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Providence Missive

A Publication of the Sisters of Providence

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

OFFICES :

Providence International Centre

12055 Grenet Street

MONTREAL, Quebec, H4J 2J5

Fone: 514 334-9090

FAX: 514 334-1620

<http://www.providenceintl.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/providenceintl1843/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGwryhZJL5r0owWh32XJr1w>

The Communication Office of the General Administration:
Nancy Arévalo, SP, General Councilor, Nadia Bertoluci,
Communication and Information Agent. Perla Moore, Assistant
and Guy Richard, IT informatic.

REDACTION:

In collaboration with the General Leadership Team and
provincial contributors.

PROOFREADING:

Nancy Arévalo, SP, Berthe -Alice Collette, SP, Kathryn
Rutan, SP, Alba Letelier, SP, Gloria Garcia, SP, Madeleine
Coutu, SP, Annette Noel, SP, Gloria Keylor, SP

TRANSLATION : Malka Acosta

COMPUTER GRAPHICS, PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION:

Nadia Bertoluci

To communicate & send an article or comments:

nbertoluci@providenceintl.org

Online copy :

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

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COVER :

The charity of Christ urges us

Dear Sisters,

"The charity of Christ urges us"
Living God's Providence creatively
in a time of pandemic



"And while they were sailing he fell asleep. A squall blew over the lake, and they were taking in water and were in danger. They came and woke him saying, 'Master, master, we are perishing!' He awakened, rebuked the wind and the waves, and they subsided and there was a calm. Then he asked them, 'Where is your faith?' But they were filled with awe and amazed and said to one another, 'Who then is this, who commands even the winds and the sea, and they obey him?'"

Luke 8: 23-25

Numbing statistics: As of August 31 there have been **25,051,178 confirmed cases** of **Covid-19** globally and **843,586 known Covid-19 deaths** since January 2020. Of those deaths, 182,986 were in USA, 9120 in Canada, 11,289 in Chile, 5399 in Egypt, 3558 in Philippines, 717 in El Salvador, and 201 in Haiti.¹ We know that each person who died has a name and loved ones left behind, most of whom never had the opportunity to say good-bye and to have a celebration of life as they would have wished. Many of these persons had countless selfless health providers and first responders that ministered to them and their families. Many members of religious congregations were among those who died. *To what has the Charity of Christ urged us or is now urging us?*

The personal, social, economic and spiritual impact of this invisible virus pandemic has been staggering on the lives of all humanity globally. We have come to understand our interdependence and interconnectedness as a vivid reality never experienced in such way in

our lifetimes. Everyone is challenged to discover meaning of interdependence for the future of our global world and society and to respond. *To what has the Charity of Christ urged us or is now urging us?*

At the same time and not unrelated, we have been moved by the pandemic of racism, police brutality, peaceful and violent protests, social and political divisions and cries for social justice in many countries including all those in which our sisters minister. *To what has the Charity of Christ urged us or is now urging us?*

2020 natural disasters such as the recent Hurricane Laura and Marco as well as wild fires, volcanos, floods and earthquakes have added further distress and destruction in many parts of the world. Climate change has been blamed for many of these disasters. *To what has the Charity of Christ urged us or is now urging us?*

It is easy to become numb or overwhelmed with the suffering (both close to home and far away) which we see, read or hear about. I, too,



have experienced those painful feelings. But, sisters, we believe in “living God’s Providence creatively” and so while it is natural to be overwhelmed, we do not have the luxury of staying in that place because we are called by Providence to respond creatively to suffering wherever we see it. We do so **not alone** but with our sisters, other congregations and partners who also are called to respond. We draw our courage and our inspiration from the Gospel and from those who have gone before us who responded generously to the crises of their time. *To what has the Charity of Christ urged us or is now urging us?*

To be sure, the year 2020 is a year like no other for our global community and for our Congregation, as well. We have needed and continue to need 2020 vision to see what is emerging and what could merge. We need to imagine what Providence is inviting to emerge and what Providence is ready to help us bring about. We need to do this together.

Among our many ZOOM meetings during these months, our General Leadership Team prepared for and participated in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious virtual Assembly. The theme was “God’s Infinite Vision: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond”. While the theme was chosen before the pandemic, it became all the more relevant in the light of the 2020 multiple crises and the vulnerability that all of us have been experiencing. Speakers reminded us that it is

from the space of vulnerability and grief that together we can be a creative catalyst for transformation and hope. We, as Providence people, cannot afford to miss the chance offered us at this time in our history. *To what has the Charity of Christ urged us or is now urging us?*

As I quietly prayed at the bedside of Sister Helene Lebrun, sndd, while she lived her last hours with us early Sunday morning, August 29, I reflected on a July 2020 article written by Deborah Asberry. Deborah describes great thinkers of the 20th Century that shaped her life and work including scientists, philosophers and theologians who shed light on today’s issues and life itself. Many of them, such as Teilhard de Chardin, Thomas Merton, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Meg Wheatley, influenced my own life. This paragraph from the article particularly struck me and seemed so consistent with our own efforts in the transformation journey:

“I believe we are poised on the edge of a great abyss as a species. Our collective survival depends on our willingness to evolve into a greater form of unity and complexity that erases all illusions of separateness. We are wired to do this. We exist as a self-organizing living system that has the capacity to make this evolutionary leap. There is enough evidence in the entire beautiful spectrum of systems science to suggest that it is →

possible to evolve into a new collective mind that see the wholeness, the unity, the interconnectedness and interrelatedness of all of creation – no exceptions.”

“...We need to make connections and work across our varied experiences, boundaries and cultures. We must listen to one another. We must learn to ask real questions and let the questions work themselves in us. We need to pay attention and learn how to learn together. We can do this. We must do this. Our survival depends on it and we don’t have much more time to make this collective leap into Love.

Love is our next evolutionary leap. Holding each other close, let’s take that leap together.”²

We have been impressed with how our sisters have been responding with love and courage to the pandemics of coronavirus and racial injustice. In this Missive, you will be hearing from some of our sisters about how “ *The Charity of Christ*” has been impelling them during their experiences of 2020. May their reflections inspire you to share with others your own reflections on how you are living *God’s Providence creatively* during these times when several types of pandemics are plaguing our countries. During this time when we see so

much division, may we take Deborah’s advice to have Love be “ *our next evolutionary leap. Holding each other close, let’s take that leap together.*” Even with masks and social distance, we **can** hold each other close!

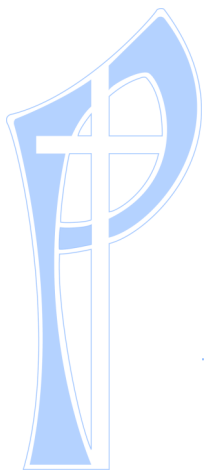
Affectionately in Providence,

Karin Dufault SP
Congregational Leader

1. Coronavirus Statistics updated daily. <https://www.google.com/search?q=coronavirus+statistics&og=Coronavirus+statistic&aqs=chrome.69j69i57j0l6.11471j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#wptab=s:H4sIAAAAAAAAAAONgVuLVt9c3NMwySk6OL8zJecTozS3w8sc9YSmnSWtOXmO04eIKzsgvd80rySypFNLjYoOyVLgEpVB1ajBI8XOhCvHsYuL2SE3MKcklLkksKV7EKpacX5Sfl1iWWVRarFAMFMssLslmLqYA2AzajlYAAAA>
2. Asberry, Deborah. Complexity, Emergence and Co-Evolution: Notes from the Field. Community Works, Inc. www.cworksindy.com, July 2020.



Sisters from Holy Angels Province enjoy eating together, but keeping the necessary social distance.



Special **SP** *Report*

Experiences, reflections



"The charity of Christ urges us."

Living God's Providence creatively at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, here are some responses from our Sisters of Providence to this global crisis

COVID-19 ENTERS SALABERRY RESIDENCE

In unity, faith and hope, here are the highlights of our experiences



In April 2020, the virus we hear about every day entered our home. One of the five Sisters from another community, who lives with us, is sick with it. It is such a shock for all the Sisters of the house! The communities are deeply afflicted fearing possible contamination.

Sister Céline Brousseau, Superior of the Residence, communicates this bad news to Sister Claire Houde, Provincial Superior. Sister

Claire sends a doctor in the person of Dr. Rachel Savage and Mrs. Vida Wall, a health and safety counsellor who came out of retirement, to organize the care and the procedures to be followed at Salaberry Residence, in order to stop the pandemic as soon as possible. As a result, Pavilion A, where the sick person is, is isolated from the rest of the Residence, but the virus is gradually doing its work: five or six of our Sisters have already been declared sick.

Sister Céline decided to transfer all the sick to the free rooms of the Hôtellerie Providence (pavilion B) in order to take care of them and to spare her steps. The tasks accumulate and even with the precious help of Sister Réjeanne Turcotte, nurse, Sister Céline is exhausted and with Sister Réjeanne, they can no longer answer the door, answer the phone and visit the sick. Sister Céline cries out for help; she needs arms to help her. Sister Claire Houde

and Mrs. Vida Wall repeat their requests to CIUSSS (Health and Social Services Network), but it took several days to receive any protective equipment.

On April 30, another screening test was done, this time for all the people in Salaberry Residence, and a dozen or so Sisters of the house were found to be infected with the virus.

At the beginning of May, Sister Céline continued to move the sick to pavilion B of the Residence and Mrs. Vida Wall created hot and cold zones. She closed the chapel and asked for security guards. Complete isolation is required for the other Sisters in the house. The Sisters learn that day, after dinner, that they should not take another step but rather return to their rooms immediately. Security guards are in all the corridors to enforce the rules. From then on, meals are brought to the door of the rooms.

Sister Céline, the Superior, tells a journalist who came to the house to inquire about the situation that she always needs more help. On May 9, a headline article appeared in *Le Devoir*: "Les Sœurs de la Providence crient à l'aide" (The Sisters of Providence cry out for help).

The following female-volunteers come to help us: Marie Amyot, Nicole Bélanger, Shirley Richards, Sabine Engrand, Karine Casault, Danoé Tanguay.

By day or by night, they do great services: bring the mail, do our personal laundry, help



Sisters (from the R.) Céline Brousseau and Réjeanne Turcotte, receiving instructions during the crisis.

carry the meal trays and start getting us outdoors one by one, in their presence.

Our sick Sisters, helped by prayer and an unshakeable trust in the God of Providence, hold on and cling to life; some are more affected than others, but they hold on.

Dozens of people call and write, using the Congregation's website, to offer their help, people from different backgrounds, all wanting to help our dear Sisters who have done so much for the people of Montreal.

On May 19, our Sisters from the General Leadership Team come as a group, signs in hand, to try to encourage us in our illness and our isolation. They walk around the house, passing by each of our windows holding up their signs and waving to us. How kind of them!

On May 27th, we learned, to our dismay, that Sister Céline, our dear and devoted superior, is

also affected by COVID-19. The novenas we were praying with her every day came to an abrupt end. We add her name to our list of intentions. Several Sisters from the confinement of their rooms were praying continuously by watching Pope Francis' televised Mass, Mass in Mary Queen of the World Cathedral and taking part in the rosaries telecast from Lourdes. Each one is trying to be even more fervent in praying for the healing of Sister Celine.

In June, following a first wave of Covid-19 and six weeks of strict confinement in their rooms, the Sisters not suffering from the disease and the others, all in remission, were able to obtain a negative result on a final Covid-19 test and thus be partially deconfined. That is the good news! A return to an almost normal life is beginning and Mrs. Vida Wall continues to look after our well-being. Marks of distancing have been put on the floor in front of the

cafeteria; signs on the front door windows remind us of the importance of hand washing; everywhere on small tables we find disinfectant containers. The tables in the cafeteria are also placed differently, keeping the rules of distance.

It was a great joy to see each other again in the cafeteria on the morning of June 12. Everyone however, must continue to have their meals served, to respect the distance, but can at least talk with the neighbours even two metres away.

Seventeen sisters of the house have been sick, four of whom were hospitalized. Let us give thanks to God and to our caring angels: Dr. Rachel Savage and Shirley Richards, because they were all healed .

Sister Céline Brousseau, SP
on behalf of the Sisters of Salaberry Residence

SEWING FACE MASKS FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE

With little, do a lot!

Georgette Legris, s.p., member of the Providence Community, at the Motherhouse, has used a part of her quarantine time to sew face masks.

She is a skillful seamstress! She set to work! She obtained some fabric remnants and some elastic from the Sisters. At first, she carefully observed those around her and then she started her sewing. In no time at all 12 or 24

masks were readily available to fill the needs of her companions.

She goes even further: she learns to make other models with nose-clips, she looks up





designs on the Internet and she makes more than one hundred masks herself.

The users are happy to wear masks of **Georgette Legris** and she still has some in stock.

Will we have a second wave here in Quebec? Sisters and employees from the Mother House

are farsighted, they order more masks and Sister Georgette's supply is not lacking as she still has a good number of them left.

Congratulations Sister Georgette, because the Charity of Christ impels us!

Sister Madeleine Coutu, SP

HOW TO BE PROVIDENCE IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS

Creative Charity in Linares

In times of crisis, **our genuine love for others is a light** for a world in darkness. Perhaps a touch may seem very simple, but in these times it is essential to maintain a "healthy distance" to take care of ourselves and to take care of others. This global crisis created by COVID 19 has unearthed the enormous social and economic inequality that existed, and has led us to reflect more deeply on how to be "Providence for others".

Get to work: Creative charity in times of coronavirus

The spirit of Mother Emilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother



Joseph is our motivation to be a Provident presence during this pandemic and the need for social distancing.

It has meant learning to relate to each other in a different way and leaving behind many things that we enjoyed doing and had great meaning in our lives: hugging, kissing, talking to the people we serve in the mission, going out shopping without restriction of day or time. It is in human terms a difficult time!

However, it is also an opportunity for new learnings regarding technology. As difficult as we had found technology and even at times unnecessary, our opinion on





the subject has been changing over the months, because technology has been a source of unimaginable joy.

We have become friends with what we feared so much and what we considered to be only a tool for young people. It has been for us a discovery of new ways to communicate, to get closer, to see each other and to rejoice, to pray, to discern together. We have learned to speak the technological language of youth and the many ways there are to connect. We have learned how to use them personally, in community, and on the provincial and congregational levels. It is the same with the lay people that we accompany in our mission, we have had teleconferences with them through Zoom, Skype, Google Meet and email, WhatsApp and YouTube.

Along with this, the pandemic has also been a time of deep meditation, which has helped us to connect and enter within ourselves through prayer and deep personal and communal reflection.

We have learned to walk more slowly, to take more time for ourselves, and we have lived profound moments of prayer through our community retreats. We have placed in the heart of God the life of our brothers and sisters who are suffering and who are affected by the pandemic with all the consequences that it entails, not only in terms of their health but also the economic and social insecurity .

New learnings, letting go of fears, entering more deeply into ourselves.... for what?

As a community, we decided that it is essential that we be present to this moment in history when standing in solidarity is an obligation; **it is our duty to give a timely, committed response and give witness to those whom we accompany** and who need us .

"Prayer must be intimately linked to action".

This is what we have decided and it moves us as a community. It is what the Spirit of our foundresses has inspired us to do.

Sadly, it is those who are poor who have felt and will continue to feel the greatest impact from this global pandemic and we believe that we have a responsibility to accompany them in a creative way and according to our means; in terms of our age and health.

We strongly and with much conviction believe that this is not the time to close ourselves off in our comfort zones. Rather, it is time to raise our eyes to heaven and with an open and willing heart, with a creative and daring mind, raise our arms and give ourselves to others .

The Providence Community of Linares, composed of three Sisters, has joined forces with the lay people to multiply initiatives in order to create a **new community of solidarity**.

We have decided to allocate part of our community resources to buy food for a parish kitchen, to provide lunch each day to a Haitian immigrant and every 15 days to give a food hamper to two immigrants, one a Colombian





and the other from Haiti. In addition, we want to be present at the parish soup kitchen, where every week a Sister from our community is an active presence helping to clean up and to deliver food to the homeless and low-income families especially where the primary wage earner has been laid off or is sick.

Prayer, daily Eucharist and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are a way to unite with our suffering brothers and sisters and to ask the Lord for protection for thousands of people who go out to support the weakest among us whether in hospitals, prisons, homes or on the streets.

In this mission we are very engaged in education, in supporting and motivating the laity in giving out a significant number of Notebooks to students with limited

resources to be used for their online classes. We help with schooling, supporting by phone families needing emotional support. We deliver food hampers to families from our school who are suffering with COVID 19.

The Lord is our strength and our Foundresses are our role models as we live our Mission as Sisters of Providence!

Sister María Teresa Alcayaga
Sister Gooldye Fuentealba
Sister Ana Georgina Rozas
 Providence Community Linares



PANDEMIC TIME

AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS RESIDENCE



This time of pandemic is something new for us, both personally and communally, with very clear rules given by the government with regard to health. We could not go out without taking the appropriate precautions. As Sisters, we continue to celebrate our lauds, and vespers each day, including our other devotions and to hold community meetings. We had never participated in





so many Eucharistic celebrations, with spiritual communion, presided by the Holy Father from his chapel of Santa Marta in Rome as we are doing now, utilizing these new technologies.

This very complex time has completely changed our routine. We can still hear the echo of the sirens of the ambulances that were taking our residents to the different health centers. When we least expected it, we found ourselves in total lockdown unable to go and see or visit anyone here in this work where that is the most needed activity. We are here precisely, to visit the people who reside here, who are all elderly and who, until today, could not receive visits from their families due to health regulations.

To us the 28 days of total quarantine felt like an eternity. Then we had an inspiration on how we could encourage our residents suffering from COVID 19, 13 of whom remained here while 5 were hospitalized. So, we called on their room telephones from our own rooms in isolation. In this way we carried out our mission for almost two months. Even after they recovered, as a precaution, they had to remain in their individual rooms. Calling them on the phone was a beautiful experience of mutual love, they were so happy to hear from us and, above all, to know that we were in the same house as them, they felt that they were not as



alone as they had thought. They thought that the Sisters had gone away and had left them alone in the residence with only the staff to care for them.

It was so comforting to hear their voices and to realize that their health was improving day by day. We also phoned all those who

did not contract the disease and who were at home with their families.

We also had the sorrow of knowing that three of our residents had died from the COVID-19. Especially painful for us was that we could not accompany them in their final hours as the health regulations would not allow it. We were only able to be united with them and their families with our prayers .

Today, by the grace of God, most of those who were hospitalized or with their families have returned to the residence. We leave in the heart of our provident God this new stage of transition of the country, where we only wish that this very aggressive virus that, affected all of us so deeply would soon disappear. Our Lady of Sorrows pray for us and protect all the residents of this home and of all the Nursing homes.

Gerardina Bustos, SP, and

Gloria García, SP

THE CHARITY OF CHRIST IMPELS US, AND THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE ANSWER: PRESENT!

The pandemic has been a time, an opportunity amid hunger and poverty, to bring to life our institutional legacy: **"The Love of Christ Impels Us"**.

Since 2019, the community of La Serena has been concerned about its newly arrived immigrant brothers and sisters, because following the social uprising in Chile, many were unemployed and adrift. As a community, we began to knock on many doors just as Emilie did in her time when she needed to raise money for her poor

It was in the solidarity and commitment of the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciata, the Marist Brothers, and the Priests of the Congregation of the Mission St. Vincent de Paul, with whom we are united by the legacy of charity, that we received a response.

We decided that together we would stand to confront the suffering around us. Our first step was to take boxes of supplies to the neediest families in the company sector. Then the Sisters of Providence of the Ovalle



community arranged for beds and warm clothes as winter was coming and many people did not have the minimum to spend the night.

This is how we realized the urgency of arranging and preparing the rooms and kitchen in the "Monsignor Romero" house for immigrants, which already had seven families, 20 people in total, among them seven children of Venezuelan origin. The rooms are not in the best of conditions, but at least we gave them a roof over their heads and shelter. We also received the donation of an oven to start a small project.

On March 18, the quarantine began in Chile. But the wearing of a mask did not blind us to the suffering of so many brothers and sisters who did not have access to government bonds nor to solidarity food hampers. They were Chileans, Venezuelans, Bolivians, Peruvians, Colombians, Haitians, and Gypsies. This

happened in the camp of "La Varilla" specifically in the Doña María community where a while ago some homeless Chilean





families had set up a squatter area.

We put on the apron and the mask and the gloves of Service. Then on Saturdays, the priests of the Mission stopped offering Mass online, the Marist Brothers, the Sisters of the Annunciata and the Sisters of Providence, especially those from the communities of La Serena and Ovalle set aside the concerns of the classroom and education. They gave these up in order to fulfil the commandment of Jesus, "**give them some food yourselves,**" so we started to cook. The kitchen of the Providence School of La Serena was transformed into our center of collection and distribution for the camp.

We had no experience, but we had plenty of love. In addition, the lay commitment came from Haiti: Thony Baranche and Ronald Tingue joined our team and... We started with 165 people, today we prepare meals for 216 people. When we started, the first assistance came from our own communities and from some religious and staff from our schools who extended their hand to us.

Like our Sisters in another time, we went out to ask, and it was at the public market where simple people offered us vegetables, and from Coquimbo we receive the bread. Brother Luis Sanz is responsible for the purchases and collects the donations. Sister Oriana Hormazábal manages some projects through her own community, because we anticipate that this situation will last a few more months.

Father Rodis Christensen and Father Gabriel Fuentes are in charge of maintaining contact with the camp and its leaders. They obtain the required permits from the authorities to be able to travel in the city since we are fulfilling an essential service. Sister Cristina Urbina, SP, is the main chef, she is the one who prepares the menu and coordinates the kitchen; Sister Monica Campillay, SP, is the superior of the house and is in charge of providing and summoning the group to meetings and Sister Ema is like water, she is useful in every way wherever there is a need. The most beautiful and most important work is done by Sister Lidia Cortes, SP, 89 years old. She has the responsibility of praying for us and encouraging us, and she has earned the title of "garlic peeler" during the week.

It's important to mention that we take all the precautionary measures and we comply with all the sanitizing procedures when we get home, because we know that we are not risk free, we trust in God and as Christians we are only moved by Love and we know that our life is to be spent for others.

When Nadia asked for this article, there was a little resistance, because we did not want the applause nor the money, just to be able to answer this question: where were the Sisters of Providence during the pandemic? There, giving the best of each one, because... **"The love of Christ impels us"**

Sister Mónica Campillay, SP

LIVING GOD'S PROVIDENCE CREATIVELY IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC



Following the precautions issued by Alberta Health Services, donned with a mask and keeping social distance, I meet and visit the prisoners on a one-to one-basis, to listen to them, to pray with them. In the quarantined units, I walk the corridors with an officer and speak to them through

Life at the Edmonton Remand Centre took a drastic change when the pandemic hit Canada early this year. Many services to the prisoners are on hold. Educational programs are on hold. Volunteers are unable to come in. Many services to improve the lives of prisoners are all on hold .

Many of the prisoners are suffering from isolation especially those who come to the Remand Centre at this time. They are automatically quarantined for 14 days before being moved to a unit. They can only come out of their cell for half an hour each day .

This isolation is affecting not only the prisoners but also the staff. The isolation brings forward many personal and communal issues that have lain dormant and are now surfacing.

closed doors. It is difficult and uncomfortable but this is the only way I can connect with them. The most difficult situations are when loved ones of prisoners pass away at this time. The prisoners are unable to attend any of the services with families because of Covid-19. They can only mourn with chaplains who visit them and pray with them.

The staff at the Remand Centre are also feeling the stress of this pandemic. I meet personnel who miss not coming in to teach, having to stay at home because their children cannot go to school and for health reasons, etc.

My ministry has changed from providing spiritual programs to one of presence and listening. May I minister with compassion, understanding and hope. Providence of God, I thank you for all.

Sister Joyleen Fook, SP



PROVIDENCE, AN ENERGY THAT TRANSCENDS OUR LIVES

Living God's Providence Creatively in a Time of Pandemic



Collaboration continues.

Last August 11, former ministry of Sr. Lucy Vasquez (St. Peter The Apostle Parish BEC, Paco, Manila) sent infant medicines for dry cough and pain reliever.

Next week, Ms. Karen Batangan and her friends will donate 50 face shields.

On August 28, Sisters of Providence will sponsor the Caritas initiated feeding program for the poor parishioners of Saint Michael Parish in Caranglaan.

insufficient if our surroundings will not be given appropriate care. Thus, I made use of the social media. I took advantage of my facebook page by posting (done in our Filipino dialect): "wearing facial mask and social distancing are good but more beneficial with clean environment." Many gave positive responses. Such short phrase is a small effort, like the smallest mustard seed that one day would grow; in His time.

Each region safeguards their respective communities and recently

Global solidarity is one of the positive effects of a Pandemic. We are confronted to embrace our new normal. As we face the unknown, a senior citizen like me receives magnitude of caring that we're being discouraged to go out to protect us from the virus. Sometimes there are unavoidable errands I need to do. I'm grateful, we're always being accommodated ahead of others. The best help that I could contribute in our present situation is to stay at home, respect the lockdown procedures and fidelity to my self-care. Sr. Julie and I had the chance to do our daily physical exercise and Qi Gong together.

Faithfulness in wearing face mask, proper hygiene, drinking clean hot water, social distancing and other tips are helpful to prevent spreading the virus. But such good practices are

a group of doctors requested from the Philippine government for enhanced community quarantine (lockdown) to give them space to breathe to be able to continuously response emphatically to the increasing Covid-19 cases. In solidarity with our front liners and those severely affected, our Providence Associates in Bataan, Dagupan and Manila together with us SPs, agreed to pray the Seven Dolor beads every Friday evening (our congregational devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows) for we are Providence family believing that Providence is unstoppable, undefeatable, unending energy toward the good.

Lucila (Lucy) Vasquez, SP



HOW I AM ASSISTING IN THE COMMUNITY

Even in times of pandemic!

This is a summary of my various volunteer positions, and I really enjoy each one, those with whom I work are delightful and very helpful.

On September 5, 2018, I realized that I still had some "get -up and Go" left in me so I began working in the Archives for Mother Joseph Province. I volunteered to work every Thursday and Friday for 4-5 hours a day. Loretta Greene had a very interesting job lined up for me. I was introduced to the "Little Journal". This publication, from 1902 - 1970 has been scanned to the computer. My job was to view each volume on the computer and check it against the original for any errors in copy, I made note of changes needing to be corrected, e.g. pages out of order or missing, etc. I found this so very interesting, facts that made me thank God for our early sisters who were willing to surrender so many comforts in order to carry on the legacy of Blessed Emilie. I never took time to think about the hardships of our sisters traveling by horseback from Vancouver, Washington to Missoula, Montana over the Rockies, it took 32 days for the trip. I find that I have become more patient when on the freeway traffic slows to 45 or 50 miles an hour.

In March of 2020 Sister Jacqueline Fernandes, SP, asked me to help in the Provincial offices of Mother Joseph Province, I agreed to do this on Wednesdays



each week. Since I am unable to go to St. Joseph Residence during the pandemic, I agreed to help in the Provincial office every Wednesday and Thursday. Here I am doing computer entries for our cars and housing, and doing anything else Sr. Jacqueline asks me to do .

It is now August, 2020 and I find that I have a third hat to wear, that of Assistant Manager of Caritas Court. Sister Donna Burkhart, SP is the manager and I try to be of assistance to her. I am replacing Sister Kaye Belcher in this position as Sr. Kaye has assumed the position of Community Leader for St. Joseph Residence.

I thank God regularly that I have the health and ability to be of assistance as needed.

Patricia Eley, SP



TOGETHER WE SAY:

THE LOVE OF CHRIST IMPELS US

Coronavirus or Covid-19 words are easily added to my daily self-explanatory vocabulary either at work or home. More cases of Covid-19 noted each day. It is scary and nerve racking for me to see on the news each day. However I have a great news for you that it is a joy and a blessing to know that it has been 18 months since I ministered as a registered nurse at Providence Mount St. Vincent (PMSV). I will never ever regret the path that lead me to becoming a Providence nurse. Hard work has paid off.

Now I really enjoy going to work each day. Each day brings a new surprise and new challenges, especially during the pandemic when I must wear surgical mask, face-shield and keep social distancing with all residents (we prefer to call residents, not patients at PMSV). Then I find out it is more difficult to communicate with residents with the mask and face-shield on. My first day of wearing the surgical mask



At work, while taking a telephone order from a doctor.



Ready masks for school

for an 8 hour shift was uncomfortable and unbreathable. I remembered about each hour I had to go into the restroom to have the mask off for 30 seconds for fresh air. Now it gets better as the days go on. I am very grateful for the hard work of all doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who work tirelessly to keep people safe and healthy during the pandemic. I am happy to be part of the great team to continue making sure that each resident under my care will receive the best care I can give. What I most value is

doing my best at work so that at the end of the day I know my residents are in good hands.

Sister Margarita Hernandez and I joined with thousands of face mask-makers during the pandemic. Some masks were for our Providence sisters in the Seattle, Spokane and Portland areas and friends/relatives. Our



first thought was to make some like 50 or so. As the State Governor Jay Inslee and CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommend to wear face mask in public and now to any public stores, more masks are needed. Some of the masks were donated to Snohomish County Mask Brigade, Unifirst Corp, United Way of King County, and All Saint School. Each day I would spend a few hours in the morning to cut, or sew some masks before going to work at 2:00pm. At the end of July, we had made about 1,200 masks.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special " **thank you**" to all of you,

Providence sisters who trusted me during my nursing school years. My dream of becoming a Providence nurse has become reality and it is clearer and truer when I am ministering at Providence Mount St. Vincent, working with the elderly and hospice residents. I am grateful and blessed to be called a nun/sister-nurse at work.

Providence of God,

I thank you for all.

Nga Nguyen, SP

MY DAILY CONTRIBUTION

Local Councilor for St. Joseph Residence

As a councilor for St. Joseph Residence, I collaborate with the local leader in several functions as stated in our new Constitutions and Rules (especially R 94). I am in charge of all gatherings for the weekend and also responsible to assist with the daily functions of the house. If a sister has to go to the hospital or dies, I call the local leader and follow what needs to be done.

Every day I print copies of major articles on local, national/international, and Vatican events for all to become aware of these issues. This is

a help to keep abreast of the many changes taking place in our church and world today.

When I first came, everyone was asked to read large-print copies of Pope Francis's

Laudato si. We met monthly for an hour and I



provided questions. I typed the parts where the answers were found. We read these parts and discussed the answers to the questions. We had great discussion sessions and, when completed, held a party.

I also started a prayer group for those who would like a variety of suggested topics for prayer. More recently – during the “Covid 19 enclosure” – I collaborated in forming small prayer-discussion groups on the new *Constitutions*.

One very important action that I have tried to practice is to acknowledge individuals for their special gift or talent which they share with all of us.

Also as a councilor, I offer considerations to discuss, as issues arise, before making a statement or decision.

In this exceptional year I had to prepare, as well, “Thank You” gatherings for the sisters; one local leader had been here for fourteen and a half years. Then we welcomed the interim leader and did a “Thank You” . . . then welcomed another interim leader and did a “Thank You”. Finally we welcomed our official new leader!

Sister Helen Brennan, SP



"Have faith and trust in
Divine Providence;
whatever happens,
we have God
and with God
we have everything".
Mother Bernard Morin, 1921.

On Friday, June 19 of this year, at 11:00 a.m., we were invited to participate in a Zoom meeting (online videoconference) across the entire Congregation.

The objective of this meeting was to have an opportunity for the Sisters to connect with each other in an attitude of communion and interdependence and to dialogue about the reality that currently afflicts all of us.

For me it was a moment of recollection and empathy for the suffering we are experiencing. After seeing and hearing how Sisters of Providence from all over the world are helping people who are afflicted with COVID-19 to carry this cross, I realized how this fundamental value is being fulfilled from their isolation. The Sisters have been invited to give the best of themselves through prayer,





their communities, are fulfilling a fundamental role in our society; they are with their prayers giving oxygen to the heart of many people who are dying from this same lack of oxygen.

I am sure that with our prayers we travel to each heart, to help people die in peace, with a last breath of gratitude for life.

perhaps with the pain of not being able to go out into the streets, just as our foundress would have done, because the very act of going out would be putting the other Sisters in her community at risk. The need for personal care became even more important, to respond faithfully with respect and care for the others.

Through the testimonies, it became evident that as a Congregation we are not exempt from pain. On the contrary, we have had to shoulder the sufferings of our families and of hundreds of people who have accompanied us throughout the year with their apostolate and who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Learning how to reveal that it is God who saves us in suffering and not from suffering, is a challenge in these times.

I discovered that the call to serve is strengthened in situations like these.

Embracing these moments with love and offering them for the people we love, makes everything more bearable. The Sisters, from

Now, I am invited to live in harmony with the people I love. Many times, in life's ups and downs, we tend to go so fast that we do not stop to see how we make others feel with our own attitudes.

It is important to forgive ourselves from the heart, to find ourselves and realize that the only way to reach God is through love.

This meeting invited me to continue to commit myself to my vocation. Vocation that arose from the knowledge of being loved by this God, who respects every step we take. Even though this pandemic has seemed to turn the world upside down, it has made us reflect on, our own vulnerability and on the fact that we are not immortal and that we need to make changes in our lives. It is of utmost importance that we inhabit our loneliness and occupy the spaces of isolation in order to strengthen our relationship with the one who called us first, **God Providence**.

Fabiola Reyes, Prenovice



Sister Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP

*JPIC liaison person for the
General Leadership Team*

Responses of solidarity for our world



Whether from far or near I extend my warmest greetings in this month during which we celebrate the entry into heaven of our dear Foundress, Emilie Gamelin.

I would like to share with you the blessings and challenges we are experiencing at this time, while discovering the hand of God Providence accompanying us.

Our planet is undergoing unprecedented turmoil, which can become a nightmare if safeguards are not put in place to respond properly to existing and future social and environmental issues. In the midst of this turmoil is the Covid-19 pandemic that is imposing social distancing and continues its





"way" all over the world. Added to this is the environmental crisis with forest fires that are ravaging everywhere, as is the case in California. In light of all this, we have to admit that our world is suffering because everyone is particularly affected in one way or another by this multifaceted crisis. Thus, we are all concerned by the magnitude of these ecological and human tragedies, and solidarity responses remain an inescapable necessity more than ever.

In spite of everything, we have to admit that many blessings have come to counter the effects of Covid-19. We observe the multiplication of acts of solidarity and mutual aid gestures, which represent a collective response equal to the challenges caused by the pandemic. Charities, which include charitable work, but also public, private and community foundations, are helping the most vulnerable. We are seeing a significant shift in the way we give time, money and services to people who are sick, isolated or homeless. The examples are numerous and multiply every day. However, the

need for help has not disappeared, and even new needs have emerged. It is therefore essential to maintain services to the most vulnerable people while, at the same time, reducing our ecological footprint .

Therefore, in the face of the destruction caused by these types of disasters, fires and the Covid-19 pandemic, we must admit that solidarity and compassion are required. This observation has led to the need to develop a new approach, that of "living together in solidarity in this crisis" and doing our fair share in the global effort. We must prepare together the way out of this crisis. Let us listen also to the cry of the planet, especially the cry of the environment. Let us value deep changes in our relationship with the environment because we all have a responsibility to preserve the world's heritage and to act in solidarity and ecologically so as to live well together.

It is also clear that the ability to be innovative is an imperative and must be at the core of our reflections. Also, we must have an ethical line of conduct in terms of social and environmental justice in order to respond to social and environmental issues.

Let us pray that people of good will and compassion will assist the victims of the pandemic and help the victims of the fires rebuild their homes. Together, let us pray for the revitalization of natural ecosystems that have been reduced to ashes and for all victims of the current pandemic.

Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

Delivery of donation to Cerro Navia squat: Weaving Solidarity

BMP Communication Office



With the desire to help those having a hard time because of this pandemic, Sisters Orietta Coopman, Monica Corral, Maria Antonieta Trimpay, Maria Fernanda Apablaza and prenovice Fabiola Reyes, committed themselves to put their gifts and talents at the service of others, by weaving wool garments, to contribute with a grain of sand to the protection of those who are suffering the most from the cold

this winter. With joy and enthusiasm, the sisters wove solidarity, wanting to live the Providence Mission in this way. The delivery of these garments, as well as food and clothing, was carried out by Sisters María Fernanda and María Antonieta, who donated the fruits of their solidarity weaving to the leaders of the Cerro Navia squat, who gratefully shared their experience and work, especially in the time of the pandemic.

On this occasion, the leaders of this community explained that more than 100 families are part of this land squat and that their desire is to build a dignified space where people can have a better quality of life. Adding to this, there is training in the areas of health and education.

Sister Maria Fernanda in Temuco has also become involved in social assistance through her service in the soup kitchen of the Virgen Peregrina Community. Let us pray for those who live in the Cerro Navia squat and for the soup kitchens in our country, organized by those who believe in solidarity as a form of human promotion.



Kindergarten Providencia of Valparaíso: We delivered food to a soup kitchen in Valparaíso

Kindergarten Providencia de Valparaíso



With the COVID-19 pandemic as background, and given the impact it has had economically on families in Valparaíso, different soup kitchens have been created in the region. One of them is located on Phillipi Street in the port city at the institution of the Providence Kindergarten. Last Tuesday, August 18, the Bernarda Morin Foundation decided to help through the delivery of non-perishable food.

To carry out this good work, the kindergarten team formed by Carolina Díaz Gallegos, Kindergarten Educator of group 12, Upper Middle level, and Dayana Gonzalez Barrera, Kindergarten Educator of group 8, raised money through a collection at the internal level of the institution, also collecting nonperishable food. Later, they

made the purchases and delivered the donation of food goods directly, thanks to the coordination of the person in charge of the soup kitchen. Ms. Janis Cortez. This action of solidarity was carried out in a collaborative, joyful and very thankful atmosphere. "This is not charity, but dignity," clarified the person in charge. The soup kitchen on Phillipi Street, located between the hills of Placeres and Esperanza in Valparaíso, delivers an average of 200 daily rations of lunches and snacks. The staff of the Kindergarten notes that a lawyer from the institution usually collaborates with them cooking, on a voluntary basis.



San José School: With faith and hope we live the month of Providence in solidarity

San José de Recoleta School



These days lived, during the so-called month of Providence, were a great opportunity to deepen our providence spirituality and to practice fraternal love with the people, our brothers and sisters, who suffer or experience loneliness, especially in this time of the pandemic. In this context, the Pastoral team planned various activities, but in this newsletter we want to give more details of only one of them: the action oriented towards the residents of San José Home for the elderly women.

In times of face-to-face classes our students visited weekly the grandmothers of the Home, giving them a contribution, a gift and entertaining them with a dance, a song or another artistic presentation. This activity, established many years ago, has the objective of valuing the elderly and creating bonds. That is why this month, to make them feel that they continue to be present in our memory and heart, we wanted to send each resident all our affection through

personalized greetings, recorded in video format. Students from all courses expressed their affection and sent messages with words of encouragement, hope, dance and poetry, in a beautiful experience of virtual closeness and love for them. Also, in conjunction with the Providence San José Associates, a gift was sent to each grandmother and to the health and service personnel who accompany and care for them. We believe that it is important to transmit to our students and their families the appreciation for the elderly, who in their eyes and smiles make us experience the closeness and love of God, our Provident Father.





Holy Angels Province



West of Canada

Mother Gamelin Day Celebration 2020 Providence Centre

by David Warawa, Director of the Centre



On Wednesday, September 23, 2020, Providence Centre celebrated the anniversary of Mother Gamelin's death with a variety of activities throughout the day. We opened the morning with a beautiful Mass recognizing the many contributions and efforts of Emilie Gamelin. At a very special afternoon tea, the efforts of the staff and Sisters for our "Mission Day" were recognized with the culmination of a Food Bank drive for Anawim Place. A wonderful collection of a wide variety of necessary food items were gathered and then delivered to Anawim Place Food Bank owned and operated

by the Sisters of Providence located in the inner city of Edmonton.

We continued sharing the beauty of the day through camaraderie and a very special evening dinner prepared by our culinary staff. Our recognition of Mother Gamelin Day was a memorable and spiritually filled day that allowed us opportunities of reflection and ensure support, compassion and concern for the poor and less fortunate through the efforts of Anawim Place Food Bank, all in memory of our foundress, on this Mother Gamelin Day 2020.

My cross-cultural Chilean experience

by Germaine Chalifoux, SP

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Union of the Sisters of Providence of Chile with Sisters of Providence of Montreal, Sister Germaine Chalifoux, shares with us the cross-cultural experience she lived in Chile between November 1985 and July 1987.





Sister Germaine Chalifoux at the 150th anniversary of the presence of the Sisters of Providence in Chile. June 25, 2003.

"I had a very positive experience during my 1 ½ years in Chile. The Sisters were very good to me. I was at Santa Clara School in Santiago. The Sisters made it a point to take me to the different houses. Their primary ministry is Education, as most of the Sisters worked in schools.

I learnt Spanish quickly, as many of the words sounded a bit like French. I would listen to

what was being said and observe any action that went with it. The Sisters were amazed that I picked up Spanish so quickly.

It was a wonderful cross-cultural experience for me. I always had 2 books with me: a Spanish/English dictionary and a Spanish Bible.

The sisters would say to me in Spanish (in a loving way) "Si quiere comer, habla". Translation: "if you want to eat, speak!" They said it jokingly, but I

caught on right away.

I had the privilege of going to their different missions (primarily schools) from North to South of the Contry. The Sisters were welcoming, friendly, helpful, and very hospitable. They truly made me feel "at home" from day one. I will always treasure this cross-cultural experience.

Thank you kindly, dear Sister Germaine!

Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

Adaptability, Flexibility and Creativity Ease the Way

By Anita Wilkins, Communication Director

In this strange new world we're navigating, we have no choice but to break out of our established patterns and look at what we do – how we connect, how we work, how we live

– in different ways. It seems like forever since we gathered for a celebration or gave someone a hug. But we're learning how to cope by adapting to the needs of the day,





A socially-distanced virtual protest of racial injustice at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle.

remaining flexible for the future, and thinking creatively along the way.

Six months into the pandemic, the sisters of Mother Joseph Province and staff have fallen into routines to meet the required health and safety regulations, including masks, social distancing, online meetings, limited travel, even regular COVID testing. While it is common to think wistfully of the pre-pandemic days, life has changed course, creating new challenges, new opportunities and nudging us along different paths.

The whole community is adapting in one way or another. Many ministries have paused during this unprecedented period, affording more time for personal, professional and spiritual development. Other ministries have been reinvented, requiring new approaches, such as learning how to journey with people remotely. Many

sisters are taking advantage of online resources to build skills, complete training programs, participate in conferences or nurture spirit.

Adaptability is also evident in the new ministries that have been born out of necessity. Sister Margarita Hernandez and Sister Hong Nga Nguyen started making masks early on for the

sisters, employees at nursing homes, family, friends, and community groups. Over 15 weeks, they made more than 1000 masks! Recently, they provided 600 masks for returning students at All Saints School in Spokane, Wash.

We are seeing ongoing flexibility as well. In August, Sister Phuong Ha Nguyen moved to southern California to complete the chaplaincy program that was cancelled in



Sisters Marilyn Charette, Rosa Nguyen and Teresa White welcome Sister Phuong Ha to Southern California for her chaplaincy program.





Spokane due to the pandemic. Sisters Lucille Dean and Mary Hawkins, members of various boards who used to travel to participate in meetings, are now attending online sessions from their apartments. The 2020 jubilarians, who have been planning via teleconference for months, rescheduled their August celebration to July 2021. And Provincial Administration staff continue their work, from home and office, some balancing the needs of school-aged children or the care of aging parents from their makeshift offices.

Creativity is key in efforts to create community in this time of coronavirus. At St. Joseph Residence in Seattle, Program Coordinator Lisa Kumar has been a model of creativity hosting regular activities to keep the sisters in the retirement home safely connected and engaged. They celebrate every holiday, stay active with "sports" like indoor bowling, and continue to promote social justice issues – including a virtual protest. In addition, the now bi-weekly Messages of Hope & Healing publication has become a connecting point for sisters throughout the province, with stories, quotes, prayers, reflections and photos to inspire them through these times of increased isolation.

As we practice adaptability, flexibility and creativity within the congregation and staff

we are also joyfully recognizing it in the greater community. When the sisters in El



Sister Vilma Franco, in green, helps rebuild damaged homes in Arcatao, El Salvador, with funds from generous donors.

Salvador requested financial support to help families impacted by COVID and tropical storms, we turned to our donors. We were overwhelmed by their generous response, vastly exceeding our fundraising goal to rebuild damaged homes, provide computers for students, and furnish food and medication for families devastated by hardship and loss.

It is tough living in a time when we need each other more than ever, yet we must stay apart. But we will carry on, striving for adaptability, flexibility and creativity, and trusting in Providence.



Émilie-Gamelin Province



Est of Canada and United States,
Haiti, Cameroon and Egypt

50th anniversary of religious life for Sister Diane Sarrazin, SP 50 years of blessings following Emilie

by Sister Diane Sarrazin, SP



The day of Mother Gamelin's feast, September 23, I entered religious life with the Sisters of Providence. In this year of my golden jubilee, I have become more aware of having been

blessed by God since my

conception and that the graces received from the Lord in his Love are countless!

I love the motto of our Community, "The love of Christ urges us!" Recently, during my spiritual retreat, lived "in quarantine" and in a virtual way, I recognized this Love of Christ bequeathed to me by my parents and family and by many people, including the Sisters of Providence of course, who have been a path of blessings for me in my human-Christian growth and in my 50 years of religious life as a SP.

At the beginning of my religious life, the love of Christ allowed me to exercise my teaching

and compassion ministry with the hearing-impaired children of Montreal for more than 25 years. And, thanks to a request of the "Missionary Centre" of the Congregation, I was able to go to Haiti for two years, from 1984 to 1986, to give pedagogical support to the School St-André de Rendel, in the South. These two years were my first occasion to fall in love with Haiti.

Only God knew that I would return to Haiti, 13 years later, this time to Port-au-Prince, for the formation of candidates to religious life. After the earthquake in Haiti, in 2010, we were eight sisters, including the novice and three temporary vowed sisters, to go to Montreal to live a post-earthquake session and to form community together with apostolic activities.

From April to July 2011, I was part of the formation team of the international program for the sisters in formation, in Montreal. It was a unique community experience that opened me to the intercultural, intergenerational and interdependent richness of the Congregation.

Thus, in the enthusiasm of the new orientations of the 2012 Chapter where we had decided to become an intercultural and intergenerational Congregation, as we already





were an International Community, I left for Cameroon in September with a mandate for the formation of novices. I was accompanied by two Egyptian candidates recently admitted as pre-novices who were going to join a Cameroonian candidate for their prenovitiate, a Haitian prenovice who would begin her novitiate with two other Cameroonian candidates and another perpetual professed.

Upon my return from Cameroon, I continued my ministry in Montreal with the novices, with the much-appreciated opportunity to live in a local intergenerational community with the novices, and to work with a formation team that could meet often.

After this very beneficial renewal, I went to Haiti for 2 months to replace a Sister. And it was there that I felt the Love of Christ inviting me to "return" to Haiti. I have been living in Haiti in Port-au-Prince since October 2018; I am responsible for the temporary vow stage of 11 sisters of the Province: eight Haitian professed Sisters and one Egyptian professed Sister live in Haiti; a Cameroonian and an Egyptian professed Sister live in Montreal.

The pandemic, with now the second wave, continues to give me lessons on how to live "differently" and to trust in Providence. In my vacation space in Montreal, including the "quarantine", I am becoming more aware that the certainty of knowing that I am loved by the Lord, always there even when I don't feel him,

nourishes my deepest being and gives me Life for the Mission entrusted to me.

I believe that the Love of Christ allows the blossoming of the best in the depths of our being, which 'pushes' or 'urges' us to give the best of ourselves, wherever we are, in our various activities or in illness or in any other uncomfortable situation. For me, this is how the Mission of Christ is made concrete, especially for the people of the Providence Family, through compassion and trust in Providence.

Providence of God

I thank you for all!

We invite you to read the integral version of this text on: <https://providenceintl.org>



During the International Initial Formation Program in 2011, a memorable costume party was organized to celebrate Sister Diane's birthday!

Reviewing and reinventing lifestyles

A community of three Sisters was established last year with the intention of welcoming discerners, as such the community is called "Come -and



-See community". The community is composed of one perpetually professed Sister, Mary Grace (Mae) Valdez who is a member of the Leadership Council and two temporary vowed Sisters, Mary Phillips who was involved in the care of the elderly and Rezebeth Noceja who was working with refugee and immigrant families. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic the community opened their house to the very first discerners for a stay-in come-and-see experience. When lockdown was implemented due to the virus, everything came to a halt. There was a lot of uncertainty, but it was also a chance to re-envision and reinvent the ways of living and ministering to people. While Sr. Mae continued to work at the Provincial Administration at Providence Centre, Sr. Rezebeth started working from home with

occasional need to go to the work site. Sr. Mary Phillips's involvement with the elderly Sisters and subsequent employment at the infirmary as Pastoral Worker

required for her to move temporarily to Providence Centre by April to ensure her safety and that of the Sisters she ministered to. During the first two weeks after the announcement of the lockdown in Alberta, the Sisters began asking themselves, "how can we respond to the needs of the time? If Mother Emilie were alive right now, what would she do?" This prompted the community to volunteer at Sr. Rezebeth's workplace to help out with delivering food to the families and seniors who were either homebound or were experiencing socio-economic poverty.

Even Sisters Maria Fernanda Apablaza (then novice) and Serena Chappell (Novice) helped out with the food delivery. The Sisters knew what risk they were taking but they were happy



to know that they were helping others and following in the footsteps of their missionary Sisters from before. When the restrictions of Covid-19 loosened up, the Come-and-See community and the Novitiate community would sometimes gather together to celebrate important occasions, realizing the need to nurture community life while observing the necessary precautions. Today with the new normal, life goes on as the Come-and-See community continues to receive inquiries from discerners and to deliver talks to young adults on discernment through virtual platforms. Sr.

Mary Phillips left for a few months to follow a program as part of her formation and Sr. Rezebeth had resigned from work in preparation for her full-time online study as a Social Work student. Sr. Mae had accepted an extension of one year on the Council and is very much active in engaging with discerners hoping to open their house once again for those women who are seeking to explore Religious Life.

*Sisters Mae Valdez,
Mary Phillips and Rezebeth Noceja*

Living in compassion and poverty

When I am in silence, the words COMPASSION and POVERTY repeatedly find echo in my heart. They come into my experiences when doing the mission, and they accompany my long journey when I seek the will of Providence. These words are mysterious and marvelous for my life.

The meaning of COMPASSION and POVERTY makes more sense to me whether I am successful or have failed. For twenty-three years, I learnt about and lived the Dominican Charism and Mission. I also spent one and half years with the Sisters of the Precious Blood to deepen my spiritual life. God has blessed me with many graces but also challenges. God gave me a desire for a vocation that helped me to grow in knowledge and spirituality and especially prepared me to join The Sisters of Providence. To follow Christ is not always easy, but His life as a compassionate and poor person

always teaches me something new.

Spending time to learn the history of The Sisters of Providence, the words COMPASSION and POVERTY are frequently highlighted in our Constitutions. They

help me learn how to be a giver like Martha when I serve others or how to be a receiver like Mary. When I look back on the many blessings of my journey, they have greater meaning when I am aware of their value and see them as guidelines to live our Charism and Mission. Yes, the more I reflect on God's graces received through all those whom I have encountered;





their great compassion penetrates my life. They teach me how to be grateful. Likewise, the more I am with God in silence the more I realize how poor I am; Poor in capabilities, in knowledge, and in spirituality as well. They help me to humble myself even though it is not easy.

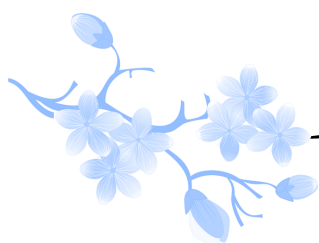
Furthermore, the desire to live with COMPASSION and POVERTY has strongly been inspiring me, as I place myself in the hands of

Providence. It encouraged me to say "Yes" to be a Sister of Providence in return for God's love and call.

May the ways that God uses to touch my heart help me to touch the lives of others especially the poor and the needy.

Providence of God, I thank you for all!

Sister Thuy Nguyen, SP



INITIAL Entrances, vows FORMATION

Entrance to the novitiate

Temporary Vows



Myriame Colin
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
August 30, 2020



María Fernanda Apablaza
Santiago, Chile
August 15, 2020



Thuy Thi Nguyen
Edmonton, Canada
August 15, 2020

INITIAL Entrances, vows FORMATION

Renewal of Temporary Vows



Guerla Alexis, Juedie Élismat, Eugena Nogaüs, Nagwa Gameel, Snyrve Valencia Pierre, Nathalie Jean - Philippe, Jude Merline Bernard, Francine Blanc and Daveline Livert
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
September 13, 2020



Marie Éméline Ezami Atangana and Maria Nagui
Montreal, Canada
September 15, 2020

Perpetual Vows



Teresa Huang Thi Nguyen
Tukwila, USA
October 11, 2020