



Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul



A celebration in June marked the golden jubilees of Sisters Diane Brennen (front, left) and Frances O'Brien (front, right.) The three diamond jubilee celebrants are, behind,

from left, Sisters Sheila Brady, Theresa Moher and Patricia Ann Ryan. Inset: Sr. Gertrude Casey celebrated her 70th. More inside



PROVIDENCE PAGES

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.

Dear readers,

Please contact us with your e-mail address if you prefer to receive an electronic version of Providence Pages and discontinue receiving it by mail.

Contact us:
communications@providence.ca

Thank you!

Erratum: In the previous edition of Providence Pages (Vol4 , #1), the wrong Pope Pius was portrayed. We showed you Pius XII when it was Pius XI who first spoke on Vatican Radio. Surely it was a pious mistake.

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Jubilees of diamond, jubilees of gold

Congratulations to 2014 Jubilarians: Sisters Frances O'Brien and Diane Brennen celebrating 50 years; Sheila Brady, Patricia Ann Ryan and Theresa Moher celebrating 60; and Gertrude Casey celebrating 70.



Excerpts from remarks made by the Congregation's General Superior, Sr. Sandra Shannon, as 2014 Jubilee celebrations began:

Journeying through the seasons of life we are all called to ponder how we have grown and continue to open up into the unfolding mysteries of God within and around us. We continue with questions that are only answered with more questions but which somehow bolster our belief and hope in a Provident God.

Jubilarians – your journey through these various seasons of life has molded you for your greater good and for the good of the people of God. Your journey was exactly what it needed to be to bring each one of you to this moment as the person God intended you to be.

We are grateful that you, trusting in Providence, undertook that journey with the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. May each of you continue to experience love, hope, peace and joy until the very last moment of your winter season.

'All of you are Spirit-filled...' *excerpt*

BY FRIAR ED DEBONO

Just as the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the capability of speaking to others in his or her own language, the Holy Spirit has given each of you the ability to be with and speak to others according to your talents and compassion for the building up of the Kingdom of God...a kingdom of love, mercy and community among all peoples.

All of you are spirit-filled and open to the working of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has given you the courage to be women of conviction; women with courage; women who proclaim the Gospel by your lives.

God sent you to bring the joy of the Gospel to others...to prisoners, to those in need of health care, to students going through life's changes, to people in the countries

of Guatemala and Peru and to counsel adults to sort out life's circumstances....

Looking back, we can say you have been fulfilling the role of priest, prophet and king, conferred on you at Baptism. ...

Pope Francis, in his exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, writes that "the Church acknowledges the indispensable contribution which women make to society ..."

He goes on to indicate that women show a special concern for others. He acknowledges "that many women share pastoral responsibilities with priests, helping to guide people, families and groups and offering new contributions to theological

reflection. But we need to create still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church. Because the "feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society ... and in various other settings where important decisions are made, both in



the Church and in social structures."

Pope Francis writes that "the legitimate rights of women be respected, based on the firm conviction that men and women are equal in dignity." These rights "present the Church with profound and challenging questions which cannot be lightly evaded."

A reading of your biographies reveal the wisdom, competency and professional capabilities of all of you Jubilarians ... and we include other members of your community and the religious women of other communities, here and across Canada. Not to mention the feminine touch and insights which all of you possess and are indispensable to the Catholic community and the wider community. Thanks to all women religious for your dedication and love of people and your love of the Church.

Friar Ed Debono, OFM Conv. is a chaplain at Providence Motherhouse. This is the homily he offered at the Mass celebrating the Jubilarians.



Sister Sheila Langton: CHAC lifetime achievement award

BY LOUISE SLOBODIAN

“At the heart of all her efforts there is a central vision: to serve the needs of the most vulnerable.”

That’s how Sr. Sheila Langton was described as she was bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC).

At a ceremony April 30, Sr. Sheila was honoured for her decades of work in Catholic health care as an able administrator, generous mentor, and as someone with the foresight to ensure Catholic institutions thrived in the transfer from the religious congregations who founded them.

“She was instrumental in the establishment of lay public juridic persons across Canada when these structures were still unknown and untested,” says her citation. “(Sr. Sheila) guided the formation of Providence Healthcare, Vancouver; the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation

(now Catholic Health of Alberta); Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan; and the Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario.”

When it was her turn to speak, Sr. Sheila was reflective and humble, noting that as interesting as the last 25 years has been, “We, Sisters of Providence, have never had to work alone.”

“I had the opportunity to work with very experienced and dedicated volunteers on the various Boards and professional and skilled leadership teams in our institutions. These women and men are the pioneers today in this work of the Church.”

Sr. Sheila deflected the personal honour, saying, “I want to receive this award in the name of my beloved Congregation, the Sisters of



Sr. Sheila Langton receives the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from Daniel Lussier, Chair of the Governing Council

Providence, and also in the name of all the dedicated women and men who have worked tirelessly and generously to continue the Catholic healthcare ministry in Canada.”

She ended her speech with a well-favoured TIP: “Trust in Providence and – I bid you to Walk in Hope.”



Preparing for Chapter in April 2015

BY SISTER GAYLE DESARMIA

Every four years the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul gather for special meetings that are called a Chapter. At these meetings they review the past four years, set direction for the future and elect the members of the next Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team consists of the General Superior of the Congregation and three Councillors. Next year, 2015, will be the next time the Sisters gather for their Chapter. To prepare for these

meetings, Sister Yvette Bellerose, SSA has been hired as a facilitator, and a Chapter Design Committee has been established. The committee consists

**Please keep the Sisters of
Providence in your prayers as we
prepare for Chapter 2015**

of, from left to right, Sisters Connie Kaufmann, Pauline Lally, Lucy Bethel, our administrative support Doreen Hoekstra, myself, and Sisters Pat Amyot and Lucy Kearney.

To begin their mandate, the committee held their first meeting on March 25. Thanks to technology, facilitator Yvette Bellerose was present via Skype. At the beginning of the meeting members of the current Leadership Team blessed the committee and facilitator in the important work they are undertaking for the Congregation. The Chapter meetings will begin on Easter Tuesday, April 8, 2015 and as a preparation the Congregation will gather at Providence Motherhouse this August for a Pre-Chapter Assembly.

Biodegradable caskets as spiritual practice

BY SISTER SHIRLEY MORRIS

Going Green has become a passion for many people. However, the hardest time to adopt environmentally friendly practices has been at the end of life itself.

Death is as sacred as life, and we need to transform how we die. A funeral becomes a rite of passage.

Diarmuid O'Murchu speaks of death as a transformative reconnection with the great energy fields of God's creation. For some people, who are looking to limit their carbon footprint, "Going **out** Green" isn't just an environmentally conscious choice, but a spiritual one as well.

Green burial is a practice that employs biodegradable caskets, no formaldehyde-based embalming solutions, eco-friendly biodegradable shrouds and casket liners. The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul have adopted some of these practices.

In their final act, the deceased

have arranged to give back to the earth some very small measure of the vast resources they drew from it in life, and in the process perpetuate the cycles of nature, of growth, and decay, of death and rebirth that sustain all of us.

Green burial is an idea whose time has come. People are starting to accept and embrace this fundamental fact of biology that the natural end of all life is decomposition. All that we have used, for the better part of the last

century – toxic chemicals, bullet-proof metal caskets, and the concrete bunker – that is, the burial vault – only delay, not halt, the inevitable.

More of us are coming to believe that a lasting legacy to a life well lived may be as basic as good earth.

Aldo Leopold, the great author and naturalist wrote: "Dust unto dust is a desiccated version of the round river concept—a rock decays and forms soil, in the soil grows an oak which bears an acorn, which feeds a squirrel, which feeds an Indian, who ultimately lays him down to sleep in the great tomb of man—to grow another oak."

Many people today want to see the burial as returning the body to nature. Choice is what it is all about. We make choices about how to live to save the environment. Now is the time to choose to die and be buried in an environmentally friendly way and the desire to move forward towards greater simplicity.



For the child taken, for the parent left behind

BY SISTER JEANNETTE FILTHAUT

Listen to your heart 🌿 **Listen to the Creator** 🌿 **As leaders, as women, we have to be strong to stand alone and we have to move forward** 🌿 **Go beyond the evil dark energy** 🌿 **Put your children close to your heart** 🌿 **If you don't have an elder adopt one to learn from them**

These were just a few of the pearls of wisdom offered by some of the Aboriginal women and men who shared their sacred stories in Edmonton at the 7th National Truth and Reconciliation gathering. I participated in 3 of the 4 historical days – Thursday, volunteering at the Churches' Centre; on Friday, watching the intense stories online; on Saturday, and then a half day on Sunday which included participation in the 15 block walk from the conference centre to the Legislature.

You can still visit www.trc.ca to view some of the many videos and hear some of these profound and moving stories from the men and women who lived



Sister Mary Clare Stack OSU, Sister Jeannette Filthaut SP and Dr. Bob McKeon walking in the closing march of Truth and Reconciliation on a very cold March 30th day in Edmonton

in Indian Residential Schools across this country. They were taken from their homes as very young children, given a number, separated from their siblings and their families, experiencing great loneliness and loss. Some had good experiences in the schools run by the federal government and religious congregations and denominations – and many others had very dark negative experiences, including loss of their innocence through sexual and physical abuse.

I cried many tears as I listened to the heartbreaking sacred stories being shared in the listening circles and before the Commissioners and honorary witnesses. The sharing brought forth some transformative reconciliation moments. Honorary witnesses, also moved to tears, gave testimony to what they heard, thereby giving strength and credibility to those who shared so passionately. The Bentwood Box that graced centre stage holds many offerings commemorating

personal journeys toward healing and reconciliation. It will be housed in the National Research Centre at the University of Manitoba.

There is much reconciliation still needed before equality can be fully experienced by all. I am so very grateful to have shared this historical moment in time with our indigenous peoples of Canada who still have so much to teach us in reverence and respect for our Creator and all of creation. *Megwetch!*

30 years of Changing Together

BY SISTER DIANE BRENNEN

On Friday, May 30, Changing Together – the Centre for Immigrant Women in Edmonton, Alberta – celebrated its 30th anniversary with a dinner and silent auction.

Thirty years ago a small group of immigrant women who were studying at the University of Alberta decided to meet together in order to provide each other with support in learning Canadian ways.

With that humble start, Changing Together began its mission to help immigrant women. The centre provides language and computer training as well as other life skills. It has programs to help prevent family violence and human trafficking for sex and labour.

It arranges safe shelter for abused women and their children. It helps women learn the difference between a healthy relationship and an abusive one, both in a marriage and in the workplace. Volunteers gain Canadian work experience so that they can get references in their job search. The seniors program provides needed support and encouragement.

Since 1984, Changing Together has helped nearly 68,000 immigrant women and their families by providing services,

safety, and assistance in grappling with the many challenges women face.

At this 30th anniversary we honoured the stories and lives of those accomplished immigrant women who have served our community in many ways.



From left: Speaker Elexis Schloss, executive director Sonia Bitar and temporary board chair, Sr. Diane Brennen

On June 29, Sister Rita Gleason performed a benefit concert for Changing Together. The program began with compositions by Chopin, Schubert and Beethoven. After intermission, Sister Rita dressed in a 1920s costume and played some ragtime music. The concert ended with the three movements of Mozart's Piano Concerto in A Major: Sr. Rita was accompanied by her teacher, Sarah Ho. With proceeds from the tickets, plus donations from friends and sponsors, \$1000 was raised.



The guest speaker was Elexis Schloss, a recent recipient of the Order of Canada. She presented Changing Together with a statue of four people resting on each other's shoulders. From the bottom to the top we have Courage, Strength, Hope, and Dignity.

Renewal and celebration series: Founders of the Kingston

BY SISTER IRENE WILSON

The Associates formation program continued in March with a day focused on the Kingston founders of the Congregation. These founders and the issues of the day were dramatized for the gathering. Kingston Bishop Horan was performed by Sr. Catherine Cannon, in cassock and mitre. Providence Associate Sheila Burchart, dressed in a habit and modified veil, presented the life of Catherine McKinley (known as Mother Mary Edward), the first postulant in the sole religious congregation founded in Kingston.

What came to light was that the bishop and the Sisters disagreed on three hot topics in the early years of the new community: 1. The Sisters' first teaching mission in Belleville. There were hard feelings both in their coming to teach and in their leaving so soon. 2. The different stand taken by Bishop Horan and by Mother M. Edward and Mother Mary Mt. Carmel over the acceptance and appointment of Sister Rosalie, a Montreal Sister. Strong feelings were

expressed on both sides; only with the passage of time and new information were the waters calmed and peace restored. 3. The question of elections vs appointments. Mother Mary Edward felt that all offices should be by election, not just the office of the Superior General. Bishop Horan thought that he should appoint Sisters to the other offices. By 1872, Bishop Horan presided over the elections of the positions of Superior General, General Assistant, Treasurer and Mistress of Novices.

Times for quiet reflection and small group sharing provided an opportunity to realize how different things are today and how far we have come in our development as a congregation.

Catherine McKinley 1837-1904

Catherine, born in Kingston, the youngest child of a ship owner, had two older brothers with whom she played.

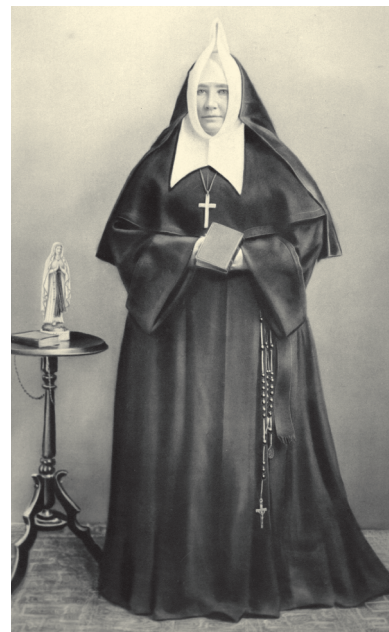
She was 10 years old when her mother died. Her father remarried so she could have some "womanly guidance and

training" to balance her "natural impetuosity, quick temper and spirit of self-sufficiency."

In 1862, at the age of 25, Catherine entered the new religious congregation, believing that she was being called by God to respond to the needs of the time – caring for orphans and the poor, visiting and looking after the sick in their homes, instructing the women in the

penitentiaries and engaging in begging campaigns to finance their work.

Four years after entering the newly established congregation, Catherine – now Sister Mary Edward – was appointed the first Superior by Bishop E. J. Horan. She continued to hold leadership roles for over 40 years. During this time, she did a lot of



Congregation

building because she believed that both structures and people were important in a new community. Besides begging tours, which took the Sisters to districts outside of Kingston on both sides of Lake Ontario and as far south as Holyoke, Massachusetts, she wrote letters to political leaders soliciting aid for all those in her care.

She was equally solicitous about her little community, supporting any undertaking in the interest of education that would enable the Sisters to care for the poor. She also often challenged the conditions under which her community lived and worked.

In 1873, the Holyoke mission was established with Sister Mary Edward as local superior. She and three other Sisters used their home as a hospital, orphanage and home for the elderly, as well as their convent. Over a period of 19 years, the mission grew from four Sisters to over 40 Sisters and novices.

In 1890, the Bishop of Springfield sent a petition to Rome asking for a separation from the Motherhouse in

Kingston. Mother Mary Edward was once again congregational superior and helped the congregation weather the division caused by this forced separation: The split not only took away sources of novices and finances but more than 30 Sisters remained in Holyoke, diminishing the Kingston congregation.

In 1902, Mother Mary Edward went to the new St. Peter's Convent in Trenton, where she continued to write letters, raise funds, visit the sick and care for her beloved congregation. She died peacefully in Trenton in 1904. "A valiant woman" – a courageous and warm leader.

Bishop E.J. Horan 1817-1875

Bishop E.J. Horan was born in Quebec in 1817 to an English-speaking family and was educated in French. Being completely bilingual, he was able to be an instructor in English when he entered the Petit Seminaire at age 13. His main interest was in the sciences, especially scientific agriculture. After his ordination, he became professor,

director and assistant procurator of the Quebec seminary, and first secretary of Laval University. In 1848, he left to do advanced studies in Natural History at Harvard and Yale. When he returned to Quebec, he became the first principal of Laval Normal School.



On January 8, 1858, he was chosen the fourth bishop of Kingston, Ontario, consecrated in St. Patrick's Church, Quebec in May and arrived in Kingston in June. His background was one of intellectual pursuits. His world was the university; his friends were from the higher echelons of society.

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Telling a different story about war

BY JAMIE SWIFT

Two oil paintings. Two artists who painted battlefield scenes. Two dramatically different ways of telling a story.

In 1915, the English artist Richard Jack received a commission to paint a recent battle in Belgium. His immense canvas, *The Second Battle of Ypres*, showed heroic soldiers fighting off an enemy counter-attack.

Sir Edmund Walker, a wealthy banker and member of the Canadian War Memorials Fund, thought the artist had captured the Canadian accomplishments during the fighting. But he worried that people back at home were “not likely to appreciate such realistic treatment of war.”

Except that the scene he painted was a figment of Jack’s imagination. He had not visited the killing fields of Flanders.

The central figure in the canvas is a romantic blond soldier standing well



Richard Jack. *The Second Battle of Ypres*, 22 April to 25 May 1915. CWM 19710261-0161. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art. © Canadian War Museum

above the trench parapet, heroically urging his comrades forward into the fray. WW I veterans knew that anyone exposing themselves like this would have soon been obliterated by machine gun fire or a sniper – the fate of so many millions in that ghastly conflict.

One critic noted that, with hindsight, the painting seems inauthentic and sentimental. But back then romantic depictions of war met a need. Some

Canadians needed to see troops as gallant heroes.

Things would change as the carnage dragged on. By 1917 the Canadian painter Frederick Varley did visit the battlefields. His most famous depiction of the war featured a cartload of bloodied bodies awaiting burial by two forlorn gravediggers standing by two rows of white crosses. The grisly cart is stuck in the mud.

The future Group of Seven artist chose a simple title for his painting. *For What?*

And Varley’s story clearly differed from Jack’s. His rhetorical question remains as we approach the centenary of The Great War. That’s what PeaceQuest is all about. “Grieving the tragedy of war. Committed to the promise of peace.”

How will Canada commemorate WWI? In June the *Globe and Mail’s* opening

paragraph shed some light on the matter when it broke the story of the pricey commemorations.

“The federal government has earmarked more than \$83-million over the remainder of this decade to commemorate Canada’s military history and the exploits of its soldiers at a time when Ottawa is under fire for the level of support it offers living veterans.”

Ottawa has already spent \$30 million to glorify the War of 1812. What kind of stories will feature in the official version of WWI?

Irecently visited Ypres to find out more about how people there are remembering the war that devastated the region. And I learned that the overwhelming emphasis is “remembering for peace.” This contrasts with the Official Story – WWI as a nation-building effort – being offered up in Canada.

The war flattened Ypres, destroying its magnificent gothic guild hall. The



Fred Varley. For What? CWM 19710261-0770. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art. © Canadian War Museum

medieval building was meticulously reconstructed and now houses the peace-oriented In Flanders Fields Museum. It showcases memorials to Africans conscripted to fight in a European war. Walls of ghostly, backlit photos of the dead. The Christmas Truce. Separate little teepee-like sections that enclose you in darkness, grim images appearing and receding.

Some 500,000 were killed in and around Ypres. The little city now styles itself as a Town of Peace. Its war museum concludes with panels

describing how Canada and other former Dominions embraced the poppy symbol. The curators note that some Canadians see the battlefields of the First World War as national birthplaces. But they also explain that the war frustrated the hopes of other peoples. It failed to bring them the rights they had hoped for, fuelling nationalist sentiment: “All over the world nationalist myths are rooted in the First World War.”

Myths and stories. Opposing narratives. One display in the In Flanders Fields Museum explaining “remembrance” features Canada’s \$10 bill featuring peace doves, United Nations peacekeepers and the words “In the Service of Peace.”

The ten dollar bill that recently replaced this banknote features a passenger train. The doves have disappeared. So have the peacekeepers.

Director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office, Jamie Swift is a founder of PeaceQuest.

Sister Mary Alberta Gallagher Sept. 24, 1921 - March 12, 2014

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Mary Marguerite Gallagher, the eldest for nine children of Fergal Aloysius Gallagher and Mary Alberta O'Toole, was born on September 24, 1921 in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. She attended Mapleside School for Grades 1-9 and Sacred Heart Academy, Yorkton for Grade 10. Her Grade 11 was obtained by correspondence courses and help from her mother who was a teacher. She graduated from Scott Collegiate, Regina with Grade 12. From 1940 - 42 she was a student nurse at Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw, Sask. It was there she met the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. At the beginning of her third year of training she entered the postulancy on January 31, 1942.

Following her profession of vows, she enrolled at the Ontario College of Pharmacy, University of Toronto and obtained a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1947. From September 1944 – April 1946 she apprenticed at Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston. She was then assigned to St. Vincent de Paul

Hospital, Brockville until 1967. For the following three years she worked in hospital pharmacy at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston and another three years at Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw. She had to obtain a license for pharmacy in Saskatchewan by passing the Oral Jurisprudence exam conducted by three examiners. During 1969 – 70 she took a course in Drug Addiction and Alcoholism from Queen's University, Kingston. Between 1955 and 1960 she was a member of the Pharmacy Hospital Committee for the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada and the United States, representing Canada. She was also involved with various hospital committees.

In July 1973 she left hospital pharmacy to join an international retreat group, the Movement for a Better World. She received her basic training in

East Aurora, New York and did her apprenticeship in the Minnesota, Nebraska, Seattle and Oregon areas, working with teams giving week-long parish retreats. The retreat thrust was to build community, using scripture and the Vatican II documents. In 1978, at Loyola House in Guelph, to qualify to give retreats she did the 30-day retreat plus the 9-day Institute followed by the spiritual directors' workshop. Following this she opened the House of Prayer at Providence Hall in Belleville. From 1979 – 1985, she gave, preached and directed retreats at the Kermaria Retreat Centre in Pincher Creek, Alberta. For the next two years she worked at Providence Retreat Centre in Kingston. Sister took a sabbatical at the Galilee Institute in Arnprior during 1987 – 88. She then was assigned as coordinator of Marian I at the Motherhouse.



Congratulations extended

Sister Mary Alberta was called home peacefully to her loving God on March 12, 2014. She will be remembered for her enthusiasm, cheerfulness and hospitality. Her outgoing personality endeared her to those with whom she worked and to whom she ministered.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on March 18, was presided over by her brother, Rev. Jack Gallagher, CSB accompanied by other members of the clergy. Reverend Msgr. Don Clement delivered the homily.



The delightful Sister Anne Louise Haughian (left) turned 100 on June 19. On May 24, Yeshi Redda became a Providence Associate in a moving ceremony. Cake for all!

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The diocese of Kingston had substantial problems – a massive debt, a financially troubled Catholic school system, the plight of the poor, elderly, sick and prisoners. He could deal with the first two problems because of his previous ministry but he had no experience caring for the needy. When he appealed for assistance to the daughters of

Mother D'Youville in Quebec (The Sisters of Charity/Grey Nuns of Montreal), his request was rejected as full of risk. He then turned to Bishop Bourget and the Sisters of Providence of Montreal. Mother Philomine agreed to set up a new Congregation with a unity of rules (establishing a similar charism and spirituality). The Montreal Sisters stayed in Kingston for five years.

Bishop Horan advanced the situation of the separate school system to a large degree. He was a close friend of Sir John A. MacDonald; many political favours were extended in both directions.

Bishop Horan died on February 15, 1875, after a year of deteriorating health.

Sister Rose Healy

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Rose Healy was born on April 29, 1924 in Smiths Falls, Ontario, the second of six children of Edmund Healy and Isabel Smith. She grew up on the family farm which her father had inherited from his parents. She received her elementary education in the rural school close to her home. For the first two years of secondary school she and her sister Mary attended St. Michael's Academy in Belleville and lived with their uncle and aunt. They then returned to Smiths Falls where they attended the Collegiate Institute.

Rose entered the postulancy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on March 19, 1943 and, following her first Profession of Vows in 1945, she attended teacher's college in Toronto. Her teaching ministry began in 1946 in the primary grades in Kingston, then Toronto and Trenton until 1954. In 1955 she received her BA from Queen's University, Kingston. She then embarked on teaching high school at St. Michael's Academy and Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville. From 1962 – 1967, she taught

at Providence College in Brantford.

In 1967 she volunteered to go to the missions and so went to Peru as a missionary, ministering as a Pastoral Agent. In 1978, when changes were made to the catechetical program, she recruited and trained catechists. She initiated in their parish a method of evangelization of the family which originated in Chili. She and a Providence Associate directed the parish press, which was an important element in their evangelization. By 1984, her work was primarily family catechesis, which was fundamentally a process in which Base Christians Communities were formed. She was also an assessor of the Christian Workers' Movement.

In 1985 she was elected to the General Council. During her term of office she was a participant in the group home for girls, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital Board, a member of the board of Dawn House Women's Shelter, of the

Kingston Archdiocesan Peace and Justice Committee, and a participant in the Kingston and District Refugee Action group.

She returned to Peru in 1990 and became involved in the Family Catechetical Program as an assessor. In 1991, she became treasurer for the Oscar Romero Retreat Centre and served on the Board of Directors. In 1997, she became a member of the association which directs the Centre. In March 2011 she returned to Canada and took up residence at the Motherhouse.

Sister Rose died peacefully on Good Friday, April 18, 2014, in the 72nd year of her religious life.

Sister was a cheerful, compassionate and deeply spiritual person with a special devotion to Mary in her Magnificat. She endeared herself to her students in Canada, as well as to the people throughout



Sister Marlene Schuster

May 5, 1931 - April 25, 2014

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Sister Marlene, baptized Valentine Rose Schuster, was the youngest of five children of Theresa Ritt and John Schuster. She was born on May 5, 1931 in Heisler, Alberta where she grew up surrounded by loving parents of deep faith. When her father became ill and was hospitalized, she saw the Sisters of Providence in action. Because of the kindness and caring of the Sisters, she knew she wanted to become part of them.

But before she took this step in her life, she worked as a Ward Aide at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose for a few years. She then enrolled in the School for Nursing Assistants at St.



Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville.

Following her graduation she entered the Postulancy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston, Ontario on September 15, 1958.

After making her First Profession of Vows she ministered in nursing at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston, then at St. Anthony's Home, Moose Jaw and St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton. In 1978 she returned to St. Anthony's Home in Moose Jaw. In 1981 she was assigned as Pastoral Assistant at St. Francis Parish in Smiths Falls and to Pastoral Care at Rideau Regional Centre. She became the Roman Catholic Chaplain at Rideau Regional Centre in 1984 until 1986. She

was then assigned as Pastoral Assistant at St. Francis Parish in Smiths Falls. She remained in this position until 2010 at which time she moved to the Sisters' Residence at Providence Manor in Kingston. She assisted as sacristan and visited the residents of the Manor. During her time at St. Francis Parish, Rideau Regional Centre and Providence Manor, Sister Marlene made many friends among the people she served and with whom she worked. She will be remembered for her love, profound compassion and bright smile.

Sister Marlene was called home peacefully to her loving God on Friday, April 25, 2014. The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on April 30 was presided over by Friar Ed Debono, OFM Conv., assisted by several members of the clergy. Rev. Brian McNally was the homilist.

Sr. Rose Healy continued

Carabayllo, Peru, as she listened to them, encouraged them and accepted them.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse, on April 23, 2014 was presided over by Most Rever-

end Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston. Rev. Jack Lynch, SFM, who had worked with Sister in Peru, was the homilist.

Ann Ford

October 5, 1933 - June 15, 2014

BY CHRISTINE DIZAZZO

Our dear Ann, a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Associate group, and a life-long Brockvillean, has left us to rest in the peace of her Provident God. Our Ann was a brilliant woman who had an extremely successful professional career as a nurse, a member of the Ontario College of Nurses – becoming its president, and a teacher of nurses. She was active in her community, concerned about social justice issues at many levels. In retirement, she became a member of the governing board of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville, and then sat on the Providence Continuing Care board. She was a community volunteer and president of Brockville's volunteer board, and even, for many

years, an active member of the Liberal party. Where she saw a need she was quick to volunteer her services and bring her quick mind as well as insights fed by her deep personal faith.



Ann was fond of saying that she had been associated with the Sisters of Providence from birth because an SP aided at her delivery. Because she shared in the Congregation's health care mission, Sister Irene Forrester invited Ann to a 1984 meeting

organized to discuss the formation of an Associate programme. Ann was initially drawn by the Sisters' charism of serving with compassion and trusting in Providence – a charism that she lived

in all aspects of her life: work, spiritual life, and community action. Ann was part of the first group of Associates, instrumental in the development of the program, and in the formation of new Associates. She remained an active Associate until her death.

Ann's brilliant mind dimmed as she succumbed to dementia in the last years of her life. As a nurse she understood the implications of her diagnosis – and she faced with courage the diminishment that she knew her disease would bring. Although the disease eroded her mind, her kindness and sweet nature stayed with her to the end. R.I.P, Ann!



Pioneer Associate

Christine DiZazzo became involved with the Sisters of Providence in 2001 and joined the Brockville Associate group where she met Ann. Ann was a caring and discreet mentor to a new Associate.

September, October offerings

FALL SENIORS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY SERIES:

Three Ways of Seeing

Thu Sep 18 + Oct 2 9:45 AM – 1 PM

Cost: \$20/session (includes lunch)

Register 2 weeks in advance for meal count.

Senior or not – your're welcome to come!

Lucy Bethel, SP

We will be invited to reflect together on what Father Richard Rohr names as an “urgent need” in our culture and our lives, that is, a stance of “Contemplative Seeing/Third-eye Seeing.” This is the way the mystics see. Father Rohr says: “It happens whenever, by some wondrous “coincidence”, our heart space, our mind space, and our body awareness are all simultaneously open and nonresistant.”



OVERNIGHT RETREAT:

Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

Fri. Sep 26, 4 PM – Sat. Sep 27, 4 PM

Register by Fri Sep 12

Cost: \$75

Bill Gervais

As we move from the easy living of summer to the busyness of autumn, we may find that our work, paying the bills, cooking, cleaning and chauffeuring the kids has diverted our attention from the source of our life – the risen Jesus. This overnight retreat will draw on scripture, prayer, reflection and dialogue to help participants ‘to look to Jesus’ and avoid growing weary or losing heart in the circumstances of their lives. (Hebrews 12.1-4)

OCTOBER DIRECTED RETREAT

Wed Oct 22, 4 PM – Wed Oct 29, 1 PM

Register by Wed Oct 8

Cost: \$495 or \$75/day

Fr. Bill Brennan & PSC Team

Bill Brennan grew up in a farming family in Johnville, New Brunswick. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Saint John, NB in May of 1985. Since then he has served in parishes throughout the diocese. He was also the Diocesan Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry for 5 years and had a 7 year term as Chaplain at St.

Thomas University. He is trained in the ministry of Spiritual Direction which opens many invitations to accompany people in prayer companionship as well as serving on teams who facilitate and guide retreats. He is presently the pastor at St. Dunstan's Parish in Fredericton.

Living the Blessings of Here and Now

Thu Oct 30, 7 PM – Sat Nov 1, 1 PM

Cost: \$135 (retreat includes meals)

Accommodation + Thu supper add \$100

Call to pre-register with deposit a.s.a.p.

Full payment by Oct 2

Hilary Musgrave & Monica Brown

A retreat experience that draws upon the rich imagery and wisdom of Scripture, Celtic Spirituality and the Story of the Universe. Using music, ritual, sacred clowning and storytelling, Monica and Hilary will engage participants in an awareness of God's abiding presence and blessings in the here and now. Hilary Musgrave from Ireland is a former teacher, Principal and Religious Education Advisor who works extensively in the area of sacred clowning, story-telling and facilitation. Monica Brown is an internationally acclaimed Christian composer and workshop facilitator. Her music is used throughout the world and is touching the hearts of many.
www.emmausproductions.com

Look to the seed – a spirits-up ecology story

BY CATE HENDERSON

Those of you who were in attendance at the spring equinox celebration may remember our meditation on the seed – that through kindness alone plants grow from one seed to produce many, many

drawn, since I live in a culture of scarcity, but my reality out in the fields is one of abundance. When I look around the gardens I see abundance, not scarcity. I myself bought into the myth of scarcity when I worked in environmental education. To my mind, there was not enough

one seed yields one hundred, or even one thousand seeds and, having given all it can to benefit others, it dies, asking for nothing more. In the workshop we learned that when we share what we have, we experience abundance.

*Good News, Good News! God meets anxiety with abundance.
God answers our litany of limits with overflowing gifts.*

seeds. There is no selfish reason for this, and economists and financial planners would be appalled to see so much energy expended on seeds which are then freely given – many are eaten by humans, animals, insects, fungi etc, with no immediate benefit to the individual plant at all. In fact, most of our vegetables are annuals, meaning that the plant that grew from one seed to give many is now likely deceased!

The theme of a recent workshop was “Abundance: out of scarcity through the lens of Providence,” a title to which I was

clean water, not enough healthy food, we were losing our soils, we were polluting our air till there would not be enough clean air to breathe, and on and on it went. Above all, there was never enough money to pay for all of our needs!

I now believe – the gardens have taught me – that this is a myth based on a false economy. The real economy that plays out under our noses (but not in our minds) is one of abundance, and it is one of giving selflessly expecting nothing in return. The

