



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 Providence Family



Christmas 2022 - from R. to L. - Sisters Rollande Malo and Alba Letelier; Anne-Marie Labonté and the much-missed Sister Yvette Demers. Christmas party and employee appreciation day at Providence International Centre.

Let us go on pilgrimage to our Sacred Place

A pilgrimage, simply put, is a *journey to a sacred place*. I begin this short text with a definition inviting us to make the most important journey in our lives, one that we often forget: the inner journey, in search of our center. For what place is more sacred than the place where we know God dwells? However, it is also a place that we avoid, and even a place where we can feel uncomfortable. In case we haven't started yet...will we dare to step forward and begin our inner pilgrimage?

Throughout our lives, you and I have made many journeys. We have

"pilgrimaged" to places we consider sacred, traditionally recognized as such. We have visited churches, centers of spirituality and temples, we have followed in the footsteps of Blessed Emilie Gamelin, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph, etc., seeking to experience God's renewal in our life, and to see our lives under a different light. Most of the times, we find new strength, and we feel God's presence. We feel that he continues his work in us, and that feeling prompts us to adapt, to change, and even to transform whatever in our lives, each time, what does not agree with what we have experienced from God.



Editorial

I take this opportunity to invite you to travel to that sacred place which is our own inner self. This journey demands silence, courage, humility, and being mindful of our own truth, but above all, we need to “take off our shoes”, to accept the sacred ground of our own vulnerability and to walk on it.

We are about to celebrate Christmas and I find it especially providential that the main theme of our Missive is pilgrimage. As we know, when on their way to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph, even if they were not welcomed as expected, adapted creatively to their situation. With firm hope and trust, they welcomed their vulnerability in the exact same place where Jesus would be born. God dwelling among us.

As a Congregation, we, too, have started a pilgrimage leading to transformation. This journey implies for each of us an inner journey, into our own hearts. Faithful to our virtues of simplicity, humility, and charity, we must let good things spring out from that journey. Let us have the courage to turn inward and to recognize the inner spaces that need to be healed, cared for, restored. Let us identify which corners of our hearts need purification and tenderness, reconciliation, and peace.

May the path we are following now, not take us not far away, but take us deeply

into our own selves, so that once we arrive at the bottom of our hearts, we may experience THAT PRESENCE for which we have been longing so much.

This Christmas, may we allow ourselves to embrace the vulnerability of our lives and make our way to receive the New Life that Jesus is giving us.

Alba Letelier, SP

Congregational Leader





M

ay the presence of Christ
fill your heart with his JOY,
and may his PEACE radiate throughout creation,
allowing Hope, Unity and Love
to flourish on this earth.

Alba sp.
Anne S.P.
Hélène mament. sp

Josie L. sp
Christy sp
Rolland. sp.

Graphic design: Sylvie Lavoie
Providence International Centre



Special SP Report

Experiences, reflections



With the purpose of reconnecting with Providence spirituality, some Sisters of Providence participated in pilgrimages to various sacred places. They have experienced a number of inner transformations in their lives, which can strengthen their commitment to our congregation's Journey to Oneness. Here are their experiences and testimonies:

The Fifth Gospel

by Karin Dufault, SP

Vincentian Pilgrimage in France– Holy Land

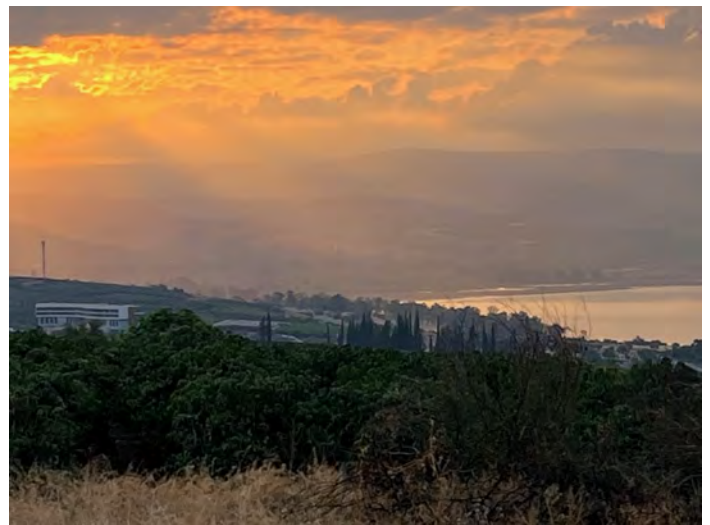
As part of my Sabbatical, I had privileged experiences as a pilgrim to and through the Holy Land, aptly named the “Fifth Gospel” by Pope Francis and others. (LaCroix – Jan 17, 2023). Providentially, the opportunity was scheduled right before the July Vincentian Pilgrimage in France. The truism, “Tourists pass through the sites;

pilgrims let sites pass through them,” (www.faith.nd.edu) took on special meaning and reassured me that I was indeed a PILGRIM deeply affected by the sacred places, the land and the people that passed through my heart and mind, meeting God in new ways.



eleven international pilgrims in the Tantur Ecumenical Institute Summer Sabbatical Program. The campus sits on a hill, the southern edge of Jerusalem overlooking the Judean hills and the Palestinian city of Bethlehem. We encountered the sacredness of the Holy Land's geography, history, complex religious, social and political life, traditions, and communities of local people.

For six days, I experienced the generous hospitality of the Daughters of Charity. Susan Sheehan, DC, my guide, prayerfully journeyed with me through sacred sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ein Karem, Bethany, and later Nazareth. She introduced me to the Daughter's ministries in each of these cities where we saw Providence spirituality in action, particularly in the compassionate care of dearly loved "differently abled" children, youth and elders.



Susan and the sisters oriented me especially to the diversity of Old Jerusalem in the people we met living there and international tourists and pilgrims that filled the spaces.

The Tantur team, with carefully chosen faculty and local Christian, Muslim, and Jewish guides were extremely knowledgeable and conveyed their love and respect for the people, their religious traditions, for the sacred sites and for the land. All spoke of their desire and prayers for peace. We joined our prayers with theirs.

The next four weeks, I participated with





Our pilgrimage travels also took us north to Mount Carmel, Haifa, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, Magdala, Capernaum, Mount Tabor, Nain and later to Judea with Mount of Temptation, Hebron, River Jordon, Jericho and the Dead Sea.

I mention these places since each brought the Sacred Scripture, especially the



Gospels, alive for me in ways I could not have imagined; deepening: my faith, my understanding of what Jesus taught, my appreciation for the peoples of Jesus' homeland, my compassion for suffering people, my love for Jesus and his Mother, and my gratitude for being called to follow Christ and to proclaim Providence and the compassion of Our Mother of Sorrows.

One of many poignant moments occurred one Friday evening in Bethlehem when we joined people of many denominations, languages and ages at the Palestinian West Bank Wall to pray the rosary in procession and song with the intention





that the wall separating the West Bank from the rest of the Holy Land be taken down and peace prevail. Painted on one part of the wall was a beautiful vivid icon of Our Mother of Sorrows in tears. We weep with her, especially today. The Friday evening prayer hour first began in September 2002 when the Wall was constructed dividing people and their land.

As I write this reflection, we are experiencing the tragic war between Hamas and Israel and the terrible suffering of innocent Palestinian and Israeli people of Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths, who desire peace, respect, the ability to worship and raise families without fear of violence. My heart breaks seeing the newscasts and receiving communication from friends in the Holy Land whose families

and other loved ones have been killed or seriously injured and homes/schools/hospitals destroyed by war. Violence begets more violence not only in Gaza, Israel and West Bank but in many countries.

The Holy Land pilgrimage and my solidarity with the people we befriended reinforce for me that our Journey to Oneness must be about Jesus' message (Blessed Emilie Gamelin's, too) to love and care for each other with unity of mind and heart, one with the Trinity. We are called to witness that peace and love amid diversity are possible and to extend that peace and love to all we meet reinforcing that we are sisters and brothers, created to be interconnected in God's family. We also contribute through advocacy, interfaith dialogue and friendship.

Providence of God, we hope in you!



Following the footsteps of Saint Vincent de Paul

by *Eugena Nogaüs, SP*

Vincentian Pilgrimage in France



L. to R.: Sisters
Merci-Christ
Sylméon, Eugena
Nogaüs, Juedie
Elismat and Maria
Nagui - summer
2023, France.

Walking in the footsteps of Saint Vincent de Paul meant to me the realization of a dream; it was Providence's design, I might say. I experienced some poignant moments during this pilgrimage, which strengthened my faith in God and my devotion to the Divine Providence. As Sisters of Providence, during our formation we have learned **extensively about Vincent de Paul's life and his different works.** The opportunity to reach the source of all this learning enriched my formation, and it was a gift for which I am very grateful.

I was amazed by the different places I visited with the ITC (International Training Center) group. I'll start by singling out Vincent de Paul's birthplace, known as Berceau. It was quite impressive. I had the feeling that Vincent de Paul himself was watching over us all the while, praying for us

to draw inspiration from the life of a humble servant like himself. It was as if he was there, with us, a glimpse of his "absent presence". Then there was the visit to Lourdes and all the beautiful solemnities in which we participated, which strengthened my faith in our triune God and in God Providence. A perfect ending occurred during our detour in Taizé, where we experienced a moment of rare intensity: those hours had a taste of God's eternity. I felt connected to myself, to God, and to our planet. I can say that each of the places we visited during our pilgrimage left a mark on me.

I am very grateful to the Provincial Leadership Team for this experience and for the opportunity to literally walk in the footsteps of St. Vincent de Paul and thus to drink from the very source of our Charism. I also feel a genuine gratitude towards each sister who took part in the pilgrimage and those who supported me with their prayers. As a new member of the Vincentian family, after these incredible experiences, I acknowledge the call for becoming one of his disciples and to care for the neediest. That was what Mother Gamelin did, and what the lives of many of our predecessors have lived. Despite the different obstacles of our times, I pray to our Provident God to grant me the grace to serve him wherever he calls me to go. Providence, I thank you for all!

In contact with God in the Lands of Saint Vincent

by Gladys Flores, SP

Vincentian Pilgrimage in France



As I recall my experience at the CIF meeting in France, I want to thank God for such a great opportunity to deepen my spirituality.

As I begin this reflection, the thoughts and works of Saint Vincent de Paul come to my mind. It was such a gift to visit the places where Vincentian theology was born: Chartres, Château l'Évêque, Périgueux, Le Berceau (his birthplace), Buglose, Dax and Lourdes. These places were his homeland. Visiting them, I had the opportunity to come closer to God, and to learn more about this amazing theology.

As this beautiful and fascinating adventure of walking in the footsteps of St. Vincent went by, I felt the desire to know more about the story of a saint who devoted his

life to advocate for and dignify the poor and the suffering persons in the world.

St. Vincent showed Vincentians the practice of charity, humility, and simplicity; the exact same legacy we received from Mother Emilie.

St. Vincent speaks deeply from his heart, encouraging us to speak from within our hearts too. He motivates us to reach out using the universal language of charity.

St. Vincent is the saint of mercy, and mercy is charity put into action amidst inequality. Mercy is trusting the Providence of God, just as he expressed it: "Thanks to God's mercy, I have learned simplicity."

A man of many virtues, St. Vincent used to say that virtue is the cure for everything; it is our way out of any problem and can be achieved by training our will. He also said that it is a gift, a grace, and that prayer is the most direct way to receive it. Being a good disciple of Jesus means practicing virtues, carrying out the works of Jesus, especially, the evangelization of people who are poor. Saint Vincent's holiness was achieved by dignifying the people he served. His teachings lead us to being close to persons who are suffering.

For St. Vincent, prudence comes with

charity, and he is the worthiest champion of prudent, attentive, and thoughtful charity, which he always learned from his own experiences.

He advocated for social change, and that led him into politics. He proposed huge projects in favor of the people who were poor and suffering during his time. He used

his experience in communal life to strengthen a sense of fraternity.

Finally, I want to share with you an important quote from him, "It is not enough to love God", St Vincent said, "it is necessary to help my neighbor love him too".

My Vincentian experience in Paris

by Maria Nagui, SP

Vincentian Pilgrimage in France



Last summer, as a Sister of Providence and like many of my companions, I was invited to participate in the Vincentian retreat held in France. What an extraordinary experience! Nurtured by the presence and love of people from different countries who are practicing the spirit of charity of St.

Vincent de Paul, whose main goal is to relieve the pain of people suffering across the world, I really enjoyed my stay in Paris.

To receive historical information on St. Vincent de Paul and visit the holy places was an opportunity to deepen my spiritual life and reinvigorate the enthusiasm and compassion that I try to bring into my service to the poor.

May God grant me his grace so that I can put into practice simplicity, humility, and charity in community daily life and in my ministries as Sister of Providence, following the example of Mother Emilie Gamelin and St. Vincent's lives.

With sincere gratitude to Providence.

My Pilgrimage

by Annette Noël, SP

St. Vincent-de-Paul, France



I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to share with you some of the wonders that touched me during my participation in the program with the Vincentian Family. This program took place at the Lazarist Mother House in Paris, France, from July 2 to 26, 2023.

The first sessions provided information on the Vincentian spirituality and the virtues and ethics of St. Vincent-de-Paul that became the heritage of the Lazarist Fathers that he founded. The virtues given by a Provident God to enrich the life of St. Vincent-de-Paul and that he so prudently

lived by throughout his life were Humility, Simplicity and Charity and Prudence.

A vibrant emotional current wisped through me as it reminded me of how our Blessed Emilie Gamelin who was gifted with deep Humility, Simplicity and Charity lived these virtues with heartfelt compassion. Just as these are called Vincentian virtues, I concluded that they could also be called Virtues of Providence spirituality handed down to us by Blessed Emilie. This was no longer for me just the virtues of Blessed Emilie or something I had knowledge of but took on a deeper spiritual meaning for me and need to be active in my life

Throughout the program, I experienced a greater awareness of our own founding roots in the rules of St. Vincent-de-Paul and our heritage of his spirituality and compassionate love for the poor.

On site visits of various places connected with St. Vincent-de-Paul, provided special moments of amazement and interior closeness to St. Vincent-de-Paul. One of these was the visit to the birthplace of St. Vincent-de-Paul where we were able to see, walk through and touch his house, his parish church and baptismal font, where we renewed our own baptismal consecration. As I walked on the land and gardens, I felt as though a special life was entering my

being that invited me to stop and, in silence, grasp some of that special life.

It became clear that St. Vincent came from a rather middle-class family. A visit to the church where he was ordained to the priesthood presents a side altar dedicated to him in honor of his ordination. Later, we visited Chatillon, the parish of St. Vincent's first ministry. St. Vincent discovered poor and abandoned children in his first years of parish ministry and was dedicated to them for the rest of his life. His leadership influenced others to follow, one of these being Louise de Marillac who later founded the Daughters of Charity with the guidance of St. Vincent-de-Paul. Other organizations were founded to assist the poor and especially children who are poor.

The Shrine at Lourdes, at a short distance from St. Vincent's birthplace, was a final

stop and the culmination to the four (4) days of site visits. The spiritual experience at Lourdes was profound, for me, something like a dream come true; to visit and walk the grounds of Lourdes, praying the rosary, visiting the grotto, washing face and hands in the holy water from the fountain, walking in the evening candlelight procession, all made it so very special. I was filled with gratitude to witness large crowds of people, at all hours of the day and evening, praying and the Basilica filled for liturgies. It filled me with hope, believing that the gift of faith fills the world.

I am so very grateful for the opportunity I had to deepen my Vincentian Spirituality. All During this experience, I became more aware of how profound are the roots and sources of our own Congregational Spirituality. PROVIDENCE OF GOD, I THANK YOU FOR ALL!



Participation in World Youth Day

by Jude Merline, SP

WYD, Lisbon, Portugal

"Humility, simplicity, charity"! These three words sum up perfectly my human and Christian experience this summer under the patronage of Mary and Divine Providence, from the preparations for my trip and until my return from Lisbon, from the World Youth Day encounter.



Sister Jude at
WYD 2023 in
Portugal

At my first WYD I experienced communion with the Church as multicultural, international and as one entity. We shared the same faith, pursued the same goals, and we were all under the same patronage of Mary.

Thanks to the beauty of my choice of life, I felt more open to others and more determined to share who I am and what I have, in a spirit of generosity and charity as Mother Gamelin would have done it. This also confirmed and strengthened my real motivation, which is based in simplicity of life and total devotion to Christ and to the Church through the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence.

I teamed up with Salesian Sisters from Haiti who welcomed me as one of their own and were happy to meet a Sister of Providence

since they appreciate our spirituality and Charism. I realized, among groups of young and elderly from all cultures, that have a team spirit and solidarity is possible. As the only Sister of Providence and being a little introverted, I felt myself transformed into a more open person. I have also come to understand now that this pilgrimage left me with deep memories.

In sum, my stay in Portugal (in Beja, Massama and Lisbon) helped me value my spiritual experience of the Providence Charism, to share it with others who can benefit from it for their own lives and journey. This important event greatly helped me to develop my capacity for openness and my trust in Providence, so that I could advance on the path of consecrated life.



Root for Trees Special Event

by *Vera Gutierrez, PA*

Provincial Secretary - Holy Angels Province



L. to R.: Vera Gutierrez, PA and Mae Valdez, SP participating in the reforestation activities.

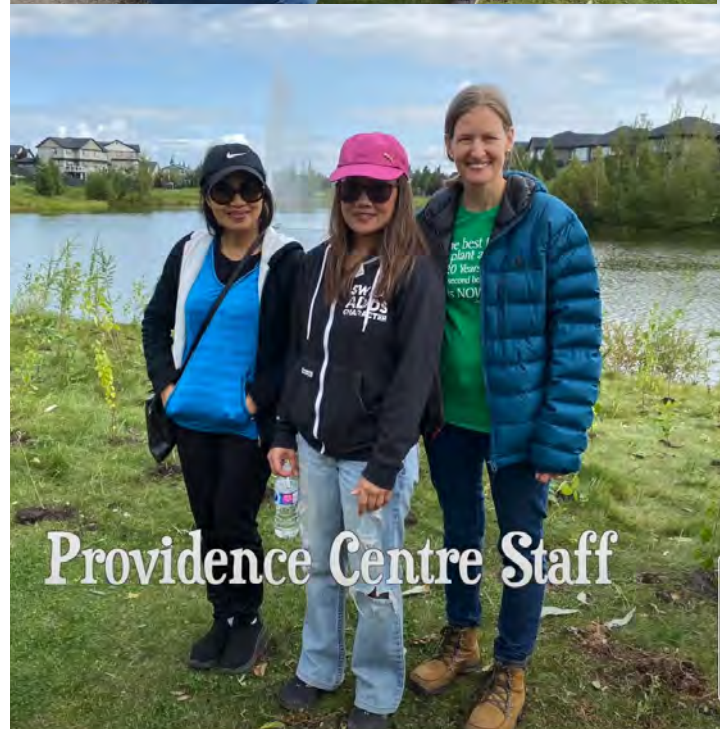
This is my second time attending the tree planting event. It took place on August 19th, 2023, and was organized by Sister Mae Valdez, SP, and Abby Begna, co-coordinators of JPIC – Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation – in collaboration with the City of Edmonton’s volunteer tree-planting initiative. This time our youngest son, Cristian, came along. He is an avid birdwatcher and when he found out the event would take place near a lake he was engaged right away, thinking he might get a picture or two of a rare bird. The



City of Edmonton volunteers gave us a short but detailed lesson: from digging the hole just right to massaging the roots of the small shrubs and trees making sure they are firmly planted into the ground at the end; this, we found out, is to ensure tree survival.

We were around 46 volunteers – Sisters, employees, Providence Associates, and families – and we planted 282 trees in just a few hours. Why would we plant this many trees in such a small patch rather than spread out along the small path next to the lake, we wondered. A city volunteer explained that the trees are grouped this way and, once they reach maturity, it will help in preventing soil erosion and possible flood damage, as well as help block the heat and slow winds in case of fires.

Once we were done planting, we all admired the little shrubs and trees from the path overlooking the lake. Quite a meaningful moment. We had just helped with earth's regeneration, if only slightly. Cristian was very glad he came and said he'd definitely like to come again next year. Thanks. A morning to remember.





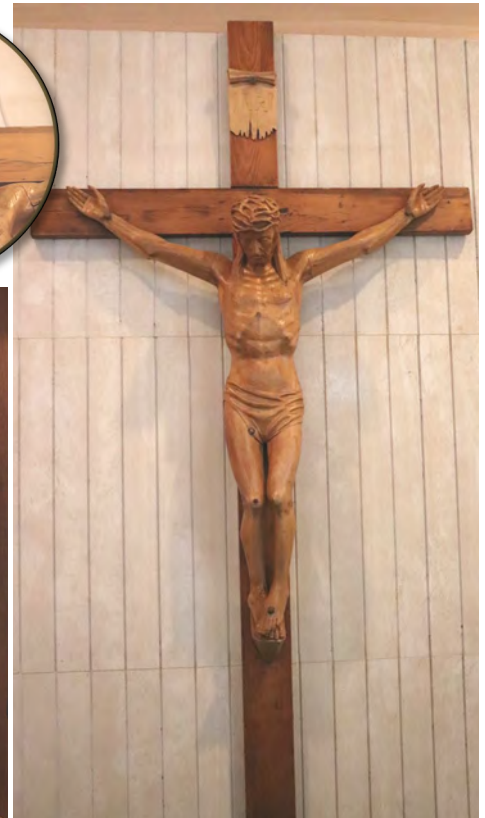
Donation from the Dominican Sisters of Shawinigan of a crucifix with corpus by the sculptor Médard Bourgault- Mother House - 2023

by *Madeline Coutu, SP*

In February 2023, while visiting the Dominican Sisters of Shawinigan to look at 8 stained glass windows by the artist Olivier Ferland (see Providence Missive September 2023), the person in charge of the archives presented the Sisters of Providence with a crucifix and a corpus sculpted by Médard Bourgault. The corpus was donated to the Dominican Sisters by the artist himself in 1952. On the day of the donation the sculptor told them, "Here is the Christ made by a poor man donated to the poor." Next, the sisters made the necessary arrangements to attach it to its cross.

And so, Sister Claire Houde, Provincial Superior, and the members of the Provincial Leadership Team immediately accepted the donation. At that point, there were no works from this great artist displayed at our Mother House.

However, on the 2nd floor of the Providence International Centre, near the elevator, there is a 48-inch wooden reproduction of Mother Émilie Gamelin, exhibited under the following description: In 1944, the sculptor Médard Bourgault, of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, carved this wood statue of our foundress, commissioned by Dr. Aimé Leduc, of Valleyfield, who donated it to the Sisters of Providence, at that time in charge of the Hôpital Hôtel-Dieu there. Later, in 1965, Sister Cécile Rondeau,



superior of the hospital, donated the statue to the Museum of the Sisters of Providence. (

As for the crucifix, donated by the Dominican Sisters, after reflecting upon the matter, agreement was reached by the community leaders to place this 8-foot sculpture in the most suitable place, the chapel on the 8th floor of the Mother House, in wing A. Its presence really embellishes and enhances the beautiful chapel where it is displayed. As soon as you enter, it strikes you.



SP-PA Activities

Providence International Centre



Montreal, Canada



On November 18, 2023, the catechists of the Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal spent the whole day contemplating on the Spirituality of the Catechist at the Providence International Centre.

They were very grateful to the Sisters of Providence for welcoming them in the Center.



On the morning of December 11, 2023, the Congregational Leadership Team and employees of the Providence International Center attended a workshop on "Optimizing working relationships to increase employee motivation". The workshop included various activities led by Professor Nadine Vaillant and Professor Sébastien Arcand from HEC Montréal. An informal lunch hosted by CLT followed.

Mother Joseph Province



United States, El Salvador, Philippines

PA Ministries Above and Beyond

Steve Pehanich, Communication Director



Michael Watkins, PA, became a Providence Associate in September, 2022. He and his wife have four children, two of whom are adopted from Haiti. Like Venance Mmassy AP in Tanzania, Michael lives far away from other Associates (in Polson, Montana) and had not met a Sister of Providence until he participated in the orientation sessions via Zoom.

Kathe Boucha, PA, says about Michael: "He is a husband, and father, works full time, and with many certifications and degrees

all that qualifying him to serve with compassion and love. There are very few men (including MDs) who are trained to be a birthing doula and breastfeeding consultant. As a midwife, I know the temperament and the energy it takes to serve mothers and infants."

Michael explains more about his ministry: "So many of my patients don't have supportive folks in their lives. I hope that I am able to fill the gap for them as their families grow," he says. "As I work to follow in the spirit of the Sisters of Providence and PA's, I give each of my families a couple of meals after they are home from the hospital and because my patients can't afford additional services,

I purchase the supplies which I use to support the mothers during delivery.

"For several years I have coordinated donations and the packing of hygiene kits which we give to patients in need. Recently I learned that a community partner who had been involved in providing needed items is now unable to continue."

Nonetheless, his work with the marginalized members of society continues.

"Michael is an example of one who truly lives the 'Providence Associate Life' following in the footsteps of Emilie Gamelin and led by Divine Providence," says Kathe Boucha, MJP Providence Associate Director.

Mother Joseph Province Gathers for Chapter Meeting

Steve Pehanich, Communication Director

Once per year, the Sisters of Providence, provincial Providence Associates, Sponsors and staff gather for the Provincial Chapter.

During these important days, participants collaborate and envision the future. They discuss the state of the province, make plans for the future, honor those who have died over the past year and celebrate the Jubilees for Sisters having milestone anniversaries.



Celebrating Mass during the Provincial Chapter.





Lillian Rouzan, PA, reacts to the photo of her father who passed away. He was a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and a Providence Associate. At 102 years young, he performed his deaconate duties nearly to the time he died. May He and All the Departed Rest in Peace.



The Provincial Chapter includes a comprehensive report from the Providence St. Joseph Health key leaders and sponsors.



Sister Marie-Thérèse Gnamazo reports on the current and future state of vocations in the Province.

Bernarda Morin Province



Chile, Argentina

Conference "Let's talk about migration in today's Chile, along with Bernarda, our migrant foundress."

Communication Office of the Province

To raise awareness on migration, from an evangelical perspective, and considering Bernarda Morin's migrant condition, this past November 23, 2023, the Bernarda Morin Center organized a presentation on the *Servant of God* with Mr. José Cubides Franco as the main speaker. Mr. Cubides Franco is a legal advisor for INCAMI (Chilean Catholic Institute of Migration), an organization that welcomes and supports



migrants throughout their integration process.

The talk was held as part of the commemorations for the 170th anniversary of the presence of the Sisters of Providence in Chile, and it covered an analysis of migration as a global phenomenon. Other legal aspects were also discussed, such as the new migration law and fundamental human rights, always focusing on the Church and how the Church seeks ways to help immigrants.

At the end of the presentation, there was a time for questions and comments from participants, including testimonies from people who have immigrated to Chile.

During this time, one question was raised on how women from religious congregations

should address the issue. The speaker responded that to implement effective measures, it is important for religious congregations to act decisively, making decisions and allocating people and resources for specific services. Among them, he mentioned shelters for families and canteens, clothes donation sites, legal assistance and labor intermediation. "Anyone can start a work, but sometimes in order to continue, that work needs, God's grace, in the first place, but also, to be institutionalized or professionalized" the speaker said.

You can find the complete streamed conference on Bernarda Morin Province's YouTube channel (only in Spanish): youtube.com/@HermanasdeLaProvidencia.

New Providence Associates welcomed into the Bernarda Morin Province

Communication Office of the Province



Sister Gloria García, provincial leader, together with Sister Cristina Urbina, liaison from the Provincial Council with the Providence Associates, welcomed on November 25 to 28 five new PA members in the city of El Bolsón, located in Patagonia, Argentina. The

new Providence Associates were accepted on November 27, 2023, in the monastery of Santa Maria, where the Associates usually meet.

Five Associates from Caleta Olivia, who came to visit for this special occasion, and three Associates from El Bolsón, also participated in a ceremony to renew their promises. The Associates from El Bolsón, came originally from Caleta Olivia where they arrived to establish the new community of Providence Associates in that region.

On October 7, Providence Associates from different communities gathered at the Provincial House in Santiago, to receive the blessing of the arrival of a new AP from Chile. During the gathering, PA's participated in different formations and renewed their promises. Associates from Argentina and other cities in Chile joined in the meeting virtually.

2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the first promises by a PA in Chile. The movement had started in Chile and Argentina during the same year, in the communities of "Emilia Gamelin" and "Caleta Olivia", respectively.

Holy Angels Province



Western Canada

Staff Appreciation Day 2023, Holy Angels Province

Vera Gutierrez, Provincial Secretary

On November 9th Sisters of the house and staff came together in the Providence Centre Dining room to especially commemorate all the hard work and contribution in the success of Providence Centre and on receiving accreditation with commendation by Accreditation Canada. The celebration was opened with a prayer and followed by a message of appreciation by Sister



Gloria Keylor, SP, Provincial Leader, and a sharing of the accreditation experience by the Providence Centre Staff Leadership Team. They expressed their gratitude to all staff for their hard work, compassion, and care. Sister Diane Thibodeau, DW created a song dedicated to our staff which brought great cheer as all sang along. The celebration then lead to a feast of appetizers which our kitchen staff lovingly prepared. To all our staff, thank you for all you do.



Display created by Tina Arguelles, Recreation and Accreditation Certificate.

Signature chocolates for all staff members .

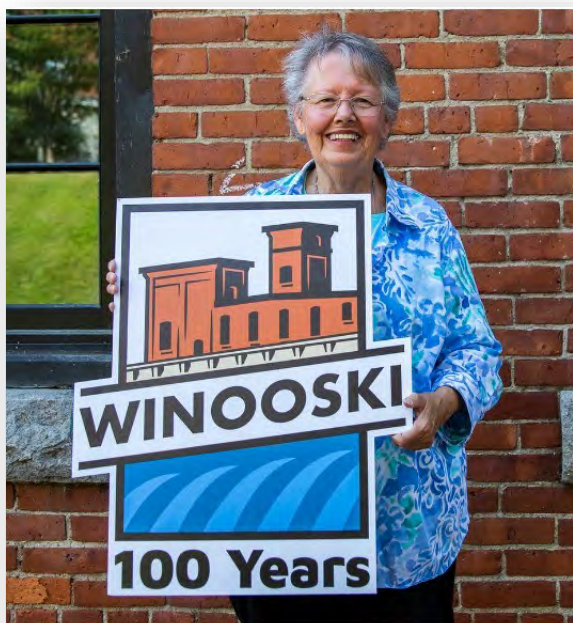


Émilie-Gamelin Province



Eastern Canada and United State,
Haiti, Cameroon, Egypt

Celebrating her many accomplishments Patricia Mckittrick, SP (Sister Pat)



It is with mixed emotions that I share some news- Sister Pat is retiring December 8th!

Sr. Pat has worked for the organization for 29 years. She will leave a legacy of hard work, community connections, education on important issues and too many friendships to count. Sr. Pat could often be found in the community, supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and mental illness. She worked directly with many and helped many in other ways by working closely with social workers and others to ensure people were getting what they needed. She was a staple of the Winooski

community. She helped start and was a key player in many groups and initiatives over the years such as Faith in Action, the Winooski Peace Initiative, many school and community programs, and serving on the Board of the Winooski Food Shelf, etc.

Her involvement in educating others on Human Trafficking, Humor and Health, gratitude and more, has far reaching impact. Her work has made a difference in the lives of many.

During her time here she received many awards for that work, including a 2019 Outstanding Social Justice Award.

This is all just a small snapshot of the legacy she will leave behind and continue in some ways.

Please join me in recognizing and celebrating her many accomplishments.

We will be formally celebrating her as she moves into her retirement. While we will miss her and her work, we know she will have some well-deserved time for herself!

See Sister Pat on:

[Sister Pat McKittrick Receives Award - VECNCC](#)
[Sister Pat: The Nun Who Gets Things Done in the Onion City | Religion | Seven Days | Vermont's Independent Voice \(sevendaysvt.com\)](#)

Erin Armstrong, travailleuse social (she, her)
Network Director, Community Health Improvement
The University of Vermont Health Network



The Mission of the Garde-manger Pour Tous (Canteen For All) and the Ministry of Providence Associates

René Lefebvre, PA—Montreal



René Lefebvre is a Providence Associate committed to the Providence Mission, following the footsteps of Émilie Gamelin. In this way, he shares with us his experience at an organization that helps hundreds of people in Montreal.

I must confess that Sister Éva-Rose Rheault, SP, is the reason why I am involved with the Garde-Manger Pour Tous. She was the one who sent me on a mission to represent the parish on the Board of Directors of this organization in September 1998. And I have been the secretary of the board for a while now.

The organization serves 3000 hot, balanced lunch meals, and many of our children benefit from them. <https://garde-manger.qc.ca/> (in French).

And our parish has enlarged its list of good works since then...

⇒ We offer a heated space available for the unhoused from the Maison Benoît-Labre.

There, more than 250 "itinerants" of God benefit from three meals a day and from other different accompanying services.

⇒ In our basement there is also a grocery store, called the Epicentre, where underprivileged families

have access to high quality food at very low costs.

⇒ In addition to the Christmas baskets, we distribute gifts to each of Maison Benoît-Labre's regulars.

⇒ And that's not all: Every year in my building I collect food, clothes, and toys for our homeless friends as well as for our underprivileged families.

And usually with very good results. We have managed to donate a lot of personal hygiene products to the clients of the Benoît-Labre house. It's good for them and... for the social workers as well. One year, each one of them received a Christmas gift. They were very happy. This year, if we get enough gifts, we will do it again. I hope this gives you a short overview of our Mission !

The dynamism of the PA Movement in the Émilie-Gamelin Province in 2023 - photos



On September 16, 2023, the Providence Associates of the Émilie-Gamelin Province, including members from Quebec, Haiti, Cameroon and Egypt, gathered in joy and hope via zoom and in person. The Provincial Leadership Team honoured us with their presence.



Congratulations to the Providence Associates of Sainte-Véronique in Torbeck, Haiti, on their 10th anniversary following in the footsteps of our founder Emilie Gamelin, with the aim of alleviating the difficulties of those who suffer.



November 4 - PA & SP annual bazaar at the Motherhouse. To help the homeless in Montreal and PA ministries in Cameroon.

