

JUNE 2021

Nº 2



Providence Associates



Peace and joy to you in Providence,

The General Leadership Team joins me in expressing our joy and deep gratitude for this beautiful, historic, and unforgettable moment of the International Meeting of Providence Associates that we experienced at the beginning of May, a month dedicated to the Virgin Mary in many countries. Our gratitude also goes to all the Providence Associates who could not be connected virtually with us but who were with us in a communion of heart. We had a very beautiful →


International Meeting, rich in color, in shared experiences and in recognition of the reality of the diverse ministries that Providence Associates carry out in the four provinces of the Congregation.

This virtual meeting brought us together around the theme: "Bearers of the Providence Flame in our International, Intercultural, Intergenerational and Interdependent World." This is the first international virtual experience of this kind for a Providence Associates meeting. It is quite a feat to succeed using Zoom technology, and this is thanks to the precious collaboration and support of the people in charge of this technology.

Sister Karin Dufault, Congregational Leader, began the meeting with the history of the four "I's" (International, Intercultural, Intergenerational, and Interdependent). She said that "In 2018, the Sisters of Providence adopted a revised Constitution and Rules and in it, the 3rd Article states that 'we are an international religious apostolic Congregation of pontifical right, comprising various cultures and generations.' Article 52 states: 'Initial and continuing formation, taking into consideration our international, intercultural, intergenerational and interdependent character, are adapted to the changing needs of each sister, of the Congregation, of the Church and of society.'"

The presentation continued as follow: "We have grown into our understanding of what the four I's mean to us as a

religious community of women in today's world and you, as Providence Associates are, I believe, doing the same. We have done so in response to the call of our God-Providence to be attentive to the needs of our society.

The theme of this gathering is in some way really prophetic while linking us to our roots. First of all, the theme of the First International Meeting of Providence Associates held in 1996 at the Mother House was ***Rekindle the Flame of Providence***. We see by your presence that the flame is still kindled. Now think about the theme for this encounter: ***Bearers of the Providence Flame in our 'I' World***. In this theme, we know that the 'I' world refers to our Providence International, Intercultural, Intergenerational, and Interdependent nature as it has grown to be with God's grace. However, you might also think about the world to which you and we are called to be bearers of the Providence flame. It is an 'I' world in an opposite sense – that is often centered on 'individualism', isolationism, independence, nationalism, discrimination, cultural and age divisions, and conflicts. It is **that world** to which we can show an alternative way of living by being bearers of the Providence Flame. This flame is ignited by God's love for all beings, the love that connects all beings, all creation on earth and in the cosmos. God's love calls forth our respect and love with special concern for the most vulnerable. We have such great examples of being Bearers of the Providence flame in Blessed Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, Mother Bernarda Morin 

and Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart. I believe you will leave these days with a much richer understanding of your theme that will support you and your fellow Associates in days and years to come.

International

The first mention of an international vision or international scope was during the 1978 General Chapter. But it was in the General Chapter of 1992 with resolutions #27 (Declaration of Internationality) and #28 (International and multicultural Congregation), that it was 'official'. The delegates declared that our members and ministry experiences moved us from being a Canadian Congregation to being an International Congregation whose identity transcends national boundaries and that the global vision of the world must be an integral part of the mission of our congregation.

It was long before then, that our community took on an international flavor. Remember that within a few months after the death of Blessed Emilie Tavernier Gamelin in September of 1851, that the community accepted the invitation of the bishop of Walla Walla to come to his diocese in the Oregon Territory. The temporary setback of this venture in 1854, resulted in the establishment of the Sisters of Providence in Chile. A few years later in 1856, a second group went to the American and Canadian West.

Vatican II ushered in new impetus to respond to the needs

of the people of the universal church by missionary efforts in cultures unknown and to do so with humility and spirit of service and learning. Beginning in 1962, Sisters of Providence responded in countries as different from one another as Argentina, Syria, Cameroon, Tunisia, Algeria, Nigeria, Egypt, Haiti, The Philippines, and El Salvador. The Providence Family has been shaped by these experiences and continues to minister in nine countries, including Argentina, Cameroon, and the Philippines, where Providence Associates proudly continue to serve the Providence Mission among the poorest of the poor, guided and inspired by the compassionate life of Emilie Gamelin.

In each of the countries where Sisters of Providence have served and are serving in collaboration with our lay brothers and sisters this collaboration has continued to be a part of our way of being since the days of Blessed Emilie, Mother Joseph, and Mother Bernarda.

Intercultural

In the 1992 resolution, the term 'multicultural congregation' was used. The resolution called the community to conduct a theological and practical reflection process on the international and multicultural dimensions of the charism and mission of the Sisters of Providence. It encouraged provinces 'to promote the Congregation's international and multicultural reality in their own particular setting by reflecting their international, **intercultural** nature in their

gatherings, and communications and by encouraging individual Sisters of Providence to learn another language.' Here we find the term **intercultural**. The General Leadership team 1987-1992 was an international-intercultural team made up of sisters from Canada, the US, and Chile. Sister Marta Alvear, who is with us, was on that team from Chile and was re-elected to the 1992 team. All subsequent General teams have been international and have developed interculturality.

We have grown in our understanding of the difference between being multicultural, that is, the coexistence of several cultures in the same country to being **intercultural**. The writings and workshops available to our community, especially those of Fr. Tony Gittins, CSSp, have expanded our awareness and challenged us. We understand that to be intercultural means that we are willing to move outside our culture to create with others of a different culture, a new culture. We create a 'we'. It calls for full commitment and hard work and God's grace. Entering interculturality does not mean denying one's culture, but rather using it to help oneself welcome interculturality.

The Sisters of Providence have been richly blessed by the diversity of cultures, nationalities and languages that are found in the women called to Providence religious life. Initial Formation can often offer the opportunity to enter into an environment for growth in moving from

multicultural to intercultural **community living**. Embracing the challenges of interculturality and an intentional commitment to intercultural living are integral parts of witnessing the Gospel message to today's broken and divided pluralistic global world. Doing so is a faith-based project, as Fr. Anthony Gittins has reminded us. (*Living Mission Interculturally: Faith, Culture and the Renewal of Praxis*, Chapter 2) 'Intercultural living is an authentic discipleship lived by culturally different people together. It is not a problem but a challenge (opportunity). It is not easy, but it is desirable and urgently needed,' Father Gittins explained.

As Sisters of Providence, we are aware of the challenges of intercultural communication. We describe the characteristics of intercultural dialogue as:

- ✧ communication that is sensitive to the culture and cultural context.
- ✧ listening that is attentive and seeks to understand from another's culture.
- ✧ dialogue that is respectful and which assures the equal participation of each person.
- ✧ resolution of and/or living with conflicts using methods that are culturally acceptable to the persons concerned.
- ✧ being curious and asking questions to understand better.
- ✧ the cultivation of relationships.

Intergenerational

As Sisters of Providence, we are well aware that our community is blessed to be intergenerational as well as international and intercultural. We have sisters who are centenarians, and we have sisters in their 20s and everywhere in between. We continue to be blessed with vocations and vocation promotion is an important ministry since we believe in the relevance of the mission and charism passed on to us by Blessed Emilie Gamelin for our society today and tomorrow.

Of course, we experience the same challenges as families do as we seek to understand the gifts of each generation, acknowledge and explore the generational differences and similarities as members of the same religious community. Our spirituality aids us to see and welcome Christ in each other and to learn from each other as we listen with our hearts to each other's stories of living our religious life and ministry faithfully. We are given the opportunity to be an example in our world of how people of different ages, cultures and nationalities can live peacefully as sisters and brothers enriched by each other's presence and gifts. We are all interrelated and interconnected. In addition, we are interdependent which leads us to the 4th 'I'.

Interdependent

We recognize that God created us to be in a relationship. The Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, or said another way,

Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier is the perfect example of interrelationships and interdependence. As humans, we are created as social beings. In a religious community, we see ourselves as being interdependent, interdependent among ourselves as individual members, as members of local communities, as members of provinces as we are now structured, and interdependent among our provinces and our General Leadership Team and provinces. We need to resist thinking solely of ourselves as individuals or solely of our own local community or province. We are members of a larger whole – the Sisters of Providence and so we enlarge our sense of belonging and our sense of concern as well as what we consider in our processes of discernment. The common good of our sisters, our ministries, and our colleagues influences our decisions and choices as community members. This means we pay attention to our actions that may reflect a sense of independence from others as well as what may reflect an unhealthy dependence. What contributes to the common good within our community and in our society is of central importance to us. Twenty-first-century science and theology have come together to reveal the mystery of God's creative love and our interrelationship, oneness, and interdependence not only with other human beings but with the wonder and awe of all creation and the whole cosmos. Pope Francis described this so well in *Laudato Si'*."



The Congregational Leader concluded her presentation by saying: "As you can see, the four 'I' are challenging, yet at the same time a gift from our God-Providence that can provide us with clearer EYES to see God's dream for unity and oneness among us and all people and our oneness with all creation. This requires 2021 Vision for this new decade when our world is experiencing so much division and chaos amid the pandemic.

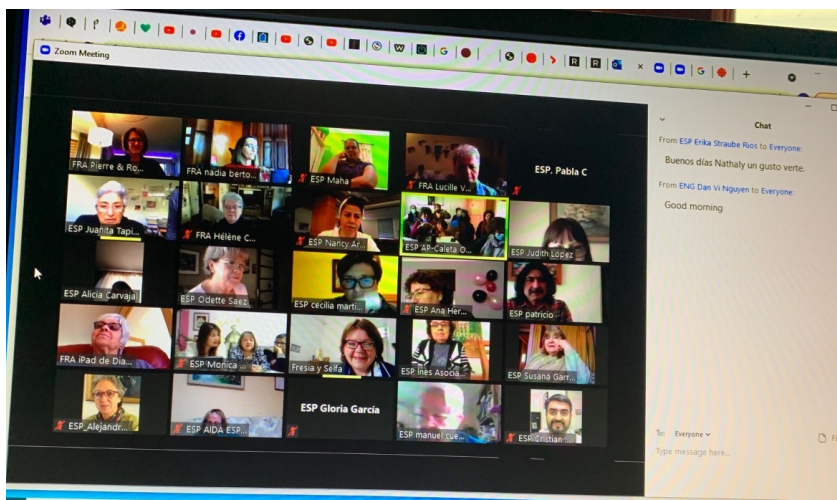
It was at the General Chapter of 1982, that the Sisters of Providence passed a resolution to encourage the emergence of groups of lay people everywhere who wished to practice the spirituality and ministry of Providence and become part of a movement of Providence Associates. Here we are thirty-nine years later at this gathering with women and men Providence Associates from many countries, cultures, and generations.

I hope that your virtual presence together as Providence Associates exploring how God is calling you to be Bearers of the Providence Flame in Our World will find how the qualities of internationality, interculturality, intergenerationality and interdependence that you experience these days can strengthen and guide you and all your companions into the future. Thank you for your presence and your attention."

Karin Dufault’s concluding words challenge you to continue to explore how God is calling you to be “Carriers of the Providence Flame in our ‘I’ world”. She sends you out as disciples to go and carry the Providence flame wherever your Sisters and Brothers need your hands, your Providence hearts.

May God bless you and keep you in your Providence Mission,

Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP
PA General Coordinator



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1st International Virtual Meeting of Providence Associates

May 3-6, 2021

CARRIERS OF THE PROVIDENCE FLAME

by *Nadia Bertoluci, PA*



Holding high the Providence Flame, the Providence Associates, accompanied by the Sisters of Providence liaisons, participated in the First International Virtual Meeting of the Providence Family from May 3 to 6, 2021. The four main axes of the Providence Family were the landmarks of this meeting, and each day was dedicated to one of the four points: international, intercultural, intergenerational, and interdependent.

Previously, the organizing committee of the meeting had met several times, in person or via teleconference (Zoom) to put together the ideas that resulted in this extraordinary event.

On May 3, the first day of the meeting, we were able to benefit from the presentation of the Congregational Leader



of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Karin Dufault, who by her wisdom prepared the table so that we could all taste the fruits of the four great axes that constitute the Providence family.

On the same first day of the meeting, which was led by the Providence Associates of Mother Joseph

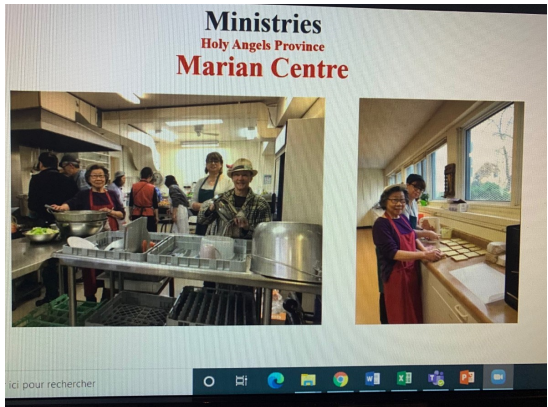


Province (the United States and the Philippines), the Providence family's international axis was highlighted, first, through contextualization and then through varied and significant presentations, rich in actions on the global level. The commitment of the smallest gestures to the largest and the repercussions capable of changing the lives of so many people were highlighted. It was an excellent day that made us value the Providence Mission as a link between all of us. We also learned more about the life of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, a pioneer in the American West and one of the great Providence women. We ended with a small group sharing to gather and welcome the fruits of the day.

The second day was masterfully led by Providence Associates of the Holy Angels Province. The focus was on the intercultural axis. We began with a journey that took us to the childhood of Blessed Emilie Gamelin and we

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reviewed the main moments of her life, of her ample, unconditional, and unrestricted commitment to the less fortunate. Then we were able to see all the intercultural



richness that characterizes the Providence family and with what pride the Providence Associates of Holy Angels Province live and commit themselves in the intercultural world as a great wealth to be maintained. Small group discussions followed showing how interculturality is part of our lives.

On May 5, the third day, the theme was brilliantly



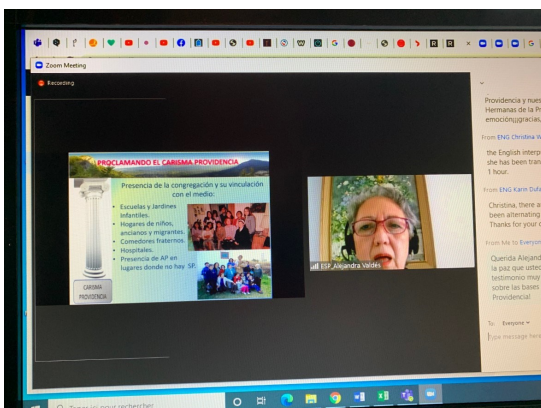
contextualized by Émilie-Gamelin Province with the participation of Associates from Quebec, Haiti, Egypt, and a representative

of the PA groups from Cameroon. The presenters led us in a reflection on intergenerationality, an omnipresent axis in the world of the Providence family, making us think about its importance and the richness that it represents in our movement. Through the different testimonies, we were able to take a tour of various places in the world where the

conviviality of the generations is transformed into a quiet strength becoming one of the important factors so that the different projects of the Providence family are carried out for the good of the little ones, following in the footsteps of our dear foundress, Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin.

We welcomed the fourth and final day of the meeting with joy because Bernarda Morin Province, which continues in action in Chile and Argentina, was going to deal with the last great axis, interdependence. With great tenderness and guided by the Spirit of Providence, the Associates of this province showed us how interdependent we are on one another, through our Christianity, through our foundress, Emilie Gamelin, through Mother Bernarda Morin and Mother Joseph and our close relationship with the Sisters of Providence and above all through our faithful and creative commitment to the Providence Mission, that is, to respond to the cries of the poor wherever we can and must be as Providence Associates. This loop that sealed the gift of these four unforgettable days was received by all as a blessing.

After this these rediscoveries, which will remain engraved in our memory and our hearts, and which were so necessary,



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so important, we all left reanimated and filled with a precious and essential impetus which was given to us by this meeting based on the four great Providence axes.

Thanks to the meticulous and professional work done by the preparatory committee of the meeting, but also to each person who braved their shyness to give their testimony or their reading for the benefit of all. Thank you also to the General Leadership Team and the support of each of the teams at the provincial level, for making this unforgettable meeting possible. But above all, thank you to each one of the participants who, by their presence, made the Providence family grow and be enriched.

We all understood that our work, our gift of self, our commitment are essential but above all that "Alone we can do little. Together everything becomes possible." as Pierre de Villiers reminds us. Inspired by Emilie Gamelin's life of service and enlightened by the flame that we carry today, may we pass it on to others who seek to do good around them to increase the radiance of the Providence light. Long live the PA Movement!

Providence of God, I thank you for all!



1st International Virtual Meeting of Providence Associates - MAY 3-6, 2021

COMPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Following the PA International Meeting, we have received complementary texts to the presentations that we are very pleased to share with you because they are all filled with great wisdom and represent very well the spirit that reigns among our Associates after this historic meeting.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MEETING FACILITATOR

Kathe Boucha, PA

We invited Kathe Boucha, facilitator of the Providence Associates International Gathering and a member of the International Gathering's Planning Committee, to share with us a few lines about her role and impressions.



"I have received many emails and phone calls, all congratulating everyone that planned the gathering. The general response is that it was wonderful. I received no complaints or negative comments.

From my position as a facilitator, I want to compliment the staff in Montreal for working long days helping to prepare and then for their professional and skilled support during the actual gathering.



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During all four days during the Zooms, I received many texts and email and cell phone calls from people who have my contact information. That was very distracting and sometimes interrupting but I expected some of that. I am glad we were able to communicate so well and to mitigate all real and perceived problems.

Thank you again and it was one of the best experiences of my life to work with all of you since 2019 and to participate in the production of such a life changing event. I especially liked seeing the enthusiasm of the associates in their home settings outside of North America. I feel the Gathering brought old and new friends into closer relationships."

Wishing health and happiness to all.

CALETA OLIVIA, ARGENTINA, SHARES THEIR IMPRESSIONS

Providence Associates



1 - International Virtual Meeting of Providence Associates

On May 3,4,5,6, 2021, we lived the International Meeting of Providence Associates with great emotion. It was truly an

extraordinary experience, a gift from God, encouraging us to continue loving and strengthening our charism and mission. Our spirit was rekindled by the light of the flame of God's Providence. As Associates and following the example of our foundresses Mother Emilie, Mother Bernarda, and Mother Joseph, we feel inspired to continue in their footsteps, sowing love, compassion, and charity towards the neediest of people and reaffirming our belonging to the Providence family.

Below, we would like to share with you what some of our Associates have expressed:

"I lived days of deep fraternity during the time of the meeting, discovering the richness through all the "I's" and the fruits of God's love for us. Although it is true that the pandemic is hitting us hard, it also allowed us to be more united in prayer and in communication; to be able to see and to feel how many Associates were participating in the meeting was remarkable and above all, very providential. We give infinite thanks to God and to all the Sisters and Associates who prepared this gathering, "Being bearers of the flame of Providence in the world", and made us feel it. There is so much to say about the meeting, about communicating with so many sisters we know and who once visited us, as well as with Associates from all over the world and from the Bernarda Morin Province, to which we belong. We had not seen each other for a long time. We are happy, happy with hearts full and grateful, to continue our path in the Providence Charism!"



“The meeting came at the best of times; it was a unique experience that filled my soul with hope and strength.

The pandemic had set about to extinguish the desire to surrender to others with so many fears and frustrations.”

“I am amazed at the technology, at the new way of communicating. This rekindles the flame of our Charism and Mission. ”

“I was immediately seduced by the subject, “Bearers of the Providence Flame in Our World”.

Bearer, for me, implies commitment, something intrinsic, my own, the blood of my blood; it means a seal, a part of my being, spontaneous and contagious. It makes me become more aware of my vocation and to live it.

Flame: It is the fire, the life; it is God Providence in us. One feels and one gives oneself “to be God Providence for others”.

“In our world”: International, Intercultural, Intergenerational, and Interdependent. The four I’s guide us, enlighten us and deepen our essence as Providence Associates.

The encounter nourished our faith and encouraged us to continue on the path of service bequeathed to us by our Founding Mothers.”



2 - Passing Away:

NORMA MICHI

On May 7, our Associate, Normita Michi, departed for the Father's house. The Associate community of Caleta was moved by her death. She was a very strong influence in our Providence group, a woman of great faith, a woman of prayer, very committed to solidarity, attentive to any need. She spent her time doing good and serving the unprotected.



We have so many memories of the times we shared with her. We know that she is already enjoying the presence of God, with her loved ones whose passing preceded hers, like her beloved husband Ricardo. You will always be with us, Normita!

IDA BAHAMONDE

She passed away on November 25, 2020, as a result of the Covid virus. She was a Providence Associate for many years, a resilient woman, humble with the simplicity of a huge heart, open to the needs of others. She was engaged especially in helping her neighbours in need by bringing them food, preparing meals, and in sharing the Word of God with



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them. Her house was a "House of Prayer". When we visited her carrying the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows, she was very happy and very attentive to us, despite her physical and personal problems. She always had a smile and was waiting for us with delicious snacks. As a good Chilean, she shared with us her "calzones rotos", a Chilean fried pastry that we enjoyed so much. Rest in peace, dear Ida, in the presence of Jesus and Mary. You will always live in our memories.

CARRIERS OF THE PROVIDENCE FLAME IN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL WORLD

By René Lefebvre, PA

Associates of all ages and from around the world participate in the closing Mass of the 175th anniversary of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence in March 2019 at the Mother House Chapel in Montreal.



We lived a beautiful day when we questioned ourselves on our intergenerational activities within the framework of each generations actions to carry the Providence Flame and to link them together.

The reflections of the day allowed us to better understand the Providence Mission, nourished by the charism of Emilie Gamelin. They taught us to recreate social bonds of

understanding and solidarity between generations grounded in close solidarity.

Our role as Associates is to carry the Flame of Providence to all by linking the various generations and to consider aging as wisdom, a richness, a resource to be better valued and shared with the young.

The testimonies heard bore out all hope and expectation and made us realize that Emilie's mission is not over yet. From Montana in the United States, Cameroon, Haiti (Torbeck and Port-au-Prince groups), Egypt (a newly established group) and the groups in Quebec, we demonstrated that we are all carriers of the Providence Flame in our intergenerational world through our commitment and our work with the neediest.

The celebration of the Word that closed our day allowed us to graft ourselves to Emilie's vine just as the branches graft themselves to the vine to drink in the sap that gives life. It is important to stay in touch with Emilie through the Sisters of Providence.

Like Emilie, let us have faith in the Mother of Sorrows who is a model of compassion and love.

Hallelujah!



Sisters of Providence and Providence Associates live the 4 I's, while following in the footsteps of Emilie Gamelin



LIFE STORIES

*Life experiences that inspire us
and nourish us*

NEWS FROM YAKIMA, USA

Marta Wilson, PA

The Yakima Valley




My name is Marta Wilson, Providence Associate of Yakima, State of Washington, Mother Joseph Province. We have a board of directors composed of a coordinator: Maricela Contreras, treasurer: Juanita Chapula and secretary: Marta Wilson. Sister Josie Ramac, SP, is our advisor (liaison).

Between 2020 and 2021, both locally and globally, we have experienced a pandemic that has come to affect all people, communities, associations. In our group, several Associates have been infected by COVID-19. Today, however, most of us have received the two doses of the vaccine.

In view of this pandemic, we have not met, nor have we done activities that we used to do, economic activities, such as fundraising. With the proceeds we helped needy families, visited and took toiletries and food to some institutions such as Homebound, organized picnics for the homeless, and bought cards at supermarkets to give to very poor families, etc.

We have, nevertheless, remained attentive and communicated by telephone and our work is carried out in union with the spirituality of the Sisters of Providence. In my case, I have overseen religious education at St. Joseph Parish in Yakima for 25 years during which time, together with the catechetical community (parents, catechists and catechized) we do our spiritual activities based on the SP spirituality. Also, we keep aware of the material and spiritual needs of others to help them when needed. We catechize parents on Saturdays while their children are being taught in their classrooms. To ensure good spiritual care, we follow a daily schedule with the different groups of catechists. Most of our Associates are catechists and others belong to a ministry within the parish, so we are always active.

With the other Providence Associates we are in a constant chain of prayer for the sick in the community and in the world, especially for one of our associates, 

Elva Sanchez, who has very delicate health, has heart problems and is diabetic. She has been very active, but now, her conditions limit her to sitting because she gets tired when she takes a few steps; she is waiting for an appointment with a specialist in Seattle.

As for virtual meetings during the weekdays, only two members of our group can join because our schedule allows us to be available; the rest of the Associates have limitations in terms of schedule, as most of us work during the day.

May God bless you with health and peace; see you soon.

MY PATH AS A PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE

Patricia (Pat) Nex PA
Calgary, Alberta

Mother Gamelin had been calling me for a long while, I just didn't know it. .. It started when I was going through a tough time, and a Priest friend at Sacred Heart Church suggested I speak to some sisters who had moved into a house in the nearby Killarney area (the Nuns happened to be Providence Sisters Lorraine Mongeau and Joan Wigbers). This was probably around 1988, and I did meet the sisters; they were helpful and we became good friends.



Pat participating in the 175th anniversary celebrations of the Congregation.

The sisters mentioned to me about a lay group of people called the Providence Associates, who met monthly at their house for mutual spiritual support, and whose mission was to help the needy. I told them I was overly busy at that time to undertake another commitment, but would definitely keep them in mind (my 1st Calling).

Then a few years later, a PA who happened to be visiting Sacred Heart Church (we were lighting candles together) introduced herself, and invited me to join a group she belonged to, called the Providence Associates. Again, I said thanks, and that I would keep it in mind (my 2nd Calling).

In 2001, I finally completed my BN degree, which I had worked on part-time for several years, in addition to nursing, and being a single Mum. Whilst celebrating my success with my friend who lived in Switzerland, we were in a car crash and I was injured and could not work for 2 years. Now, Mother Gamelin sent a 3rd messenger to me, a good friend of mine who invited me to a PA Christmas party at the sisters' house in Killarney. This time my foot was in the proverbial PA door! (my 3rd Calling).

From then on, I started attending their PA Meetings regularly for about 5 years, before Mother Gamelin filled my heart with a strong desire to officially become a Providence Associate! This time, I had no doubts or misgivings...I ran to Sr. Joan during a meeting and said, "Sister, I am ready to become a Providence Associate"! It was the year 2007!

LIFE STORIES

There was joy all around, especially in my heart! (my 4th and final Calling)

I have been totally committed and passionate about the Providence Associates since then; I enjoy attending the meetings, our spiritual time together, and our mission in helping the less fortunate of the world.

Mother Gamelin was a remarkable woman of courage, kindness and unselfishness, who went through unbelievable pain, suffering and hardship. A woman I admire and can only 'try' to emulate.

Thank you mother Gamelin for your wonderful example, and for calling me to be a servant of the Lord, like you were. I am honoured. Blessings always,

A PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE OF THE SAINT JOSEPH GROUP IN MONTREAL SHARES HER EXPERIENCE WITH US...

Nicole Ladouceur, PA

I am Nicole Ladouceur, a Providence Associate since 1998; already, it has been 23 years. I was involved with our much missed Sister Eva-Rose Rheault, in St. Joseph parish, located in the Little Burgundy neighbourhood in Montreal.



I worked at the food bank with volunteers who were themselves needy, and we managed to get these beautiful people to work together. For several years during the holiday season, we prepared Christmas groceries for 180 families with this beautiful and dynamic team. We worked in close collaboration with the Partage store and the Montreal Transport Society (referred to by its French acronym, STM), who took care of the financing and the STM employees who gave their time so that the project could be completed.

My husband, Ronald, was also a Providence Associate. Since his passing, with the help of one of the bosses of the company, Industrial Alliance, my sons and I participated in the foundation of an NPO (Non-Profit Organization), the Ronald Ladouceur Foundation. Since my two sons are stockbrokers, they continue to take care of the financing by collecting funds to support the foundation amongst investment companies.

We help organizations in the south-central part of Montreal. It is not a big foundation, but my goal is that my children and my grandchildren will take over and help those who are most needy.

Thank you for your kind attention,

BROAD PARTICIPATION FROM CHILE AND ARGENTINA IN PA ANNUAL PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

Bernarda Morin Province Newsletter

"Deepening the Providence Associate Mission, inspired by our directory"



More than 75 people, including Associates and Companion Sisters of Providence, participated in the PA Annual Provincial Assembly on March 27, which, due to the circumstances, was held via videoconference through Zoom. Normally this is intended only for coordinators and formators of each PA community, but we took advantage of the opportunity and the technological means to openly invite all the PAs who wanted to attend.

In order to involve the more distant PA communities, the Argentinean communities of Comodoro Rivadavia and Caleta Olivia were responsible for the opening prayer. While the final prayer was the responsibility of the Community of Tocopilla. "It was a very enriching meeting, with a deep theme", said the coordinator of the Movement in the Bernarda Morin Province, Mrs. Elizabeth Farías Navarro, from the PA Community of Llo lleo.

The formation theme, presented by Father Fernando Macías C.M., dealt with the relationship of mutual dependence that should exist between the committed laity and the Sisters of Providence.

Another topic discussed was the next International Virtual Meeting of Providence Associates, which last year was postponed due to the pandemic and this year will be held via videoconference. This meeting will take place from May 3 to 6. The PAs of the Bernarda Morin Province presented the theme of "interdependence" during the last day and also were responsible for the closing Liturgy of the meeting,

During the videoconference, various kinds of information were also given, and it was pointed out that there is flexibility to comply with the PA's annual program, considering the reality that we are still living in this year. "I want to thank all the people who took the time to participate in this assembly, which was quite extensive.

Many thanks to the companion sisters who always show us their support and give part of their time to us," the coordinator concluded.



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