



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

PROVIDENCE PAGES

Winter 2017



Catherine McKinley, known as Mother Mary Edward in religion, was the first General Superior of the congregation. Her correspondence chronicles the development and growth of the congregation in its foundational years. Catherine McKinley's letters are now available online!

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Harvest Markets 150+ Years



Marillac Mission Fund Event



Transformative Liturgy

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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Sisters obituary excerpts prepared by Sister Barbara Thiffault, General Secretary. For the full obituary of the Sisters please visit our website:

www.providence.ca/obituaries

A regular publication of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul



A September for Remembering

2017 is a special year in the history of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Fifty years ago they opened their mission in Peru – in El Progreso, Carabayllo. While the official celebration takes place December 10 in Peru, Sisters and Associates began to commemorate the event in September.

The Peruvian Associates have dedicated their whole year to studying and celebrating the events of these 50 years. Through personal testimonies they have re-lived the journey of the Sisters and Associates since 1967.

September 15 in Peru: Panel Presentation in El Progreso

September 15 the Sisters and Associates in Peru began reflecting and celebrating with others. They had a panel presentation on “The Poor in St. Vincent de Paul”. Father José Antonio Ubillus of the Congregation of the Mission gave a picture of the spirituality



Panel Presentation in El Progreso

that encouraged the Sisters and Associates to commit themselves to the marginalized of society. Father Noel Kerrin of the Missionaries of St. Columban recalled the Pope’s invitation after Vatican Council II for religious to extend their missionary activities to Latin America. This is why many missionaries came to Lima

to work with and among the poor. The third member of the panel to speak was Sister Rose-Marie Bokenfohr of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. She gave testimony to her work in public health during the last 50 years. More than 180 people attended this event which ended on a high note with children performing a folk dance, refreshments and the distribution of a book by Peruvian Associate José Távara (Pepe) entitled “Walking for 50 years with the town of Carabayllo”.



September 24 in Peru: Feast of St. Vincent de Paul in El Progreso

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September 24 in Peru: Feast of St. Vincent de Paul in El Progreso

Sunday, September 24 a special Mass was celebrated in El Progreso in Christ Light of the World Church to mark the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. Sisters, Associates, representatives of the Daughters of Charity, friends, neighbours and parish groups were present. The statue of St. Vincent de Paul from the grotto at the Sisters house held a place of honour. After the Mass the Sisters and Associates processed the statue back to the grotto where they sang and prayed and then ended their celebration with a breakfast together.

September 24 in Canada: Marillac Mission Fund Presentation

That same Sunday, Sisters, Associates, donors to the Marillac Mission Fund and members of the Sunday faith community gathered in Catherine McKinley Hall at Providence

Motherhouse in Kingston, Ontario. After a catered lunch Sister Sandra Shannon welcomed all present and Sister Gayle Desarmia walked those present through a PowerPoint presentation to mark the 50th anniversary. After time for questions and answers about the work in Peru the event ended with a free raffle for Peruvian souvenirs.

September 27 in Peru: Feast of St. Vincent de Paul in Lima

The “remembering” of September ended with Sisters and Associates, who were able, travelling into Surquillo – Lima, to join the other members of the Vincentian Family of Peru. Together the Vincentian communities celebrated Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Surquillo.

■ *Sister Gayle Desarmia*

Watch for an account of the official 50th anniversary celebration in the next issue of Providence Pages.

The Marillac Mission Fund is a registered charity which carries on the work of the Congregation in Peru.

www.providence.ca/marillac



Fall Gathering: letting go through contemplation

Thirty-nine Sisters of Providence assembled at Providence Spirituality Centre for their annual Fall Gathering from 9:00 a.m., September 21 until 5:00 p.m. on September 23. This was an intense but significant experience in the Sisters' journey as they continue future planning for the community and coming to completion.

As the planning processes have unfolded, there emerged a need to face the difficult tasks of "letting go and grieving." The Leadership Team engaged two excellent women leaders to help us face the two tasks.

Sister Dorothy Heiderscheit, OSF, CEO of Southdown, presented on the first day and provided professional guidance on the challenges of the grieving process and resilience, the ability to recover from challenges and return to a state of well-being.

Jan Novotka and Marie Larkin guided the group

through two days of facilitated reflection with references to great spiritual writers,



Jan Novotka

Scripture, stories, readings and beautiful music to bring us into the fullness of consciousness of our reality and acceptance of the NOW. Through the process they

guided us to deepen our contemplative stance.

The Leadership Team met informally with the Sisters on the first evening to update us on various aspects of the planning process as it is evolving. There was a good exchange of information and answers to questions from the group.



Marie Larkin (right) talking with Sister Gayle Desarmia.

Some Sisters, reflecting afterward on the Fall Gathering event, had the following comments:

"an experience that took us as a group deeper into our prayer life – more contemplative."

"we were more relaxed and open in our interaction with one another."

"an inspiration to live fully and peacefully each day that remains."

"unique to this gathering was a oneness, togetherness, closeness, a sense of peace."

"a recognition that we are declining but our mission will live on in others with whom we have interacted."

"we were given the tools to work through grieving and letting go and to enter into a contemplative stance."

And so, we Sisters, concluded the sessions "Trusting in Providence and Walking in Hope" as we journey on into our future together.

■ Sister Sheila Langton



Community Harvest Kingston celebrates

Sister Diane Brennen spoke at the Community Harvest Kingston's second Canada 150+ event on August 30, 2017.

Sister Gayle and I are pleased to be part of this celebration commemorating Canada's 150th anniversary, sponsored by Community Harvest Kingston.

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul were founded in 1861, six years before confederation. Right from their beginning the Sisters were concerned with providing the vulnerable with nutritious food. In the early days of the congregation they relied on charity to feed themselves and the elderly, orphans and infirm who they cared for at the House of Providence, now known as Providence Manor. The Sisters went on collecting tours in the country, asking for donations of food, and vegetables to feed the vulnerable they looked after.

Our annals of 1893 records several trips to the country to collect fresh food that September.

A Rev. Kelly of Athens wrote to the General Superior at that time: "The good Sisters are cordially welcome to collect vegetables or anything they can get in my mission. They will get lots of vegetables here, we have good crops."

The current property where we have our Motherhouse at 1200 Princess Street, is known as Heathfield. That was the name of the farm that was purchased by the congregation in 1930. It has always had some fruit trees and vegetable gardens for the Sisters' use as well as for the poor of Kingston. When she entered Sister Gayle said that the pantry had jars and jars of preserved plums, a fruit she was



From left: MPP Sophie Kiwala, Sister Gayle Desarmia and Sister Diane Brennen.

not particularly fond of after being served it continuously for desert.

In 1999 we started the Heirloom Seed Sanctuary which has flourished and provided education so that other heritage gardens could start in the area. For fifteen years we held a tomato tasting day with the various varieties of heirloom tomatoes.

Our future plans for Providence Village include community gardens.

When the Sisters formed their current Mission Statement two years ago we ended it with this statement: "Sharing our spiritual, human and financial resources, we promote justice and peace for all creation." This includes our support of food security, seed saving and gardening.

As a community the Sisters have supported Community Harvest Kingston from their beginning both financially and with personnel. We wish them continued blessings on their work with the earth, gardens and market.



farmers markets 150+ years in Ontario

Tara Kainer of the Sisters of Providence Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office, and member of the Community Harvest Kingston group recounts the events of the day.

Community Harvest Kingston and its partners celebrated 150+ years of farmers markets in Ontario with a day of period-appropriate costumes, food, and music in addition to the regular vendors being on-site. Many people attended the event including Kingston & the Islands MP Mark Gerretsen and MPP Sophie Kiwala, as well as Bryan Paterson, Mayor of Kingston, and James Brown, President of the Board at Kingston Community Health Centres.

Market-goers were invited to don Confederation-era costumes available during the event if they wished, thanks to a partnership with the Historical Costume Club of Kingston. The market also highlighted traditional artisans and craftspeople, including Kingston's Spinners & Weavers. Other displays showcased bee keepers, candle makers, maple syrup makers, and live animals featuring chickens, pigeons and rabbits brought from home by CHK's Canada Summer Jobs student, Olimpia Sienkiewicz. Sanctuary City Kingston and Better Beginnings for Kingston Children set up community information booths and Cate Henderson from the Sisters of Providence Heirloom Seed Sanctuary conducted a tomato seed saving workshop.

Adding to the fun were free horse and carriage rides, live music with *The Blue Grass Hoppers*,

and old-fashioned children's games including "egg on a spoon" and three-legged races.

Historically-appropriate food was served free to those in attendance and included a variety of locally-made cheeses, dried sausage, and condiments. A traditional hard candy, first produced in the North American colonies in the early 19th century, was also on offer. Kingston's "Soup Coup" provided traditional (vegan) pea soup made from produce grown in CHK's organic garden. Community Harvest Market vendor, Ernie Sands, served up over 300 corn on the cobb, and I baked as many Catherine Parr Traill "Common Bush Tea

Cakes" for dessert. Other available food was purchased from Chris Shelley, co-owner of General Brock's Commissary (tagged *Food worth fighting for!*)

Now in its 9th season, Community Harvest Market's mission is to educate people

about the benefits of healthy food, increase access to affordable local food, and build community, particularly in the Rideau Heights neighbourhood of north Kingston.

The first Canada 150+ event occurred in July when CHK partnered with Kingston's National Aboriginal Day Committee and Three Things Consulting to honour First Peoples in Kingston and the area. Both initiatives were made possible by Community Harvest Kingston's 30-plus dedicated volunteers and financed by the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, a collaboration between Community Foundation for Kingston and Area, the Government of Canada, and extraordinary leaders from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

For more on Community Harvest Kingston visit communityharvestkingston.com



Transformative liturgy

Fellow beggars and pilgrims on the journey...

This was one of many provocative descriptions of the liturgical experience used by Sister Miriam Martin, during an afternoon of reflection and renewal hosted by the Congregational Liturgy Committee.

Approximately 60 Sisters and members of our Sunday assembly gathered in McKinley Hall, at Providence Motherhouse, on October 22 to share their thoughts on the *Transformative Power of the Liturgy*. Miriam is a Presentation Sister of Newfoundland who teaches at and is also Director of the new Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality at St. Paul's University in Ottawa.



Sister Miriam Martin, PBVM

Beginning with a Mary Oliver poem *When I am Among Trees* she spoke of how she is continually transformed by her surroundings. We heard how our environment and our everyday rituals give form to our lives. Likewise, our Sunday Ritual – the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian experience, empowers and moulds us, as individuals, families, and communities. It deepens our identity, defining “who we are” as we establish an order and shape a way of being in the world.

Each time we come to the table of the Eucharist, we are formed increasingly into that likeness of Christ. Ritual is a gift of transformation, and a gift to be distributed. The structure of the ritual speaks to our spirituality and the environment of it speaks to our attentiveness.

The four movements of the Eucharist each offer its own opportunity for transformation. Gathering to celebrate calls us to move from “me” to “us”. The Word calls us not only to listen, but to dialogue. Bread and wine prepared, transformed, and shared, nourishes us to unity in Christ. Finally we are dismissed to love and serve.

Liturgy is a pathway that can be a shelter for a while, but is always leading us onward. We are sent to go and do in our communities, in our countries and in the world. As agents of change, we ourselves are transformed.

■ *Albert Dunn, Coordinator of Pastoral Liturgy & Mariola Gozdek, Liturgy Coordinator Archdiocese of Kingston*

Liturgy schedules and stories are also available on our website www.providence.ca/liturgy



LITURGY SCHEDULE

In the Wilderness Be God's Voice

INCARNATIONAL CYCLE 2017–2018: ADVENT • CHRISTMAS • EPIPHANY

December 2	Saturday	6:30 pm*	Evening Prayer <i>Incense and tapers will be used</i>
3	Sunday	10:00 am	1st Sunday of Advent
5	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
10	Sunday	10:00 am	2nd Sunday of Advent
17	Sunday	10:00 am 2:00 pm	3rd Sunday of Advent Cantabile Choirs
24	Sunday	10:00 am 7:00 pm	4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Liturgy followed by reception
25	Monday	10:00 am	Nativity of the Lord
31	Sunday	10:00 am	Holy Family
January 1	Monday	10:00 am	Mary, Mother of God
7	Sunday <i>Day of Eucharistic Devotion</i>	10:00 am 11 am — 2 pm 2 pm*	Epiphany of the Lord Solemn Exposition and Adoration Communal Eucharistic Devotions concluding with Benediction

* *Incense will be used in these celebrations*



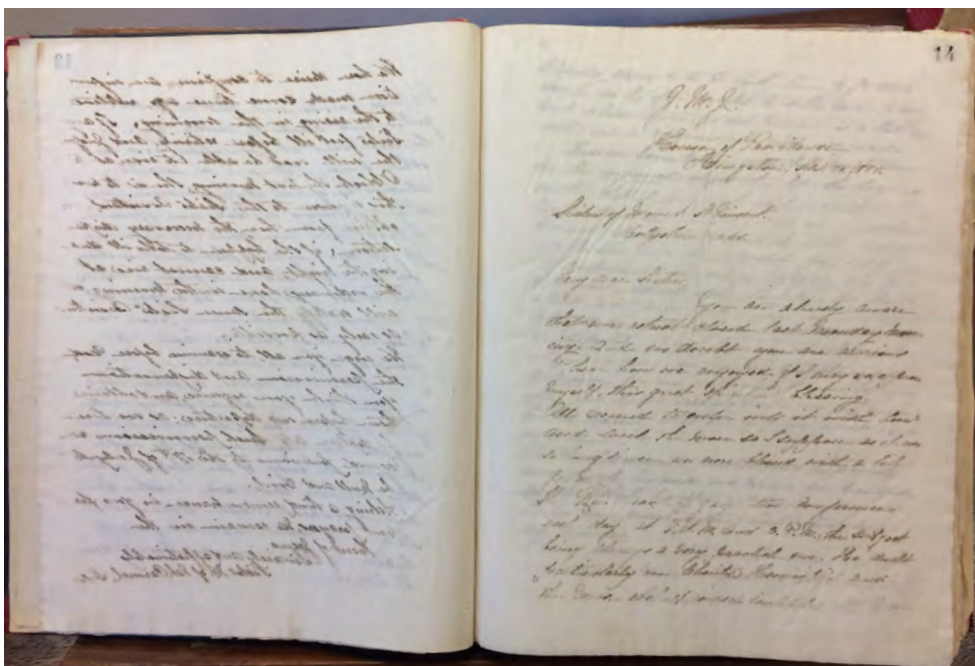
Catherine McKinley's Letters and Archival

In the Archives of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul the majority of our early records are handwritten and are not always easy to read. Since the 1980s numerous Sisters and archives staff have transcribed many of these records by deciphering the handwriting and typing out copies of these documents. These transcriptions are an invaluable research tool and an amazing resource. The "Our Story" section of the congregational website is a great tool for sharing some of this material with the public. Our newest feature on the website is the "Catherine McKinley Letters", consisting of transcriptions of all of Catherine McKinley's incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Catherine McKinley, known as Mother Mary Edward in religion, was the first General Superior of the congregation and was also involved in the governance of the congregation for most of her religious life. Throughout her life as a Sister of Providence she served

as General Superior, General Treasurer, General Secretary and First Assistant. She was instrumental in all of the congregation's major building projects and in the establishment of missions in the first forty years of the congregation's history. She was known as a successful fundraiser and oversaw numerous construction projects, including 3 major additions to the House of Providence and the construction of the stunning Mother of Sorrows Chapel. Under her governance St. Vincent de Paul Hospital Brockville was founded in 1887, and teaching missions were founded in Perth in 1892 and in Belleville in 1900. She personally founded missions in Holyoke in 1873 and Trenton in 1902 and dealt with the Holyoke mission becoming an independent congregation in 1892. She died in Trenton on November 21, 1904.

Catherine McKinley's letters chronicle the development and growth of the congregation in its foundational years. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Catherine McKinley's death, the Archives transcribed and compiled all of Catherine McKinley's incoming and outgoing correspondence from 1884 to 1903. (Unfortunately the Archives does not have any correspondence from her first term as General Superior.) Transcriptions of this correspondence are now available to the public on the website. The letters are completely searchable and there are year and subject filters to aid in navigating the



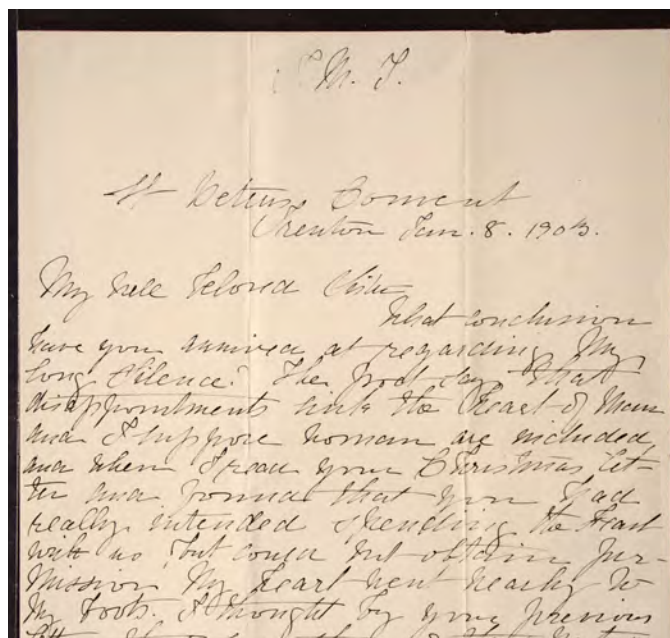
Online Outreach

letters. They give the reader a fascinating glimpse at the struggles and achievements of the growing congregation.

Transcriptions of the necrologies of every deceased Sister are also available on the website. Necrologies are biographical sketches written by the General Secretary shortly after the death of each individual Sister. For ease of access we used the term 'obituaries' on the website instead of 'necrologies'. All the obituaries, from the death of the first Sister in 1870 to the present, are accessible and searchable on our website. Each obituary is accompanied by a photograph of the Sister, or of a place she worked if no photograph of her was available. If you haven't checked it out please do!

The Archives has also created a "Mission History" feature on the website, organized geographically with profiles on each of the congregation's missions. This section is still a work in progress, as we continue to add histories of various locations. There are other interesting items available in the "Our Story" section of the website, including a photo gallery of the development of the religious dress of the Sisters of Providence. Please visit www.providence.ca/our-story/ to read Catherine McKinley's letters, the obituaries, and mission histories.

■ Veronica Stienburg



Jan. 8 - 1903 - To Sister from Mother Mary Edward, St. Peter's Convent, Trenton

J.M.J.

St. Peter's Convent,
Trenton, Ont.

Jan. 8, 1903

My Well Beloved Sister

What conclusion have you arrived at regarding my long silence? The poet says that disappointments link the heart of man and I suppose woman are included and when I read your Christmas letter and found that you had really intended spending the Feast with us but could not obtain permission my heart went nearly to my boots. I thought by your previous letters that something of that nature was what you were hinting at.

Well dear you need not be told that I would have enjoyed your visit but as that pleasure has been denied us we must only hope on, another time may come when you will be allowed to make a visit to Trenton and be assured your welcome will not be less cordial. I feel that I have little to tell you as you saw two of my Sisters so recently; they gave more news of me than I can write. Now Sister you are always putting me in your debt; I never thought of getting the framed Vows for nothing but I will not complain only thank you for them, they are beautifully done; and if ever we get anything done in the way of cleaning the Convent they will certainly be an ornament to the Community. I hope Sister

Sr. Mary Franchea (Sr. Grace Maguire) teaching student nurses in Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. #ThrowBackThursday



Check out the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Facebook page and Twitter account! Every Thursday we feature a photograph from the Archives as part of #ThrowbackThursdays or #TBT.



Sister Alma Sutton

Marie Alma Sutton was born on April 2, 1926 in Chandler, Quebec to Mabel Greene and Cornelius Sutton the fifth of nine children. She grew up in and attended school in Chandler. In 1945 she obtained a position with the Canadian National Telegraphs in Montreal as a Teleprinter Operator.

Alma entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on February 2, 1955 and following her First Profession in 1957 she was assigned to Providence Manor to work with the elderly. The next year she obtained her Registered Nursing Assistant certificate from St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville. She returned to Providence Manor until 1977. She was then assigned to the new Father Dowd Home in Montreal as Coordinator of Activities.

In 1986 she had a sabbatical year during which

she attended the Renewal Program in Arnprior. In 1987 she returned to the Father Dowd Home and remained there for the next ten years. She then went to St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital to minister in Pastoral Care until her retirement in 2004. In 2005 she returned to Providence Manor and enjoyed visiting the residents. She had a special gift of ministering to the elderly by her friendly, warm presence. She returned to the Motherhouse in 2007 where she enjoyed visiting the infirmary and continued with her favourite pastime of tatting.



Sister Alma died peacefully on July 27, 2017. The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on Tuesday, August 1, was presided over by Friar Edward Debono, OFM Conv. who also delivered the homily.

Sister Aileen Donnelly

Aileen Donnelly, born on August 7, 1917 in MacLeod, Alberta, was the fourth of seven children born to Mary Coffey and Patrick Donnelly. In 1927 the family moved to Trenton. Aileen attended St. Peter's School and Trenton High School.

On August 15, 1934 she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence. After profession she studied music and obtained a Teacher's A.R.C.T. Piano Diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. She went on to receive a Supervisor's Certificate in School Music from the Department of Education, a Diploma from St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto and several certificates from the Gregorian Institute of America through the University of Windsor. She obtained certificates in Religion from the Ontario Department of Education and a certificate in Gerontology from St. Lawrence College in Kingston.

From 1937 to 1966 she studied music and taught private piano lessons in Trenton, Prescott, Perth

and Batawa and served as local Superior. From 1966 – 1981 she taught music in Prescott, Picton and Tweed. Over the years she taught school music as well as private piano lessons. She also ministered as choir director, church organist and sacristan and served on Parish and Diocesan Councils. After attending the CREDO program at Gonzaga University in Spokane in 1982, she was assigned to the retreat centre in Pincher Creek.

In 1987 she moved to help set up the museum. After taking the Pastoral Care course in 1989, she ministered in Pastoral Care at Providence Manor and Kingston Psychiatric Hospital.

Sister Aileen died peacefully on August 13, 2017 at the Motherhouse. The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Providence Motherhouse chapel on August 17, was presided over by Most Rev. Brendan M. O'Brien. Reverend Robert Masters was the homilist. The burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kingston.



Sister Rita Dimberline

Rita Dimberline was born on February 25, 1919 in Hamilton, Ontario, the second of three children of Elizabeth Lynam and Leonard Dimberline.

Rita entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence on February 3, 1939 and at her First Profession of Vows in 1941 she received the name Sister M. Francis Xavier. Sister's ministries included working with the elderly at Providence Manor, Kingston, St. Anthony's Home, Moose Jaw, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, Edmonton, Providence Hospital, Daysland, the Father Dowd Home, Montreal and St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston. She served as local president and as provincial president of the Registered Nursing Assistant's Association. When OHIP was introduced in 1965 she was assigned to the administrative work for the doctors at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital. From 1978 until



1989 she worked in parish ministry in Calgary and Pincher Creek. She then joined the Pastoral Care Team at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital until she moved to the Motherhouse as a coordinator of one of the community groups and was in charge of hospitality and the sacristy. She enjoyed knitting, reading and doing crossword puzzles. Sister was especially generous toward the less fortunate and reached out to them in any way she could.

Sister Rita died peacefully at Providence Motherhouse, Kingston, on September 27, 2017. The Mass of Christian Burial presided over by Friar Ed Debono, OFM Conv., was held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion on October 5, 2017. Rev. Dennis McDonald, a close friend from Calgary, delivered the homily. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kingston.

Sister Anna Moran

Born in Maynooth, Ontario, June 19, 1916, Anna was the fifth child of nine children born to Frances Anne Golden and John Victor Moran.

Anna entered the novitiate in Kingston on August 15, 1933. Following her First Profession in 1935, she went to Maryvale Abbey in Glen Nevis to complete her secondary school education. In 1938 she attended the Ottawa Normal School. Her teaching ministry of 34 years took her from Gananoque to Smiths Falls, Belleville, Camrose, Trenton, Brantford and finally to Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville until her retirement in 1973. During her teaching years she was principal of St. John School in Gananoque, St. Mary School in Trenton and vice-principal of St. Patrick High School in Camrose. For several years she was responsible for the church sacristy and for the altar servers in the local parishes. She also served on the salary negotiating team in Belleville, was a pastoral visitor at the Belleville



General Hospital, President of the Teachers' Federation for Camrose and District, President of the Camrose Ministerial Association, Secretary of OECTA Kingston and coordinator of the Catholic Charismatic Group in Belleville.

In 1973 Sister Anna joined the Movement for a Better World for a period of five years and then became the Pastoral Associate of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Camrose, Alberta until 1987. Following a sabbatical year at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkley, California she returned to Brantford as Pastoral Associate at St. Pius X Parish. In 1994 she was named Coordinator of Marian I at Providence Motherhouse.

Sister Anna died peacefully at Providence Motherhouse on October 28, 2017. The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Providence Motherhouse chapel on November 7, was presided over by Most Rev. Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston. Rev. Leo Byrne was the homilist.



Gerry Vieveen, Associate

Gerarda "Gerry" Vieveen passed away peacefully on July 4th, 2017 at the age of 75 years.

Gerry became a Providence Associate in 1993. She was a committed member of the Brantford Group and a devoted friend of Sister Anna Moran.

She was the Associate Contact of the group for many years spending much of



her time visiting people from her group and from her parish who were shut-in.

Most recently she was living with her brother and sister-in-law in Port Stanley.

Gerry loved to tell stories about her life experiences and laughed at her own foibles. When she came to Heathfield she made it her mission to visit the Sisters both here and at the cottage.

Betty Haymans, Associate

Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Haymans became an Associate in May 2002 and was a member of the Catalpa Group for many years. Betty was very shy when she joined but over time her voice became stronger as members encouraged and loved her. In 2016, she was transferred to the Covenant group, along with her close friend Cathy Bryan. Having come out of herself, Betty offered much to the Covenant Group.



they went on a bus trip to the Catholic shrines in Quebec. Betty marvelled at St. Joseph Oratory high above Montreal on the hillside.

Betty has two daughters and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Betty raised her autistic grandson, Sean until it became necessary for her to put him in a home for people with special needs.

Before Betty's health began to erode, Betty and Cathy spent a lot of time on the road. In 2000,

Betty passed away peacefully on July 23, 2017. She is missed by family, friends and Associates.

Clementina Torres Rodriguez, Associate

On Wednesday, September 27th, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, our dearest Associate Clementina Torres Rodriguez left to go to Our Father in heaven.

The Sisters that got to know Clementina, have fond memories of her and the many ways she lived the Associate Mission statement as one of the first Associates in Peru.

She helped welcome many of the Sisters that visited or missioned in El Progreso, Peru. "Clemi" as Sister Josephine Doiron called her friend, was often consulted about the needs of the people and she would offer good advice.

She also helped the Sisters at their newly



constructed convent as the cook and housekeeper for many years. In the words of Sister Patricia Ann Ryan, "Clementina not only fed our bodies but also fed our hearts as well."

She was a living testimony of being: a strong woman, a protective mother, a loving wife, a struggling neighbor, a practicing Christian, a follower of Vincent, a faithful Associate and a vigilant citizen.

According to Sister Dianne McNamara, "Clementina also had a very large family and instilled in them the virtues of faith and hope as she journeyed in love."



Spiritual offerings in the new year

WHO SAID THAT? WINTER
READING SERIES

**The Divine Dance: The Trinity
and Your Transformation**
by Richard Rohr

Thurs Jan 18, Feb 1, 15 & Mar 1
1:30-3:30pm

Dolores Hall

Register by Thu Jan 4

Cost: \$30/series (bring your book)

A few books are available \$20

Well known writer, *Fr. Richard Rohr* says that we're experiencing a "trinitarian revolution" and he offers us an appealing contemporary reflection into the mystery of God as "belovedly in communion". His profound and inspiring insights enlighten and encourage, not just our own personal path to spiritual growth, but the transformation of the world as well. Come and delight in the mystery of God as friendship, community, and dance.

JANUARY PREACHED RETREAT
**Living within the Mystery of the
Trinity**

Jan 22, 6:30pm – Jan 27, 1pm

Deacon Bill Gervais

Register by Mon Jan 8

Cost: \$360

Participants of this five-day preached retreat will explore their understanding of God through images, life experiences, and catechetical formation. While time will be spent on God, Communicating, Communing and Community, we will also focus on what this interaction means for our identity and our relationship with and within a Trinitarian God.

LENTEN GUIDED RETREAT
**What is the Big Deal about
Fasting?**

Feb 23, 7pm – Feb 25, 1pm

Helen Russell, csj

Register by Fri Feb 9

Cost: \$165

What is fasting? Is it about more than our tummies? Can we extend the idea to the welfare of our world? Is it about living in Solidarity with concern for our planet and all its inhabitants? A weekend of silence, input and prayer to reflect on our personal response to God's invitations and the needs in our world.

LENTEN DIRECTED RETREAT

Feb 23, 7pm – Feb 25, 1pm

PSC Team

Register by Fri Feb 9

Cost: \$150

DAY OF REFLECTION

Lust! Shhh! What's that?

Mon Mar 12, 9-3pm

Helen Russell, csj

Register by Mon Feb 26

Cost: \$25

As I contemplate my next acquisition, should I also ponder what effect it might have on our world? Does a sense of entitlement imperil the needs of our neighbour and the planet? A day to reflect on the spirit of consumerism that is inflicting stress and grief on our relationships with self and the world. Pondering a positive way to live Lent and address the needs of Planet Earth.

HOLY WEEK DIRECTED
RETREAT

Option 1:

Sun Mar 25, 6:30pm – Apr 1, 1pm

Register by Mon Mar 12

Cost: \$495

OR

Option 2:

Thu Mar 29, 2pm – Apr 1, 1pm

Register by Mon Mar 12

Cost: \$225

PSC Team



Healing Violence Bursary

Each year the Healing Violence Committee of the Sisters of Providence awards a bursary totaling \$20,000 to women in need.

This support is for women:

- Coming through the violence cycle who are committed to working in the field;
- Already engaged in grassroots work who need training;
- Who need counseling for healing and moving on;
- With the potential to empower others.

The bursary is awarded up to three times with the maximum of \$3000 available to each applicant depending on the number of applicants and their needs. In this way the committee hopes to empower women, especially those who are most vulnerable, to achieve a quality of life in keeping with their human dignity.

In reviewing six of last year's renewing applicants it was noted that they had used their funding primarily for counselling/therapy to help them recover from situations of abuse. Each makes the point that they could not have afforded sustained therapeutic support without the bursary. Being able to move forward with their lives following episodes of violence, trauma, PTSD, and addiction were the main benefits for each of these recipients.

Other recipients described themselves as being able to receive specialized training in the form of courses and/or programs of study. These were often geared not just towards their own advancement but would also provide

them with the qualifications to help others who experienced similar circumstances. This implies a form of "paying forward" in that not just those who are needy today are being helped in significant ways, but that future victims of violence will also be supported as a result of these bursaries.

HOW TO APPLY

Bursaries are often recommended by a sponsor who nominates a woman who will benefit. Applicant and sponsor forms are available from:

Sister Diane Brennen
613-544-4525 x103
diane.brennen@providence.ca

