



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

PROVIDENCE PAGES

December 2015



On October 1, the Called to Serve monument was unveiled in Regina, in honour of the 5,500 women religious who served in Saskatchewan, establishing the foundation of today's education and healthcare systems. Sisters of Providence ministered in the province between 1912-2005. More on page 3.

In this issue:



Good seeds from bad weather



The vigil comes to an end



Love of neighbour 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.



Sisters of Providence
of St. Vincent de Paul

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Saskatchewan recognizes Sisters' contribution

On October 1, a bronze monument was unveiled in Regina's Wascana Park in front of more than 500 guests and dignitaries. Those guests included Canada's papal nuncio, the bishops of Saskatchewan, officials from Catholic health and education, and representatives of the founding religious orders in the province. In their midst were Sisters of Providence leadership team members Sandra Shannon and Diane Brennen.



Sisters Sandra Shannon (left) and Diane Brennen with an image of the Called to Serve monument.

in 1860, thus laying the foundation for modern day education and health care institutions across the province. The monument features two Catholic Sisters, one representing a teacher, the other a nurse.

Indeed, the monument committee writes: *Some 5,500 Catholic Sisters have served in the province, totalling over 85,000 Sister-years of ministry. The monument will be a lasting tribute to their legacy and their selfless service to the people of Saskatchewan.*

The monument, "Called to Serve," commemorates pioneering religious women who established hospitals and schools in Saskatchewan starting

Saskatchewan Catholic Connections organized the unveiling and the monument by sculptor Jack Jensen of Prince Albert.

Reviewing the legacy

The Catholic Archivist Group conference was held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan a week before the unveiling of the "Called to Serve" monument in Regina.

In light of that upcoming event, Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, gave a fantastic presentation at the conference about the history of the 61 congregations of women religious who have served in Saskatchewan since 1860.

Sr. Teresita is a professor of religious education and a historian focused on Catholic women-religious history in Saskatchewan, and was a member of the project committee behind the commemoration and installation of the monument.

Throughout the conference, a map-like quilt of the province was on display. Created by Sister Sylvia Obrigewitsch, NDS, religious orders are



represented by circles of fabric marking the locations of their service. It is a beautiful
continued on next page

The gift of security for one Syrian family

Earlier this year, before the federal government announced it was bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada, even before the child, Alan Kurdi, ended up shocking the world with the plight of the Syrians, the Sisters of Providence made a strong act of solidarity to the cause. The congregation donated significant funds to make possible the private sponsorship of one Syrian family.

Leadership team member Sister Frances O'Brien gets great satisfaction out of the

partnership that brought Marwan, Safa and their sons Oudai and Qousai to Kingston this

fall. "The United Church, the Islamic Society of Kingston and the Sisters of Providence working together," she says with a big smile. "Don't you like the sound of that?"

United Church minister Dawn Clarke began the "Save a Family from Syria" campaign. Her story – and the story of the family who was chosen – is found in a major article in Toronto Life magazine. Go to TorontoLife.com and look for "The Exodus."



Sisters stepped on to the map

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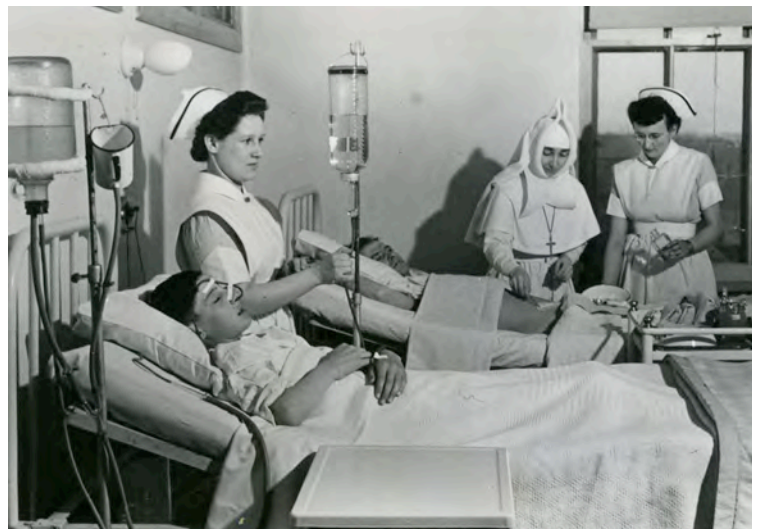
representation of the contributions of female religious orders in the province. The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul are represented by a blue circle in Moose Jaw.

It was in 1912 when the Sisters of Providence stepped onto the map with the arrival of Sr. Mary Angel Guardian and Sr. Mary Camillus in Moose Jaw. They founded Providence Hospital and, in 1939, the congregation's ministry in Moose Jaw expanded with the founding of St. Anthony's Home.

Both Providence Hospital and St. Anthony's Home closed in 1995 and were replaced by Providence Place for Holistic Health. The Sisters transferred sponsorship of Providence Place to the Saskatchewan Catholic Health

Corporation in 2002 and the last Sisters left Moose Jaw in 2005. For 93 years the Sisters of Providence served the people of Saskatchewan through the ministry of 163 of its members.

■ *Archivist Veronica Stienburg*





Healing the Kingston church

The invitation to heal the church by addressing the crisis in clergy sexual abuse was accepted by more than 320 people who participated in conferences at the Providence Motherhouse September 11-12. The response was a heartwarming surprise for the organizing committee who responded in turn by extending the conference for an extra day to meet the demand. People came from all over the archdiocese – from parishes, the clergy, Catholic organizations, and from beyond its borders as well.

Presenter Sister Nuala Kenny, a paediatrician, was a passionate presence each of the two days the conference was held. She began by asking who got hurt in this crisis. And with audience help, drew the conclusion that many did. First, of course, the young victims of sexual abuse. Not only did they suffer the physical and emotional trauma of being abused, it was compounded by the role of faith ... their trusted spiritual leader took advantage. As a result, Sister Nuala showed how this affected the victim's ability to access the spiritual life and their ability to feel comfortable in the church.

She also spoke to the pain experienced by families and parishes who have suffered

tremendously because of these events. She spoke of the clergy who were caught in the middle – with brother clergy to blame, parishes ripped apart, and through being associated with terrible acts and accusations, caught in the wide net of shame. Indeed, one of Sister Nuala's gifts is that she recognized the pain of the victims without demonizing the clergy involved. She named the problem and its many shades and hues – and how helpless clergy and church leaders have felt in the wake of the crisis. Sr. Nuala made numerous suggestions for healing, encouraging participants to bring what they had learned to their own situations.

The “next steps” that participants brought forward have been collected, reports Sister Frances O'Brien, chair of the Healing Violence committee that held the conferences. In light of the conference, the committee has been asked to work with two parishes and has accepted these requests. All suggestions and feedback will be brought to the archbishop, as promised. The committee is considering what kind of follow-up they can offer, given the overwhelming call for more dialogue.



Weather issues more abundant than crops

It is so pleasant to be on the other side of the Autumn Equinox and still have such beautiful weather for a little while! This year's growing season brought far more climatic challenges than we like to see, although it's easy to forget that fact when enjoying such ideal conditions at the moment. It's easy to forget that what we actually experienced was as follows (backed up by the Environment Canada stats):

- Drought during planting-time! We had only 23.8 mm of rain in the whole month of May, more than half of which came all at once on the very last day of the month with 13.8 mm on May 31.
- June, on the other hand, saw 174 mm, most of which fell in the last three weeks. We had at least one deluge per week, keeping the gardens underwater for much of the month.
- July saw 40.5 mm, which would normally be good for July, however the low temperatures and residual moisture called in both

early and late blight for the tomatoes and lots of powdery mildew and other issues.

- Average maximum temperatures did not vary much all summer and the temperature was not hot.



everything, meaning plants produced little or no fruit. Most of our native pollinators nest in the ground and must have been flooded out repeatedly, poor things!

On the other hand, favas, onions, kale and overwintered celery thrived. We may have found some late blight resistance and weed pressure tolerance where we did not expect to find it. That's our silver lining.

Environment Canada says the average max. temperature in May was 20 C; June 21 C and July only 24 C. There was very little of the summer heat the solanaceous (nightshade) crops such as tomato and pepper rely upon.

Heat-loving watermelons succumbed early on to the poor conditions. Although the vines lived, the cantaloupes and winter squash did not produce any ripe fruit at all. Lima beans, which also like the heat, produced very few pods. I believe many pollinators must have also suffered this year – there was reduced fruit set in almost

And for all of that, because we grow for seeds and not primarily for food, there is more good news. Even though we ended up harvesting a smaller amount of seeds, after suffering that kind of season they will remember those conditions and be much hardier for it, bless them. That's the whole reason we "grow out" the seeds every few years, to keep them viable and give them a chance to adapt to the local climate, even during bad years. This year's seeds are much better prepared for climate chaos.

■ *Gardener Cate Henderson*



A closing celebration ... and one final vigil

It was fitting that the weather was so beautiful on September 17 and 18 when, after 20 years of fidelity, the silent vigil in solidarity with the poor and so many others, came to an end.

On the Thursday evening, hundreds gathered outside Kingston City Hall where the day was proclaimed Social Justice Vigil Recognition Day amid singing, gentle Aboriginal chanting and silence. Then inside all went for speeches, remembrances and more song.

The following day, as had happened for two decades, vigil-keepers (or vigilantes, if you

want to tease them) gathered one last time, in front of television cameras and tourists. The mayor was there on Thursday night. The man that would become Kingston's Member of Parliament was there on Friday. There were students and long supporters. A number of people who made a special trip to "stand with the Sisters," even if they hadn't been there in years, like Rose from Portsmouth and two friends from Wolfe Island.

Both events were wonderful. It was all bittersweet. Over these next five pages, we look back.

Remembering 1995 and how the vigil came to be

This Vigil began 20 years ago...so what exactly do you remember about 1995?

- That was the year the DVD was released
- Dolly – the cloned sheep – was born
- The Atlanta Braves won the World Series and the New Jersey Devils won the Stanley Cup
- O.J. Simpson's murder trial declared him not guilty of killing his wife
- Timothy McVeigh killed 168 people (including 19 children) in his terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City
- Braveheart, starring Mel Gibson, won the Oscar for best picture and



*Signs of the times:
Dolly, DVDs, and the sad death of
Kimberly Rogers*

- Ottawa singer Alanis Morissette's album "Jagged Little Pill" was a huge seller

Politically, times were rather rough:

- Time magazine's Man of the Year was Newt Gingrich for "his role in ending the four-decades-long Democratic majority in the House." Newton Leroy Gingrich was a Georgia Republican, and architect of the "Contract with America": that is, until he had to resign for ethics violations...
 - And in June, Ontario got Michael Deane Harris as our 22nd Premier,
- continued on next page*

'Yes! This made a difference'

continued from previous page

along with his so-called "Common Sense Revolution." One of his first major policy decisions in 1995 was to cut social assistance rates by almost 22%.

- No wonder 1995 was also the year that Tom Hanks, starring in the film *Apollo 13*, uttered the famous line, "Houston, we have a problem."

Features of the new Conservative policies as they affected the poor in Ontario:

- 21.6% cut in what was then called "Family Benefits and General Welfare Assistance" in October 1995
- Workfare was implemented
- A lifetime ban on welfare collection for those convicted of welfare fraud was brought in
- Asset limits were cut drastically to be equal to one month's assistance
- The minimum wage was frozen



Joe Gunn

Perhaps we should remember why the vigils were started: for me it all came down to 2 words – Kimberley Rogers.

Kimberley wrote in her court appeal: "I ran out of food this weekend. I am unable to sleep."

Three months later, 40 years old and 8 months pregnant, Kimberley was found dead in the Sudbury, ON apartment where she had been confined under house arrest for taking student

loans to help pay for her education while on welfare.

As Tom Hanks might have said in that 1995 movie: "Ontario – we have a problem."

So across Ontario, vigils were started. Often, like here, they were silent, reflective events in front of City Hall – like the one we started in Ottawa, by the human rights monument on City Hall property.

What was unique in all the vigils, was that it was people of faith who sustained them. Working together, from many religious backgrounds, people of faith lasted in the struggle, throughout all the weather changes Canada kindly offers, when the going was tough.

Here in Kingston ...

You gave life and vigour to many other events and social movements in your community and throughout Canada...you made common cause for the common good...we all owe you our sincere gratitude.

Reflection on these vigils across Ontario always comes down to the same question: we always need to ask, "Did any of this effort make a difference?" This is like asking a religious person if prayer makes a difference, or is it a waste of time?

Unequivocally, the answer is YES!

When you advocate, you're telling the world who your God is. This is not some version of a



The Sisters of the Drum at the closing event



SOCIAL JUSTICE VIGIL

God who shies away from what some call, “the political.” This is not a God who only cares about life after death. You’ve shown us a biblical God who cares, in a special way, today and always, for the widow, the orphan and the stranger....that is the poor among us. All of us who participated in these vigils, in whatever part of Ontario, feel a special bond to each other, and a resolve to not allow our communities to be ripped apart and the poor discarded and excluded...again.

The vigil’s main success, of course, was that it challenged and changed us. As we are in need of continuing conversion, it made us more attentive to those suffering in our own communities. Since it was public in nature, it prevented our suffering neighbours from feeling totally alone in their struggles.

So the vigil can live on...
In our memories...
In our renewed actions...
In our gratitude...

And from the bottom of my heart,
thanks to all of you who participated.

■ *Joe Gunn, the executive director of Citizens for Public Justice (cpj.ca), spoke at the September 17 closing of the silent vigil.*

A retrospective of the vigil with many more photos and speeches can be found at providence.ca/silentvigil



The Providence Motherhouse choir (above) performed at the closing of the vigil, as did the Shout Sisters



2011: To mark their 150th anniversary, the Sisters of Providence rented a bus to bring Sisters, Associates, staff, partners and special guests together for a vigil. A provincial election was underway. With a federal election campaign taking place, those attending the concluding event for the social justice vigil carried Vote for a Poverty-Free Canada signs.



Students from Regiopolis Notre Dame high school joined the final vigil held the day after the celebration on Friday, September 18, outside Kingston City Hall.





Snapshots of witness and solidarity

Fridays at noon on Kingston's Ontario Street saw a variety of action over 20 years.

Connect the photos with these descriptions. 1. 2005: Vigil keepers sang Christmas carols with lyrics rewritten to call for better wages, jobs and more necessities. 2. 2000: From its earliest days, Good Friday became a day when most regular signs were put away and vigil keepers stood in silence with a cross that tells Canada's poverty story. 3. 2006: Neither rain, nor sleet, nor hail... One of the coldest Friday vigils was -30°C (not including wind chill), while the hottest was 36°C (not including humidity). The absolute wettest was Friday, July 29, 2011 when

Kingston received 71 millimetres of rain in a four-hour period. 4. 2014: Last year, Anglican Bishop Michael Oulton began holding the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation outside St. George's Cathedral on Fridays at noon. For the first one, he invited Kingston's faith leaders to stand together and read the litany, and then they joined the social justice vigil at City Hall. Here, Providence General Superior Sister Sandra Shannon walked from one vigil to the other with Bishop Oulton, Imam Hashmi and others. 5. September 4, 2015: Brian Brophy, who was

part of the vigil beginnings, chooses the right sign for the day. Vigil keepers have stood witness to poverty most consistently, but many issues have been represented from fracking for oil to First Nations rights, from peace to prison farms and from hunger to hope. 6. 2000: The vigil denounced all forms of government cuts that hurt people's wellbeing, from income to health. The e-coli disaster in Walkerton was blamed in part on the privatizing of water testing a few years prior. 7. At the concluding event on September 17, 2015.



SOCIAL JUSTICE VIGIL



2



3

20 years of rain, snow, heat and causes



4



5



6



7

photo: Sharon Buffett



Meeting Jesus in Fray Martin de Porres, Peru

*Let us love God, my brothers (and sisters);
let us love God but let it be with the strength
of our arms and with the sweat of our brows.
— St. Vincent de Paul*

We had planned everything with care and dedication. It was September 20 and the Providence Associates of our area of Peru, with the Sisters of Providence, were heading to a small and very poor community for the day.

The truck departed very early with everything we needed: donations from Associates and others, food for lunch, medicines, banners, furniture and many other items. We were heading out 30 km on the Canta Highway.

By 8:30 am, the rest of the Associates arrived by public transportation. We were all filled with the desire to share our knowledge, joy and energy with the poor of this village. Like hard working ants, we set up the areas for the kitchen, health clinic, dentist, psychologist, massages, beauty parlour. We also set up the triage area for the nurses and the educational games area. Others hooked up electricity for the medical equipment and the microphone.



Dora and Mirtha giving out delicious food

Other professionals came to help us. They set up in the spaces reserved for them. We were all ready! Now the people of the town had to come.

The music started to play. Last Sunday we had gone from house to house to let them know we were coming to share our professional services and our talents with them. We would not share with them from bounty, but from whatever little we had. Now was the time to remind them. The voice on the microphone said loudly, "Friends in San Martin, we are here! Come; we are waiting to offer you what we know how to do: medical attention, dentistry, massages, haircuts, educational games! Come, we are waiting for you!"

Mila started the work of the day with a prayer and we sang a song. The first brave one to lie down on the stretcher in the improvised consulting room was a boy who needed a dental checkup. And so... little by little, everyone was coming to interact with all the different professionals.

Fernanda entertained many children with a game of roulette. Everyone wanted to participate by answering questions about St. Vincent de Paul's life, and then win a prize. Dora also had an audience with math and communication games. The most popular service was Maritza's massages. All the while, the kitchen was operating. Women were preparing a delicious food called "carapulcra," a stew of dehydrated potatoes, pork, chicken and spices.



At noon the dentists left and it was time for lunch. All who had attended any service had a ticket for lunch. Mirtha was in charge of ordering the plates of food for everyone. Mila took the microphone and started the prayer before lunch. They all picked up their plates and found a place to sit, either on the sports field or on some plastic chairs that we brought. More than 100 plates were served.

In the afternoon, the games for prizes started. Sister

Sara, Tere and Mila watched how much joy a game of Cuy generated. Lourdes played the “world” game with other children – the world was drawn in chalk on the floor and children had to jump! At one point there was a mime presentation. It was beautiful to see the little ones’ faces with their laughter as they followed the story.

The people of the village kept coming and going all

day long. Everyone was invited to the chapel to see the life of St. Vincent de Paul in drawings. The chapel acted as a projection hall to watch and hear the life of our Holy Patron. We ended by thanking God who cares for us and gives us life.

After a day of hands-on service to the poor, we packed up again: furniture, equipment, banners. We returned home with less to carry, physically very tired, but very happy. Just like Vincent we had spent a day together, working for the poor. This is how we commemorated the witness of Vincent, our brother, friend, model for following Jesus as disciples. We came back singing.

■ *Carmen Alomía Guía, Providence Associate*



Celebrating St. Vincent de Paul

At Mass on Sunday, September 27, the actual feast of St. Vincent, his statue was placed close to the altar on a special table, as well high above in one of the ceramic-tile tableaus in the church. Father Julio made special mention of the feast as well as the fact that so many follow Jesus just like Vincent did.

When the Eucharist was finished, we walked in a procession to the home of the Sisters where St. Vincent’s Grotto is located. We all prayed there together and we returned him to his grotto. It was a time to share impressions of our experience. We spent a long time conversing and reaffirming who we are and what we do.

On Monday the 28th, we celebrated the Eucharist with the Vincentian Family. It took place in the south of Lima, in Surquillo. It was very gratifying to be able to share with others the joy of having the same model to follow.

Happy St. Vincent’s Day!



The story of the congregation, one life at a time

The history of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul has often been written about in terms of the missions, institutions and ministries of the congregation. The focus has been on the works of the whole instead of the individual; yet the whole would be nothing without the women who have served since 1861. The archives and the communications department have been hard at work over the past few months to bring you a glimpse into the lives of the individual women who served as Sisters of Providence. From the first member of the congregation to pass away, in 1870, to recent deaths, we are in the process of putting all the obituaries of deceased Sisters on the congregational website. Over half the obituaries are currently on the website now and the rest should be available by Christmas.

These are not typical obituaries. In fact, in the world

of consecrated life, we refer to them as necrologies. These biographical sketches are usually written by the congregation's General Secretary after the deceased Sister's funeral. Some are long and full of

anecdotes about the Sister in question,

some are very short and others focus on illness and the end of life. You will find stories of adventure, piety, domesticity, obedience, hardship, hard work and fulfillment.

Here's a taste of what you might find in the obituaries:

Sarah Byrne, known as Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart, entered the congregation from Quebec in 1864 and "with the view then of becoming a humble and devoted servant of the poor, she broke asunder the tender links that bound her to home, bade a tearful adieu

to her aged mother, relinquished the society of beloved sisters and brothers and came to Upper Canada, seeking a shrine where she might offer her young heart's purest affections."

Not all the

obituaries are so flowery, and many contain personal anecdotes. Sr. Margaret Meraw, formerly Sr. Mary Laurena, was known for "her forthright good deeds. In Glen Nevis she once gave away all the dinner soup, and in Picton she deemed an elderly



*Sr. Mary Lourdes
(Eva Poulin)*



*Sr. Mary of the Sacred
Heart (Sarah Byrne)*



*Sr. Margaret Meraw
(Sr. Mary Laurena)*



Sr. Mary Philip (Elizabeth Murray)



couple 'to have as much right to turkey for Christmas as we have.' In Trenton she not only fed a dirty young lad who came hungry to the door, she also washed him!"

Some obituaries are very frank about personality flaws: "To accomplish every work perfectly was [the] chief and only aim [of Sr. Mary Francis de Sales Candon]. To those not understanding her disposition and meaning, association with her was often irksome and difficult, but ... they were often surprised to find under her dark or gloomy aspect, a heart of gold..."

Some tell of difficulties in performing the assigned ministry: Sr. Mary Philip



*Sr. Mary Aileen
(Mary Loyola Malyea)*

of education and the text books in use there."

Sr. Mary Aileen Malyea's obituary shares details of a difficult experience: Sr. Mary Francis Clare became quite ill and Sr. Mary Aileen "was chosen to accompany the

ailing Sister Mary Francis Clare Cannon on the train east [from Moose Jaw] to seek help for a puzzling

illness... It was a most difficult trip, although the train crew was most attentive and had a priest and a doctor meet the train at every main stop. Sister Mary Aileen realized as they approached Toronto that her companion was close to death... Sister Mary Francis

Clare breathed her last just as the train drew into Toronto station."

Sr. Mary of Lourdes Poulin is a good example of the vow of obedience: "When at the age of seventy-five she was leaving the Mother House to take over the superiorship of the distant mission of Athabasca in northern Alberta, Mother Jean, Superior General remarked to her, 'We are sorry to have to ask you to go so far away'; she replied cheerfully, 'Well, I made a vow of obedience'."

You can get a glimpse into the lives of the women who are the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul by visiting www.providence.ca/obituaries

■ *Archivist Veronica Stienburg*



*Sr. Mary Francis de Sales
(Annie Candon)*

The digital archive of obituaries lets you sort and filter by names and dates

Murray, freshly out of the novitiate, "was given charge of the highest class in the parochial school [in Holyoke]...She had a large class of grown up boys. At first, she experienced great difficulty, being wholly unacquainted with the system



Counselling and training provided through a bursary to women

In addition to conferences and facilitation work, the Healing Violence Committee walks the talk through bursaries to women in need. Since 2001, this assistance has been available to help women upgrade their work or life skills.

This support is for a woman:

- coming through the violence cycle who is committed to working in the field;
- already engaged in grassroots work who needs training;
- who needs counseling for healing and moving on;
- with the potential to empower others.

For the last four years, 22 women have been assisted. Some receive bursary assistance up to three times. The amount given varies according to the number of applicants and their needs. At present the sum of \$20,000 is available for this bursary with a limit of \$3000 per year for each applicant.

The committee hopes in this way to empower women, especially those who are most vulnerable, to achieve a quality of life in keeping with their human dignity.

Some local women who have made use of this bursary are those:

- in Peer Support Programs;
- needing counselling after suffering from the effects of physical, psychological and sexual abuse;
- single mothers needing to begin or complete studies at St. Lawrence College, universities and the Academy of Learning;
- needing therapy at wellness centres;
- needing access to tai chi, art therapy or other forms of therapy.



Sister Margo Shafer of Huntsville, Ontario is a member of the Sisters' Healing Violence Committee. She says: "As we are a religious community that serves the poor, this bursary fund helps people get access to the services they need, especially in the rural areas. It lets single moms get help, for example, which in turn helps their kids." She speaks of the

courage needed to even come forward and apply for funds, especially if there are mental health challenges involved, given the stigma many Canadians experience. "It's a gift that

continued on next page



we can do this,” she says. “We’re paying it forward.”

Sister Margo also speaks about the specific focus of the fund on healing violence. She has connected numerous women to the fund and remains in contact with them when the services they requested are finished. Support is essential in her mind. But there’s more to it than that. “There is so much violence in the world today, we need to be able to bring hope to the issue. We provide the bursary to let women take the steps to heal their own woundedness. We provide concrete support – and hope.”

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

Words of thanks

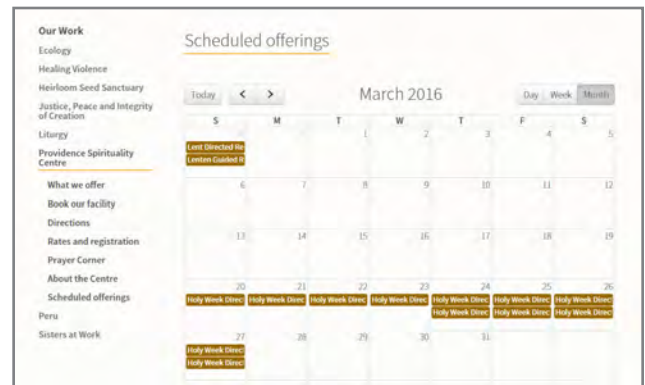
I’m in my last semester and will be done in April! I’m so blessed to be in this course and I thank you and all the Sisters for believing in me and easing some of my financial burdens. The bursary I received from you made school much less stressful for me. Debt was the one thing holding me back from attending college, and having thousands of dollars taken off my debt is a miracle. Thank you so much for being my miracle!

Some of what you’ll find on **providence.ca**

The newest edition of the Providence.ca website has been online for half a year now and the content continues to flow in.

News and articles are posted to the website, and shared on Facebook and Twitter. Other gems you will find include:

- All the events and offerings of the Providence Spirituality Centre



- An easy way to sign up for e-news like Providence Pages, updates from the Heirloom Seed Sanctuary, and actions from the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office. This link is on every page.

✉ Stay in touch with our newsletter



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Blessed are We Who Believe in the Promise

Incarnational Cycle 2015-2016: Advent – Christmas – Epiphany

November	28*	Saturday	6:30 pm	Evening Prayer
	29	Sunday	10 am	1st Sunday of Advent
December	6	Sunday	10 am	2nd Sunday of Advent
	13	Sunday	10 am	3rd Sunday of Advent
			2 pm	Cantabile Choirs
	17	Thursday	6:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	20	Sunday	10 am	4th Sunday of Advent
	24	Thursday	7 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy followed by reception
	25	Friday	10 am	Nativity of the Lord
	27	Sunday	10 am	Holy Family
January	1	Friday	10 am	Mary, Mother of God
	3	Sunday	10 am	Epiphany of the Lord
	Day of Eucharistic Devotion		11 am – 3 pm 3 pm*	Solemn Exposition and Adoration Communal Eucharistic Devotions concluding with Benediction
	10	Sunday	10 am	Baptism of the Lord

* *Incense will be used in these celebrations*



"I Prayed For the Heart of a Star" -- Mary Southard, CSJ
Courtesy of www.MinistryOfTheArts.org
LaGrange Park, IL 60526-1721



Warm ideas in the cold of winter

JANUARY PREACHED RETREAT: **Together in Christ**

Mon Jan 18, 4PM – Sat Jan 23, 1PM
Register by Mon Jan 4
Fr. Thomas Ryan, CSP
Cost \$360

As Christians from around the world join their hearts and minds in the annual Week of Prayer for Christian unity, participants in this retreat will be the glowing coals at the heart of that prayer-fire. To stoke the flames we will reflect on the biblical call to unity among the followers of Jesus and how evangelization and unity are two sides of a coin. We will consider the gifts we have to receive from one another for our mutual enrichment, the progress made, the qualities needed for the journey, and the contribution each of us can make. We will also look at the common ground we share with members of other world religions. This unique retreat will provide you with insight for our present context, and renew your energy for prayer and outreach.

Fr. Thomas Ryan, CSP, served as director of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism (1981-95) and director of Unitas (1995-2000), an ecumenical centre for spirituality

in Montreal. Since 2000 he has directed the Paulist North American Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations in Washington, DC. He leads retreats throughout the U.S. and Canada and is the author of 15 books, most recently *Christian Unity: How You Can Make a Difference*.

WHO SAID THAT? WINTER READING SERIES: **Science and Faith by John Haught**

Thurs Jan 14, 28 & Feb 11, 1:30PM
Register by Mon Jan 4
Dolores Hall
Cost \$30/series (*bring your own book*)
A few books are available \$20

It was the great Albert Einstein who said that science without religion is lame, and religion without science is blind. Sadly much of the past centuries have often been blind and lame in the sense that the two have continued to be quite separate. However, in the present time as scientific knowledge explodes at a rapid pace in our present culture, finally there are signs that the great dialogue with religion, faith, and spirituality has begun. Our book's theologian is one of

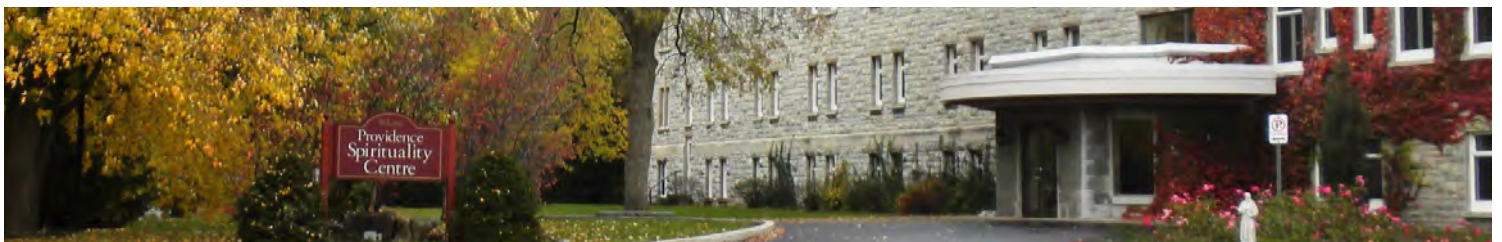
those who have taken on the great questions of our time in the context of evolutionary thinking. Bring your own questions and explore those he poses and answers in his three-point process.

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION: **A Time to Listen**

Tue Feb 16, 9AM
Register by Tues Feb 2
Helen Russell, CSJ
Cost \$25

Lent is a time to draw apart - to ponder more deeply our response to God's infinite love. It is a time to listen and to respond more courageously to the needs of our world. We invite the words of Scripture, of Pope Francis and contemporary authors to challenge us in our response. This will be a day to listen, to pray and to celebrate the gift of silence and community.

Those who wish may join the Sisters of Providence in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, at the Providence Motherhouse for Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.





Full house

A good 400 guests attended the open house in honour of the Year of Consecrated Life, hosted by four religious congregations on October 17. It was a great day!

