



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.

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Dear Sisters,

Sister Karin Dufault at
the celebration of the
50th anniversary of the
work dedicated to the
Cause Emilie Gamelin

by
Sister Yvette Demers, SP



“Something New is Springing Forth”

Today, the fifth Sunday of Lent, as I opened the electronic breviary on the i-phone, I saw: “**See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**” (Is. 43:19.) Providentially, those words are the theme of this **Providence Missive**. Isaiah 43 is among my very favorite scripture passages that gives me both great comfort and great challenges. Perhaps one of the great challenges is really to **see** the “something new” not superficially but deeply, to **see with the eyes of the heart, every day and every way**.

We are nearing the end of the Lenten season, entering the Pascal Mystery and bursting into the Resurrection season with its HOPE and newness of LIFE in its many forms! In the northern hemisphere, we witness the newness of bright spring flowers or green grass peaking up from remnants of snow. Yesterday, I saw vivid yellow daffodils at St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana, while at the Women of Providence Board meeting and in the evening, I saw delicate blades of grass amid snow in Montreal.

In parts of the southern hemisphere, autumn colors are emerging. With nature’s newness in

the changing seasons, we also perceive Providence at work in many other ways. Amid the horrors of war in Ukraine, we see the generosity of families and church communities in many countries opening their doors to refugees or providing food, clothing, and other resources for them in a spirit of solidarity and love. We see diverse people of all faiths coming together to pray for the suffering people of Ukraine and Russia and for peace in the world. With the continued COVID crisis, we see countless acts of self-sacrifice on the part of health care providers and their families and grateful active responses of patients and the public. We see inspiring young people advocating for and educating about climate change to protect God’s creation, to heal the earth and its people, especially the vulnerable and to secure a future for next generations.

The latest emerging new is the encounter in Rome with Pope Francis and delegation of Indigenous people from Canada. This concluded with Pope Francis’s statement of apology for abuses to Canadian indigenous people by some members of the Catholic Church and a commitment to visit Canada in →

Editorial

July of this year. Around the world, and amid the multitude of societal-integral ecology issues that we continue to face, there are emerging new initiatives of solidarity, actions of compassion and peace. These are the stories we help spread and support.

General Chapter



We are also well aware that “something is springing up” in our Congregation. We are in the season of intense preparations for the 2022 General Chapter, the **31st** General Chapter of our Congregation. The first General Chapter, with 18 sisters present, was held on August 6, 1866, a **one-day** chapter of election and the formation of a generalate. Six-year terms were established for the General Superior and Councilors. Those elected were Sister Philomene Bourbonniere, general superior, Sisters Emilie Caron, Amable, and Marie du St-Esprit, General Assistants, Sister Therese de Jesus, general depositary and Sister Marie de la Providence, general secretary. Their picture hangs next to Nadia Bertoluci’s office

at the International Centre. The focus for their leadership was the living of the revised Constitutions and the newly created Customary. In November of that year, the first official visit of a General Superior to a distant land took place in the Oregon Territory. She brought with her five missionaries. Our Congregation has experienced the “springing up of something new” at each Chapter since 1866.

Together in all our diversity, we have the opportunity at the 2022 General Chapter to see and hear in special ways that “**something new has been and is emerging.**” The whole congregation has been engaged in a synodal process, listening attentively to Providence working in and through each of our sisters, the Providence Associates and our colleagues as we discern where Providence is calling our energy to be directed for the next five years of living our charism and mission. We have the opportunity to identify the “new” that has been emerging in each of our provinces and in our congregation as a whole. Together in a spirit of discernment and in light of our current realities, we are in the process of opening our minds and hearts to the possible Orientations that will guide our ministries and the living of our consecrated life. We are also preparing in a spirit of faith and trust in Providence for the election of a new leadership team who will accompany us on our journey to oneness as servant leaders.

Synodal Journey



Pope Francis has been watering the seeds he planted at the beginning of his papacy, calling the Church to be an “encountering Church” and now advocating for a *spirituality of synodality* at the personal and congregational levels as the basis for the 2023 Synod with its theme of **Communion, Participation and Mission**. Of special interest are the spiritual and liturgical resources available on the synod website. Providence Spirituality will soon be added to other spiritualities such as Benedictine and Jesuit describing synodal spiritual dimensions within the various spiritualities. You can view them at: <https://www.synod.va/en/resources/spiritual-and-liturgical-resources.html>. While Pope Francis has reintroduced the term, synodality, we have known it as contemplative listening, dialogue and discernment, assuring that all the voices are heard. What voices are missing in our Church and in our congregation? What newness might Providence bring through them at this time?

Religious women have an opportunity to “wake up the world” by participating through our

unique lived experiences of synodality and communion through communal dialogue. Aware of our own vulnerability, we bring our ability to listen to the hopes, dreams and suffering especially of persons often marginalized. Something new can emerge in our Church in the process of listening to ALL the voices. That is why we encourage participation of our sisters, Associates, and colleagues in ministry in the Synod processes. If nothing is happening in our local parishes or diocese related to the Synod, sisters can gather the people and provide the opportunity to pray and reflect together and have their voices heard by each other as well as included in the synthesis sent to the Vatican Synod organizers. All the tools for leading and participating in groups are available in multiple languages on the website: <https://www.synod.va/en/resources.html>.

Religious congregations are participating in three distinct types of discernment related to the Synod. 1) General Governance of one’s institute with synthesis sent to UISG (Union of International Superiors General); 2) Participation within local church; 3) Within one’s own Institute. We will be submitting a compilation of submissions from our provinces to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life by the deadline of June 30, 2022.

UISG 2022 Assembly

On April 30, I will be flying to Rome for the UISG Plenary Assembly where I will join 700 →



congregational leaders from throughout the world for a week of prayer, reflection, dialogue and discernment related to religious life in our world amid all its realities. The theme of the assembly is *Embracing Vulnerability on the Synodal Journey*. Unlike other years, a new dimension of this Assembly was beginning with two separate online encounters where we deepened our understanding of what it means to *embrace vulnerability* and to be on *a synodal journey*, united in global sisterhood across cultures and languages. The UISG website (uisg.org) and YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/UISGRome/featured>) will feature some of the Assembly presentations.

I ask your prayers so that the UISG Assembly bear great fruit for religious life and all the ministries in which sisters worldwide are

engaged. Also, please pray for the two-day delegate meeting that follows the Assembly. I have the privilege of being the delegate from the Anglophone Canadian Constellation of UISG.

Conclusion

In this issue of Missive, you will read the insights of some of our sisters about the newness that is emerging in their lives and ministries, and, from their perspective, in the Congregation and world. May each article stimulate your own reflections and dialogue on the question: What do you see as the "Something new that is emerging in your ministry, in your community, in the world?"

May Holy Week mysteries and Resurrection Hope provide you with peace, comfort, hope, love and joy that you share with one another and all you meet.

Affectionately in Providence,


Congregational Leader





Special SP Report

Life, Reflections



“Something new is springing forth”

....

The following are testimonies from Sisters of Providence who have agreed to share their experiences and hopes.

SIGNS OF HOPE

by Virginia Miller, SP



How can we offer signs of hope as we see our Ukrainian sisters and brothers fleeing for freedom, seeing their cities and villages being destroyed by bombs, their own country overcome by the forces of violence and abuse? Out of all of this destruction, we hear the voices of hope as the people of the world respond in support and love.

As we mourn the death of another one of our sisters, we have hope as we are asked to pray

for the many women who are asking to “Come and See” the life of Providence. If we have learned anything from the pandemic, it is that we need one another so hope arises when we meet our sisters from all over the world through Zoom and we share in their experiences of bringing hope to a very fractured world.

We are delighted to hear of our sisters in Chile and El Salvador as they provide education and hope for a better future for the youth of their countries. We share in the hope our sisters offer in Haiti as they minister to their people in so many different ways. We are amazed to see our sisters at St. Joseph Residence, in their wheelchairs and walkers, making sandwiches for the homeless, exercising the ministry of serving the hungry in Canada by their food



tables: the many sisters in Seattle, Spokane and the Philippines using their voting rights and freedoms to vote and, in some cases, protest for equal rights for all. We share in the wonderful works of mercy and signs of hope for the people, which our Associates provide in the name of Providence.

Hope arises as we see the preparation for the challenges and the excitement of those who

will plan the General Chapter for us . Hope for the future increases as we see new needs appear, but the coming together of Sisters of different communities commit to meet those needs. Providence does assure us that God is with us and there is nothing to fear, so how can we not have hope?

SOMETHING NEW IS SPRINGING FORTH

by Isabel Cid, SP



"See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah, 43:19.

In these early spring days here in the north, it is comforting to write about something new that is emerging. The

warmth of the sun, the fresh buds, the singing of the birds, and the variety of colors, among other signs, are concrete realities that speak to us about new life. In the south, however, with the arrival of autumn, people reflect on something real that is not so clearly seen, although it is forged in the intimacy of the earth.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, I see something new springing forth in the reality of human relationships as a whole. It also emerges in the growing number of people becoming increasingly aware of the connections between all beings on the planet. This speaks to me of a small step in the evolution of who we are, all vulnerable, fragile, limited, and in need of each other. This allows me to review my own life in the light of faith in the loving presence of God Providence, watchful over the created universe. (Const. 7).

With the sisters' creativity in their missions, something new is springing forth in the Holy Angels Province. Particularly in the vocation ministry, with the experience of a young woman in the "Come and See" program. Another sign is the mutual support in prayer life among the small communities when we



meet for faith sharing monthly, either in person or online.

Something new is springing forth in the whole Congregation with the interprovincial meetings of all the sisters: perpetually professed, novices, and temporary professed, who interact and accompany each other in intercultural,

intergenerational, and interdependent experiences.

I thank God that he invites us to bring forth new life and accompanies us on the journey.

God said from his throne: "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5.

"RELYING ON THE MERITS OF MY SAVIOR, I AM FULL OF HOPE"

Blessed Emilie Gamelin

by *Hélène Fakher, SP and Colette Lord, SP*



First, we are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this reflection on the emergence of newness in the Congregation and our world.

During our stay in Canada, we had the pleasure of exchanging with Sister Claire Houde, our Provincial Leader, about our long-standing desire to have Providence Associates in Egypt. It was with joy and delight that Sister

Claire welcomed this request. In February 2020, we received a visit from Sister Karin Dufault, our Congregational Leader, and Sister Josefina (Josie) Leros, General Councilor-Assistant to whom we reiterated our desire to see a group of Providence Associates in this mission country, Egypt. Then, some newness began to emerge. Our fervent prayers were heard, Providence heard us, and some people, who were already working with us at the service of the neediest, expressed their desire to be part of this emerging group of Associates. In doing so, they have helped define and revitalize the mission in Egypt, which has thus been enriched, becoming more capable of serving the children and the poor sent by Providence.

COMMUNITY LIFE IS LIVED AROUND AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MISSION

by Alba Letelier, SP



Sister Alba participates in the Good Start Day (first day of school) teachers who performed dances for the students as a way of welcoming them.

When I am asked why I am in Peru, I feel invited to explain my personal journey of discernment regarding the many questions I have about my life as a Sister of Providence. The first primary question is this: How do I desire to be the best version of myself in this community where we define ourselves as international, intercultural, intergenerational and interdependent? What can I offer to this community in which I strive to move forward by responding meaningfully to the current reality?

I am in Peru to search and to learn by exposing myself to experiences and situations that make me perceive and live out my mission in a different and personal way: a life that is simpler, closer to the most vulnerable, more demanding for myself, besides the opportunities that my province, in which I feel a belonging with gratitude, offers me.

I want to go beyond myself and assume this experience with other sisters who live their consecrated life within another charism and spirituality and whose origins, formation and culture differ but who share our same spirit and mission as consecrated women in the Church, especially in today's world.

Why Peru and not Chile? To expose myself to a situation that would take me out of my safe and controlled comfort zone. If I stay in my own cultural environment among Sisters of Providence, I run the risk of settling back into the same routine.

Today I am in Urcos, a small town in the southeast, capital of the province of Quispicanchi in the Cusco region. The place has about 11,000 inhabitants and is 3,158 meters above sea level. I am still in a phase of integration, as my body needs time to adapt to the altitude.

The Sisters who welcome me are the Servants of St. Joseph; they administer a public school and support a Center for Productive Technical Education (Cetpro), two small institutions with limited resources for operation. This is why the Sisters seek help through projects and receive volunteer assistance. The village revolves around a main square from which it radiates to



the far reaches of the hills and mountains. Poverty is a way of life; most houses are made of adobe, but there are also some made of concrete or brick. The people generally speak Quechua, especially the adults, although they also know Spanish. Schools teach Quechua in order to preserve the language.

The other community of the Servant Sisters of St. Joseph is in a higher location, Checacupe. There they work with people, preparing them for employment, micro-businesses, and educating them on the advancement of women and the prevention of human trafficking.

Community life revolves around the mission for which it exists. This lifestyle is simple, uncluttered, dialogical and based on daily sharing from an adult faith perspective. Living from day to day, without knowing what the future holds, helps me to let go my familiar structures and makes me attentive to the needs that arise and cannot wait. We share the uncertainty of the Peruvian people in this time of political instability, protests, strikes, price hikes and increasing poverty.

Life flows quietly; each one has her own rhythm, almost without a schedule, because the distances and the climate make the schedules flexible and the people very patient and above all friendly.

At CETPRO, the Employment Education

classes are held in the afternoon, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Students with fewer resources receive assistance with materials and supplies for their studies. Then, as they learn, they make and sell their own products, and with this income, they pay for their education. The idea is that upon completion of the four modules offered, students will be able to start a business. The central objective of the ministry is to make work dignified and to create a commitment to women from a parity perspective and also to prevent abuse and human trafficking.

My service experiences are still in their initial phase, without a fixed schedule. As we are at the beginning of the school year, the CETPRO is just starting its classes with 13 people for the Textile Sewing Technique and 15 for the Bakery and Pastry Assistant course. I support them in organizing and finding resources. I still need to establish contacts with the person who organizes the visits to the rural communities and the families of the students, and accompany them.

So far, the contact with the CETPRO students has allowed me to get to learn a little about the culture of the peasants who, with great effort and sacrifice, try to learn a trade that will allow them to earn a living. The age of the students varies from 14 to 70. They support and accompany each other. Many people live from day to day, even for work. This is what makes the current situation in the country so worrisome.





Special Report

My intention is to learn basic Quechua in order to better understand the culture and all that it entails. I will also take a course on the Peruvian reality, which is given online by the Bartolomé de las Casas Institute. My goal is to support the sisters who are hosting me, to support them in their work, and if possible, to help them create a project to finance the repair of the roof of the building that houses the textile production rooms, and other aid to complete the construction of an office and rooms to house occasional victims of abuse, violence or human trafficking.

I would like to understand more our own mission in connection and collaboration with

other entities, to experience the precariousness of life and from there to renew solidarity in order to build the Kingdom and herald hope. And above all, to allow myself to be surprised and transformed by the LIFE that teaches me through the humblest, the simplest and the most vulnerable. Such LIFE springs from my inner self in a constant search for coherence and a more radical commitment to the person, as all this is done with the vision and ideal of Jesus Christ at heart.

"Tupananchikkama" (until we meet again)



Starting at the top left - clockwise: Sister Alba participates in the celebrations of the first day of school; Meeting of the communities of Urcos and Checacupe, and the Josephine laity; Bakery and Pastry Assistant Class; Class of Sewing Technique.



*Sister Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, SP
JPIC Congregational Coordinator*

Something new is springing forth



The catchy theme of this missive reminds me of the need to reinforce our theme for the General Chapter that is fast approaching: "In a surge of hope, let the new life spring forth." Indeed, this theme brings us closer to the Word of God in Isaiah 43:19 when He says, "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" This rhetorical question elicits a joyful response as the Providence Family receives a new baby as Sister Kathryn Rutan pointed out. It invites us to open our hearts and minds to welcome the newness, to open our

hearts by listening together, thinking together, speaking together. Every voice is important. Every voice, even the weakest, must be heard. This is the best way to perceive and discern the calls of the Holy Spirit, who is always the main motor of such changes. This kind of change can be frightening, for it is not reassuring to commit oneself to the unknown. However, with faith in Providence, we do it. We do not do it alone, but together. We do it as believing women, convinced that at every step Providence walks beside us. To do this, we must highlight the link between faith and social justice. The emergence of a new Christian identity should be lived in this complementarity of faith and social justice.

Certainly, something new is also springing forth within JPIC-UNANIMA. In the context of the burning news of the pandemic and the outbreak of the Russian war against Ukraine, while we listen to the cry of the poor and the planet, we



cannot remain insensitive. So, we ask ourselves what we are going to do as Sisters of Providence. In what way is the Lord calling us and sending us signs? Thus, in searching for the answer, we met virtually with the JPIC coordinators of each province around these pertinent questions:

- ⇒ What kind of structure would we like to put in place in the Province or the Congregation to better respond to the needs of JPIC and UNANIMA?
- ⇒ What are we going to do together?
- ⇒ What do we need to pay attention to regarding emerging needs?
- ⇒ After reading the seven goals of the ***Laudato Si'*** Action Platform, how will the Sisters of Providence respond to them?
- ⇒ How do we network with other congregations?

The coordinators have set up a work plan, and they have organized an international JPIC

committee which is composed of a sister and a Providence Associate from each province. We want to integrate the PA into our Mission for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. Together with them, we will live the charism by responding to the emerging needs of our time.

Our commitment to peace and justice reminds us that we must give our faith hands and feet. We must resurrect our sisters and brothers who are suffering, "resurrect" means to get back on our feet. Jesus has risen, so we will all rise too. We are also invited to see around us all those little resurrections of people and groups almost brought down by the pandemic, that rise again now. May Faith and Social Justice find our hands and feet to be able to read the signs of the times in our society and listen to the cry of the poor and the planet by walking together, to build a better world.



Short SP News

Our community

Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

Parents, Community Nurture Vocations in an African Village

Texte: Steve Pehanich, Communication Director

Photos: Marie-Thérèse Gnamazo, SP



Sister Marie-Thérèse with young women in Abong-Mbang, Cameroon

Nothing is unusual about a Sister of Providence helping young women discern their vocations. But for Sister Marie-Thérèse Gnamazo, whose hometown is nearly 8,000 miles away in Africa, it's a little more complicated than usual.

Given the distance, Sister Marie-Thérèse stresses the importance of the parish, parents

and community in the discernment process. When you think of it, that's true whether the person discerning is next door or on another continent.

Sister Marie-Thérèse's own path to the Sisters of Providence began in 2008 starting in Cameroon with a stop in Rome before joining the Congregation in Seattle.



During a visit home earlier this year, a classmate from her time at the Gregorian University in Rome allowed Sister Marie-Thérèse to speak to his parish, Saints Peter and Paul, in the Abong-Mbang region of Cameroon.

The young girls ranged in age from 13 to 20. Some are about ready to start high school, others university. The key, emphasizes Sister Marie-Thérèse, is to listen to their stories, hopes, dreams, anxieties and doubts.

Sister Marie-Thérèse will return to Cameroon and hopes to speak to many other parishes in the diocese but, in the meantime, she is confident that the people in the girls' lives will be there to encourage and support the young women as they chart their own future.

For more about vocations, visit our page on Religious Life at sistersofprovidence.net. or our international website: <https://providenceintl.org/en/becoming-a-sister/> (French/English/Spanish).

Sister Marcia Gatica Master's Degree in Territorial Development

Text and photo: Marcia Gática, SP



In December 14, after three years of studying, I received my "Master's Degree in Territorial Development" certificate at UCA University, I am so grateful to God, to the Leadership team, to my Local Community, and for your prayers for this beautiful opportunity. Unfortunately,

Sister Marita Capili, SP, was not able to join us at my graduation ceremony because she was ill with the effect of the 3rd dose of the vaccine. Thanks to Sister Vilma Franco, SP, for accompanying me.

Providence of God I thank you for all! 😊



Holy Angels Province



Western Canada

Come and See Virtual Class

Reflection by Azenette (Ting) Trongco, Discerner



"According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain"- ccc 2562

First row from left to right – Azenette (Ting) Trongco and Sister Rezebeth Noceja; second row Sisters Mary Grace (Mae) Valdez and Josie Ramac.

I had Community Life Conference as part of my Come and See Experience. Sister Mae Valdez, Vocation Director invited Sister Josie Ramac from Mother Joseph Province as the resource person for this topic.

I have learned a lot of things during the class, what stood out was how Sister Josie emphasized the importance of prayer in our lives, especially in community living. I have realized that every day is a learning curve in community living. It has its own challenges

that can either cultivate or be a hindrance to one another's relationship within the community.

On the last day of my online class, Sister Josie Ramac invited Sisters Mae and Rezebeth to join us. The three sisters shared their personal experiences in community living, the joys as well as the challenges, how they rise above each situation, and how prayer plays a vital role in their lives.

Transfer of leadership mandate in Holy Angels Province

Text: Communication Office of the Province

Holy Angels Province held a ritual of the transfer of leadership mandate during the Eucharist on Sunday, March 13, 2022. The new team assumed office on January 7, 2022. We were unable to gather at that time because of pandemic restrictions.





Anawim Place Food Bank

Text: Communication Office of the Province



Anawim Place is one of the only two walk-in food banks in Edmonton and has served a very vulnerable population since 1989. As with life everywhere else, Anawim is adapting as it expands its programming to serve a growing population. From its beginnings it has partnered with Edmonton's Food Bank for supplies, food, and support. For two years now Anawim has been opened one day a week following needed health guidelines.

This coming fall, a neighboring food bank and service centre will be leaving the area, so Anawim will open its doors to these clients. The Food Bank has

graciously offered to provide volunteers and support so that Anawim will be able to open a second day each week.

Mother Gamelin's spirit and compassion are so very evident.





Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

The Comedor Emilia Gamelin reopens its doors

Text and photos: Communication Office of the Province



On March 21, the Comedor (Community Dining Room) Emilia Gamelin happily reopened its doors, after almost two years without being able to serve lunch to people in need. In 2021, only take-out food was handed out once a week. Although for now, the dining room will continue to operate only on Mondays, it is expected that by the end of April the service will be offered for two days and that in May, it can be fully reopened from Monday to Friday, if the conditions of the pandemic allow it.

On this first day of reopening, about ten brothers and sisters arrived, but it is certain that once the word gets out, many more will show up. In the medium term, it is expected that about fifty people will be fed every Monday, and then, when the Comedor is regularly

functioning, it is planned to distribute food to about seventy brothers and sisters. Those present for the reopening, at 11:45 a.m., had their temperature taken to avoid any contagion inside the building.

As always, we are able to count on the help of volunteers for the kitchen and service, including several Providence Associates. However, the commitment of a greater number of people is required, especially for the following months, since, to guarantee the daily operation and avoid the need for volunteers to attend every day, it is necessary to schedule different shifts. Juanita Tapia, Providence Associate, who will be the coordinator for this new period of the Dining Room, comments that more collaboration will be needed for "cooking,



serving food, cleaning and tidying up, so we will need people who are committed and who keep their engagements.”

The new coordinator is grateful for her new role and the possibility of serving in this ministry of the Sisters of Providence, and specifies that actually she has been “collaborating with the Comedor for the 35 years since its beginning... I know that this is going to demand time, but, thank God, I have it. I will try to do my best,” she adds.

It should be noted that the normal service of food, as well as clothing and footwear distribution, is offered not only to homeless people but to any brother or sister in need of food. However, it is planned to give priority to the elderly, considering that it is difficult for them to find work to support themselves.



We remain in prayer for the good functioning of the Comedor and for the brothers and sisters we serve, thanking all the volunteers and praying that more people will be interested in supporting this wonderful Providence work.

Directors and Administrators of the Institutional Ministries Meet with the Provincial Leadership Team

Text and photos: Communication Office of the Province



On Friday, March 18, the Leadership Team of the Bernarda Morin Province met with the directors and administrators of all the institutional ministries of the province. This close and fruitful meeting, which took place at the Provincial House, signaled the formal



beginning of the collaborative work in this new period and was also the occasion to introduce and welcome the newly appointed directors and administrators. During the day, there were several presentations and a report on some concrete work progress.



On this occasion, Sister Gloria Garcia, Provincial Leader, presented awards to the five schools that recently achieved academic excellence, following the National Performance Evaluation System (SNED) of MINEDUC (Chile's Ministry of Education). These schools are Escuela San José, Colegio la Providencia de Concepción, Colegio Sagrados Corazones de La Serena, Centro Educacional Santa Clara and Colegio Providencia de Linares. Each of their principals received a small token of appreciation. An emphasis was placed on the importance of continuing to work together so that each educational work of the province achieves academic excellence, for the good of all the students.

During the day, Sister Mariana Peña, Provincial Secretary, gave a presentation about essential aspects in the life of Mother Emilie Gamelin, pointing out the relationship with the Providence Spirituality and the Charism of the Congregation. Her presentation was framed within the current context of the pandemic and invited the audience to reflect on their disposition and capacity to fulfill the pastoral and ministry mission entrusted to them as well as meet the challenges and expectations that result from working together.

The Office of the Cause for the Beatification of Mother Bernarda was presented by Loreto Fernandez, executive secretary of the Office. She took a few minutes to share information about the Cause of the Servant of God, Mother Bernarda, and to invite the personnel of the institutional ministers to take an interest in learning more about her and to continue working together to spread the life and ministry of Mother Bernarda.

Work Groups and Collaboration

Later in the meeting, the administrators and directors formed separate working groups. During much of the morning and afternoon, the directors were able to learn about the Global Compact on Education, an initiative of Pope Francis through which he invites us to join forces to bring about a profound, integral and long-term cultural transformation through education. This presentation was facilitated by Karla Meléndez, educational management consultant, who works with Sister Gladys Flores, a member of the Provincial Leadership Team and councilor liaison with the Provincial Ministry of Education.

The assembled principals were able to begin a long-term work to implement the Global Compact in their educational communities, guided by the Providence Educational Project, which should shed light on the matter and guide the educational projects (PEI) of each institution.

For their part, the administrators participated in a conversation led by Sister Gloria García, who shared information about the roles and functions of the institutions' administrators. Luis Alfaro, the provincial treasurer auditor-accountant, commented on the obligations of the administrators, particularly those related to reports and deadlines for submissions to the Provincial Administration. Throughout the meeting, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and share comments. They were also reminded that the provincial treasurer's office is always available to clarify doubts, bringing to life the unity and common Mission of the Providence Family.





Émilie-Gamelin Province



Eastern Canada and United States,
Haiti, Cameroon and Egypt

Activities of the Sisters of Providence with the children of the Sistine Chapel in Port-au-Prince

Providence of God, I love you with all my heart!

by Novices Myriame Colin and Natacha Gracia



Since February 2021, Reverend Father Merlet Asnigüe, pastor of the Sistine Chapel in the heart of an at-risk neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, has asked us to help homeless children prepare for the sacraments of baptism and communion.

During a period of time, Sisters Hélène Mamert Nga Amogo and Manise Augustin, Pre-novices Natacha Gracia and Edeline Noel, and finally Novice Myriame Colin met and accompanied

some four hundred children. This group included different ages, genders, backgrounds and life histories. For this reason, we divided the children into several teams, to better transmit a catechesis adapted to their reality. After this period of formation and preparation, the Sisters continue to welcome these children every Saturday for recreational and formative activities such as: ball games, dancing, singing, and teachings on life skills and social skills.



At one point, the children could no longer come to the Sistine Chapel for the usual meetings because all these children reside in red zones: areas of gunshots, clashes between gangs of thugs and all kinds of difficulties. So, with the help of Providence, some of them have returned even though the majority of the children cannot return to the Sistine Chapel, a place of prayer and peace.

Providence of God, I believe in you!

In spite of the small number, we have formed a choir called "The Children of Fatima, (E D F)" which animates the Mass in the Sistine Chapel every last Sunday of the month. This group includes children who do not attend school.



So in an effort to help all these children taste the bread of education, Father Merlet Asnigüe, in collaboration with the Sisters of Providence, set up a school in a room of the Sistine Chapel rectory. This school opened its doors on Monday, March 14, at 7:00 a.m., to all the children of the Bicentennial area. On this great day, the two novices Natacha Gracia and Myriame Colin were in a hurry to welcome the



children and the small staff of which five children were present for the Mass before the class. They received the blessing for this great opening, by Reverend Father Cassis Edner, taking the place of Father Asnigüe during his absence.

Providence of God, I hope in you!

On that day, in the courtyard of the Sistine Chapel, there was some anxiety because many more children were expected and many people wondered what was happening. But, during the day, Providence surprised us as some of the people present at the Chapel mission went to pick up the children from their homes, because of the constraints to move around: shootings, lack of means for transportation, those who are in domestic service, etc. We hope that one day, Providence will provide them with a safe place. Finally, the day ended with 12 children and the help of 2 teachers: Mrs. Simé Analissa and Mrs. Beauzil Marly.

Providence of God, I thank you for all!



We thank God's Providence for the blessings, for the benevolent people of the Congregation and for all the other benefactors; we did not expect so many donations in all forms to our project with the children of this area, which is difficult to access.

In a surge of hope, let new life spring forth for this still new project of compassion that will continue, « si Dye vle » (God Willing), with Father Asnigue, the Sisters of Providence and collaborators to go where no one wants to go but where the need is strongly and insistently expressed.

This school works very well, as does the choir, but there is always the unstable attendance of the children due to their personalities, histories, learning levels, etc. The pedagogy is adapted to these fluctuations and to the particular needs of the children living near the "bandits", under constant stress.

Thanks to the confidence transmitted by Emilie and our predecessors, with our spirituality of Mary at the foot of the cross and with the participation of the Sisters of Providence of Port-au-Prince:





The Institution for the Deaf (ISM) is emptyed

1851-1978, Foundation # 10

Text by Madeleine Coutu, SP, written in April 2022

Photos: Providence Archives Montreal



The Institution for the Deaf (ISM) was founded in Montreal in 1851 by Mother Emilie Gamelin and Sister Marie de Bonsecours for the education of "deaf-mute" girls. This institution functioned for 127 years.

The building housing the Institution was sold to the Government of Quebec in 1978, following the acquisition by the Provincial Government of the welcome centers previously owned by the Sisters of Providence.

The contract of the sale stipulated that the three large paintings by Georges Delfosse which decorated the chapel would remain the property of the Sisters of Providence as well as the crucifix placed in the choir. It was also agreed that Father Paul Lebœuf could continue to use the chapel, with its Berri Street entrance, to celebrate worship services with the deaf community.



I first sought information about the paintings of Georges Delfosse, a renowned Quebec painter.

On March 2, 2022, we made a first visit to identify what the Sisters of Providence wished to keep of the sacristy and also of the chapel, which had not been emptied of all its artifacts in 1978 since it was still in use.

Given the great value of the paintings, and in consultation with Sister Claudette Leroux, Provincial Treasurer, I began the process of donating the above works to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. We received the

Museum's negative response even before our first visit mentioned above, when we wanted to decide what to keep. However, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts thought it would be useful to have the Curator of Pre-1945 Quebec Artworks, Mr. Jacques DesRochers, advise us about the paintings. He recommended that we leave the paintings in place, since they are protected from the weather and vandalism and were too large to be moved at the time.

Mrs. Pichette, representing the Société des Infrastructures, Director, David Pelletier, Mrs. Lucie Quimper, accredited evaluator, Father Paul Lebœuf and Sister Yvette Renaud, who



helped me throughout this entire process, also participated in this visit.

We occasionally brought some objects here, to the Mother House, to offer them to the Sister Sacristins, who did not want them. We then returned them to the Institution at the first opportunity.

Sister Yvette and I followed the strict instruction we had received to be accompanied by a representative of the Infrastructure Corporation each time we visited the Institution. This person arrived before us and left after we left.

It took us five visits to take out all the contents of the second and third floor cupboards and the sacristy, to choose what we wanted to keep and to donate and then do the transporting of the items.

The objects of worship of a certain value and which were useable were offered to the organization "Patrimoine et Art sacré" (replacing L'œuvre des Tabernacles) of the Archdiocese of Montreal. To this organization, we gave : a tabernacle, a monstrance, a censer, 2 ciboria, 3 large crucifixes (3 feet high with metal corpus), statues of St. Francis of Sales (4 feet), St. John the Baptist (4 feet), St. Joseph (3 feet), the Virgin Mary (3 feet), matching prie-dieu and chairs, lecterns, a processional cross, matching candlesticks and a pulpit, lanterns, cruets, and many small items for worship : all these were

chosen by Father Julien Huron, priest and leader of the organization. Everything was wrapped according to the nature of the items and moved by an experienced carrier.

And the paintings...

What do they represent? How old are they? What size?

There were three paintings by Georges Delfosse, representing the miraculous interpretation of the image of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the titular patroness of the Institution des Sourdes-Muettes. These paintings were unveiled and blessed on May 9, 1932, at the Institution des Sourdes-Muettes.

These identical size paintings, measuring approximately 6 feet by 10 feet, come in richly carved solid wood frames.

More details on the history of the devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel can be found on our website: <https://providenceintl.org/en>





Providence International Centre



Providence Family

50 years of dedication to the Cause of Emilia Gamelin

Text: Rollande Malo, SP

Photos: CIP Communication Office



On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Sister Yvette Demers' ministry for the Cause of Émilie Gamelin, Sister Rollande Malo, General Treasurer-Councillor, said these words:

"Dear Sister Yvette,

How beautiful is the path you have traveled in this ministry, in the Office of the Cause of Emilie!

For 50 years you have dedicated yourself to shedding light on the treasures of this Providence woman whom we all cherish, especially when we know more of her Passion and Compassion for those in need.

Along with Sister Thérèse Frigon, you have been a key person in exposing to our Community, to the Church and to the general public the spiritual values, the extraordinary

gifts and especially the attentive and loving heart of Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin.

Thanks to your convictions, your tireless dedication, and your love for our foundress, you played an essential role in the preparation of all the necessary documents and correspondence that led to the Beatification of Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin.

And since that great day of her Beatification, you have not ceased to be attentive to the people who come to ask for prayers and share favors obtained, and you have not ceased, like Emilie, to comfort those who entrust their suffering to you. In union with your prayers and desires, we hope that one day, very soon, Émilie will be recognized as a Saint by the Church. This will be



the culmination of your dedication to this Church ministry.

I believe that your great Faith and Trust in Providence will be fulfilled a hundredfold.

To you I say ALL MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR WITNESS OF FIDELITY.

Lord keep you healthy enough to enjoy this great day so longed for !

THANK YOU, Sister Yvette !



135th anniversary of the Sisters of Our Lady of Seven Dolors

Text: Yvette Renaud, SP

Photos: CIP Communication Office



For this beautiful celebration, on March 27, we were able to count on the presence of several guests, including the SNDD sisters: Fernande Thibault, Bernadette Pelletier, Georgette Leduc and Micheline Veilleux; the sisters of the SP General Leadership Team: Karin Dufault, Rollande Malo, Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, Josefina (Josie) Lerios, Nancy Arévalo and Annette Noël; and SNDD

Associates: Dominique Lemay, Louise Tremblay, Gisèle Gauthier (with her friend Carole Blais), Jeanne-Mance Éthier, and a friend Associate, Mrs. Henriette Léveillé (accompanied by her husband). Thérèse Pelletier, my great friend and interpreter of S. M. Veilleux, was present as well as Paul Lebœuf, chaplain to the deaf; Claire Houde, SP, superior of the Émilie-Gamelin Province; Céline Brousseau, SP, the former



superior of the SNDD, and about thirty Sisters of Providence who have worked with the deaf at the Institution.

During this meeting, everyone shared memories while observing the decorations that came from the Institution of the Deaf-Mutes: three large drawings of the Prodigal Son (Gospel of the day) made by the members of the pastoral team, including Mrs. Henriette. There were also posters, photos, frames, pots, flowers, banners, antique tables, albs, etc.

During the procession, we had the beautiful surprise of seeing Dominique (SNDD Associate) in an antique alb (lace helm) holding the banner of the "Congregation of the Children of Mary, Institution of the Deaf-Mutes" and Father Paul in an old-time alb, hand-embroidered by an SNDD. After hanging the banner next to that of "The League of the Sacred Heart, Institutions of the Deaf-Mute," Dominic put on the "black biretta." He said and signed: "I am Canon Trepanier." All applauded.

A tribute: Sister Karin welcomed everyone, especially the SNDD and the associates. She paid them a beautiful tribute and congratulated them. Sister Yvette proceeded with a "quiz" to recall the founder, Canon FX Trépanier, the patron saint, St. Francis de Sales, and the patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. The question was: what is the link that unites us?

The festive mass

Song: Let us celebrate the call, it comes from God, for our happiness, he has chosen us.
Let us celebrate the call, it comes from God, to serve the world and his Church.

Father Paul began the mass offered for the deaf people, especially SNDD Sisters. Dominique read the epistle in sign language, and Sister Yvette Renaud, SP, read it aloud. The antiphon from the psalm was perfect for the celebration: "Taste and see that the LORD is good." After reading the Prodigal Son Gospel, Father Leboëuf delivered a short homily. The offertory was sung and signed by all the assistants who were touched by the words of the song *Les mains ouvertes* (Open Hands). At the end of the Mass, everyone sang: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, eternal is his love."

A friendly meal followed: a vin d'honneur was served, and there was a toast, followed by a delicious hot lentil soup (provided by the kitchen) with a hearty cold lunch, a gift from the Providence Community that members of the General Leadership Team served at the tables. We were warned: "Hold on to your forks, the best is yet to come." Here is the surprise! Two beautiful cakes well decorated with the SNDD logo and the statuette of Our Lady of Sorrows, served with a good cup of coffee, offered by the General Leadership Team. The cake was meant to extend the celebration to the real date of the founding of the SNDD Congregation, April 1st. We ate it on March 31 in the company of Gisèle Routhier, SP.

Other surprises awaited us: a logo bookmark, with, on the back, Our Lady of Sorrows (photo of the statue in the chapel of our former residence in l'Assomption). In addition, the General Leadership Team offered gifts to the SNDD, and some SP gave them envelopes. In



the end, we had the joy of watching the slide show of the SNDD, a gift from Father Paul. Such beautiful memories!

What a wonderful day! Thanks to the Lord! Thank you all!

N.B. The associates seem to have enjoyed their day, as they are asking to repeat it on June 9, the feast of Sister Fernande Thibault, s.n.d.d. Probably with a smaller number of people!



Initial SP *Formation*

Entrances, vows

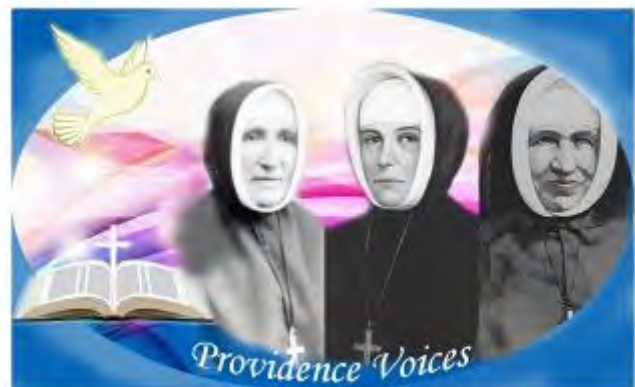


Renewal of Temporary Vows

Mary Phillips
March 31, 2022
Edmonton, Canada

In this year 2022, Chapter year, we reiterate that we are putting at the disposal of the entire Providence Family a common tool for reflection offering a point of view from our Providence spirituality.

In this way, a reflection on the Gospel of each Sunday is offered by a member of the Providence Family on our website, under the heading Providence Spirituality: <https://providenceintl.org/en/2022/02/20/providence-spirituality/>





*“He is not here, for he has been raised just as
he said ...” Mt 28,6*

*Happy Easter
of Resurrection!*