



Last summer, the Chapel of St. Martin de Porres was built in San Martin, Peru, with the help of the Marillac Mission Fund.

Pictured here, Sister Sara Jiménez, who led the project, opens the chapel doors, in the company of a local girl. The chapel

allows local families to pray and celebrate liturgy in their own community.

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PROVIDENCE PAGES

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

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San Martin builds a chapel but still needs medical care

BY SISTER GAYLE DESARMIA

San Martin is a small town about eight kilometres from El Progreso. About 80 families live there. They are poor and very hardworking. Early every day they go to their fields to cultivate broccoli, onions, potatoes and other vegetables. It is cold when they start out and when they come back home their clothes are wet from working through the heat of the day.

In this small town there are three children with different medical syndromes. Their parents suffer because they do not know what to do. All the possibilities of medical attention are far away in Lima, the capital, and it is expensive and time-consuming to travel that distance.

Sister Sara Jiménez is negotiating for the doctors of the Health Center of El Progreso to go to San Martin to conduct a campaign for disease prevention and to give health advice. She has already had meetings at the

Health Centre with the head doctor and a social worker about her concerns and her hopes for the people of San Martin.

This village did not have a church in which to gather for prayer and liturgy. The people had to travel by bus to the nearest church in Torre Blanca. The buses do not operate a full service in these outlying villages, so attending Mass could be difficult for these people. Through the Marillac Mission Fund, Sara has been able to construct a small chapel in the village.

Sara wrote this message last July: "The Chapel is ready. It is very pretty and I am very happy. The people here are also content and have collaborated really well. The delay in the



Sister Maria Chinchay Luca (wearing a hat) with San Martin children

construction was only due to the fact that we needed to level the ground. On June 16, (the villagers) did a food sale to pay for the construction worker. They have built steps and they are making plans to paint them and to create a small garden. I support them and dream with them. The donation of the congregation has allowed them to pay for the major expenses. Now we only need chairs and tables."

3rd World Canada youth drum up support for change

BY BRIDGET DOHERTY

Last fall, the Sisters of Providence, the Rotary Club of Cataraqui, Kingston, along with a host of organizations and caring citizens, welcomed the 3rd World Canada Tour.

The tour comprised of a youth drum group from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (K.I.) and Andrée Cazabon, a young filmmaker from Montreal.

During their stay in Kingston, I had the privilege of welcoming the group at City Hall and introducing Mayor Mark Gerretsen, town crier Chris Whyman and Aboriginal elder Bernard Nelson to our guests. The event marked the first time a native grandfather drum was played inside our town hall.

Audiences at Domino Theatre and Queen's University had an opportunity to view Andrée Cazabon's documentary, *3rd World Canada*, which was created with the permission and support of the KI community. The film follows the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First

Nation community over the course of two years as it cares for eight children who witnessed their parents' suicides.

The campaign is dedicated to building relationships for change between First Nations and non-Aboriginals and to closing the gap in living conditions.

First Nations face daunting challenges unknown to mainstream Canadians. More than 100 First Nations communities have little or no access to clean water, while 40 per cent of off-reserve Aboriginal children live in poverty.

First Nations experience Third World living conditions within a world-class country. The film, *3rd World Canada*, has inspired its

viewers to change misperceptions and to take action.

The relationships forged during the group's time in Kingston has lead to a new tour stop: 3rd World Canada youth will be delivering their message to an international audience of more than 20,000 at this year's Lisbon Rotary International Convention.

Bridget Doherty is on staff with the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office.



Youth drum group from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (K.I.)

Blessing of palliative care wing at St. Joseph's Auxiliary

BY SISTER JEANNETTE FILTHAUT

On March 27, St. Joseph's Continuing Care Hospital in Edmonton officially opened its palliative care wing. Our congregation having opened the hospital originally, in 1948, we Sisters of Providence in Edmonton were invited to the blessing of this newly-renovated wing.

Sister Rita Gleason and myself were able to participate. We were honoured to assist in placing the first crucifix in the hallway as the doors were opened. This crucifix once hung in the original St. Joseph's Hospital on Whyte Avenue.

The 14 single patient palliative care rooms are very homey, very spacious for the palliative care patient and family members. The changed

lighting actually made the facility look ever so much larger. The Edmonton Journal, Global TV and CTV were all present to cover this event. I was able to see the coverage on both Global and CTV on the evening news.

The family representative who spoke gave great praise to St. Joseph's staff for their attentive loving care to patients and family members, even to attending a memorial service of the deceased.

The executives who spoke at the gathering told of the founding Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and were so grateful that we were representing our congregation. Rita and I were both very glad to have been present to see this new wing that is so dedicated to the dignity, respect and care of patients in their dying days. *Sister Mary Benilda, we missed you!*



Providence Associate Jan Kehoe offered a blessing along with her chaplaincy team colleague Mark Vigrass



Top: Sisters Jeannette Filthaut (left) and Rita Gleason hang the first crucifix in the new palliative care wing. Below: They are joined by Marilyn Snow, executive director of Covenant Health St. Joseph's.

Photos: Covenant Health

'I just can't figure out why our boys had to go through that'

BY JAMIE SWIFT

Those 13 words speak volumes about the why of war. Particularly since they were uttered at a 1936 Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage by Canada's first Silver Cross Mother.

Charlotte Susan Wood was

speaking to King Edward VIII as they gazed across the former killing fields subsequently planted with uncountable white crosses row on row.

Mrs. Wood was a Winnipeg laundry worker whose son Percy had perished at Vimy Ridge before he turned 18, one of her five sons killed in World War I.

"Please God, Mrs. Wood," replied King Edward, "It shall never happen again."

Canada's famous war mother died three years later, weeks after the start of another catastrophic war. She was buried in an unmarked grave in Winnipeg's Brookside Cemetery.



Though a new gravestone was erected over 60 years later, Mrs. Wood's story has for the most part faded into the mists of history.

This need not be so. Nor should we be content to allow stories of war to be dressed up in glorious patriotic garb as they were last year. That is when our current government spent some \$30 million on the War of 1812 and its 200th anniversary.

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the unspeakable tragedy that took Mrs. Wood's sons – and so many millions more.

Anniversaries offer the opportunity for reflection. What can we learn from watershed events of the past? Should we celebrate war as a glorious, nation-building experience? Or lament it as an awful failure in

human affairs?

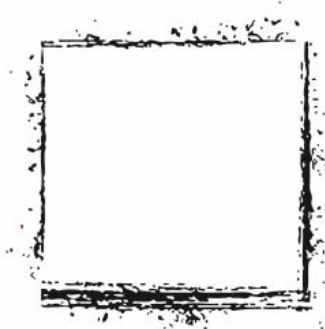
As 2014 approaches, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office of the

Sisters of Providence is helping to organize "PeaceQuest." The symbol is an inch-square piece of white cloth that

anyone can fashion for themselves to wear as we encourage Canadians to complete a simple – yet difficult – sentence:

"In our quest for peace in the world, we need to...."

PeaceQuest, initially based in Kingston,



PEACE QUEST

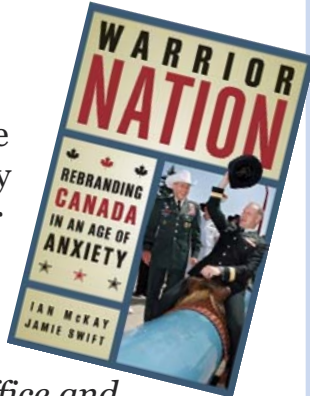
Prayer alone is not enough

will bring together people from faith communities, civic institutions and cultural groups – anyone with an interest in promoting a peaceful world – to talk together about what we need to do in our quest for a peaceful world. We will reaffirm a commitment to peace as a core Canadian value.

In the years leading up to 2017, the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and Canada's 150th birthday, we will initiate a nationwide conversation about peace and Canada's role in peacemaking.

Mrs. Wood, we hope, would approve of PeaceQuest. We will be honouring her memory and the sacrifice of her boys.

Jamie Swift is the director of the JPIC office and the co-author of Warrior Nation: Rebranding Canada in an Age of Anxiety. The book was recently nominated for the Dafoe prize.



BY BERT HORWOOD

Two people were invited to speak for a couple of minutes each at a concert featuring songs of war and peace.



One speaker was a military commander who spoke from his position as a ranking soldier. I was the other, my perspective being that of a Quaker and a pacifist.

The military man spoke graciously, concluding his remarks with these words: "We prepare for war but pray for peace."

I felt that there was something wrong with this, so when my turn came I told a story from one of Shakespeare's greatest plays.

In Hamlet, Claudius the king kills his brother to gain both the crown and the queen. Claudius is forced to

acknowledge his guilt. He kneels to pray for forgiveness, but finds himself unable to do so because he is unwilling to give up the crown or his new wife. He ends his attempts saying,

My words fly up. My thoughts remain below.

Words without thoughts never to Heaven go.

The same holds true for prayers for peace. Our deeds reflect our deepest prayers. Praying for peace without working for peace can never amount to a sincere prayer.

Bert Horwood is a member of the Kingston PeaceQuest planning committee.



peacequest.ca

Dove illustration: Philip Street



Religious life is the theme of the 2013 ongoing formation program Sr. Pauline Lally has been leading for all three congregations of Sisters in residence at 1200 Princess St. Photo taken January 24.

Keeping contact

As part of the two-year formation process, Associate program co-directors Barbara Baker and Sister Irene Wilson have been traveling to the Associates across Canada. In late October they visited Camrose and led a process of Ignatian contemplation. An outcome of the visit was an agreement that, rather than starting from scratch, the Camrose group would use the same materials as were being used



in Ontario for reflection, discussion and prayer. Pardon the bad pun, but there was lots of “associated” socializing and catching up as well.

In February, Toronto was the destination. Again, Ignatian contemplation and prayer were used with in the Toronto Associates gathering – and the group reflected on their prayer and the St. Vincent de Paul day. Kingston, Belleville and Brockville are next in line.

Desolation, Transformation, Celebration

Excerpt from a Lenten talk by Associates co-director Barbara Baker

WE ARE CALLED to be the face of Providence to the suffering people in our lives, just as Mary was to Jesus on the cross.

In hindsight we can see that our fidelity in suffering leads to transformation. God’s response to the Israelites is to bring them out of Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey. God’s response to Jesus’ death on the cross is the resurrection.

Our Jewish and Christian ancestors continued to tell the story of their oppression so that their descendants would be able to see God’s transforming work in their lives. We need to pass on our personal, family and community stories so that others will know the saving work of God.

God’s response to our suffering is to bring us to new awareness, new learning, new life. Sometimes it takes us a long time to go through transformation as it did the Israelites wandering in the desert. But when transformation does happen, it creates a desire for celebration.

Renewal and celebration: Learning from St. Vincent de Paul

BY SISTER IRENE WILSON

Providence Associates began a two-year formation process in September with the theme of renewal and celebration. The process uses the method of Ignatian contemplation, praying to know Jesus better in order to love him more and follow him more closely. We are moving through four topics, exploring each as it is reflected in the lives of key people in the history of our congregation: St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Emilie Gamelin and Catherine McKinley. The five topics are:

- trust in Providence,
- compassion,
- service,
- forgiveness, and
- prayer



In January, a large number of Associates and Sisters assembled in the Providence Spirituality Centre for a day on St. Vincent. Christine DiZazzo contextualized the life of Vincent de Paul in light of the religious faith of the day and its concern

for heresy, wars, and disparities between the rich and the poor.

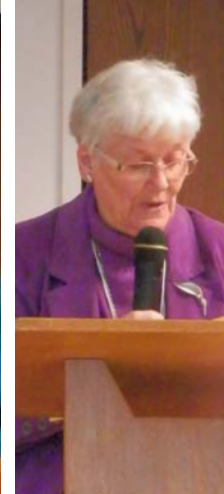
His life, from 1576 – 1660, was influenced not only by his family, intelligence, education and early adventures, but also by his religious contemporaries and powerful friends.

Against this background, and out of a deep prayer life, Vincent discerned God was calling him – to teach, serve the poor and sick, be a parish priest, organize the Ladies of Charity and the Daughters of Charity to assist him and to establish the Vincentians, the Congregation of the Missions.

The next speaker, Sister Susan Pye, told us of Vincent's spirituality in relation to his simplicity and humility and his ministry of "evangelizer of the poor." His deep trust in Providence, a hallmark



Associate Christine DiZazzo and Sister Susan Pye led the teaching on St. Vincent, January 19.



of the congregations he founded, was connected to his deep desire to do God's will – and was expressed by an indifference to material things and appreciation for the maternal/feminine face of God. St. Vincent's Christ was one who served the poor and suffering; hence he devoted himself to finding Jesus suffering, and to minister to him there. Influenced by his

spiritual mentors, he fostered contemplation in action, faith sharing and good liturgy.

After a time of small group sharing which focused on the application of the charism, mission and spirituality of Vincent in our lives today, Christine and Sisters Judy Lee and Susan led us in an inspirational prayer service. It was the perfect follow-up to the Rainbow Group of Associates' wonderful opening prayer.

A living wage for Kingston?

BY TARA KAINER

This spring is seeing a resurgence of action to keep attention on a living wage for Kingston. It is a focus of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office and a whole raft of allies.

In the fall, Kingston city councillor Bill Glover had tabled a motion to request a staff report on the feasibility of a living wage for Kingston. The motion also directed city staff to explore the implications of setting the living wage as the eligibility threshold for City of Kingston subsidized programs, such as recreation and transit.

While City Council didn't get to Glover's living wage motion in November, it did pass at December's meeting. A report from city staff is expected in September 2013.

The idea for implementing a Kingston living wage originated in March 2007 with Mayor Harvey Rosen's Task Force on Poverty Reduction. Kingston's Poverty Roundtable then explored the concept over the next three years and

published its findings in a 2011 report, *A Living Wage for Kingston*, written in consultation with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA). When the Poverty Roundtable dissolved in December 2011, Living Wage Kingston took over the campaign.

Calculated in 2011 at \$16.29 an hour, the living wage is the rate of pay that provides a Kingston family of four with enough income to cover basic needs. Unlike the provincially-set minimum wage, it is based on the actual costs of necessities in Kingston, such as food, child care, transportation, rental housing, and so on. It does not allow for retirement savings, home ownership, or savings for children's post-secondary education.

In March, a number of events were held to support Living Wage Kingston's campaign. Michael McCarthy Flynn from British Columbia's A Living Wage for Families, and Tom Cooper from



Hamilton's Roundtable on Poverty Reduction, came to Kingston. They were guests on a half-hour TVCogeco program and at a public discussion of a living wage for Kingston. On May 13, at Crossroads United Church, Councillor Glover will host a discussion with Senator Art Eggleton and, in June, CCPA economist Armine Yalnizyan will square off against councillor and economist Bryan Paterson in a TVCogeco debate on the living wage. Stay tuned for updates.

Tara Kainer represents the JPIC office with Living Wage Kingston and staffs the weekly Friday silent vigil.

The most celebrated environmental event worldwide

BY SISTER SHIRLEY MORRIS

More than six million Canadians join one billion people in over 170 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity.

Environmental challenges abound as our daily actions pollute and degrade the fragile environment that humans and wildlife depend on to survive.

What can we do?

Earth Day provides the opportunity for positive actions and results.

First launched as an environmental awareness event in the United States in 1970, Earth Day is celebrated as the birth of the environmental movement. It is a powerful catalyst for change. The first Earth Day, spearheaded by Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson and Harvard University student Denis Hayes, involved 20 million participants in teach-ins that addressed decades of

environmental pollution. The event inspired the U.S. Congress to pass clean air and water acts, and establish the

200 million people in 141 nations in celebrating the first International Earth Day. In many countries, the global event brought pressure on heads of state to

take part in the UN Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, to address issues such as climate change and the world wide loss of species.

In Canada, Earth Day has grown into Earth Week and even Earth Month to accommodate the profusion of events and projects. They range from large public events – such as Victoria's Earth Walk, Edmonton's Earth Day Festival, and Oakville, Ontario's

Waterways Clean-up – to the thousands of small, private events staged by schools, employee groups and community groups.



Environmental Protection Agency to research and monitor environmental issues and enforce environmental laws.

Global celebration

In 1990, two million Canadians joined



Seedy Saturday

It was quite a crowd!

Approximately 300 people attended Seedy Saturday this year, the highest turnout so far.

Did folks come because it was a long winter and seeds bring hopes of spring? Perhaps it was the terrific program and the publicity? Or the media coverage the event garnered in advance, with stories in the Whig Standard, EMC, and Kingston This Week.

Whatever the reason, it was a grand day for gardeners and those interested in organic and heirloom seeds.

Photos: Landon Chatterton



Planting peas in April

BY CATE HENDERSON

Peas are a lovely cool-weather crop, one of the first seeds to actually be planted in the soil of the gardens, even when it is still too cold for most vegetables. One of the pea varieties is called Champion of England. What a glorious name!

According to the non-profit group Heritage Seed Library (which used to be called the Henry Doubleday Research Association): “This English marrowfat pea was bred in 1843 as Fairbeards’ Champion of England and was judged the best pea by the Journal of Horticulture in 1876. This is a tall variety (over 1.8m) requiring strong supports. Reliable and vigorous, it produces white flowers followed by a heavy crop of pods, generously filled with sweet, wrinkled seeds.”

The Champion of England pea is one of 10 pea varieties the Heritage Seed Sanctuary inherited from its previous



Photo: Mike Hammond

caretakers, Carol and Robert Mouck. They describe it as: “Fairbeard’s famous pea, wrinkled, tender, sweet, 1843, 5’ plants.”

We will be growing five pea varieties this year, including varieties with equally ambitious names, such as Dark

Green Perfection and Dwarf Gray Sugar. Peas self-pollinate and dry down on the vine, so they are an easy seed to save. Everyone should try it!

Organic gardener Cate Henderson is the caretaker of the Heirloom Seed Sanctuary.

We will be growing five varieties of peas this year

Our journey to Holyoke: the congregation's first permanent

BY VERONICA STIENBURG

In 1873, Sisters Mary Jane de Chantal and Mary Elizabeth went on a collecting tour in Massachusetts, where they visited Holyoke, a large manufacturing town. They got permission from the pastor, Fr. Harkins, to collect in his parish – and discovered that he had studied under Sr. Mary Elizabeth's brother, Fr. Stafford, at Regiopolis College in Kingston. He asked the Sisters to open a charitable mission in the city. That September Fr. Harkins travelled to Kingston to discuss the proposed mission with the community. Sr. Mary Edward and Superior Sr. Mary John visited Holyoke at the end of September. Upon their return the Council decided, on October 10, 1873, to found its first permanent mission in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Sisters Mary Edward, Mary Patrick, Mary of the Cross and Mary Mount Carmel arrived in Holyoke on November 7, 1873. Two of the four Sisters were members of council. In March 1874, two more Sisters were sent

to Holyoke, including a third member of council leaving the General Superior as the only council member in Kingston. The establishment of a new mission was a huge leap of faith for the young



*Sr. Mary Charles (Anne Larkin),
Holyoke, MA. circa 1884-1892*

congregation and the number of senior personnel sent to Holyoke was a sign of the congregation's commitment to the new mission.

Photos: Above: Archives of Providence Kingston. Right: Courtesy of the Sisters of Providence Holyoke Archives

The first House of Providence was established in November 1873 in the rectory of St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley Falls, across the Connecticut River from Holyoke. The Sisters crossed the river by rowboat to visit the needy in Holyoke. Within a week of arriving, the Sisters took in their first orphan and, within a month, had accepted their first patients at the House of Providence.

In 1874, the Sisters moved from South Hadley Falls to a new House of Providence in Holyoke. The House of Providence functioned as a hospital, orphanage, home for the elderly and convent.

In 1875, Fr. Harkins asked the Sisters to take charge of the parish school, St. Jerome's Institute for Boys. The first school year was not a success, due to discipline problems and differences in education in Canada and the United States. The Sisters considered giving up the school, but Fr. Harkins gave them more autonomy and, as recorded in the Council Minutes of September 5, 1876, two Sisters went on a fact-finding tour

mission

of schools in New York “in order to draw up regulations for the better government of the classes.”

Due to crowding at the House of Providence, the orphanage moved locations several times and the Sisters determined to find it a permanent home. In 1880, the Sisters purchased Ingleside, a 53-acre hilltop estate overlooking the Connecticut River. Construction began in 1880 and Mount St. Vincent Orphanage was dedicated in 1881 and served as a combination orphanage and home for the elderly. Although beautifully situated, with an adjacent farm that provided fresh food, Mount St. Vincent had its inconveniences, including no town water. Sisters had to haul the water needed for cleaning up the hill from the river and haul baskets of laundry down to the riverbank for washing. In 1887, the Sisters at the Mount were very pleased that an addition was built that included laundry facilities.

By 1891, the Holyoke mission had grown from four Sisters to over 40



House of Providence, Holyoke, Massachusetts. circa 1874-1880

Sisters and novices. More space was needed and, in August 1891, St. Vincent de Paul Convent was built for the teaching Sisters. By 1892, the small mission established 19 years earlier had grown into a thriving community dedicated to care for orphans and the elderly, teaching, a hospital and home nursing.

A year later, in 1892, the mission of Holyoke separated from the Kingston congregation to become a new religious congregation, the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke.

Veronica Stienburg is the archivist for the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul since 2011.

A new way of rubbing elbows ...

BY LOUISE SLOBODIAN

Allow me to introduce myself. I'm your new communications director. In February I moved to Kingston from Toronto and began to work in the spacious office in the Motherhouse where posters, newsletters and all things written and web are created.

As you would expect, I have a formal job description, and that includes such tasks as overseeing the website, producing Providence Pages and coordinating the Communications Advisory Committee. Twenty years in communications at not-for-profits from Edmonton to Ottawa have equipped me for this part of the work. I appreciate this chance to carry on the work of skilled predecessors and my able and amiable colleague Mike Hammond.

But it's the informal job description that interests me even more. That informal job description is to help the Sisters of Providence apply communications tools and practices to carry out the work of your mission and charism.

Of course you are doing this still, as are your Associates with you! You are doing it in person at the weekly vigil, in leadership, in the many ministries your community takes up, in Canada and Peru, and in the funding you bestow on others. Your prayer has weight. You extend your reach through your staff who work in justice, ecology, sustainable farming and seed saving, offer spiritual guidance and direction and work with you to heal violence and quest for peace.

The work of compassionate service and trust in Providence is all around you, in the good people who work for you and care for your homes and community.

Beyond all this, though, is there more we can do together, using the new tools and technologies of social media for witness, advocacy and education?

My admiration for women religious is profound. It is no secret you have faced a tremendous grief over the last few decades as the consecrated life that called and claimed you has stopped drawing young women in North



America. You have chosen to remember that this change in society doesn't negate your choice or invalidate your calling. And you have courageously pushed forward in the belief that the Word of Jesus, and the mission and the ministry of your congregation, are good news that still need to be told.

My hiring committee challenged me to work with you to figure out how you can rub elbows in a new way. How can you be in the world and affect the world, when you are fewer and older?

It's a challenge I embrace. You have tremendous assets of goodwill, moral leadership and respect to work with. You already have a legacy. Now, we think future.

Sister Leona Fitzgerald

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Sister Leona Fitzgerald of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, died peacefully on November 23, 2012 at Providence Motherhouse, Kingston, Ontario.

She was born on February 23, 1919 in Greenview, Ontario, the third of eight children of Catherine Agnes McAlpine and Patrick Fitzgerald. A graduate of the Peterborough Normal School in 1938, she began her teaching career in the one-room Ontario rural schools in Prince's Lake, Craigmont, Maple Leaf and Brechin.

Sister Leona entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston on August 15, 1948. Following her First Profession, she returned to teaching with her first assignment at St. Joseph's School in Kingston. After one year there she was assigned as principal and teacher at St. Gregory's School in Picton, then St. Mark's in Prescott and finally at St. Mary's in Trenton from 1965 until her



retirement in 1984. After 44 years in education, she enjoyed a sabbatical during which she audited courses in Theology at St. Michael's College and Regis College in Toronto followed by a trip to Ireland.

In 1985 she was assigned to Rosary Hall in Edmonton for a year. From 1987 to 1997 she ministered at the McKinley Centre at Providence Motherhouse assisting developmentally handicapped women. She then became the sacristan at the Motherhouse until she suffered a fractured hip in July 2002.

During her long teaching career Sister Leona received her BA from the University of Ottawa in 1965, her Supervisory Officer's Certificate in 1976 and her Masters of Education from Queen's University in 1977. As well she



Sister Leona Fitzgerald

Feb. 23, 1919 —
Nov. 23, 2012

received her Elementary School Principal's Certificate and Ministry of Education certificates in Vocal Music, Arts and Crafts, Intermediate Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies, Intermediate Special Education and Religious Education.

Sister will be remembered for her keen interest in and loving care for her students, especially the disadvantaged, her untiring dedication to her teaching and administrative duties as

well as her love of a good game of bridge and her ability to recite poetry and sing her favourite Irish songs.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse, Kingston on November 27, 2012, was presided over by Friar Ed Debono, O.F.M.Conv. Friar Ed also delivered the homily.

Sister Gracia Whalen

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Sister Gracia Whalen (Catherine Agnes Whalen) of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul died peacefully on December 14, 2012 at Providence Motherhouse, Kingston, Ontario in the 71st year of her Religious Life.

Sister Gracia was born in Belleville, Ontario on March 7, 1922, the fourth of thirteen children of Peter and Margaret (Gannon) Whalen.

She entered the novitiate on February 2, 1942 and following her first profession of vows she was assigned to Providence Manor to care for the elderly.

Her main ministries throughout her religious life were caring for the elderly and nursing the sick at St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton, St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Athabaska, St. Anthony's Home, Moose Jaw, the Father Dowd Home, Montreal and St.

Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston. She took the R.N.A. course at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville. She also spent some time at St. Joseph's Vocational School in Winnipeg caring for the senior boys.

In 1971 she accompanied a group of handicapped people on a Jean Vanier pilgrimage to Lourdes. Sister then ministered to the sick in their homes in Perth for a year. She was very attentive to the sick and dying especially praying with and for them.

After a well-deserved sabbatical in Arnprior in 1984-85 she took on foot care ministry at the Motherhouse. She



Sister Gracia Whalen

Mar. 7, 1922 —
Dec. 14, 2012

was also a faithful volunteer at Martha's Table where she brought a genuine compassionate presence to those to whom she ministered.

Sister Gracia touched and supported many people throughout her life. Her family loved and respected her and cherished memories of her visits with them.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on

December 20, 2012, was presided over by Most Reverend Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston. Rev. Whalen delivered the homily.



Upcoming events for delicious summer and fall planning

JULY GUIDED RETREAT:

Doing Nothing and Doing it Well

July 10, 4 pm – July 17, 1 pm

Register by Wed June 26

Cost: \$525

Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ

Our life will not bear fruit unless we learn the art of lying fallow. This retreat will focus on the forgotten art of wasting time creatively.

AUGUST GUIDED RETREAT:

The Prophets and their Poetry

Aug 7, 4 pm – Aug 14, 1 pm

Register by Wed July 24

Cost: \$525

Sister Rose-Anne Engel, OSU

The focus of this retreat will be to reflect on some of the rich poetic passages in the Prophetic Books of the Bible that bind together the past and the future in an uninterrupted history of Salvation.

The picturesque and passionate verses of Isaiah, often dark yet powerful images of Ezekiel and the maker of metaphor and stunning imagination of Jeremiah, become gripping moments of both desperation and inspiration. The prophets speak forcefully for our time. Their message and their poetry are treasured sources for meditation and prayer.

OVERNIGHT RETREAT:

Spirituality of Discipleship: Biblical Reflections on the meaning of discipleship and following Jesus.

Sept 27, 4 pm – Sept 28, 4 pm

Register by Fri Sept 13

Cost: \$75

Deacon Bill Gervais

OCTOBER DIRECTED RETREAT

Oct 23, 4 pm – Oct 30, 1 pm

Register by Wed Oct 9

Cost: \$495 or \$75/day

PSC Team

SPIRITUALITY SERIES:

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Nov 11, 18 & 25, 6:30-8:30 pm

Register by Mon Oct 28

Cost: \$25/series

Dolores Hall

Come and reflect on the Christian invitation to peace and non-violence, and explore its relevance for the Christian life today.

Reminders for 2014:

Returning:

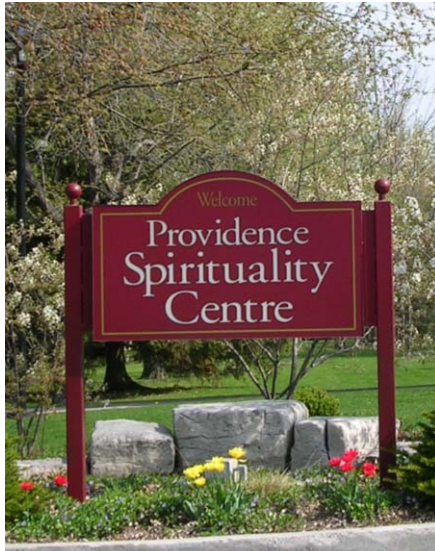
Diarmuid O'Murchu (April 10-12)

Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave (Oct 30-Nov 1)

New:

Rev. Earl Smith, SJ
(January preached retreat – Jan 13-18)

Dr. Alexandra Kovats, CSJP
(April 30 – May 3)



PROVIDENCE PAGES

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

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Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, are an apostolic congregation of vowed women religious called to be channels of God's Providence in the world through compassionate service in response to the needs of the times. Sharing our individual giftedness, we carry out diverse ministries in a spirit of humility, simplicity and charity in collaboration with others to bring about the reign of God.

Our heritage is rooted in the creativity and spirituality of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, in the willingness of Emilie Gamelin to risk and trust in Providence, in the responsiveness of the Montreal Sisters of Providence to the call of Bishop E.J. Horan, as well as

in the courage and pioneer spirit of Mother Mary Edward McKinley and the original members of the Kingston community.

Impelled by the compassionate love of Jesus and Mary, we seek to empower others, especially the poor and oppressed, to achieve a quality of life in keeping with their human dignity. We strive to be prophetic leaders in our church and in society through the promotion of structures and relationships of equality and mutuality and through attitudes and actions for justice and peace.

Strengthened by prayer, we are bonded in unity and love through our corporate mission.

Serving with compassion, trusting in Providence, we walk in hope.