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of St. Vincent de Paul  
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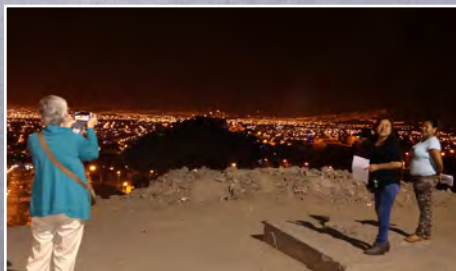
# PROVIDENCE PAGES

Spring 2018



*The Sisters celebrate 50 years in Peru. Read an account of the visit during this milestone year, a reflection on the anniversary celebration, and reflections of the Sisters time in Peru!*

## In this issue:



Anniversary visit to Peru



50th Anniversary Celebration



Holy Family Hospital remembers

## 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.



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# Visit to Peru for 50th Anniversary of Mission

***December 6-21, 2017 Sisters Sandra Shannon, Gayle Desarmia and Josephine Doiron experienced a wonderful two weeks in Carabayllo, Peru. The trip was a special one because it included celebrations to mark 50 years of ministry in Peru. Sister Gayle recalls highlights of the trip.***

The first evening in Peru we accompanied Sister Sara Jiménez to Las Lomas de Torre Blanca for Mass. This Mass was held outdoors on the vacant plot of land that may one day hold a chapel for the people of Las Lomas. December 8, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is a national holiday in Peru, we went to Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Torre Blanca where 30 young people received their First Communion. The following Sunday, December 10, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of our first four missionaries to Peru: Sisters Josephine Doiron, Rose Healy, Shirley Morris and Rita Moran. The Anniversary Mass was celebrated at Christ Light of the World Church in El Progreso and each Sister present had a special role in the celebration. *(Please see Sister Sandra's account on page 5.)*

Two days later, on December 12 we returned to Torre Blanca to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the people of that parish. After the Mass the festivities continued outdoors on the patio with live music and refreshments. December 13 marked the 156th anniversary of the congregation's foundation in Kingston in 1861. That day we took an excursion into Lima to visit to an artist's

studio, shop at the Indian Market and have lunch at Café de la Paz. The next day we joined the festive celebrations at Sister Rose-Marie Bokenfohr's clinic. This Christmas party featured hot chocolate and panettone which are seasonal favourites in Peru. That evening we made a second trip into Lima. This time we attended a trombone recital given by Sister Sara's niece at the National University of Music.

The next day was Friday the 15th and Sisters Sandra, Sara and I took a ride in the countryside to visit the convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor located near Trapiche. Driving north of El Progreso the vista in the countryside is the opposite to that of going south, through the urban area toward Lima. The drive proved to be a pleasant change to the chaos of vehicles in the urban areas.

On December 16 we celebrated Sister Sara's birthday by going to Gio's Restaurant in San Felipe. That evening the students sponsored by the Marillac Mission Fund came to the house for their Christmas meeting and celebration. In introducing themselves, the students inspired us as they described their programs of study and their hopes for the future.

On Sunday the 17th we went to Fray Martin in the countryside for a lunch that Sister Sara was having for Mothers and children. The tiny chapel dedicated to St. Martin de Porres was transformed into a dining hall and all present enjoyed a delicious meal of

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*Cars, buses & mototaxi's fill the urban streets.*

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 chicken, rice, potatoes and Inca Cola. The day ended with a gathering of the Providence Associates and Candidates in El Progreso. After introductions, prayer and reflection all had time to socialize over a delicious meal featuring chicken and pasta salad. For dessert we Canadians served maple cookies that we had brought with us from Canada. The following morning Peruvian Associate Coordinator Carmen Alomía met with Sisters Sandra and Gayle to discuss the Providence Associate program and the future connections between Peruvian and Canadian Associates.

December 18 we had opportunity to meet with various health professionals. Associate Lourdes Alvarez hosted the event which highlighted Sister Rose-Marie's ministry and her role in the development of healthcare in



*Sister's Gayle, Sandra & Rose-Marie with Associate Lourdes Alvarez and health professionals.*

Carabayllo over the years. On our final day we had lunch at a local restaurant, Chifa Felicidad that specializes in Peruvian Chinese food. That evening we went to the chapel in Villa Esperanza for an opportunity to meet with representatives of

several Christian Workers' Movement groups.

Needless to say it was a joy to be able to meet with the various groups that Sisters Rose-Marie and Sara are connected and to spend time with the people. Every evening gathering we attended ended with an opportunity to share food and visit informally. The last day of our visit was a quiet day with time to pack and prepare for our return to Canada just in time for Christmas.

#### ■ *Sister Gayle Desarmia*

*Featured in this issue are abbreviated reflections from Sisters of Providence that were or still are missioned in Peru. Full reflections are available on our website, [www.providence.ca](http://www.providence.ca)*

#### **REFLECTION: SISTER ROSE-MARIE BOKENFOHR**

Who would have thought, as I wrote that letter in 1966 to our General Superior responding to a request for volunteers (for five years) for the foreign missions, that I would be sitting here in Peru answering a request for reflections on these fifty years?

Looking at the process of preparation, arriving and all that followed, I am filled with gratitude to God in His



*Sister Rose-Marie providing one-on-one counselling.*

Providence and to each and every one who made it possible and enjoyable in Canada, Puerto Rico, Guatemala (1967-1969) and Peru ever since:

*To all the people we have met, for their generosity, patience and understanding. We came to serve God in His people especially those most in need*

and we found them doing everything possible to serve us in the early years especially, but even now.

*For our Sisters* who are so supportive of us and our work and so welcoming on our home visits.

*For our Associates*, especially the Peruvians who are friends and partners in the adventure to follow Jesus as we continue to learn to understand Him in the Gospels and in those He loves: the poorest.

In gratitude and hope, Sara and I continue on the journey with confidence in He who guides us.





# 50th Anniversary Celebration in Peru

Today is December 10, 2017 and the temperature is 24°C, hot and sunny. How can this be? It is possible as I am in Peru.

Today has been a long anticipated day by the Sisters, Associates, people of El Progreso, Carabayllo and yes by Sisters Gayle Desarmia, Joey Doiron and myself, Sister Sandra. We are here to celebrate with everyone the 50th Anniversary of our Sisters coming to this area of Peru.

Our Associates took responsibility for the organizing and planning of the Mass which was the principle celebration to mark this pivotal event in the lives of the Sisters and the people of Carabayllo.

José Ignacio Távara Castillo known to us as Pepe, one of our original Associates, prepared large wooden structures covered with pictures depicting the history of the Sisters, starting with St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, to the various Sisters who were missioned in Peru. These structures

stood out in the entrance area (a sort of square) of the Church. People milled around talking about the Sisters they had known like Sisters Rose Healy, Irene MacDonell, Jean Higgins, Theresa Moher, etc.



The Mass was a true celebration in the Lord. Carmen Alomía Guía, Associate contact for Peru, had written a script which again told the story of the Sisters. Sister Sara Jiménez Angulo welcomed the very packed Church – standing room only. With the sound of loud clapping from the Assembly the Sisters walked up the centre aisle to their places.

At the time of the procession of gifts, Carmen began the narrative of the Sisters coming to El Progreso starting with Pope Paul VI in 1966

requesting that religious congregations come to Latin America to serve the poor. The elders of the community, long-time friends of the Sisters, carried large photos which they panned across the assembly. Adults with the names of the different Latin American Bishops' Conferences came next. Youth carrying signs and photos of the various social justice and humanitarian works followed the adults. Three little children, dressed in typical costumes, came next. They carried the

Bible and small flags of Peru and Canada signifying our close relationships based on the Word of God. At the very last Sister Joey and I carried the bread and wine. How important it was to the Sisters that the people they have come to know intimately took part in the celebration.

The Mass continued as usual with lively music. The whole assembly sang along with gusto. Two Associates proclaimed the readings.

At the end of the Mass, Sister Gayle spoke in Spanish on behalf of the Congregation.

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She emphasized the great partnership that has developed between the Sisters, the Associates and the people. Sister Rose-Marie followed with her words of gratitude to those who came to celebrate the occasion and special gratitude to the Associates for their work.

We could barely move out of the Church. People flocked to us giving us embraces and expressions of their gratitude for the presence and work of the Sisters. I felt very humbled to be shown such honour but I took it in on behalf of all the Sisters who had ever worked in Peru as well as the

Sisters in Canada who have supported our Peruvian Missions in one way or another. Joy, happiness, gratitude and pride filled my heart. Sisters Sara, Rose-Marie and Joey were lost in a sea of people trying to get to each one for personal hugs. All in attendance were pleased to receive souvenir pens, keychains and a book of the history of the Sisters in El Progreso beautifully written by Pepe.

As people drifted away after a long time of socializing, I was left with feelings of pride for the influence



the Congregación de las Hermanas de la Providencia de San Vicente de Paúl has had on these beautiful people. I am grateful for the respect and acceptance the people have for our Sisters. Also I feel confident in our Associates' ability to carry forward the charism and presence of Providence in this one, very important part of the world.

■ *Sister Sandra Shannon*

#### REFLECTION: SISTER JOSEPHINE DOIRON

I was one of the first Sisters of Providence to go to Peru in 1967 and I went back to celebrate the 50th year of our presence there. It meant a lot to me to be there for this special event.

We began the celebration with the Sisters and Associates participating in a special Mass for this great occasion.

It was great seeing and visiting with many old friends with whom I had worked. I was greatly impressed with the many changes in the area. Most of the homes now had two or three floors added to the original building. These floors were made for when their children married. When we first arrived in Peru, the buildings were made of a straw material and now all are built with bricks and all vacant spaces seem to be used for the



*Sister Josephine Doiron playing the guitar at mass.*

homes. The town is now part of the greater Municipality of Lima. The health clinic that was constructed during the first year we were there is now a new three story building.

There are now many cars, buses and what they call mototaxis. One has to be very careful crossing the road because the traffic is so heavy. The markets have improved greatly and they are now very large places where people can buy all their groceries, clothing, etc. Also, the town now has running water and street lights in every area. There are still some areas where the extremely poor live.

It was so nice to see how the towns have improved so much. Even the church in El Progreso is such a nice building.



# A Procession and a Story

***The script for the procession with the gifts at the anniversary Mass gave an overview of the mission in Carabayllo, Peru. It was written and narrated by Providence Associate Carmen Alomía who was the emcee at the Mass.***

We present our work of the last 50 years to the Lord. It is represented by the different generations who have lived, worked and struggled together with the Sisters during all these years. It also represents our commitment to continue the work of evangelization because of the testimony of their lives, given to God, in the town of Carabayllo.

**Older adults bring photographs of Vatican II, the arrival of the Sisters in 1967 and the marches for rights**

With the call of Vatican II, Canadian missionaries (priests and religious) arrived in Carabayllo. From the beginning of the mission, with the challenges posed in the documents of the Council, biblical study of our reality was very present in the first Christian communities animated by the Sisters. It was basic to their faith to seek the well-being of all those who lived on the hillsides, all those who demanded from the different levels of government (through paperwork and marches) basic services for a life worthy of God's children. Receive Holy Father all the effort of this generation, to fulfill your word in daily life.

God of Life, we ask for your strength to be given to the ecclesial and civil authorities, for every man and woman who seeks the welfare of all, especially the poorest of the poor, demanding their rights and fulfilling their obligations. Together may we remove the stones in the path of justice, truth and honesty so that we may not stumble and fall. *We pray to the Lord...*



**Adults bring photographs of Medellín, Puebla and Aparecida**

Faith in action ... The Latin American Episcopal Conference guided our pastoral work in its different fields. One area was working with the poor through education and preventive organization to face the difficulties that they experience in the areas of health. The first document was Medellín (1968), which told us what the role of the church was in the current transformation of America in the light of the Council. The second was Puebla (1979), which challenged us with the suffering faces of Christ. The last one was Aparecida (2007), which re-thought the preferential option for the poor. Therefore in Carabayllo, in the field of health, professionals and settlers along with the Sisters promoted the medical station, preventative measures in each area through health delegates and attention to cases of extreme need. All this walking in service of the community we place in your lap, Lord of Health.

Merciful Father we ask you for all the professional laypersons, that Christ, healer of body and soul, may guide their professional actions in their fields of endeavour. May they show quality of service as followers of Christ our Lord.

*We pray to the Lord...*

**University students bring photographs of St. Vincent de Paul, Óscar Romero and Gustavo Gutiérrez**

This generation of university students receives Christ's legacy of how to live our Faith in LIFE, from the testimonies of holy men and women, men and women committed to the People of God. The Sisters welcomed into their lives the spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul. Vincent

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challenges us to live the affective and effective love, especially toward the poor. The Sisters also introduced us to Blessed Oscar Romero who was the voice of the voiceless and who experienced martyrdom because of his defense of the most abused of the Salvadoran people. In a similar way the Sisters presented us with the Peruvian theologian, Father Gustavo Gutiérrez. Right to this present day he helps us understand and practise our faith in daily living through Liberation Theology. The Sisters affected our ecclesial history by the dedication of their lives to the project of the integral liberation of humans. May the Holy Father receive the vitality of these young people as a promise to follow Him and to persevere.

Young Christ, we ask for the young people that you may be their reference to life. In the life choices they make may they always be present to your favoured ones who are the most fragile in society. *We pray to the Lord...*

**Adolescents bring photographs depicting labour rights, women's rights and the rights of children and adolescents**

This generation of adolescents receives the legacy of the fruit of the years of struggle of their parents and grandparents who, motivated by their faith, demanded from the State health services, education, water, electricity and quality transportation as well as respect for labor rights, rights of women and children and adolescents. Receive, O God, from the hands of these adolescents who are the hope of the church and of society, the promise of the continuity of this work which seeks the common good.

We pray Holy Father, for the adolescents of this assembly of Carabayllo, Lima North and Peru, that they may follow the example of



their parents and grandparents and continue seeking the justice of God in their lives. *We pray to the Lord...*

**Children bring the Bible and the flags of Peru & Canada**

Our children and grandchildren, bring before you God, the Word that feeds, that sustains and that illuminates our path yesterday, today and always. They bring the Word in the hands of these three children, who encouraged by their domestic and local church, will grow in the practice of the Word of God. Two sister countries, Canada and Peru, have been united for fifty years in the Action and Contemplation of the Word. Receive Loving Father this promise of continuing with the evangelizing work, wherever we are.

Jesus Christ, you had a special care for the little ones. We pray for our children and for their families to be true domestic churches, where the Word becomes experience. For the local church, so that its primary action will be the evangelization of these children, *we pray to the Lord...*

**Sisters bring the bread and wine**

Sister Sandra, Superior of the Congregation and Sister Joey, who represents one of the four Sisters who came to Carabayllo on December 10, 1967, bring before you Lord the bread and the wine that are the fruit of the work of humans in the field and in the city. They work to forge a just and egalitarian world. Receive their work Lord.

We ask you, Father of Love, for the poor, for those who are without work, that they may find justice. For those of us who are gathered here in front of your altar, nourished by your word and your Eucharist, may we strive to walk our path. *We pray to the Lord...*

■ *Carmen Alomía, Providence Associate*





# REFLECTION: SISTER SHIRLEY MORRIS

In Peru, we arrived at 10:30 pm on December 9, 1967. On December 10 Father MacDonnell came to bring the Sisters to their parish for a reception by the people.

The chapel consisted of an earthen floor, pews consisting of unpainted planks, with one side of the chapel completely open. Following Mass, the people had a wonderful program planned with singing, dancing, speeches and later a sport's event.

As we walked around the barrio, the severe poverty in which the people were living was evident. There was no electricity, no water and most houses were made of straw or reed. Some of the houses appeared to be

clinging precariously to the hillside.

[Father MacDonnell] felt that through group dynamics and reflections, the Christian message can become a living reality. His advice to us was to study, reflect, pray and become a community of love.

There have been many new beginnings along the way, however, the greatest joy for me was to experience the love and acceptance of the people who in the face of their extreme poverty, taught us about simplicity of lifestyle, courage and they opened my eyes to the many injustices and inequalities that existed between rich and poor.



*The first missionaries to Peru: Sister Josephine Doiron, Fr. John Adamyk, Sister Rose Healy, Sister Rita Moran, Fr. Duncan MacDonnell, and Sister Shirley Morris.*

May the mission, "Cristo Luz del Mundo" (Christ, the Light of the World), continue to bear fruit after 50 years of service by so many priests, Sisters, Associates and lay volunteers who continue to pray and work with the people and for those who give generously both spiritually and financially through the Marillac Mission Fund to support the mission of the Sisters in Peru.

## IN MEMORIAM

# Alphonse (Al) Meloche, Associate

Al Meloche was born in Windsor, Ontario. As a young man he worked for Broughton's Religious Goods Store in Toronto. He became a married deacon and was very committed to this ministry in the Catholic Church.

Al eventually moved to Kingston where he became involved in Prison Ministry. He initiated many workshops both for the deacons of this diocese and those involved in prison ministry. Al and his wife, Rollande became Providence Associates in 2002 and were members of the Rainbow Group.



In 2004 Al and Rollande moved to Kensington, Prince Edward Island where Al continued to work in Prison Ministry. He kept a close connection with the Rainbow Group, often spending time with members during family visits in Kingston.

During the past year, Al suffered greatly from a heart condition and sleep apnea. He appreciated the prayers offered by the Sisters and the Providence Associates. Al died peacefully in the Prince County Hospital, Summerside on January 11, 2018. He will be missed by all who knew him.

■ Sister Irene Wilson



# Testimony: Mr. Ricardo Cordova Ames

My deepest admiration, respect, and congratulations to the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on the 50th Anniversary of their presence in our District. They arrived in December of 1967, with nothing but divine charity, which is a characteristic of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul, and coincided with the changes and reforms of Vatican Council II. These reforms stated that the nuns (as they were called then) without losing the responsibilities and obligations in their convent, "should be interested in human problems and share in

the efforts of other Christians to improve the condition in which the poor, the destitute and those who have nothing, live".

Being a former Town Councillor and long-time inhabitant here in Carabayllo, I have seen up close their selfless sacrifice, sometimes misunderstood, and their decisive work in the religious, social, cultural, health and educational fields. I have seen them participating actively in the development of the district, especially among the young population. Their presence was well known in

popular assemblies, meetings, hearings and marches supporting social justice. Their voice was always felt when it came to defending just causes and the needs of the people.

Thus, I can give testimony that their mission work in the heart of the same people has borne fruit in imperishable works that have taken the young people of Carabayllo down the path of progress, peace and social dignity.

■ *Mr. Ricardo Cordova Ames was the former Mayor of Carabayllo.*

## REFLECTION: SISTER SARA JIMÉNEZ ANGULO

My friendship with the Sisters started at a time when I had many questions: Who am I? What can I do with my life? Where is God? Where can I find Him? How can I help the people who are suffering?

The Sisters helped me a lot. After a while, I was able to see a different way of looking at life, of feeling useful, capable of transmitting hope to others. Each one of them was building a new person in me; as Sister Irene MacDonell said "I was a hidden pearl". Many memories invade my soul. The Sisters had their amazing dreams of changing the world, of making it more human, just as God would like it to be.

Guided by the principles of helping others I went into politics and became Mayor of Carabayllo, in

a time of political violence in my country. How difficult and how painful it was not to be able to answer to the needs of my people. It was not nice to learn this reality.



*Classes in Fray Martín*

My friendship with the Sisters was never distant or had any ruptures. Therefore, free of my commitments, in 1993, I became an Associate of the Congregation. As an Associate, I deepened my knowledge of the history and the charism of the Congregation. In

1995, I became a member of the Congregation of Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul with many dreams.

To walk with the Sisters has been indeed a marvelous experience in my life.

Thank You God, thank you Sisters.





# Mission in Peru: Reflecting on the First Year

*The Archives has some wonderful descriptions of the Sisters' first years in Peru. The Annals of the first year of the mission in El Progreso, letters and reflections written by the Sisters at the time provide a glimpse into their lives and ministries. Here are a few excerpts:*



**December 11, 1967** - A walk around the barriada with Father Duncan. A rather depressing experience. Our inability to converse well – very frustrating. This tour revealed the depths of poverty and depression existing among the people of our area. It also showed us that some have a spirit of hope and a desire for better things. With this everything is possible. The pastor's advice -- If you do nothing else this first year except visit the homes and give the people a sense of worth and dignity, you will have accomplished a great deal. My own reflection – we have much to learn from these, our people. (*El Progreso Annals*)

**December 28, 1967** - In your last letter you advised us to go slowly at first. I have discovered that one cannot do otherwise in Peru. It is unbelievable how little one can do in a day sometimes. It took us two days to buy a fridge, and some afternoons we have gone to shop for about five hours and return with only a few pots and pans. We are quite a distance from down town Lima, and of course we are

dependent on the help of our friends. (*Letter from Sr. Rose Healy to Sr. Mary Lenore Carter, General Superior*)

**1968** - Most mornings I go out visiting among our people. These visits can prove to be most interesting, as we never know whether we will be called upon to give an injection, advise a mother about a sick child, discover that some are in need of medical assistance, or comfort a person spiritually or materially, etc. ... Every afternoon of the week I attend meetings in the different barriadas in our parish. These meetings are with the Mother's Clubs and the women involved in the Caritas program. We teach nutrition, sewing and alphabetization to the women. In the nutrition and cooking classes, the women memorize recipes and instructions as many of them cannot write. (1968 reflection by Sr. Mary Francis – Sr. Joey Doiron)

**January 31, 1968** - Serenade for Sister Francis' birthday. Our first experience of this custom. Men and women came to the convent at midnight. They sang and played guitars. We got up, opened the living room to them, more songs, dances and drinks and speeches. In the morning most of the group were at morning Mass in honour of Sister. (*El Progreso Annals*)

■ *Veronica Stienburg, Archivist*



# Holy Family Hospital remembers its roots

In March 2000, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul transferred sponsorship of Holy Family Hospital in Vancouver, BC to Providence Health Care. Even though the Sisters haven't been involved with the governance of Holy Family Hospital for 18 years, and the last Sister to live in British Columbia returned to Kingston five years ago, it is lovely to hear that Holy Family Hospital still remembers and values its roots.

2017 was the 70th anniversary of the founding of Holy Family Hospital. The three founding Sisters, Sr. Mary Dolorosa (Sr. Rose Bekar), Sr. Mary Catherine Dooley and Sr. Mary Ita (Sr. Hannah Coleman), arrived in Vancouver in April 1947. The new hospital for the chronically ill was to be located in an old house on three acres in the Fraserview area of Vancouver. By the time the hospital officially opened in October 1947, there were twelve aged women patients at Holy Family Hospital and this number soon increased to the maximum of eighteen. The original house served as a hospital and residence for the Sisters for five years before a purpose built hospital was opened in March 1954.

Every few years the Sisters of Providence Archives receives requests from Holy Family Hospital in an effort to keep the connection to the Sisters alive for both staff and patients. In October 2017, I was happy to fulfill a request for information and prayer cards about Catherine McKinley to be used at an event celebrating the hospital's founders. Catherine McKinley is considered to be the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul as she was the first Sister to enter the new congregation in 1862 and was appointed the first General Superior in 1866. She died in 1904.



Photo courtesy of Holy Family Hospital  
*Attendees of the November 29th event.*

Lucy Luongo, Coordinator of Mission Services of Holy Family Hospital writes the following about the hospital's connection to the Sisters of Providence:

"Every November 21, Holy Family Hospital of Vancouver celebrates the life and legacy of Sister Catherine McKinley who founded the Sisters of

Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. We are thankful for our Founding Sisters who provided compassionate, hands-on care towards the orphaned, the suffering, the dying and the aged. Seventy years later, we continue to provide caring compassion to all in our care."

Holy Family Hospital celebrated Catherine McKinley and the Sisters of Providence with an event on November 29th, 2017. The event included a song of tribute to Catherine McKinley, and a speaker talking about the early days of Holy Family Hospital, the hospital's contributions to rehabilitation and the hospital's successes. A wonderful display board about the history of Catherine McKinley and Holy Family Hospital, using information provided by the Archives, was prominently displayed in the room. Catherine McKinley prayer cards and medals, also provided by the Archives, were given to attendees.

As archivist, I always appreciate seeing the history of the Sisters of Providence remembered and celebrated and am always happy to help in any way I can.

■ *Veronica Stienburg,*  
*Archivist*





## LITURGY SCHEDULE

# Trust the Covenant – the Time is Now

PASCHAL CYCLE 2018: LENT • TRIDUUM • EASTER • PENTECOST

February	14	Wednesday	4:00 pm	<i>Ash Wednesday, Eucharist and distribution of ashes</i>
	17	Saturday	6:30 pm*	<i>Lenten Evening Prayer</i>
	18	Sunday	10:00 am	1st Sunday of Lent
	25	Sunday	10:00 am	2nd Sunday of Lent
March	4	Sunday	10:00 am	3rd Sunday of Lent
	6	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Communal Celebration of Reconciliation
	11	Sunday	10:00 am	4th Sunday of Lent
	18	Sunday	10:00 am	5th Sunday of Lent
	25	Sunday	10:00 am	Passion Sunday, beginning with the Blessing and distribution of Palms in the auditorium

### The Paschal Triduum

March	29	Thursday	6:30 pm*	<i>Holy Thursday</i>
	30	Friday	3:00 pm*	<i>Good Friday</i>
	31	Saturday	6:30 pm	Easter Vigil
April	1	Sunday	10:00 am	Easter Sunday
May	19	Saturday	6:30 pm	Vigil of Pentecost
	20	Sunday	10:00 am	Pentecost Sunday

*\* Incense will be used in these celebrations*



# PeaceQuest at Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony

"It is rare for a Canadian to be presented with the Nobel Peace Prize," said Joe Gunn, Executive Director of Citizens for Public Justice and friend of the Sisters of Providence. "It is also rare for women to be the recipient of such an honour."

Along with my fellow PeaceQuester Beth Pater, I joined Joe to attend a unique ceremony in the Parliament buildings before Christmas.

On that dreary December day we honoured Toronto resident Setsuko Thurlow and Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, or ICAN. (I like any name that proclaims "I can!") The two women were soon to travel to Norway to receive the Peace Prize on behalf of ICAN.

Setsuko was a 13-year-old Hiroshima schoolgirl when the United States dropped an atomic bomb in 1945. She has recounted how some 30 girls with her in a classroom were all practically burned alive that day.

ICAN draws attention to the potential of nuclear destruction, advocating the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted last July by 122 countries.

Our presence in Ottawa was to honour people who take seriously the nuclear threat.

Organized by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the reception was well-attended, although Liberals were hard to find. Prime Minister Trudeau has yet to congratulate Ms. Thurlow or ICAN, and Canada has not signed the treaty.

Canada's Prime Minister has opined that,

"There can be all sorts of people talking about nuclear disarmament, but if they do not actually have nuclear arms, it is sort of useless to have them around, talking."

None of the 80 guests at the Parliament Hill reception felt that their work for peace was "useless."

Beth and I sat with Murray Thompson, 95, the dean of Canada's peace movement. Murray has convinced over 1,000 of his fellow Order of Canada recipients to sign a statement calling on members of the UN – including Canada, "to endorse, and begin negotiations for, a nuclear weapons convention as proposed by the UN Secretary-General."

Let's celebrate this prestigious Nobel Peace Prize by writing letters to Mr. Trudeau to push Canada into global action for nuclear disarmament.

■ *Sister Pauline Lally, a founding member of PeaceQuest. For more on this and other PeaceQuest stories please visit [PeaceQuest.ca](http://PeaceQuest.ca)*



Photo courtesy of Joe Gunn, Citizens for Public Justice

*From left: Beth Pater, Sister Pauline Lally and Murray Thompson*



# Spring offerings at the Spirituality Centre

## WORKSHOP: "Caring For Our Common Home: Cultivating Awe and Wonder Through Images of Air, Earth and Water"

Apr. 27, 7pm – Apr. 29, 1pm  
*Eileen Power, CND & Kathy Murtha*  
 Register by Thu Apr. 12  
 Cost: \$165

Air, Earth, Water and Fire are integrally woven into the revelatory power of Christianity. Contemplating the Elements is a powerful way of instilling the awe and wonder that Pope Francis insists is necessary to overcome our attitudes of masters and consumers and bring us into unity with all that exists. *Caring for Our Common Home* is an interactive Retreat entailing scripture, symbols, media, poetry, reflection, prayer, ritual, input and contemplative silence.

*Eileen Power, CND*, a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame, is a Spiritual Director and Retreat Facilitator with many years of experience accompanying people on their spiritual journey. She has a Master of Divinity from St. Michael's College.

*Kathy Murtha*, is an associate of the Congregation of Notre Dame and has an MA in Theology from St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Kathy is presently the Co-ordinator of Scarboro Mission Retreat Centre and has spent her life designing and facilitating Retreats for young people and adults.

## SPRING SENIORS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY SERIES *Everything Belongs*

May 3 + May 17 9:45am – 1pm  
*Denise Bérubé, CND*  
 Register 2 weeks in advance  
 Cost: \$20/session (includes lunch)

The season of Spring always beckons creation to new life, a bit at a time, until it reaches a certain completion. Everything belongs to, and adds to, the rich panorama of God's creation. How is it so in our lives as Christians? What do we notice in the springtime of our lives? What does it mean for us to "grow into belonging" to the whole of God's creation? Senior or not – if you'd like to come you're welcome!

## RETREAT: Overcoming Our Resistance to Joy

May 10, 7pm – May 12, 1pm  
*Brother Don Bisson, FMS*  
 Call to pre-register.  
 Full payment by Apr. 12  
 Cost: \$215

Joy is a mysterious encounter with Otherness. As the soul quiets itself, deep joy and consolation become possible, although humans tend to resist their deepest desires, including joy. This guided retreat will focus on the qualities of a life saturated in God, and filled with the joyous mysteries of life.

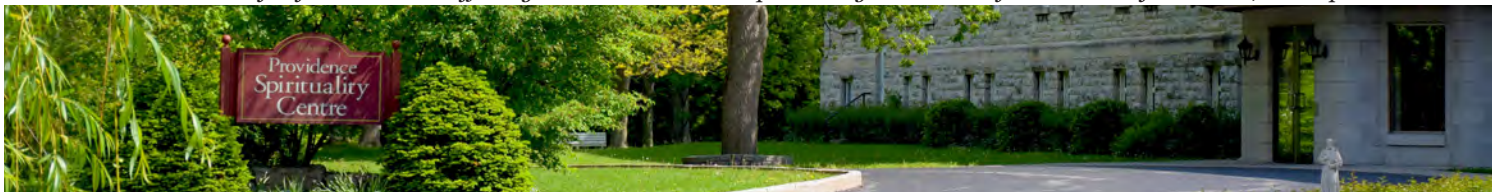
*Brother Don Bisson, FMS* is, first and foremost, a spiritual director and is widely respected as a specialist in the training, formation and supervision of spiritual directors. A Marist brother based in Esopus, New York, he has graduate degrees in liturgy, spirituality, and transpersonal psychology, and earned his Doctor of Ministry at the Pacific School of Religion specializing in Spiritual Direction and Jungian Psychology.

MONICA BROWN & HILARY MUSGRAVE RETURN TO PSC FOR A RETREAT

## *Finding God In the Heart of Our suffering – Spiritual Resilience*

Nov. 1-3 cost: \$235.00 (includes meals and accommodations)

Please visit our website for full details on offerings at the Providence Spirituality Centre and for contact information, [www.providence.ca](http://www.providence.ca)



# Commemorating 20 Years of Healing Violence

***Sister Frances O'Brien, a member of the Healing Violence Committee, recalls the great works of the committee.***

For the past 20 years, a standing committee established by the Sisters of Providence has been working hard to raise awareness about violence and its underlying causes, and to move to concrete actions to eradicate violence especially against women and children. In the first 10 years, we held major conferences with keynote speakers and workshop presenters or panels on the following topics: the root causes of violence against women; healing the trauma of violence; a community approach to preventing violence against women; the crime of human trafficking; bringing gender violence out of the shadows.

We established a bursary committee which now distributes bursaries totaling \$20,000 per year to women coming through the violence cycle who use the money for education or counselling.

We gave workshops on human trafficking to high schools in Kemptville, Perth, Brockville, Kingston, Belleville, and Peterborough, to CWL groups in Stirling, Belleville, Smiths Falls, Gananoque and Kingston, and to the Sisters' Council of Edmonton Archdiocese.

In the next 10 years, we followed up with day-long workshops on sexual exploitation through the internet, and training in non-violent communication skills.

We networked with many agencies in Kingston to host a conference celebrating how women 'do' peace.

We then turned our attention to Sexual Violence in the Church and offered a process to help Catholics heal from the betrayal of molestation of children by clergy. This process was presented to the Sisters of Providence, to our Sunday Faith Community, to a parish in Kingston and one in Belleville.

We brought in Sister Nuala Kenny to present workshops for 320 people on *Healing the Church: Addressing the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis*. Since that time we have offered to use Sister Nuala's material in workshops for any parish or Church group who would invite us. ***Now it's time to celebrate that work...***

## YOU ARE INVITED

### Commemorating 20 years of Healing Violence

Providence Motherhouse  
June 2, 2018 at 2 p.m.

RSVP by May 11 to  
Doreen Hoekstra  
Doreen.Hoekstra@Providence.ca or  
613-544-4525 ext. 105



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