but I am not Covid-19". "Refusing to identify with the virus

puts me on the path to recovery.

I would like to emphasize that during this pandemic, Sister Céline Brousseau, Superior, reassured us with her significant presence, coordinating the appropriate care by doctor Rachel Savage and nurse Sherley Richards.



Sister Claire, 87 years of age, thanks the Lord for the grace of life.

And how can we express the benefits of the surprise visit of May 19 by Sister Karin Dufault and members of the General Leadership Team appearing at the windows of our rooms unfolding a large banner:

We love you very much... With trust in Providence... "It's going to be all right"!

All our leaders, provincial and general, are of precious help to us! ***Truly the "Great Healer" is doing his work in me!***

My Pandemic Experience

These days, I don't hum the refrain of our Quebec folk song in the quite the same way: "It is the oar that moves us forward, moves us forward;" rather it has become: "It is the Covid-19 that moves us along, moves us along...."

Truly, I feel that I am being pulled along by it. I left Haiti for Montreal on March 19, to participate in some



community activities and then a medical follow-up. When it came time to return to my country of mission, the borders were closed and all international air travel was suspended because of the Coronavirus pandemic. This has been going on for two months now and I still have no idea when I will be able to return. It is really Covid-19 that drives us.



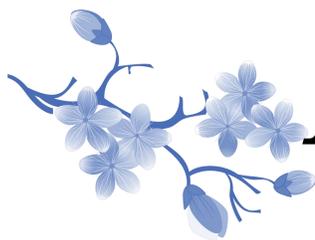


What's more, one case of Covid-19 was declared at the Salaberry Residence, where I currently live. As soon as this was made known more elaborate measures to prevent the spread were immediately implemented such as more frequent hand washing, isolation and social distancing. I had to get used to new ways of living that were not easy at first. Then, in spite of the precautions, a few days later, a full outbreak was declared in the house with 5 more cases, and before long, another 6 people were infected. All the sisters in the house were tested and whether they tested positive or negative, all were strictly locked down in their rooms.

For the first time in my life, I became fully aware of interdependence. A simple negligence on my part could cause me to catch Covid-19 or pass it on to those around me even if I am asymptomatic. I learned with stunning, even frightening lucidity that I was responsible not only for myself, but for the person next to me. Her life could depend on me...

I found myself in lock down for 14 days, even though I didn't have the coronavirus. At the end of this period, further testing revealed 4 new cases in the house, so to protect ourselves, we needed to start a new isolation period of 14-days. What a letdown!

To access the full text please click on:
<https://providenceintl.org/>



Initial SP Formation

Entrances, vows

Entrance to the Pre-novitiate

Transfer

Renewal of Temporary Vows



Fabiola Reyes
Santiago, Chile
March 19, 2020



Phuong Ha Nguyen
Seattle, United States
March 7, 2020



Mary Phillips
Edmonton, Canada
April 2, 2020