

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 Providence International Centre 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 Providence International Centre: Suzette Bautista, SP, Congregational Councillor, Nadia Bertoluci, Communication & Information Agent. Perla Moore, Assistant, Oswaldo Hernandez, translator and Guy Richard, IT technician.

REDACTION :
In collaboration with the Congregational Leadership Team and provincial contributors.

TRADUCTION : Oswaldo Hernandez

PROOFREADING:
Madeleine Coutu, SP, Berthe-Alice Collette, SP, Isabel Cid, SP, Kathryn Rutan, SP, Suzette Bautista, SP, Laura Bolivar, Richard Dumont, Mylène Le Tellier.



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Front cover: Sylvie Lavoie

Dear Providence Family



Sister Alba Letelier leads an activity at the Providence International Centre to mark International Women's Rights Day - March 2023.

Journey to Oneness - Reflection on community life

The strength and vitality of our Congregation depend on the degree to which the local community lives the Gospel values, thereby proclaiming and manifesting the Providence of God and the compassion of our Mother of Sorrows. (C85).

Let me begin this reflection on community life by evoking the figure of Jesus Christ, the center of our life and our vocation,

During his life, Jesus carried out what He recognized as the Will of God, and which, in fact, grew into an invitation and motivation for the society of his time to trace an alternative way of life. For Jesus, suffering the oppression of the

political and religious leaders of his time, was the motive for his compassion and was the reason for his anger. This oppression was in no way a true reflection of God's creation or of his Glory, which materializes in fulfilled, happy and well-accomplished human beings. Thanks to his great love for humanity, Jesus was able to look beyond principles that had been established for centuries and to critically question the social structures that were

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no longer suitable and that even dehumanized men and women alike.

In his quest for social transformation, Jesus invited those who shared his enthusiasm to join him in his innovative, liberating, motivating, dignifying, and renewing proposals. His circle of supporters and followers adhered to his vision. In following him, they were particularly driven by their own curiosity and their desire to live as He did. With his spirituality centered on the simple fact of being the Son of God, Jesus revealed and showed himself with authenticity and authority. He knew that his mission was grounded in his intimate relationship with his Father and that this relationship was and is the source of his strong desire to "be ONE" with him.



Our community is on its way to a new form of organization; we long to be "ONE" and, although unity is part of who we are, there is something we feel even more passionate about: "So that they may all be ONE, as you, Father, are in me and I in you". We feel passionate about it because

we want the proclamation of Providence to extend beyond our lifetime and to give new meaning to the society of our time. This leads us to a different understanding of BEING TOGETHER, of bonding and building community, that helps us to fulfill our Mission. A mission which calls each of us to "discover Jesus Christ, especially in those who are suffering; to serve him through works of mercy, and to be a sign of hope and resurrection in today's world" (C8).

"Community life is organized for the sake of the Mission..." (C48)

Community life is the way in which we, the Sisters of Providence, have chosen to live our lives. We consecrate ourselves to God in the service of the Mission that Jesus entrusts to us as part of the Church. Today, our community reality is being transformed by the demographic changes the Congregation has been going through, and for that reason we have undertaken this journey towards becoming a single canonical entity. This is the challenge we are facing in this historical moment. Moving into our new structure does not mean a mere formal change. Following its own new dynamics, we are being called to "transform" our individual and congregational surroundings, hoping that our lives will bring meaning and light to the society of which we are a part.

Although for many years, the current governance structure has helped us to meet the demands of the society in which we live our vocation, we are now aware that urgent change is upon us. And this change/transformation is not merely "making adjustments", or just a new way of organizing ourselves. The "Charity of Christ" is urging us to make our way through a transformation of life. She is inviting us to review our personal lives and the relationships we have among ourselves and with others. She is inviting us to review our attachments, our flaws, our faults, and our personal needs that point to our need for healing. The times in which we are living bring us a new opportunity for our personal and community life which we, in turn, can offer to society as new ways of relating to each other, new ways of interacting that elevate the humanity in us, and that mirror the "Glory of God", which requires humans to live a full life.

Most of us yearn for transformation and expect that the "new structure" and the new ways of organizing ourselves will sort out our community needs. For my part, I believe that this transformation is leading us to new ways of life, new ways of relating to each other.

The transformation of our own society, as Sisters of Providence, depends on each one of us and takes into consideration

each one's reality, capability, and capacity. Each one has something to offer. It will be your contribution to the new structure, so that it continues to work for us and makes sense for our Mission.

Allow me to share with you some personal questions that may be helpful for your own reflection:

What am I willing to change so that the community meets its *raison d'être*? Am I willing to take the challenge of reviewing my life, my attitudes, my ways of relating and acting; am I giving myself the opportunity for transformation and to be a part of the new congregational structure? In what ways do I need healing, reconciliation; am I taking care of myself, so that my presence in the community enhances our common Mission?

May this Easter Season help us to remain attentive to the presence of the Risen Jesus, who invites us to a new life in freedom, compassion, and boldness.

With warm regards for each one of you,

Alba Letelier, SP
Congregational Leader





Special SP Report

Experiences, reflections



Journey to Oneness –

Some Sisters of Providence share with us their vision of a local community once the "unity" of the Congregation is in effect and some collaborators testify to their commitment to the SP Mission.



Merçi-Christ Sylméon, SP

*I*n our Constitutions and Rules, it is written: "the local community is the basic unit of the Congregation." All the vitality of the Congregation is experienced within this basic unit. Local

communities need to carry life and make everyone feel welcomed and accepted exactly the way they are. In general, a local community brings together sisters living under the same roof, as stated in R87: "Sisters living at different addresses may be grouped together for the sake of the Mission to form one local community." In some places, sisters live in different

houses, and form one and the same local community. What is fundamental is the community spirit that is experienced through sharing and dialogue. The relationship among sisters facilitates community life. By being mindful of our reality as an international, intercultural and intergenerational Congregation, we become aware of the importance of interdependence for a thriving local community. It is even more important to consider the place of mutual relationships and good communication for a healthy local community.

Local communities may be formed by sisters from different places in the Congregation. It would be convenient for each local community to have a sister from at least two different nationalities and

from different age groups, either in a virtual or a face-to-face environment. Sisters will be united by the Charism and the mission. This type of community will facilitate and encourage more younger people to consecrate themselves to God in our institute. The local community will thus live our Mission according to the orientations of

the 2022 chapter, taking into account the context of the current world: the cry of the poor, the vocational ministry, the initial formation, and the reality of our elder sisters living in the various houses or in local communities adapted for their needs.



Cristina Angkiko

St. Joseph Residence Caregiver
Seattle, Washington, D.C.

*D*id I go where God sent me? Can you believe that this is my second time working at Providence

who was a priest. She spoke with kindness and compassion that inspired me to do the same.

My second chance working for Providence was at Saint Joseph residence.... Twelve years have passed, and I am still happy caring for the religious sisters. Knowing them, caring for them, knowing their profession and devotion to Jesus made me realize that I am living a wonderful life. It opened my eyes to the goodness, beauty and abundance that are all around me. I find peace, happiness and fulfillment in the work and the services I provide. This is why I would like to continue this journey with them. They inspire me in so many ways, they are so generous; they open their home to accommodate the other religious sisters from other communities

and knowing the Sisters of Providence? Spirituality drove me to become a nurse. I learned about the Providence mission and Mother Gamelin's life while working at Providence Medical Center in downtown Seattle two decades ago. This is where I met Sr. Mary Clare Boland, SP, who provided spiritual care for the patients admitted in the hospital. One day while I was standing by a patient's door, I overheard her talking to a patient



and welcome patients that need hospice care and stay with them until the end.

Life is short, we must find our purpose. I want to pursue my purpose which is to help and care for those in need. God

gave me the opportunity. He gifted me with the skills and talents, but it's up to me to practice them, grow them, master them, and use them.

Naomi Nguyen JAA

**Acting Nursing Supervisor
Providence Centre, Edmonton**



*I*t has been a year since I left my temporary position here at Providence Centre. I am truly grateful to be back again and to join the team permanently. I am proud to be a part of the Nursing Department in their endeavor to provide the best quality care for our sisters and residents. Being in the home of the Sisters of Providence and of the other religious

congregations, I witness how the Sisters treasure being together in community; they are caring and attentive towards each other. The feeling of peace and an attitude of openness and welcome to all who come are evident.

I join with the Nursing Department in living up to the Mission and Vision of Providence Centre- "Working as a team and contributing to the Sisters' quality of life in a dedicated, compassionate and respectful manner while maintaining their dignity through all stages of living and dying." The Nursing Department works collaboratively with the Dietary, Maintenance and Housekeeping Departments to foster excellent quality care services and to contribute to the Sisters' quality of life.



Helping the mission of the Sisters of Providence through personal commitment

*A*llow me to go back

for a moment to the time of my first calling as a secondary school teacher. I can still see today that my total commitment to different generations of students was positive and compassionate. The same values I have been putting into practice for the past twenty years with the Sisters of Providence, among the elderly and the sick. My principles, so well instilled by my parents, have been clearly manifest throughout my years of work in a spirit of faith, compassion, kindness, charity, respect, hospitality, listening and service. My action is also with prayer and plenty of love.

My joy for being and living in justice and in sharing throughout my present life and my past, is still a matter of honor for me.

Gisèle Provost,

Responsable de la Boutique Petits plaisirs et & Carrefour Providence

How do I collaborate in the mission of the Sisters of Providence?

Some concrete examples of my active involvement which occur in the infirmary at the Pavilion Providence are:

- Errands for the sisters including purchases for celebrations and events.
- Visiting the sisters in the infirmary to respond to their needs and to comfort them.
- Repair watches, hearing aids and other used objects, to avoid new expenses.
- Meet sisters' requests for the internal "general store".
- Manage the secondhand shop "Les Petits Plaisirs" (Small Pleasures) on the 2nd floor of the Pavilion, open to the Sisters of Providence and to sisters from other congregations, according to their needs.
- Organize the "Give it forward" event when staff of the Motherhouse and the Providence International Center can choose, for free and at liberty, objects from donations by residents of the Carrefour Providence. (The Providence Mother House)



We also collect money donations for pre-established causes. Currently, the donations collected are for the Haiti mission, for disadvantaged youngsters from the Émilie-Gamelin school in Torbeck, Haiti, allowing disadvantaged children to have access to education. The last amount sent was \$852.85.

It seems to me that by contributing to the well-being of our sick and elderly, I

continue the benevolent charity work of our Blessed Emilie Gamelin, which makes me feel proud. (See the film, "Les Discrètes").

Finally, I am grateful for the gift of life and the opportunity to carry on working in solidarity with the Sisters of Providence while making a humble contribution to the well-being of this happy living community!



Nancy Arévalo, SP



*M*y idea of local communities, which I hope will live on, now that we are at the gates of this new congregational reality, involves communities that carry life. Communities

formed by capable women willing to cross geographical, cultural, generational, ideological and any other types of boundaries. Communities formed by sisters used to deep prayer, who offer their talents for the benefit of the Mission and themselves too, willing to surpass their own limits.

I also can imagine communities where mutual encouragement motivates sisters to learn anew, where we open ourselves creatively to the use of the resources that society grants to us, using technology and the media.

I long for open door communities, which welcome Providence Associates, as well as other religious communities, lay people, our collaborators, and friends. Communities responsive to new social realities, and welcoming sprouts of new

life. Communities in which we embrace each other, accepting the lights and shadows of our existence. Healing communities in which we care for each other through our different processes, with the same tenderness God shows, every time, for us.

My heart yearns for missionary communities ready to meet all the emerging needs with precise and prompt responses, resorting to new forms of evangelization, while at the same time driven by the spirituality, wisdom, and knowledge of our older sisters. Communities in which we all feel included and play an active role in fulfilling our mission.

My hope is that we might be able to build communities formed by prophetic and courageous women, ready both for prophecy and denunciation. Communities where there is room for everyone, and no one feels like a foreigner, in which fraternity and sorority prevail, where we can build and carry peace and unity.

In brief, my greatest dream is that we will bring true "Providence Communities" to life.



Sister Barbara Schamber

presents the result of the reflections made by the sisters on community life in Mother Joseph Province



INTERNAL ELEMENTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES

This document you will see corresponds to the desire that internally each local community wishes to deepen and grow in relationships from a compassionate and loving heart. At the same time, the responses you see will help us to have a broad view of what the province desires in order to move forward in being one congregational entity.



INTERNAL ELEMENTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES

DEFINITION OF LC
KEY PHRASE
"WE NEED TO LOVE
ONE ANOTHER WITH
COMPASSIONATE
HEARTS"

13 SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

1 COMMUNAL PRAYER, FAITH SHARING

12 INTERDEPENDENCE

2 FEEL GOOD ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

11 ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

3 FEEL HEARD

10 CONTEMPLATIVE DIALOGUE AND DISCERNMENT LISTENING, COMMUNAL

4 HONESTY, TRANSPARENCY

9 ONGOING FORMATION: CONSTITUTIONS, NEW MODEL OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP...

5 CONFIDENTIALITY BE HONORED, MUTUAL RESPECT

8 INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP TALENTS/GIFTS RECOGNITION

6 BEING AWARE, EQUITY

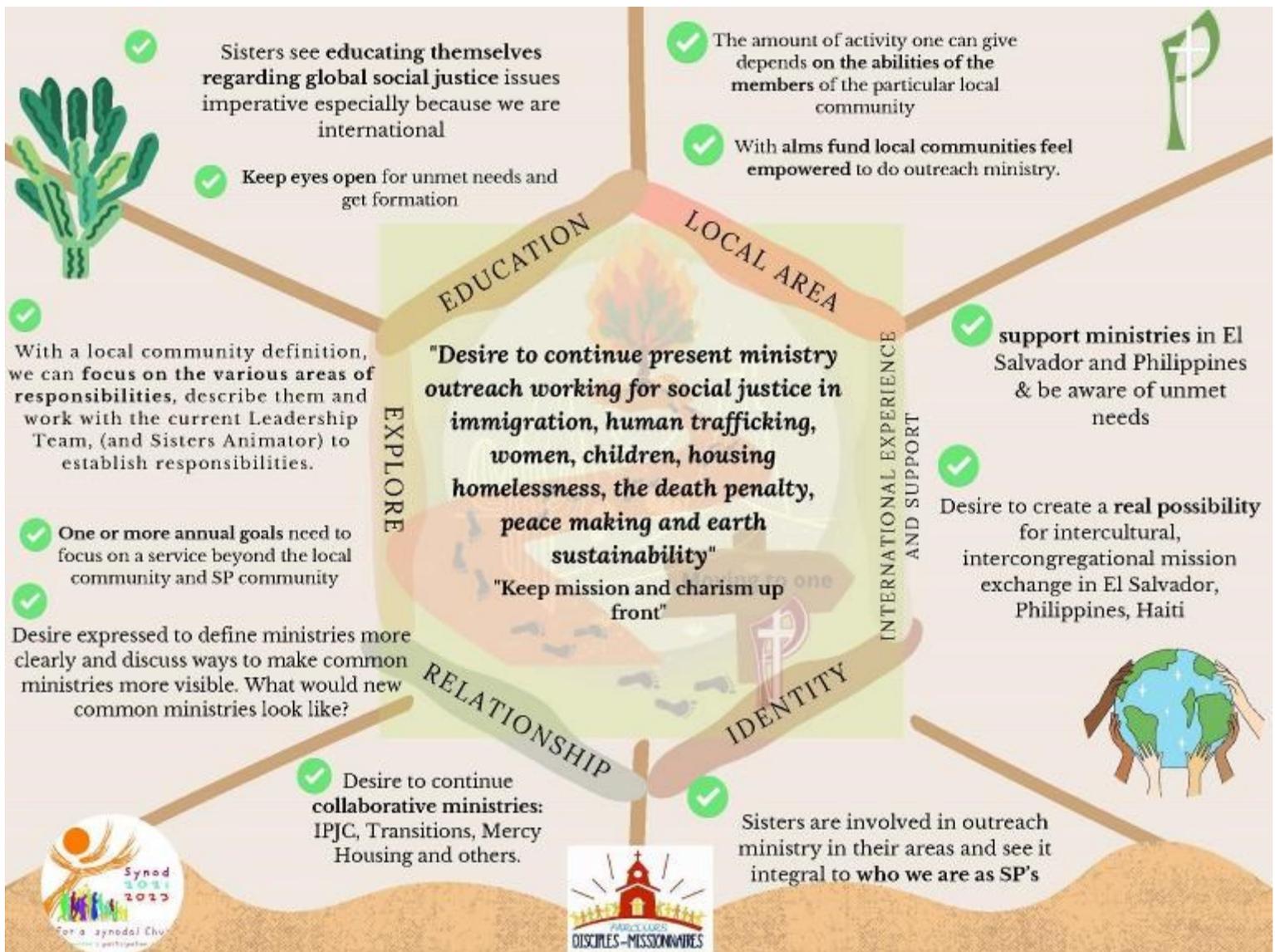
7 STRONG DESIRE TO BELONG





EXTERNAL ELEMENTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES

This second document corresponds to the external elements that each local community desires and identifies as necessary and/or urgent to develop, making it clear that the charism and mission must be shared with the most needy, impoverished and our "common home".





A Capsule for our Common Home



The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change." (LS 13).

During this period of transition where we are experiencing transformation and hope, during our journey towards becoming a single canonical entity and while we let new life spring forth, let us remember that we are also called to promote unity from diversity and to live with love and compassion together with the rest of creation. And so, to bring new life to the activities related to JPIC, we can draw inspiration from the

Laudato Si Movement. Launched in 2015 after the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'", this movement responds to the cry of the earth and to the cry of the poor. Nurtured by the rich diversity present in creation and within the Church, the goal of the Movement is to care for our common home, a commitment that we, as Sisters of Providence, all share.

The mission of the Laudato Si' Movement is to inspire and mobilize the Catholic community to care for our common home and achieve climate and ecological justice. It is both prayer and action. The values of this movement are closely related to our values, as Sisters of Providence, and they can lead us into the challenge of caring for our common home by continuing to engage in transformative action. For more information, on the Laudato Si Movement: <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/happy-8th-anniversary-laudato-si-movement-catholics-for-our-common-home>

May new life spring forth with the joy of the resurrection, while we rejoice in the love of God in our lives, in our Congregation and for all creation.

UNANIMA International



*Text by: Josie Lerios, SP
JPIC Special collaborator*

Since 2004, the Sisters' of Providence Congregation has been a member of UNANIMA International, a not-for-profit coalition that advocates at the United Nations on behalf of Women and Children. UNANIMA International represents 22 congregations of women religious, serving in 82 countries, representing its 22,000 members at the United Nations.

I invite you to visit the unanimainternational.org website which is in French, Spanish and English: <https://unanimainternational.org/latest-updates> (English), to see the venues of collaboration; to be inspired by the courageous and compassionate advocacies; to get updated on the materials and events where UNANIMA is leading, participating, making a difference at the United Nations in focus areas such as families, homelessness, displacement and trauma; refugees and migrants', women and

children; human rights; environment; human trafficking and water. And also, the movement towards a World Social Summit in 2025 is in full swing.

As a Providence family and people desiring to manifest God's unconditional love, we see numerous hopeful signs that the United Nations leads us forward to a more comprehensive vision of human rights and toward a better world for all. The current UNANIMA Executive Director, Sister Jean Quinn, is optimistic about UNANIMA's current and future possibilities for collaboration with the United Nations and all UN Member States.

Last February of this year, our visit at the huge UN headquarters in New York was enriching for me. The huge art works from different countries were something to behold! Loads of interesting information and images about the history of UNANIMA and the initiatives are taking place simultaneously around the globe.



Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

Other Duties as Required

Texts: Steve Pehanich
Communications Director



When your community lacks resources, housing, transportation, health care and other basic human needs, missionaries are sometimes the only source of assistance.

Sr. Vilma Franco, SP, runs a thriving ministry based in Arcatao, in the Department of Chalatenango, El Salvador, that exemplifies the last words of Mother

Joseph, “Whatever concerns the poor is always our affair.”

Sr. Vilma does it all.

Her tasks include catechesis, leading communion services in the absence of priests, building houses, teaching children traditional dances, and maintaining connections with isolated people. And she also regularly transports residents three hours to doctor and hospital appointments in San Salvador. When the five-person cab is full, people ride in the truck bed. (A common occurrence in the Central American





University of Providence Alumnae Honored



As part of the 90th anniversary celebration (see last issue), Nick Estrada, PA, director of campus ministry, presented plaques to some of the many Sisters of Providence who graduated from the University of Providence (formerly the University of Great Falls) over the years. Back row (L-R): Sr. Mary Fox, Estrada and Sr. Felma Cerezo. Front: (L-R): Sr. Dolores Ellwart, Sr. Irene Charron, Sr. Lucy Villanova and Sr. Helen Brennan.

Light That Gives Hope

A Poem by Salvadoran Beca Student,
Daniela Serrano

Daniela Serrano read her poem during a recent Providence Beca (scholarship) program celebration. Approximately 70 students are participating in the program this year. Many of them and their families celebrated in a chapel on the island of La Pirraya in the Bay of Jiquilisco, arriving via boat. The facility is shared with the Sisters of Charity .

And that moment comes,
when everything changes,
when we really must think about
our decisions,
when life seems as if it were a dark night
without the moon and stars, →



and we must hold on despite the circumstances.
But we have each other, our heavenly Father,
and we have principles that have been instilled in
us by those who love us.

As night falls, a light of hope appears,
offering us it's moral and unconditional support.
When our hopes and dreams disappear, and our →



→ energy is depleted,
our light of hope tells us that we can do it.
You have great potential;
fight for what you want.
Despite our ups and downs, the light remains,
even in the middle of the night,
when it seems as if there would be no tomorrow.
But I know that others have made it and are
enjoying the view
from their windows as the dawn breaks.
And that is why I know that nothing is impossible
And the light shows me the beautiful pathway
to understanding. →

This is believable.
As we move forward, let our light of hope live on.
May it continue with us until our final days.
Our time will come when we can shout victory.
Thank you, light of hope, for showing me your glory.
And with this light of hope,
I shall bring my night to an end.
I can proudly say that it was all worth it.
It was so worth it to wait and feel afraid.
But I was never alone along the way,
and for this I give thanks. ✨

Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

Commemorations for the 170th Anniversary of the Sisters of Providence in Chile Will Extend to the Works in the Province and throughout the entire Year. Text and photos: Communication Office of the Province



Since December 2022, the Bernarda Morin Province in Chile has been planning ways to share with the rest of the Providence Family its joy for the commemoration of the 170th Anniversary of

the arrival to our land of Mother Victoria Larocque, as General Superior, Sr. Amable Dorion, Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart Bérard, Sr. Dionisia Benjamin Worwoth and our dear Mother Bernarda Morin. To achieve this, a



committee has been formed to plan events for the year and to undertake different actions and initiatives that will motivate the various Providence Foundation Institutions across the country to carry out their own celebrations and to invite each one to join the Sisters of Providence in celebrating.

Some examples of the type of events (some of them have already been held) are the meetings of the Pastoral Ministers, the Providence Associates and the liaisons to the Office of the Cause for the Beatification of Mother Bernarda, which took place on March 24th. Also, the commemorative event in the *Teatro Oriente* in Sector Providencia, the Eucharistic Liturgy celebrating the 170th Anniversary in the Cathedral of Santiago, and a seminar on spirituality and the history of our Congregation and Province, among other activities.

The Committee is also encouraging the institutions of Bernarda Morin Province to carry out events of their own to celebrate these 170 years of the Congregation in Chile. Some of the initiatives being encouraged include the following: disseminating posters and banners and promoting cultural workshops and gatherings around the anniversary; the organization of *Table of the King* events and other social action initiatives, like visiting orphanages and nursing homes, as well as visiting our own province's homes for the elderly, and conducting fund-raising campaigns for the *Comedor Emilia Gamelin* (Emilie Gamelin Dining Room).

The Commemoration in Emblematic Sites of the Capital City and the Eucharistic Celebration in the Metropolitan Cathedral

The flagship commemorative event will take place at the *Teatro Oriente*, located in the district of Providencia, Santiago, where the Providence Family will gather on June 13. This venue for the celebration was chosen precisely in the district named after the Sisters of Providence.

The *Teatro Oriente*, originally inaugurated as *Teatro Olympto* on September 17, 1935, has an 855-person seating capacity, including seats in the upper gallery and in the parterre. Inside its walls, great musicians, singers, actors, and dancers from Chile and from the rest of the world, have been acclaimed by different audiences. In 2021, the *Teatro Oriente* was declared a national historical monument.

The Eucharistic celebration of the arrival of the Sisters of Providence in Chile will take place on June 17, at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santiago, situated on the *Plaza de Armas* of the capital city.

Being able to celebrate the Eucharist precisely on June 17, the date of the arrival in Chile of the five missionaries of the Congregation, and having Cardinal Celestino Aós, Archbishop of Santiago, Chile, as the presider for the Mass, can only be considered as a double blessing.



The Comedor (Dining Room) Emilia Gamelin has resumed providing meals to homeless persons

Text and photos: Communication Office of the Province



We expect that more people in need will come back eventually to the *Comedor*, for regular meals and, in many cases, for shoes and clothing too. Given the current situation in Chile and the large number of immigrants arriving in the last years, the *Comedor* is welcoming not only people who are living on the streets, but anybody who is in need of a hot meal.

In the months to come, the *Comedor* will be open during its usual hours, three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

We would like to thank our volunteers and to ask the Sisters of our Congregation to join us in prayer for this work of Providence and for those who benefit from it.

*A*fter its usual summer break, Comedor Emilia Gamelin (The Emilie Gamelin Dining Room) is now open and serving free meals and giving clothing to those in need.

The re-opening took place on March 13, 2023. After welcoming all the participants, Juanita Tapia, a Providence Associate, and the coordinator of the *Comedor*, together with other volunteers, served the meal they had prepared earlier that morning for the diners.





Emilie-Gamelin Province



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

Tribute to Sister Yvette Demers, SP, 50th year of services– Emilie Tavernier Gamelin Cause

Communication Office - Emilie-Gamelin Province

Tribute to Sister Yvette Demers by Mr. Angelo Iacono and the Right Honorable Mr. Justin P.J. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

On Saturday, March 19, a nice surprise awaited Sister Yvette Demers, who, in 2022, had already celebrated 50 years of service at the office of the Émilie Gamelin cause while meetings were still prohibited following pandemic regulations.

Mr. Angelo Iacono, Canadian lawyer and politician, Member of Parliament representing the House of Commons, friend of Mother Émilie Gamelin and the late Thérèse Frigon, as well as a long-time friend of Sister Yvette Demers, arrived for the 9:30 Mass at the Chapel of the Mother House, in the company of his wife and son.

He came to pay his respects to Sister Yvette and give her a parchment signed by the Prime Minister of Canada.



Sister Yvette was applauded by the crowd and received testimonies as she left the chapel. Visitors stopped at the tomb of Mother Gamelin to relive fond memories and to say a fervent prayer.



On this day, July 15, 2022, I am glad to congratulate you on your fifty years of engagement for the cause of Emilie Tavernier Gamelin.

Sister Yvette Demers

I would like to thank you for your relentless work and dedication, and I wish you well for the future.

The Right Honorable Justin P.J. Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada



In April 2022, the Congregational Leadership Team, along with the staff of the Providence International Centre, honoured Sister Yvette's 50 years of exemplary commitment and dedication to the Emilie Gamelin Cause.



50 years of service for the Cause for the canonization of Emilie Tavernier Gamelin

Sister Ivette Demers

On behalf of the Government of Canada and as Member of Parliament for Alfred-Pellan, I would like to congratulate you for your 50 years of active presence and dedication in contributing to the knowledge of Blessed Émilie Tavernier-Gamelin.

Through your commitment to the Office of the Cause, which has worked since 1960 to make Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin known, you have invested yourself in promoting her devotion and her reputation for holiness. During these many years of self-involvement, you have demonstrated your perseverance and diligence in the preparation of the file towards the final phase of the canonical process.

The beatification was a historic and crucial step, and I am pleased to have taken part in it, sharing your company in Italy. It is with all my admiration and my friendship that I would like to hereby emphasize your important contribution to the accomplishment of this ambitious project.

Your 50 years of dedication will undoubtedly bear fruit.

Warmly yours,

Laval, April 5, 2022

Angelo Iacono - Member of Parliament - Alfred-Pellan



Regular Official Visit to the Province Emilie Gamelin

Communication Office - Emilie Gamelin Province



Sisters Claire Houde and Carmen Pelletier at the 7th floor of the Providence Pavilion.

On January 4, Sisters Claire Houde, Provincial Superior, Claudette Leroux, provincial Councilor-Treasurer, and Valiette Messeroux, Provincial Councilor, left Montreal to visit the Sisters of Providence in Haiti.

More details and photos of their two-week sojourn in Haiti can be found on issue no. 15 of the *Écho de la Province Émilie-Gamelin*.

The trip also served to complete the first part of the regular official visit to the province. Sister Claire Houde met individually with each of the sisters in perpetual and temporary vows as well as each novice and pre-novice.

Official visits carry on at the Providence Pavilion where individual meetings continue according to availability of the schedule and respecting sister resident's needs and pace. Sister Claire makes herself available to visit and listen to each sister in her room.

Lanoraie Local Community



On March 17, Sister Claire and the members of the Provincial Leadership Team traveled to Lanoraie, Quebec, where Sisters Colombe Gobeil, Local Superior, and Lise Gravel were happy to welcome them.

The visit began with the opening celebration held at the chapel with the theme: "Women of Compassion, Let's Go Towards Unity" prepared by Sister Valiette Messeroux and facilitated by Sister Estelle Boisclair. Then, Sister Claire met with each of the sisters individually. The group took advantage of the Leadership Team's stay to participate in a meeting with a dozen Providence Associates, at the Lanoire's Emilie Carrefour.

After the presentations, Sister Valiette, liaison to the Providence Associates in the Emilie province, led the meeting and invited the participants to share. Each one communicated using simple words, expressing that they form a beautiful, committed group and are happy to spread the Mission of the Sisters of Providence for the poor, following our Foundress, Mother Emilie Gamelin.

After a busy day, the two sisters hosted dinner where a delicious carrot cake was baked to celebrate the birthdays of sisters Claire and Valiette, on March 12 and 20 respectively.

Visit to the Local Community of Sainte-Geneviève, Montreal.



On March 24, Sister Claire Houde and the members of the Provincial Leadership Team went to the local community of Sainte-Geneviève where they were welcomed by Sisters Valiette Messeroux, Local Superior, Marie Émeline Ézami Atangana, Francine Blanc and Nathalie Jean-Philippe.

The visit began with the opening celebration at the chapel under the theme: "Women of compassion, let us go towards unity" prepared by Sister Valiette Messeroux and facilitated by Sister Estelle Boisclair.

After the prayer, they shared a delicious festive dinner while exchanging views on the future. A nice surprise awaited them; they celebrated Sister Claire's birthday, on March 12, and Sister Claudette's birthday to follow in April. It was a time of conversation and prayer, walking in the steps of Mother Gamelin.



Eternal Easter,

Eternal Joy

*I*f you are indeed a follower of Jesus Christ, how can you not bear your cross and believe that tomorrow, there is a Resurrection worth waiting for. Blessed Emilie Gamelin, our Foundress, dealt with her grief by committing her life forever to works of charity. Following the call of our Provident God, Blessed Emilie Gamelin showed us the way to eternal joy. At Eastertime, let us rejoice once more for the way to new life has been shown to us. May this realization inspire us to continue our "Journey to Oneness" with deep faith and courage. Happy Easter! !

Congregational Leadership Team





*He is
risen...*

Initial Formation **SP** Entrances, vows

Entrance to the pre-noviciate

Azenette Trongco
February 18, 2023
Edmonton, Canada



+ *Initial formation :*
[https://
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