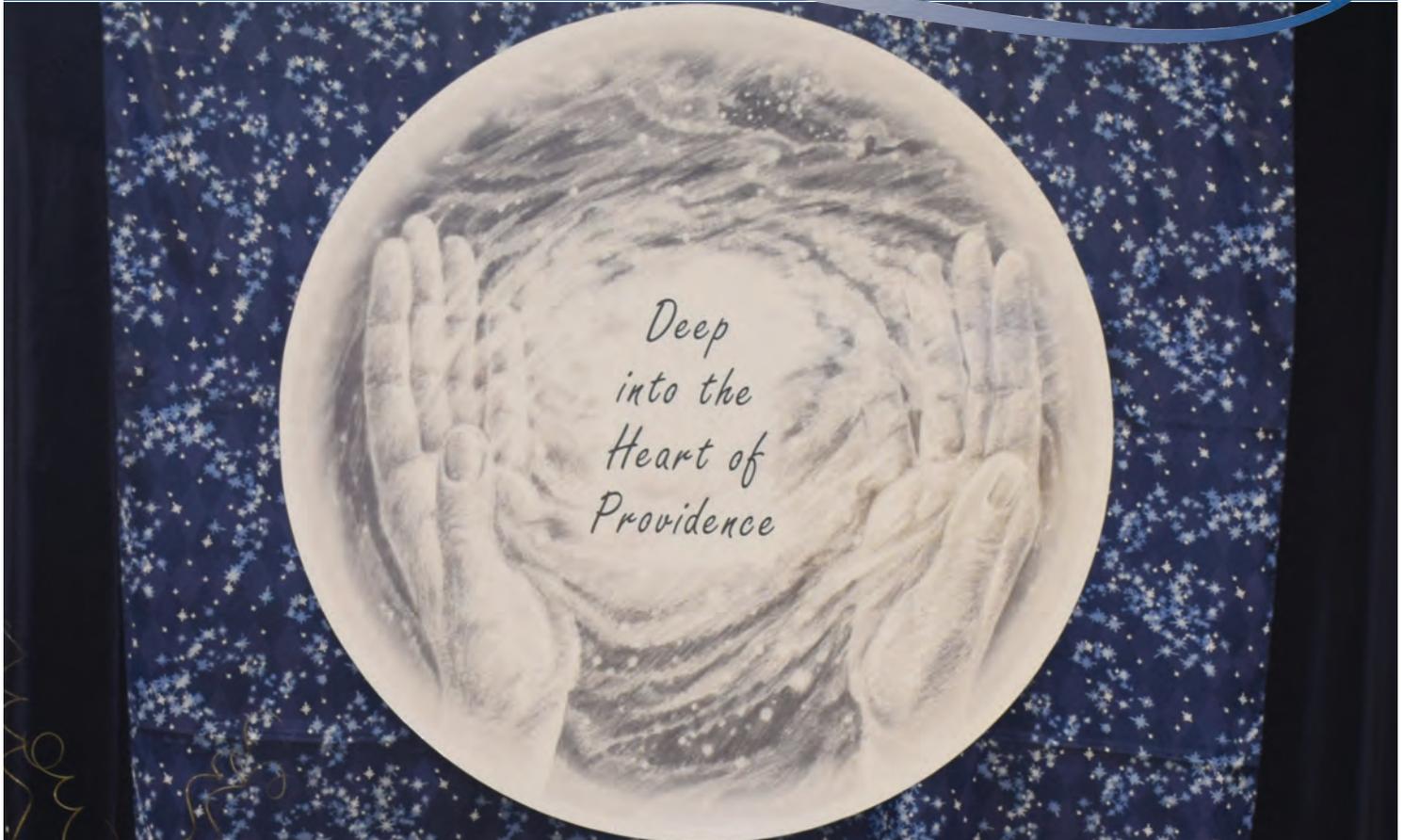




Sisters of Providence  
of St. Vincent de Paul  
www.providence.ca

# PROVIDENCE PAGES

Fall 2023 - Final Issue



***The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul concluded their final Chapter on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Plans for the future of the congregation were decided upon at this gathering. story on page 3***

## In this issue:



Providence Associates Reflection



The Future of the Archives



Encounters in Peru



### Vision Statement

A world where the vulnerable experience compassion, justice and peace.

### Mission Statement

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul are a congregation of vowed women religious called to be channels of God's Providence.

Rooted in the mission of Jesus, we empower the vulnerable through compassionate service, advocacy and networking. Sharing our spiritual, human and financial resources, we promote justice and peace for all creation.

### NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Providence Pages readers,

Thank you for following the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, their Associates and their ministry staff over the years through the stories included in this newsletter. As the Sisters of Providence adapt to the needs of the time, this newsletter will cease production.

Sisters are still active in the community and stories will still be produced, but the stories will be published on their website and social media instead of Providence Pages. Providence Village, a legacy of the Sisters, will feature updates and stories on their website so be sure to check it out as well ([www.providencevillage.ca](http://www.providencevillage.ca)).

Please enjoy this final issue of Providence Pages with articles about the final Chapter of the Sisters and their future direction, a reflection from the Providence Associates, the future of the Sisters' Archives, a visitation of the mission work in Peru, and some highlights from previous Providence Pages issues.

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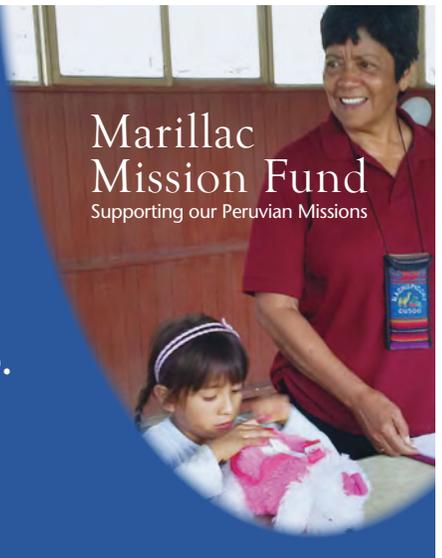
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## Thank You For Making a Difference in Peru

Your generosity through the Marillac Mission Fund has significantly and positively impacted the people of Carabayllo where our Sisters and Associates live and are engaged in ministry. Your financial donations provided support in these areas: **education, health, construction projects, disaster relief, poverty relief and rural pastoral care.** Our work in Peru continues even as the Marillac Mission Fund comes to an end.

*Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul*



Marillac Mission Fund  
Supporting our Peruvian Missions



# Final Chapter of the Sisters of Providence

In late October, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul took a monumental step in our 162-year history by convoking our final General Chapter. For almost 3 years, we had been meeting regularly with facilitator and Canon Lawyer, Sister Bonnie MacLellan, a Sister of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie. Bonnie helped us to understand various options we could take if we could no longer elect a Leadership Team according to our Constitutions. Much prayer, deep listening and discernment went into all of the meetings held over this time. It was paramount to ensure that all of the sisters had a good understanding of the reality we were facing and the options available to us. At an Extraordinary General Chapter on June 16, 2023, the delegates voted 100% in favour of petitioning Rome to appoint a Pontifical Commissary to fulfill the canonical leadership responsibilities of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Over the course of the summer, all sisters who were able participated in a process of discernment to decide one or two possible candidates we could approach to be a Commissary for us. The end result was a 92% consensus to invite only one person to consider serving in this ministry. That sister also entered into personal discernment as well as discernment with her congregation. She agreed to have her name submitted to Rome after the Final General Chapter had completed its resolutions.

On October 30, 2023, the Sisters of Providence gathered for a day of Retreat before the beginning of the Chapter. The facilitator of the Retreat was Sister Mary Jo Radey, also a Sister of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie, who had provided the sisters with other Retreat experiences leading up to the Final

Chapter. During 3 prayer periods, the theme of Blessed, Broken and Given was developed and ritualized by breaking bread together. The concluding prayer spoke profoundly to the way we hoped to gather together in General Chapter:

- *May we hold each other's hearts tenderly.*
- *May we remember that in sharing our lives together, we enter into a sacred trust.*
- *May we breathe deeply and receive the wisdom of our companions around the table.*
- *May dialogue and differences be a source of growth.*
- *May we be generous in speaking our truth and offering hospitality to new ideas.*
- *May we be courageous in embracing and sharing our own vulnerability.*
- *May we know the joy and peace that come with trust in each other.*

Chapter began on October 31, 2023, with 23 voting delegates and many non-voting active participants contributing to the process. A spirit of unity and excitement for the future was tangible among us.



*Sisters counting votes during Chapter.*

*continued on next page...*

# Chapter Resolutions Passed

In the end, three resolutions were passed unanimously by the Chapter.

We have petitioned the approval of Rome to

1. suppress the requirement in our Constitutions to hold a General Chapter every 4 years and to elect a General Superior and Council
2. appoint a sister from another Congregation selected by this Chapter to be Commissary for our Congregation and therefore our canonical leadership.

In addition we created direction for the canonical leadership to distribute to charitable organizations of our designation any assets remaining when the last Sister of Providence dies.

During the 5 days of Chapter, we also enjoyed a Hallowe'en Party, a Day of Reflection, a beautiful Closing Mass and a sumptuous banquet.

We have taken steps to assure our future governance and care of our members. Our legacy is well underway with the development of Providence Village Inc. and the planned autonomy of our Providence Associates. We have discerned together the person that we hope to have appointed as our Commissary and she has accepted the invitation. Our next step is to discern the names of 3 Sisters of Providence who will serve as an advisory team for the Commissary.

Once we have received approval from Rome for our 2 petitions, the current Leadership Team will enter into dialogue with the



*Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in attendance at the final Chapter.*

*Left panel, standing, from left: Sisters Margo Shafer, Avita Kilar, Lucy Kearney, Sandra Shannon, Frances O'Brien, Rita Gleason, Yvette Girard, Elaine Hogan, Ellen Murray, Dorothy Fournier, Marilyn Kearns, and Sara Jiménez.*

*Left panel, sitting, from left: Sisters Anna Marie Willer, Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, Connie Kaufmann, Kathleen Morrell, Joanne Colligan and Catherine Cannon.*

Commissary to create a Memorandum of Understanding regarding details of her ministry to our Congregation, along with the advisory team of three Sisters of Providence. Other business of the Congregation regarding Corporations, Investment portfolio, our own ministry staff, etc. will be carried on internally for as long as we need.

We are so grateful to Providence for guiding us through these uncharted waters. While most religious congregations in Canada are in the process of this work, we are often told that we have led the way as an example to others. As a small group of Sisters (43 members), it seems safe to say that we have experienced transformation and have great hope for the future.

■ *Sister Frances O'Brien*



*Celebration for outgoing leadership team (plus Sister Sara from Peru)*



*Right panel, standing, from left: Sisters Gayle Desarmia, Lucy Bethel, Jeannette Filthaut, Patricia Amyot, Alda Brady, Reinalda Kloosterman, Barbara Thiffault, Monica Whalen, Una Byrne, Pauline Lally, Diane Brennen and Josephine Doiron.*

*Right panel, sitting, from left: Sisters Catherine Casey, Sheila Langton, Virginia Amodeo, Judith Ann Murphy and Dianne McNamara.*



# Reflection for Closing Liturgy of Chapter 2023

***At the Mass to celebrate the closing of Chapter, Providence Associates Director Barbara Baker shared the following reflection with the gathered Sisters and Associates in the Motherhouse Chapel. Included below is her reflection.***

Many times, for community celebrations, we hear the story of how the original four Sisters of Providence arrived in Kingston from Montreal on a dark winter's night in December 1861. We have heard how they opened their hearts and their home to the sick elderly and the orphans of the city. They visited people in prison and accepted food from their neighbours as well as the nearby farmers. As they dedicated their time and energy to serving the poor and marginalized their numbers grew. In the 162 years since then, there have been 517 women who have lived out their lives as Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and have slowly diminished until today there are 43 Sisters left. It has been a wonderful and inspiring journey and today we celebrate the closing Chapter of all that has been.

My first encounter with the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul was in 1977 when my family settled in the Belleville area. I met Una, Kathryn and Joan through the schools where my children attended and Irene at the House of Prayer as a Spiritual Director. These women walked with me through the darkest days of my journey and helped me to see that God was with me even though I felt very alone. Later, on retreats here in the Motherhouse, I met Virginia and Perpetua. I began to see how you lived your charism of serving with compassion and trusting in a Provident God. Your hope encouraged me to believe that I was lovable and that God was with me.

Peggy once told me that where one sister ministers, all sisters are there. I began to reflect on the many thousands of people who have been touched by your tenderheartedness and concern for our wellbeing. People in parishes, schools, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, homes for boys and girls who were challenged. Your compassion and unconditional love have changed the lives of so many. Today we want you to know how much your dedication to your ministries has empowered the lives of many people. And we give thanks for each one of you.

God has guided you through a time of deep uncertainty and God will continue to journey with you through this time of transformation.

In John's Gospel we hear Jesus say, "These things have I said to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Most High will send in my name, She will teach you all things and She will remind you



of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled nor let them fear”.

When I was a student at Queen’s, I met Frances, Gayle and Dianne. While living with them, I learned how to live in mutuality and respect. Through regular community meetings, on Sunday evenings, we learned to share our concerns and to support one another through trying times. Regularly we would meet with others in the Christian community to share our faith through prayer and reflection on the scriptures. At about this same time, I met Pauline whose passion for including lay people in a relationship with the Sisters inspired me to consider becoming a Providence Associate. We all grew together as the people of God and developed relationships that deepened over the years. We knew, as Marie often said, that life and liturgy cannot be separated. Our lives are sustained by liturgy and liturgy is enriched by our lives.

In the last few years you have established the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality at St. Paul University in Ottawa. You have endowed the Providence Centre for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation to continue your mission.

You have invested funds to ensure that your archives will be maintained in the new facility operated by the Archdiocese. You had a vision for your property at 1200 Princess Street and established Providence Village where non-profit organizations will become partners to create a neighbourhood of hope, belonging and wellbeing for the vulnerable populations of the city. Hospice Kingston and Providence Manor are in the preparation stages of their construction here. And when the time is right, with your support, the Providence Associates will carry your charism and spirituality to all those whose lives touch ours. We are so proud of all that you brought to our broken world and we will do our best to be a part of your legacy and live the words of our Manual, “In a society in which spirituality is under-valued, we strive to be liminal edge-walkers who do our part to move our planet and its people to wholeness.”

As you come to the conclusion of Chapter 2023 and wait to hear from Rome, Jeremiah reminds you of God’s promise to you, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call on me and come and pray to me, I will hear you”.

Thank you to all Sisters of Providence for all you have given. God bless.



*The Providence Associates are in the process of creating their own website.*

*In future you will be able to access information about the Providence Associates through:*

***[www.providenceassociates.ca](http://www.providenceassociates.ca)***



# The Future of the Archives

The archives of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul contains records concerning the congregation's history in Kingston, across Canada, and in Massachusetts, Guatemala and Peru. The archives are currently located in Providence Motherhouse, in Kingston. As the congregation moves towards completion and Providence Village takes over the management of the Motherhouse property, the archives is planning for its future.

Beginning in 2015 the archives began working with the Archdiocese of Kingston and the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph (RHSJ) to plan a new joint archives that would house the archival records of all three organizations.

Originally the goal was to locate this new archives in the Church of the Good Thief, a closed historic church in Kingston. In late 2019 it became apparent that this plan was not feasible due to the high cost of restoring the church to heritage standards and incorporating the archives. An alternative plan was proposed in 2020 and all three partners agreed to the idea of building an addition onto the Diocesan Centre in Kingston that would house the new joint archives.

We hope to break ground on the two-level addition in the spring of 2024. The archival storage will be housed on the lower level in a temperature-and-humidity-controlled environment with high-density mobile

shelving. The offices, reading room and work room will be housed on the upper level. The archival storage is being built to archival standards to maximize storage capacity and to ensure the long-term preservation of the records and artifacts.

This spring, all three partners signed a formal agreement to create and manage the joint archives. Each partner is contributing to the construction and to an endowment fund that will cover all ongoing operating costs for the running of the archives. The operating expenses for the project will cover all three archives so, although the collections will be maintained as separate entities, the operations will be managed as one. The sharing



of resources will ensure long-term sustainability, preservation, and accessibility of records of all three partners. Each partner will gain from the presence of the others. The congregations will have a permanent home for their documentary heritage and the future care of their archives is assured long after the congregations have come to completion. Centralizing the three Catholic archives into a single site will benefit researchers, as the collections, while independent, are complimentary.

The new archives facility will be managed by two professional archivists but we will manage all three collections. The RHSJ archivist, and the SP archivist, will be moving with our

collections to the new facility. We will become employees of the Archdiocese, while maintaining close working relationships with our current employers. The archivist will still assist Sisters, Associates, staff, and external researchers with inquiries into the records and history of the Sisters of Providence.

Currently, the archivist maintains the Heritage Room, a small museum located in Providence Motherhouse dedicated to showcasing the history of the Sisters of Providence. The museum has not been substantially changed since its opening in 1999. As more tenants will be moving into the Motherhouse in the coming years, the museum needs to be updated with an external audience

in mind. The museum is currently undergoing a redesign and is being furnished with permanent displays. The museum will remain in place throughout the coming changes at the Motherhouse and, in the future, it will serve as the primary way to tell the story of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in the Motherhouse itself.

Although the congregation is working towards completion, its history and stories will remain accessible in perpetuity through the new joint archives and the Motherhouse museum.

■ *Veronica Stienburg,*  
*Archivist*



## Encounters in Peru

During the Fall of 2023 I had the privilege of making two trips to Peru. The first was from October 18-25 and the second was from November 12-29. During these times in Peru, I had a variety of experiences that enhanced my understanding of the people and their culture while at the same time allowing me the opportunity to support Sister Sara Jimenez and the Peruvian Providence Associates.

While there I attended both the October and November Associate meetings. The Peruvian Providence Associates are a well-established group who are carrying on the legacy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Carabayllo. They are committed to following in the footsteps of St. Vincent de Paul by assisting the poor and the vulnerable.



*Peruvian Associates*

At the October meeting the focus was on youth. The presentation looked at adolescents and their use of cellphones. One PowerPoint slide posed this thought: How to reconcile the Catholic faith and young people today? This certainly is not unique to Peru. At the November meeting the focus was on mental health. The presentation looked at emotional well-being, stress, anxiety, and the negative effects of television, especially regarding the news. I noticed that their news is dominated by reports of crime and violence. Good news stories are noticeably absent. The presentation ended by looking at things to do for good mental health. Both meetings opened with prayer and ended with time for sharing.

In November I had the opportunity to attend the two-day Assembly of Major Superiors of Religious Congregations with Sister Sara. The theme was Religious Life Walking Toward the Dawn of Synodality.

The presentations on the first day focused on the political crisis in the country. Since the November 2023 ousting of President Pedro Castillo, the country has experienced ongoing pockets of political unrest and violence. Curfews are in effect in

### A Country in Crisis

- The country has had 6 presidents in 6 years.
- Studies show that 8 out of 10 Peruvians are affected by criminality.
- There is widespread insecurity because 1 out of 3 persons in the Lima region is a victim of a crime.
- Peru is experiencing its worst recession in 33 years.
- More than half the population lacks sufficient food.
- 42 out of 100 children between the ages of 6-35 months have anemia.
- The next generation of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) are active in drug trafficking and violent crime.

these areas. Fortunately, Carabayllo, where Sister Sara focuses her ministry and where a good number of the Peruvian Associates reside, is not one of these areas. The political climate of instability holds social ramifications for the citizens. These include a food crisis, unemployment, refugees, illegal migrants, and violence against women.

The presentations on the second day focused on the Synod and a Synodal Church. After an excellent review of the synodal process thus far, religious congregations were encouraged to listen from the peripheries – the geographic, social, and existential peripheries. It was emphasized that a synodal church is called to witness to the love of God that is welcoming and inclusive. Pope Francis was quoted as saying that “a synodal church is a church that listens”.

### MINISTRY VISITS

The opportunities for ministry visits in the countryside with Sister Sara Jiménez were the highlights of my time in Peru.

The first visit was to meet the family whose home burned to the ground in August. The Peruvian Associates were able to provide some assistance to them. When Sister Sara and I visited them in October, the parents were proud to show us their tiny, prefabricated fibreboard house. The family was most grateful for all the assistance they had received to get back on their feet again.

The second visit was to Fray Martin in the countryside. Sister Sara Jiménez plans to serve hot chocolate and panettones to the mothers and children in that village on December 23, just before Christmas. The purpose of



*The prefabricated house and the family in front of their newly rebuilt home.*



*Sister Sara on left with family in Fray Martin.*

our visit to Fray Martin was to speak with some of the mothers to make the preliminary arrangements for the Christmas gathering. The photograph above shows one of the families we visited. They live in a poor two-room house on the hillside.

*continued on the next page...*

Another visit was to Las Estrellas del Sol Naciente (photos at right), the communal kitchen that Sister Sandra Shannon and I had visited last year. Once again, our visit was warmly welcomed. Adjacent to the kitchen is a small daycare that we also visited. Sister Sara was able to gift both the kitchen and the daycare with a supply of pitchers and glasses for their use.

A different ministry experience was the opportunity to be present at a Christian Workers' Movement meeting in Villa Esperanza. This has been an annual visit for me and has allowed me to develop a more personal relationship with these women who have devoted most of their lives to the Christian Workers' causes.

All in all, the total of three weeks that I spent in Peru this year, proved to be an educational and enriching experience allowing me to build relationships with some of the people in Carabayllo. I look forward to next year's visit and all the experiences that it will hold.

■ *Sister Gayle Desarmia*



*Christian Workers' Movement meeting.*



*Sister Sara speaking with the cook.*



*Daycare*



*A gift of pitchers and glasses for the kitchen.*

# Providence Pages - The Beginning

The Providence Pages newsletter has shared many stories of the works and missions of the Sisters of Providence and their ministries over the past 35 years. The creation of this newsletter however was not the initial goal of the newly established Office of Communications in 1987.

## Establishing The Communications Office

In 1985, the General Chapter mandated that the possibility of establishing an Office of Communications, staffed by persons with professional communications training, be explored. Sister Gayle Desarmia was tasked with researching the methods to

establish a Communications Office. This research included subscribing to multiple newsletters, attending conferences, and visiting other congregations' communications offices.

In May 1986 a Communications Advisory Committee was established to plan for a communications office, including preparing terms of reference, objectives, long-term goals for the, job descriptions and a budget. The committee saw the congregation's communications needs as being primarily internal.

The first Director of Communications, Alayne Scanlon, began her new role

in September 1987 and the Communications Advisory Committee shifted to supporting and assisting the Director of Communications.

## Providence Pages beginnings

Part of the Director of Communications' job description was to establish internal communications. To this end, the News from the Communications Office newsletter was created in October 1987 and was produced internally with the hope of having it printed externally in tabloid format. Over the first year the purpose of the newsletter, the purpose of the Courier (a newsletter published by the General Secretary for Sisters), and the desire to link the congregation's various health care institutions, were discussed. The result was that the Courier and the News from the Communications Office ceased publication and were replaced by Providence Pages, an external facing newsletter, in September 1988.

■ *Michael Hammond, Communications*



*Format changes for the Providence Pages newsletter over the years.*

## Sister Rita Hanson

Sister Rita Hanson was born in Montreal on October 22, 1927 the eldest of three children of Edward Hanson and Veronica Pelletier.

When Rita was 9 years old her mother died. She and her younger siblings were then raised by their grandmother. Rita attended St. Gabriel's Academy in Montreal. Her first employment was as a cashier with Henry Morgan & Sons. As a member of the Legion of Mary she assisted the Little Sisters of the Poor with the elderly. Rita entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on August 15, 1949.

Following her First Profession in 1951 she was assigned to Providence Manor to care for the elderly. She trained as a Registered Nursing Assistant at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Brockville. Her ministry with the elderly took her to the Father Dowd Home, Montreal and later to Providence

Manor in Kingston. After completing a course in pharmacology, she was assigned to the evening shift at Providence Manor to distribute medications. After spending most of her life caring for the elderly whom she dearly loved, she retired to the Motherhouse where she volunteered in the library. Throughout much of her life she suffered from mental illness but she compassionately and competently carried out her ministries. Sister was a loving caregiver to the elderly and they loved her.



Sister Rita died peacefully in the infirmary on October 5, 2023. The Mass of Christian Burial, held on October 13, 2023 in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse, was presided over by Msgr. Joseph Lynch who also delivered the homily.

## Providence Pages Highlights

*The following are excerpts from past Providence Pages newsletters:*

### **Happy Day For 'The Manor'** *(Autumn 1988)*

Expansion and renovations almost completed, Providence Manor hosted an official opening in late June. In the form of a breakfast it was attended by the Mayor, Sister Nancy Wilson and members of the Council of the Sisters of Providence, staff and friends. Soon afterwards residents, who had been 'guests' at Providence Motherhouse for over three years, returned to the new facility.



*Doug Cunningham, Chairman of the Campaign, and Mayor John Gerretsen help Sister Nancy Wilson, Superior General of the Sisters of Providence, as she cut the ribbon... formally opening the new facility at Providence Manor.*

### **Goodbye to Trenton...** **after eighty-nine years** *(Summer 1991)*

We are very hopeful that the spirit of humility, simplicity and charity will live on, not only in the halls and classrooms of St. Peter's and St. Mary's schools, but in the hearts, home, and prayers of the people - our friends, among whom we prayed and laboured for so many years. Thank you, friends and co-workers for allowing us to be part of your lives.



# More Providence Pages Highlights

## **The ability to love** *(Spring 1996)*

During her three-year ministry at Kingston Penitentiary, Sister Patricia Kelly has quietly made her presence felt among the administration as well as the men she counsels.

On a volunteer basis in 1993, Sister Patricia developed the pastoral care department at the Regional Treatment Centre, a psychiatric facility for as many as 100 federal inmates incarcerated in Ontario.

Says Father Hale, “She did such a good job the institution saw the necessity of having a chaplain on site.”



*Sister Patricia Kelly arrives at Kingston Penitentiary early on a Friday morning.*

## **Printing museum opens** *(Summer 1999)*

The Sisters of Providence have opened a new museum at Providence Manor to commemorate the role of their former printing operation in the congregation’s history.

“The printing room was an important part of our history,” says Sister Gayle Desarmia, the congregation’s archivist. “For almost a century the printing room published important documents for the congregation and, at the same time, raised funds to assist the congregation’s work with the poor.”



*Sr. Gayle Desarmia shows some of the tools used with the Linotype machine.*

## **Shared vision of a caring world** *(Winter 2000)*

This issue of Providence Pages celebrates how our Providence family is united by a vision of compassionate caring and a renewed dedication to living nonviolently.

It’s moving and exciting to watch this vision manifest itself across Canada and the world. We see it in the new mission statement of Providence Place in Camrose, Alta., in the annual vigil of Peruvian women seeking a non-violent world, in this fall’s Healing Violence Against Women Conference; in the church unity dinners at Providence Spirituality Centre, and in the 80 years of religious life of the late Sr. Mary Carthagh. We are pleased to be able to share this vision of a non-violent world with our readers.



*continued on the next page...*

# Providence Pages - In Closing

## A new beginning (Winter 2001)

December 13, 2000, was a significant moment for the Peruvian people of Carabayllo as Sara Jiménez Angulo, one of their own, pronounced her perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience with the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

The ceremony began at 4 p.m. with Carmen Alomia Guia, Associate co-ordinator, stating: "Today, we are reunited here, with our hearts full of joy, because a woman from this town of Carabayllo, Sara Jiménez Angulo, will give herself completely to God through the poor."



*The leadership team joined Sisters and friends in Peru for Sara's vow ceremony*

## Green Nun (Fall 2006)

[Sister Shirley Morris's] devotion to earth issues dates back to the 14 years she spent working in the Missions in Peru and Guatemala. "The simplicity of the people who acknowledged the importance of the earth

was inspiring," says Sister Shirley.

Sister was asked to set up the Justice and Peace office in 1990. This pioneering spirit also began the Friday silent vigils in 1995. The peaceful demonstrations continue to this day.

During her time in Justice and Peace, Sister initiated major changes at Providence Motherhouse including an updated water system and recycling program. In March of 2000, Sister set up an ecology office, and worked closely with seed savers Robert and Carol Mouck in the Heirloom Seed Sanctuary. But educating people about our connection to the earth was her main ministry.



*Sr. Shirley Morris*

commitment to addressing both the symptoms and the causes of poverty.

***The Sisters missions in Peru, Guatemala and other locations have been featured over the years as have the works of the Providence Associates in Canada, Peru, and Guatemala. The Providence Associates are on their own road to autonomy and feature many of their works in their own internal newsletter.***

***With the congregation moving towards completion and with the advent of the Sisters legacy, Providence Village, the Communications Advisory Committee, with approval from the Leadership Team, have decided that now is the time for change.***

***There have been many hands at work with the publication of this newsletter and I am proud to have been a part of this legacy.***

***The works of the Sisters continue and as always, the Sisters of Providence respond to the needs of the time. After 35 years in publication, the time for Providence Pages is over. Please look for future articles to appear on the Sisters of Providence website, [www.providence.ca](http://www.providence.ca).***

■ *Michael Hammond, Communications*



## Providence Pages cover (Fall 2011)

The September Silent Vigil marked two anniversaries — 150th anniversary of the congregation and the 16th year of the vigil. The two anniversaries underlined a longstanding