



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.

OFFICE:

Providence International Centre
12055, Grenet Street
MONTREAL QC H4J 2J5
Phone: 514 334-9090
Fax: 514 334-1620
<http://www.providenceintl.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/providenceintl1843/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgwryhZJL5r0owWh32XJr1w>

COMPUTER GRAPHICS, PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION:

Nadia Bertoluci
To communicate & send an article or comments:
nbertoluci@providenceintl.org
Copy on line : <https://providenceintl.org>

EDITING AND GRAPHIC DESIGN:

The Communication Office of the General Administration: Suzette Bautista, SP, General Councillor, Nadia Bertoluci, Communication & Information Agent. Perla Moore, Assistant and Guy Richard, IT technician.

REDACTION :

In collaboration with the Congregational Leadership Team and provincial contributors.

TRADUCTION : Richard Dumont, Silvia Huaman and Anne-Marie Labonté

PROOFREADING:

Madeleine Coutu, SP, Berthe-Alice Collette, SP, Isabel Cid, SP, Kathryn Rutan, SP, and Anne Hemstock, SP. Silvia Huaman and Anne-Marie Labonté.

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Dear Providence Family



To allow oneself to be transformed for the good of the Congregation

*I*t seems providential to me to be thinking about transformation in the middle of Advent, even if we are probably in the New Year at the time you read these lines.

Our 2022 Congregational Chapter Orientations and Model of Governance have already stirred our joy and great hope as we look to the future. Personally, I was energized by seeing the path more- or-less laid out towards what we are hoping for the future. Now, as we set out, the reality begins to feel pressure

again because we imagine and create expectations of a future reality that is anticipated, but not yet ready.

While searching for more information about transformation, I came across some reflections that helped me begin to understand what it means when our known reality undergoes changes that are sometimes difficult to accept even when they are expected, for example, changes in our Congregation. Though “change” and “transformation” do not mean the same thing, they both essentially deal with deep identity and



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meaning, two elements that can free us to take risks necessary to live the challenge of transformation. If our Providence DNA is clear, coherent, and rooted in the essentials and if our desire for change has a meaning for each of us, transformation will not upset us, much less generate resistance. Our consciousness and collective being challenge us to let go of our individual, selfish, egocentric and “staying comfortable” mode and move us forward in a community effort, creating bonds that will support our collective journey towards the Congregation we hope for and the world needs. No one is forced to change but we are all invited to allow ourselves to be transformed so that newness can emerge.



“At birth, a caterpillar already has what it takes to become a butterfly. The external transformation that takes place during metamorphosis stems from an internal organic change. The caterpillar does not don a butterfly costume and does not strive to act like a butterfly.”

So I ask myself first, “What resistances am I discovering deep within myself as I begin my transformation journey in our Congregation? What adaptations do I need to make and how do I need to live them? Why do we need to change?” Further questions arise: “What meaning do I give to our 2022 Chapter Orientations and to the implementation of our Governance Model that encourage me to move forward?”

When I look at the current reality of our planet, I cannot help but think of how necessary and urgent it is to witness and live our charism through a lifestyle that is a call to justice, equity, peace, integration, integrity, transparency, and communication. Our communities should be the first to practice what we want for the world, and not simply hold these values only as ideals. These values are alive within us; we have everything we need to live them out.

Our Orientations and the implementation of the Model emerge just at a time in history when, wherever we look, we can see situations of corruption, disguised slavery, an uncontrolled hunger for power and the abuse of political roles that disfigure the value of democracy to which people aspire. We witness the use of communication and speech as means to deceive, misinform and to take advantage of poorly made decisions. I

could go on and on about how the world today is experiencing the upheaval of our changing times. Instead, my desire is rather to arouse in us the conviction that our vocation is the “light” and the “salt”, the “Good News”, that can restore what has been lost in the world. Obviously, we cannot change the whole world, but we can start by welcoming our own transformation and thus transforming the world around us.



I live in the hope that the transformation of our Congregation will gradually become a living reality against the flow that we will have to deal with not only at the beginning of this new era, but for the rest of our days.

I feel that we must embrace the future that lies before us by seeking to heal the past, by being aware as much as possible of our present vulnerabilities, limitations, and frailties, and by welcoming with mercy and compassion the life and truth of those who walk with us on this “Journey to Oneness” in our congregation. This process is not an

individual journey but a community journey in which we are all called to accompany each other and to witness to the abundant life that flows.

We understand that there is a timeline and a structure to be put in place, which leads us to explore multiple possibilities, opportunities, and capacities, while at the same time, we discover the challenge of putting new governance structures in place. The first and greatest challenge is to let go of what we already know and feel comfortable with and to make room for new possibilities of BEING and ACTING together. What am I trying to say? We are talking about a governance that enables the qualities of participation and co-responsibility with fluid communication that frees us to cross borders. Therefore, I invite us to ask ourselves: Who am I expecting to give life to these qualities? And here is the first challenge: We need to make these qualities our own. My participation in this new model of governance and my living of the Orientations will be the best that I can offer and will ensure my own



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transformation. As far as I can make myself co-responsible for the operation of this new governance model and the implementation of the Orientations, I am being transformed. As I engage in communication and lower my personal barriers, I open myself to the influence of others in my life. I am being transformed.

We are being called to something different and therein lies the challenge. What kind of challenge goes with that? I can imagine the questions now. How do I participate if I don't currently have a ministry in the community? How do I participate if I am in formation? How do I participate if I am bedridden in the infirmary? How can I participate if ...? This is just the beginning; these questions will find their answers in the heart of each one. There is no right response and everyone's response is welcome because it expresses each one's own desires, capabilities and gifts.

The Orientations and the Governance Model implementation are the result of our common search for a history that will soon be 180 years old and through which we have been transformed many times. As witnesses to this, we are still on the journey today. Our hope, our compassionate charity, our solidarity, especially with persons who are very poor, our creativity, and above all our love and fidelity to the Mission, inspire us

and remain the driving force for our transformation. That is why nothing can happen that does not rest on the challenge that is present in every organization- transparency and openness to reflect on who we say are and to affirm the truth of our being in our actions that give evidence of who we are. Once we understand the meaning of change in our lives, we are on the way to our transformation.

I would like to end my sharing with you with this paragraph from Lao Tzu:

"Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, for they become your character; watch your character, for it shapes your fate."

In 2023, we are gathered to realize the dreams of Providence who never ceases to journey with us as Providence has done since the time of Emilie, Bernarda and Joseph.

With affection in Providence.

Alba Letelier, SP

Congregational Leader





*Th*rough the arts we contemplate and express the unity and holiness of all creation. We affirm the power and prophecy of the arts and believe them to be an important ministry for hope and healing in a critical moment of world transformation.

Merry Christmas
Happy
New Year

Alba, s.p.

Josie D., s.p.

Anne, s.p.

Chazette, s.p.

Hélène Mament, s.p.

Annette, s.p.

Rellande, s.p.

Cosmic Birth Sacred Moment in Time

Art by Mary Southard, CSJ

Ministry of the Arts



Special SP *Reflexions* Report



Transformation – Allow myself to be transformed by the Orientations of the 2022 Congregational Chapter and by the Governance Model

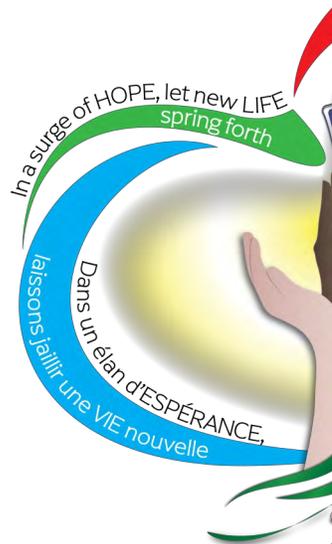


Judith George, SP

Transformation – How do I allow myself to be transformed by the directions of the 2022 Congregational Chapter and the new Model of congregational governance for the good of the congregation?

For me, “transformation” implies a radical change toward improvement of the persons and events being transformed. The beautiful chapter logo with its motto “in a surge of hope, new life springs forth,” and its expression of rootedness and of unity in diversity, reminds me, each time I

see it, of the transformation to which Providence is inviting me personally as a member of this congregation. What helps me to be open to this transformation is recalling the hope I experience in seeing the deep spirituality and vibrancy of our newer members, the steadfastness of our more seasoned members, the obvious evolving unity in diversity among chapter delegates and the wisdom and integrity of our leadership teams, both outgoing and incoming. In a spirit of prayer and much hope, I feel open to be an integral part of whatever congregational transformations will transpire.



David Neisius

Provincial Treasurer of Mother Joseph Province
and member of the Congregational Finance Service



The 2022 Congregational Chapter called on each of us to live our charism of compassion; to journey together to deepen and share our spirituality and theology of Providence; and to deepen our understanding of the governance model and put it into practice. As Provincial Treasurer for Mother Joseph Province and a member of the Congregational Finance Service Committee, the orientations had a special meaning, causing me to reflect on what I might be able to do individually and as part of our Leadership Team to support the implementation of these goals in ways that are both mission-focused and practical.

In many ways, these orientations are about change and moving forward together on a journey. We know

where we are starting and where we want to end, but the path we follow to get there still needs to be determined. And like any journey, it is helpful to start with a roadmap. This roadmap or plan may be different for each province and leadership team, with many opportunities and challenges along the way. But for me, the most important thing is to take the first step and then work collaboratively, be flexible and trust in Providence that our journey ends well and accomplishes what we set out to do.



Cristina Urbina, SP



As a Sister of Providence, God invites me every day to trust in Providence and to live the works of mercy with a compassionate heart. Likewise,

the Orientations for these five years challenge me to be fully a Sister of Providence whose consecration is not dormant, but awake. It also challenges me to keep my lamp filled with oil to respond to the cry and suffering of my brothers and sisters who experience inequality, injustice and violence in various forms. Finally, they invite me to take care of our common home and to accompany people who have to emigrate from their countries in search of better living conditions.

Pope Francis has invited us to live the synodal process in listening, dialogue,

prayer and discernment. In its triennial document "Women of the Dawn", CLAR (Latin American Confederation of Religious) invites us to be "spokespersons of the Resurrection of Jesus", to overcome fear, not to remain closed in our securities, to walk in the night and in a state of mission, so that "the Spirit can enter and fertilize everything". <https://www.uisg.org/es/news/CLAR-Mujeres-del-Alba#:~:text=CLAR%3A%20%22Las%20Mujeres%20del%20Alba%22&text=%22Las%20Mujeres%20del%20Alba%2C%20las,pueda%20entrar%20y%20fecundarlo%20todo> (in Spanish)

Our new Model of Governance invites me to unity, complementarity and inter-relationality, to live our charism and spirituality in communion with the Providence Associates. It also invites me to renew my consecration every day in prayer, dialogue and contemplative discernment.

I am sure I cannot take up this entire challenge all alone. I feel invited to row together with others. I picture myself doing the work with my sisters and brothers who go on pilgrimage, to meet Jesus and be transformed by Him.



Juan Francisco Tapia,

Working for the Communications Office of the Bernarda Morin Province
and the Congregational Communications Service



"Change is always good," a Providence Associate said to me as we were talking during a formation day on the new SP Congregational Governance Model for my work on the

provincial newsletter. Her words, so absolute and direct, sounded strange to me as they reminded me of all those times when changes in my country and in my personal environment have not turned out for the better. Yet, at the same time, they helped me reaffirm the hope that this will not be the case in relation to the new path the Congregation is taking. In my work of communications, I need to ask questions and engage in conversations with the sisters, the associates, lay people and others, for which I am especially grateful on occasions like these as I find that my confidence in God's Providence is strengthened.

For some sisters and lay persons, mentioning the new Model of Governance and the changes that are coming in the next few

years, raises fears and insecurities, not necessarily confidence and hope. What affects us most about newness, at least in my case, is the uncertainty, the unknown, the fear that something might change our routines and affect our lives and environment in a negative way. On such occasions, it helps me to remember that the future is not written in detail, but that we create it with our own actions and attitudes, while trusting that Providence will make real what scripture says: "To those who love God, all things work together for good."

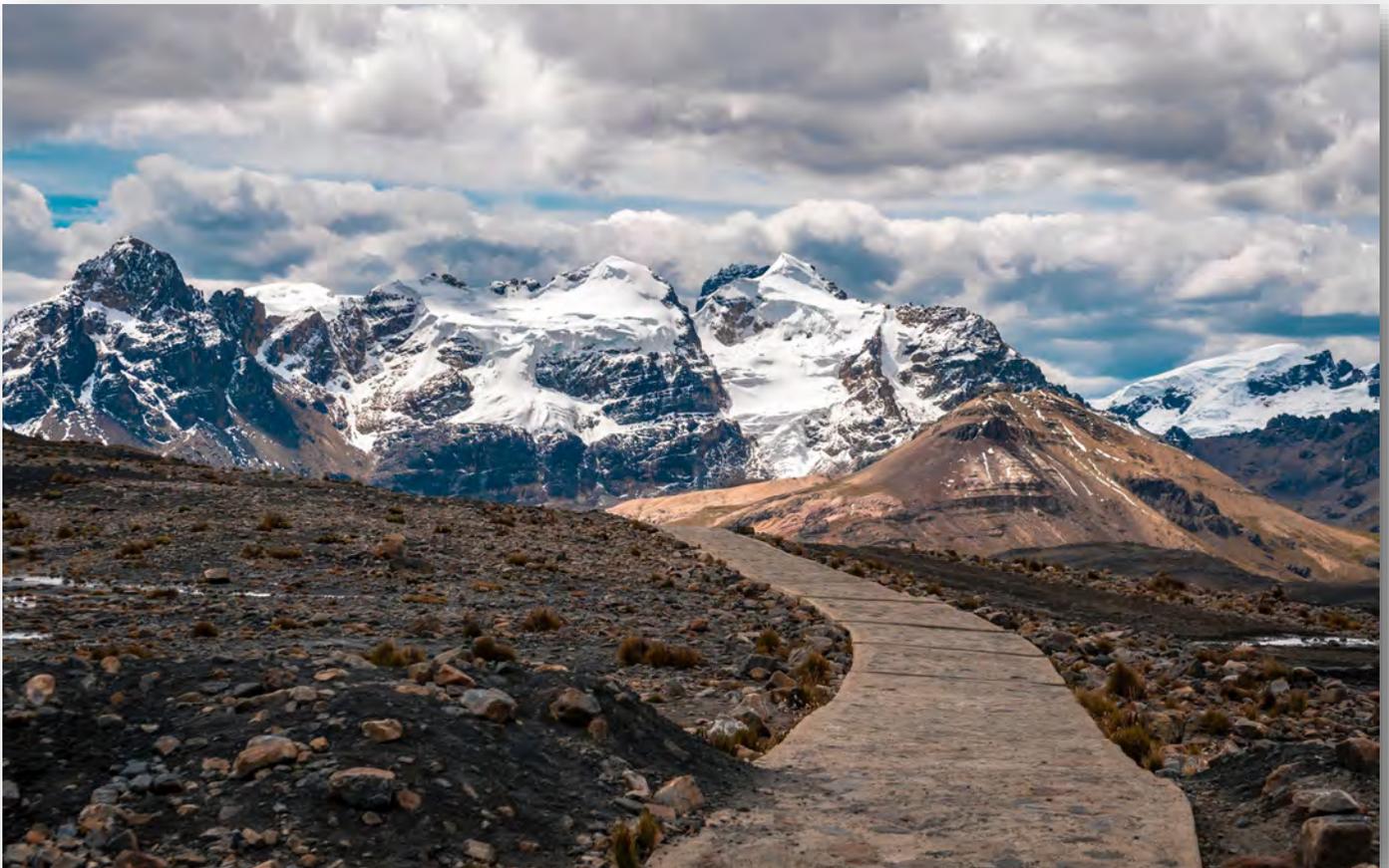
Personally, there are certain specific aspects of the Congregational Chapter Orientations and the new Model of Governance that help me to maintain a positive vision regarding my work for the Congregation. At the same time, they allow me to welcome an internal transformation oriented toward trust in Providence, avoiding fear. One of these aspects is the willingness of the sisters to continue to engage in "consultative and evolutionary processes" that "lead to unity," as pointed out in the introduction to the Orientations. All organizations of persons contain visions and structural models that are very difficult to change but sometimes do need to be modified



so that the organization may continue to exist and remain faithful to its original objective or mission. I am positively amazed that the community of the Sisters of Providence is not afraid to ask itself complex questions and make difficult decisions based on the answers found, as not all large organizations do so. I also appreciate that this process is done in a consultative manner and through community discernment, even if it takes several years, with the participation of all the sisters and with the goal of achieving unity. Although it is possible for me to believe that many positive changes arise when God speaks

to a person in isolation, my faith and beliefs lead me to think that his voice is heard more clearly when he whispers incomplete sentences to individual persons. Indeed, his words emerge complete and powerful, thanks to a community that gathers these whispers together, as they bring God's message to life, in union and fraternity.

Another aspect that allows me to be transformed by the Orientations emanating from the Chapter is the attention given to current realities. The sisters commit themselves to live their charism of compassion, "paying attention to the signs of the times."



This motivation to carefully read the moment in which we live, knowing that in certain areas the only thing permanent is constant change, encourages me to apply this in my own work. As part of the Congregational Communications Service, my work will change in many ways in the coming years. In addition, as a Service, we will experience a constant development in information and communication technologies. Thus, the best attitude to have is to abandon ourselves to Providence, but without ceasing to pay attention to what surrounds us and being aware that, in a world in permanent transformation, self-evaluation and continuous improvement are absolutely necessary.

One attitude I have learned both from individual sisters and from the Congregation as a whole, is the willingness to understand work as a service. In this sense, I also try to allow myself to be transformed by the Orientations of the Chapter, remembering that the Mission of the Congregation responds to the needs of other people, and even of the environment, and not necessarily to the needs of the sisters themselves. I read and see that the Congregation exists for the good of others, not for

its own benefit. Thus, my service and my own goals in my specific area of work must continue to respond to the needs of the sisters, always considering that this helps to meet the needs of others, which is not what a communications department in a secular company or organization usually considers. By serving the sisters themselves, I am making a small contribution so that they can respond to the sufferings of people, to situations of injustice and to the needs of our "common home".

Welcoming self-transformation while maintaining a positive attitude and service is not easy, but it is comforting to think that God's help and the support of the Congregation will be present in the work done by those of us who work in communications for the Sisters of Providence in different parts of the world. I am grateful to many sisters who understand my specific work and I feel invited to continue to serve the Congregation in this complex process, a path that may seem steep, but which we trust leads to a peaceful place of renewed life and hope.

Nathalie Jean-Philippe, SP



The ability to transform oneself plays a central role in the success of a process of change. I ask myself this question: how to create this openness to transformation, it is about

confidence, because without confidence, there is no commitment. For this reason, since our last General Chapter, I have allowed myself to be transformed for the good of the Congregation by the Orientations of the 2022 General Chapter 2022 and the governance Model by:

- Committing myself individually and as a community to protect and nurture our spiritual heritage through consultation and through evolutionary processes leading to unity;
- Reflecting personally on the values of the Congregation;
- Participating in moments of sharing and exchange among ourselves as Sisters of Providence;
- Requesting time for dialogue with those in authority in the congregation so that they may encourage ongoing learning and the possibility of new experiences for all in the Congregation;
- Having a compassionate and appropriate attitude towards each one, taking into account her language and culture!





Hélène Cheurefils, PA, Brigitte Martin, PA et Nadia Bertoluci, PA

As Providence Associates, we are invited, along with the entire Providence Family, to allow ourselves to be transformed by the new Orientations of the 2022 General Chapter and "Inspired by God's call to live our Providence spirituality and Mission, we affirm the implementation of the Governance Model to consolidate our congregational identity as one canonical entity."

In a concrete way, we, the lay people associated with the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, are ready to commit ourselves to making the PA Movement better known, but especially to solidify and restructure the movement wherever necessary, so that it may reclaim its importance and become once again the bastion that it once was within the Congregation. To do this, we will let ourselves be guided by the light and example of our Blessed Emilie Gamelin, for her life is for us the most significant inspiration to overcome obstacles and reach our objectives for the good of all, relying on the mercy of our Lord.

For this we had the opportunity to exchange with the leadership of Émilie-Gamelin Province, from whom we

received clear support and backing to start planning first, and then implement a series of actions that -we sincerely believe- will help strengthen the Movement.

We are planning to work on the main areas of the orientations:

Mission : to live by our life, actions and example the charism of compassion that characterizes the Providence Family.

Initial and ongoing formation : This is a central point of our restructuring because we believe that any renewal of the Movement must be accompanied by a profound knowledge of the Providence Family, both historical and current. As a group, we also need a knowledge the issues of injustices affecting the less fortunate of our society and how to respond to the challenges facing us. We want to learn how to properly welcome anyone who wants to join our family.

Governance : To know and implement the Model by supporting the Sisters of Providence in their initiatives.

United by Providence, let us continue to walk with "a surge of hope to let new life spring forth."



Hélène Mamert Nga Amogo, SP
JPIC Congregational Coordinator

How can we live our Providence charism



For some time now, I have been asking myself the question: How can we live our Providence charism in a context of impasse and with the feeling that we

recent months, it has materialized by a near impossibility to find gas. This crisis affects all sectors of national life and all the vital structures of the country; even hospitals are being forced to close. The best deal is to avoid any sickness while the situations continue. Schools have been closed for about three months. Public transportation is disrupted, and taxes have soared. Lately, inflation is affecting all sectors, including the price for basic necessities.

are as powerless as the general population, while continuing to take actions, however small, so that the most vulnerable can survive?

In this article, I would like to review my experience of the socio-political situation of the last two years in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-Prince.

The population seems to be on their own. The multifaceted crisis is still in full swing. In

How can we remain a compassionate and active presence in such a context where no one is spared? Anyone can be kidnapped or assaulted at random, and this even when they are not targeted personally! Cautious people may simply end up in the wrong place at the wrong time. People live in permanent stress, afraid to go out and locking themselves up as prisoners in their own homes. Indeed, this solution

still provides a highly fragile safety, because at any time, you may be hit by a stray bullet, depending on the type of roof on your house.

In addition to the infernal reality of this endless violence, we cannot ignore the unhealthiness in the streets of the capital city. Waste of all kinds is piling up on the streets to the point that it is exceedingly difficult to go from point A to point B. Recently a rise of cholera has been observed, probably due to these unsanitary conditions.

As complex and dangerous as this situation is, with everything turning dark, we must continue to proclaim the mysteries of Providence and Our Mother of Sorrows to the society of our time. Our creative and prophetic solidarity with the poor, as described in our Constitutions and Rules, challenges us in this subhuman situation and puts us to the test.

Amid this specific society and so many others, our Provident God continues to call us to bring glimmers of hope through the quality of our presence with people who are living similar realities throughout the world. We believe that amid the darkness of all these evils: violence, fear, suffering, sadness, injustice and

unsanitary conditions, new life will spring forth through our attentive and concrete gestures.

Our mission as a congregation is well illustrated in the picture that this situation is painting for us. Yes, we must dare to hope in a God who makes himself fragile and vulnerable, yet how powerful in mercy and tenderness! We are in such need of peace, love, justice and security, and this is what our Godchild, Emmanuel, the "God with us", offers us. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:1). This light comes to dwell in our solitudes, in our struggles for the dignity of the human person, in our efforts at conversion. God has come among us because he wants to transform our hearts, to enlighten our choices, our decisions, and our projects. Let us open our hearts, let us stretch out our arms to welcome the Child of the crib, the one who comes to tell us again that a new world can be reborn, that a new Haiti where security, social justice, peace and solidarity with creation is possible and will flourish.

In a spirit of Hope, I wish you Joyful Holidays that will let the New Life spring forth.



Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

Local Superiors Experienced a Gathering for Evaluation and Recreation Together with Provincial Leadership Team

Texte et photos: Bureau de communication de la Province



The Leadership Team of the Bernarda Morin Province met with the local superiors of the communities of the Sisters of Providence in Chile, to share a gathering for evaluation and recreation, held November 24-26. The meeting took place at the Province's Vacation House in the town of Sotaquí,

located in the municipality of Ovalle, in northern Chile.

The sisters shared on various topics, including the synodal journey initiated by Pope Francis in 2021, with emphasis on the fact that the Congregation, which includes the sisters in Chile, is already living a synodal



experience through its processes and the new journey it is undertaking in relation to governance.

There was also space to review the works, and to talk about the basic issues. We wanted to focus on the "why" of the sisters' being in the country, exchanging ideas on the final objective to be pursued and the answers that the Province

wants to give to the needs of the Chilean society. Especially, they talked about the criteria that would guide the decisions to adopt regarding the closing or opening of new works in Chile, as a prelude to the day of review of the works planned for December 17.

In connection with the above, the sisters also took time to discuss the new Model of Governance. Part of the topics discussed included how to understand community life and what it means not to restrict our gaze with geographical limits. In this sense, the explanation came that we are always in community, because community is where life is shared.

The sisters' prayer times were also very meaningful, thanks to the quiet spaces that came naturally. In addition, the sisters were able to attend mass at El Divino Salvador



Parish in Ovalle, joyfully joining the life of that faith community and sharing the

popular devotion to Mary, bringing her flowers during the Month of the Virgin, which, in Chile, overlaps the months of November and December.

Likewise, there were pleasant moments of relaxation, where the sisters had the opportunity to play and share laughter and joy. The fact that the themes were built together, the well-maintained house and the natural space in Sotaquí helped the participants to make this gathering a space of disconnection from the routine and to focus on being, rather than on chores. This is why the sisters thanked God's Providence for the possibility of sharing these pleasant days together.





Bernarda Morin Community Organized Parade of Costumes Made from Recycled Materials

Text and Photos: Communications office of the Province



The Bernarda Morin Community organized some fun on November 29 to brighten the day with some relaxation. It was a parade of costumes made from recyclable materials; the models were the community's employees and sisters from Bernard Morin Community. It was a chance to have the staff to get to know their colleagues who they do not normally see because of different work schedules.

The activity, which also celebrated the sisters' birthdays, was carried out with the context of two groups or alliances

that were organized among the community personnel giving rise to a friendly competition to create the loveliest and most original costumes from recycled material.

On the parade day seven workers and two sisters from the community modeled costumes and walked down the catwalk showing their original garments to the applause from the rest of the staff and sisters present.

They also had the joy of having sisters from other communities of the Bernarda



Morin Province: Nuestra Señora de Dolores Residence Community, Venerance House Community (San José) and the Providence Community of the city of Concepción.

The gathering ended with singing, games and visiting.



Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

Some Seed Fell on Good Ground University of Providence Celebrates 90 Years of Catholic Education

Steve Pehanich
Communications Manager



The University of Providence, formerly the College of Great Falls, began in 1932 at the invitation of the local bishop as a women's college under the direction of the Diocese of Great Falls. It soon expanded to other academic ministries.

Sr. Barbara Schamber, SP, (center) brings the leadership team, sponsors and Sisters involved over the years with the university to the stage to help celebrate the 90th anniversary.

“Today the university continues to honor the [Sisters of Providence’s] aspirational vision by providing an enriched education



that goes beyond schooling. Mission-driven and guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, students are supported in their pursuit of academic excellence and provided an innovative and emboldened environment for personal development," says the university's website.



Father Oliver Doyle, president of the university, shares the history of the school beginning during the Great Depression and following a cholera epidemic in the city of Great Falls. He cites *Some Seed Fell on Good Ground*, a book by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, describing how Bishop George J. Finnigan of Helena asked Mother Gaudentia and Sister Lucia Sullivan of the Sisters along with the Ursuline Sisters, to found the university.



Bishop Michael Warfel blesses a reliquary containing a relic of Blessed Mother Emilie Gamelin, which will be housed in the Trinitas Chapel at the university. Sr. Rosa Nguyen portrays Mother Gamelin in a period habit.





Sister Mary Phillips' Perpetual Profession

Anne Hemstock, SP



The impelling love of Christ was certainly evident during the celebration of Sister Mary Phillips' perpetual profession in Providence Centre Chapel, Edmonton on December 10th. The readings, chapter 13 of First Corinthians on the gift of love, and the gospel from Matthew 25 and its call to care for the poor. The readings speak to Mary's love of the poor especially those she encounters in her ministry at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples in Edmonton where she meets the homeless, the vulnerable and those who need a listening ear. Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain

Lavoie, OMI presided at the Eucharist; Father Mark Blom, OMI spoke on the vows and the grace of consecrated life expressed in the charism and mission of the Sisters of Providence. I was touched with the presence of Mary's sons, John Otto and Karl with his wife Lea and their children. The Eucharist opened with the land acknowledgement offered by Father Susai Jesus, OMI, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. The celebration reminded me of my own commitment and desire to be Providence to others.



Meeting of the Providence Associates of Émilie-Gamelin Province

By Providence PA's



On Saturday, November 12, 2022, the Providence Associates, accompanied by the Provincial Leadership Team of Émilie-Gamelin Province and other Sisters of Providence, met face-to-face at the Mother House in Montreal. The meeting was also attended by video conference for those who were further away. The theme of this meeting was "Reviving our faith, our hope, our momentum." Frank and profound exchanges on the current situation of the Movement at the provincial level took place, but above all, solutions to rekindle the flame and pursue our commitment to follow Émilie were proposed and accepted by those present.

We wish to warmly thank Sister Valiette Messeroux, provincial PA Liaison, as well as Sister Claire Houde, provincial leader, and her team, for their great openness and attentive listening during the meeting.

Thanks also to Sister Sandrine-Aimée Tsélikémé for making us reflect on the very basis of Providence spirituality: Mission, Charism, Call.

Here are some issues among many others that gave rise to cordial and constructive exchanges during the meeting:

Main objective: reviving the PA Movement

- How to connect with each group and the importance of having a leader in each group;
- Promotion and recruitment;
- Internal and external communication; etc.

With the help of Providence and allowing ourselves to be guided by our model, Blessed Émilie Gamelin, we remain confident and persevering in our commitments. Providence of God, we thank you for all.



A New Adventure - A New Beginning!

by Marie Émeline Ezami Atangana, SP



I was crying because I had no sandals, until I saw a man who had no feet.

I am puzzled by this Arab saying. If it just calls me to always make a distinction, fine! But if it suggests that

seeing a person without feet should not make me cry, I disagree! I would indeed cry over the absence of feet more than a lack of sandals! Considering life in a relative way is important because it means taking an interest in others and caring for them. It also means considering trivial situations from a

broader perspective, and asking ourselves some deep questions about life.

When I came to the CIOQ (Centre Intercommunautaire Quatre Saisons) in Sherbrooke, Canada, on September 6, 2022, nature provided me a warm welcome ... before the bitter cold weather: the autumn colors of the trees and the tranquility of the place filled my eyes with beauty. It was the beginning of a new spiritual adventure in my journey as a Sister of Providence in initial formation.

After 5 years at the service of the Providence mission, which I consider important, the Provincial Leadership Team of Émilie-Gamelin Province (PÉG), through the Provincial Leader, Sister Claire Houde, and the Temporary Vows Director, Sister



Diane Sarrasin, supported by the recommendation of the Formation Team, finally authorized me to enroll in a unique developmental process. It is a renewal and growth program in a living environment, that fosters growth

and integration of the person at 4 levels: physical, psychological, social and spiritual. It is with this in mind that I find myself here with 24 religious and 1 priest. We come from 15 different congregations and include 10 nationalities. We are aged between 34 to 86 years old. I am the youngest of the group.

As a consecrated woman, I am interested in all the courses, especially: Growth Group, Mental Imagery as per Léandre Boisvert's approach, Self-Esteem and Stress Management, and Learning to Pray according to Carl Gustav Jung, the father of Analytical Psychology. I am also interested in relational communication: relating to oneself and to others, based on an approach of Guy Corneau, and the ESPERE® Method by Jacques Salomé, a French psychosociologist and writer.

This course is shaping me a lot because it meets one of my goals: to improve the quality of my interpersonal relationships. It is a very hands-on course with in-session workshops, and the practice continues throughout the week. I will never forget my experience as a member of the liturgy committee. After I had organized everything for the month of November, I responded to a request by a committee member who needed a refresher. After the sharing, I came out crying with gratitude for the insights that came out of this beautiful meeting. In short, I felt loved because for the first time in my life someone had approached me to find out how I felt about a situation that, without the communication course, would have gotten on my nerves. There is nothing more delightful than experiencing these beautiful encounters.

I am also working with spiritual and psychological counsellors who are constantly creating a true relationship of help and growth to help me discover and be myself and to find the best version of myself.

This second season helped me become more grounded in my intimate relationship with Jesus. Looking back, I was able to go down inside myself to listen and integrate the classes. The accompaniments, as well as the physical and spiritual exercises, continue to shape me throughout this

process. I feel like I am being shaped like clay in a potter's hands and it feels good. I am taking full advantage of the program by attending all the classes as if it were the last and only opportunity of my life. For more information on the CIQS (Centre Intercommunautaire Quatre Saisons), please visit : <https://ci4saisons.com>

In connection with the Orientations of our 2022 General Chapter, I find myself at the wheel of my life, as I am integrating transformations that will help me not only to live harmoniously, but also to take steps to consolidate our congregational identity as one canonical entity. As a Sister of Providence in initial formation, the ecology as well as intergenerational and intercultural issues and community life are key points in this beautiful evolutionary process of my growth that aims at the integrity of my person.

"To deepen our understanding of the governance model and put it into practice, to revitalize and reorganize our community life in local communities and ministries, and reinvigorate our Mission."

Therefore, I find myself moving towards our Model of governance with an international, intercultural and intergenerational experience for the good of our local communities. Facing my feeling of incompetence in certain areas of mission for

which I am not sufficiently equipped, I remain an unfinished woman for ministries and mission.



At the end of this second season, I commend myself to your fervent prayers so that I may find ways to continue living boldly our charism of compassion in a changing world. With all my heart, I wish to be effective and productive in my future mission. Naturally, I am very sensitive to the culture surrounding the calls to religious vocations and priesthood. I would like the Lord to help me, step by step, to make my service in vocation ministry the only and ultimate passion of my life through a parish or diocesan approach to the youth.

I carry you daily in my prayer while being close to the Congregation through our zoom meetings.

With the assurance of my prayer!

Initial **SP** Entrances, vows
Formation
Perpetual Vows



Mary Phillips
December 10, 2022
Edmonton, Canada

+ about *Initial Formation* :
<https://providenceintl.org>

