



## *Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul*



### Celebrating our Associates

*Thirty years ago, in reading the signs of the times, the Sisters of Providence created a new form of relationship. They created an Associate process, with a commitment of one year at a time, that drew women and men eager to live out their baptismal call to service. Providence Associates in Canada, Guatemala and Peru are drawn to the same*

*charism as the Sisters: serving with compassion, trusting in Providence and walking in hope. In this issue, meet the six newest Associates and read the result of the two-year formation process the Associates have undertaken. The 30th anniversary will be celebrated on April 10 at the Motherhouse.*



# PROVIDENCE PAGES

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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.

*Editor's note: This issue marks the passing of Sr. Mary Joan LaFleur, a Pages proofreader and former communications committee member. We remember her with fondness for her straightforward input and kind remarks.*

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.

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# It's time for basic income guarantee

BY JAMIE SWIFT

The world's richest man is a chubby sort of chap by the name of Slim.

If he spent his money at the rate of a million dollars a day, it would take Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim 220 years to spend his \$80-billion fortune. In January, an Oxfam report revealed that the world's 85 top billionaires had the same wealth as the poorest half of the world's people.

The international charity also pointed out that at least a million women have died in childbirth due to a lack of basic health services since 2009.

Rampant and growing inequality is what American economist Juliet Schor describes as a “wicked” problem. Not wicked in the sense of evil (though that does spring to mind) but wicked in the sense of a problem that's hard to solve.

One way of addressing the savage inequalities that threaten society here in Canada is the idea of providing every Canadian with a basic income. An

income that would be guaranteed, no matter what your circumstances. The campaign, on which Tara Kainer and I have been working, is called The BIG Push. BIG stands for “basic income guarantee.”

The idea has been around for years. Formerly known as a “guaranteed annual income,” this growing social justice effort is an idea whose time has come. Kingston's energetic BIG group explains that a basic income would be more simple – and cheaper – than welfare. There would be no stigma attached because of its universality. A basic income would compensate people for doing unpaid work like caring for the young, the old and the sick. It has been proven to cut poverty while reducing health care costs.

Kingston's young BIG group comprises a remarkable group of activists and academics convinced that this common sense proposal fits well with increasing

concern about economic insecurity. People worry about where their children or grandchildren will find jobs that pay enough to support their families. The Justice & Peace Commission (Catholic and Anglican) has endorsed BIG and we intend to build public support through faith communities.

As the federal election approaches, Kingston's BIG group is organizing a televised all-candidates' debate on inequality, poverty and BIG. We're doing it in partnership

with TVCogeco. We are also sponsoring a May 13 visit by Dr. Danielle Martin. She is a Toronto physician who is an ardent defender of public health care. She is also an outspoken supporter of a basic income guarantee. We're not sure what Mr. Slim – or the 30 Canadians who share his billionaire status – would make of this. We do know that we intend to keep promoting a fairer Canada.





# The best Saturday in the year?!

BY CATE HENDERSON

Kingston Seedy Saturday is upon us, and for those of us who grow at least some of our own food, March 14 is a very exciting day! Seedy Saturday, this year held at LCVI High School, is the place to go to trade seeds, find out what seeds your neighbours have grown (if they haven't already been bragging about them since fall), learn more about vegetable varieties you may never have heard of, and swap stories of gardens past, present and future.

Even in such a bustling, busy environment as Seedy Saturday, it is still possible to feel very peaceful at heart because we know everyone there is participating with a view to make the world just a little bit better – friendlier, more neighbourly, more wholesome and healthy for partnering with nature and connecting with our food, pollinators and soil. Happy faces smile at you from throughout the room, and pleasant surprises and connections appear at each community table and booth you visit.

Last year, one of our planning commit-

tee members took a sabbatical to travel around the world visiting historically-important seedy places, like Garden-



Organic in the UK and the Vavilov Institute in Russia. She will be sharing her new global perspective on seeds with her own community at this year's Seedy Saturday, which may very well help us here in an age of harmonized trade deals and global partnerships! Another

talk will feature a panel discussion on community gardens, including ideas for saving good quality seeds in your small plot. Of course, you may find that the most educational experience of the day is chatting with Karen ten Cate at the seed swap table, or pollinating the giant model flowers with the kids.

New this year, the Kingston Area Seed System Initiative (KASSI) will be taking orders for tomato seedlings, to be grown at one of our members' farms and delivered at just the right time to plant in your garden. This will be the first community-wide fundraiser dedicated to funding our very own public community seed bank, so please consider ordering some tomato seedlings!

By sponsoring Kingston's Seedy Saturday, the Sisters of Providence prove that they do, indeed, "have faith as a grain of mustard seed." A mountain of benefit appears in Kingston on that day, "and nothing shall be impossible unto you." – Matthew 17:20

*Please visit [www.seedsgrowfood.org](http://www.seedsgrowfood.org) for more details, or call Cate at the Motherhouse, extension 124.*

# History relived in two-year renewal process

BY SISTER IRENE WILSON

The Associates' formation process, titled Renewal and Celebration, was held from September 2012 to September 2014. As the title indicates, it was to be a source of initial formation for new members as well as a renewal and celebration of the charism, mission and spirituality of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul for Associates and Sisters.

The themes to be prayed on were trust in Providence, compassion, service, forgiveness and prayer. We hoped to realize how these were lived out in the lives of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Émilie Gamelin and Bishop Bourget, Mother Catherine McKinley, Bishop Horan, the history of the Congregation and the history of the Providence Associates.

The lead person for each of the presentations was an Associate who worked with a Sister of Providence.

*As an interested Associate and one of many presenters of the amazing history of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, I feel truly blessed*



The spirits of founders Catherine McKinley and Bishop EJ Horan were rekindled by Associate Sheila Burchart (left) and Sister Catherine Cannon.

*to have been a part of our "formation process." The experience was invigorating, enriching and spiritually motivating.* Debra Wade

*I found the two-year process interesting, uplifting, informative and a real pleasure. All was presented in an easily understood manner calculated to catch our attention. I have learned a great deal.* Joan Murray

*We explored the history of the Sisters of Providence and their founders and also that of the Providence Associates, getting acquainted with heroes and champions from the past and meeting those committed to the present. It was a time for us to realize what these founders went through. It was astounding and we feel our commitments cemented long into the future.* Cathy Bryan

*In this day and age with all of the hurly-burly of noise and distractions, I asked myself, when was the last time I experienced a sense of awe? When was the last time that I experienced feelings of admiration and respect for individuals who have, and still do, show such spirituality, gentleness, acceptance and joy? This is what the two-year formation process has meant to me.* June Bisset

Providence Pages has enjoyed printing summaries of the presentations as Sr. Irene wrote them up. Thanks to all for sharing the fruit of your hard work with us.

# Welcoming six women into the Associates fold

BY BARBARA BAKER

Six women are preparing to become Providence Associates on March 7, at the end of our day of reflection on the spiritual heritage of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

*Here they are:*

**June Bisset** is a retired social worker by profession. She is a single woman who has recently relocated to Kingston. She is a member of the Quinte Lumière Associate Group and is involved in prison ministry. June is a hospitality minister at the Mary, Mother of Compassion Chapel at the Motherhouse.



**Wen Bogues** is a nurse practitioner who works at Kingston Community Health Centre. She is a member of the Catalpa Associate Group and is very supportive of the group members with health issues. She is a mother of two



adult sons and has three grandchildren. Wen is a member of the faith community at the Motherhouse Chapel and is in the choir.

**Eleanor Casey** is a social worker and member of the Rainbow Associate Group. She is very involved in the liturgical life of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. She is on the Seasonal Planning Committee, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation committee, and is a member of the choir. Eleanor loves the outdoors and enjoys skiing, running, swimming, cycling and gardening. She is devoted to her friends, be they human, feline or canine.



**Betty de Kleine** is a retired nurse living with her husband in Brockville. She is in St. John Bosco parish and attends the St. Vincent de Paul Group of the Providence Associates. She has three married children (a son in Guelph, a son in Vancouver and a daughter in



Brockville) and five grandchildren. Betty does volunteer work at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital and Brockville General. She is a member of the CWL in her parish. Betty is a very compassionate person.

**Karen Holtz** is married to Harry and they live in Belleville. They have a married daughter who lives and works in Ottawa. Karen is a member of the Lumière Group. She is a retired nurse and is very involved in developing a ministry to shut-ins and to those in hospital. Karen is a member of St. Joseph's Parish.



**Susan Kennedy** is a single woman who has recently moved to Kingston from Toronto. She is semi-retired, working part-time. She is in the Catalpa Associate Group. Feeling a call to social and ecological justice, she is involved in Development and Peace and also volunteers at the Providence Heirloom Seed Sanctuary. She is a member of St. Joseph's Parish, Kingston.





# We have turned our focus to sexual violence in the Church

## THE HEALING VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

The Healing Violence Committee of the Sisters of Providence is offering a one-day conference in September entitled *Healing the Church: Addressing the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis*.

Our committee was founded in 1998 and we have been working together since that time to address – to heal – the many ways violence is expressed in our society.

After hosting eight conferences and workshops to address various aspects of violence a few years ago, as allegations surfaced against some priests in this Archdiocese, we turned our attention to sexual violence in the Church. Some of our Sisters and some members of our Sunday faith community were distressed because they knew the accused priests. From our past work, we had focussed primarily on the irreparable damage suffered by victims of violence and how society often re-victimizes them. Consequently we created a process

which allowed people to express their feelings freely with a hope of healing personal suffering. Two parishes in the area asked us to offer this process for their people.

From these experiences, we heard about the confusion and suffering experienced when priests were removed



quickly from their parishes. People felt helpless in the face of very little communication and could not reach out to the alleged victim, priest or their families. They struggled with how to bring about resolution when they could

not get answers to their questions. There was no forum to talk to others in the parish who were suffering as well. We learned that providing a safe environment for people to talk about their feelings brought some healing from the suffering.

As court cases have proceeded, we began to study the work of Sister Nuala Kenny MD, particularly her book, *Healing the Church: Diagnosing and Treating the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis*. Her background makes her one of the foremost experts in the field:

- as a paediatrician who has treated child victims of sexual abuse;
- as a Roman Catholic Sister who loves the Church and the clergy;
- as a member of the St. John's Newfoundland Committee on Child Sexual Abuse which produced a landmark report identifying both individual and systemic/cultural factors at work in the crisis; and

*continued on next page*

# September conference to be in three parts

*continued from previous page*

- as part of the Ad Hoc Committee on Clergy Sexual Abuse which produced *From Pain to Hope*, the first set of national guidelines on this topic.

She travels extensively giving reflections to clergy and laity on the spiritual and ecclesial challenges emerging from this crisis and its management.

Because of who we are as members of the Healing Violence Committee, and because of our deep love for the Church, we have invited Sister Nuala to offer her wisdom to the people of the Archdiocese of Kingston as we work toward Healing the Church. This is in keeping with our 1994 Chapter mandate which says “we choose actions and attitudes of compassionate solidarity, leading to healing and forgiveness.”

The conference will unfold in three sessions. In the first session, Sister Nuala will review this crisis and

the response to date from Church leaders and laity, and clarify what is now known about the sexual abuse of minors by clerics. She will then explore the identified dynamics of sexual abuse of minors for insights into the systemic and cultural factors which have shaped responses.



*Physician and Sister of Charity Nuala Kenny will be the keynote speaker at a conference September 12.*

In the second session, Sister Nuala will identify all sexual abuse of children and youth as an abuse of power in the realm of human sexuality. She will describe key features of power and relationships in the Church. Clericalism will be

identified as the particular “temptation of the Church” (Pope Francis). Its corrosive effects on clergy and laity alike shape an inadequate response and impedes full, active involvement of all in the spiritual and ecclesial renewal of the Church. The focus will be on lessons learned about the relationships of clergy and laity – and about the life, health and support of our clergy.

In the third session, Sister Nuala will reflect on the elements of an effective prescription, based on our present knowledge and experience. Finally, she will have us reflect on being a “compliant patient;” that is, our willingness to accept the fundamental call to transformation and renewal that is at the heart of true healing and reconciliation.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 12, 2015, and please register early. Early bird deadline is July 1. Group discounts available.

[providence.ca/healingthechurch](http://providence.ca/healingthechurch)  
613-542-8826





# Healing the Church from clergy sexual abuse

BY SISTER NUALA KENNY, SC

The sexual abuse of children and youth by Roman Catholic clergy is the most significant crisis in the history of the modern Church. Virtually no diocese in North America has been unscathed by the resulting scandal, massive diversion of resources to settlements, and time spent by bishops and other church officials on it.

All of this has been occurring in a time of decline of religion in society, shifts in Church attendance, changing demographics within practising Catholics and loss of priestly vocations in the Church.

There have been many different responses from both clergy and laity; some continue to deny the scope of the tragedy or see it as a vast conspiracy against the Church; some accept that bad things were perpetrated by sick or sinful individuals but try to carry on with their personal spiritual lives; some cope by making elaborate distinctions between the Church as the People of God and the hierarchical

Church; others have experienced these revelations as the last straw and, in anger or despair or disgust, have left the Church.

## BOOK EXCERPT

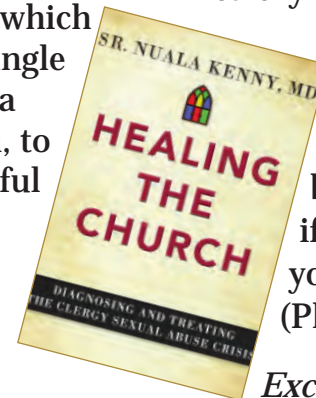
For many bishops, priests and laity, there is a fear that attempts to discuss the why of the abuse crisis will make things worse; others fear that the issues many want to blame for the crisis – mandatory celibacy, all-male clergy, lack of female priests, and homosexuality – raise foundational moral and theological issues, which cannot be dealt with by any single diocese or bishop, or even by a national Church. So, for them, to enter into any open and truthful dialogue about concerns is to raise unrealistic expectation.

All in the Church have a responsibility to respond to this crisis; all must participate in the healing of the individual victim-survivors and of the Church itself.

There are some who have raised their voices for deep purification and

renewal. They demonstrate that this is a time for that prophetic criticism and prophetic energizing that is linked to hope.

The call here is first and foremost for purification and spiritual conversion. Only a change of heart rightly changes structures and practices. Only conversion to the mind and heart of Jesus will help us discover which structures and practices have facilitated this crisis and which will foster a healthy and holy Church.



I am convinced it is a time of healing and purification. We can make that happen only by being open to the Spirit: only if we “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)

*Excerpts from the preface and introduction of Dr. Nuala Kenny’s book, Healing the Church: Diagnosing and Treating the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis, 2012 Novalis Publishing Inc. Reprinted with permission.*

# Why Sister Mary Angel Guardian is considered the Pioneer

BY VERONICA STIENBURG

One of the many things I love about being an archivist is “getting to know” the individuals who helped make the Congregation what it is today. One of these individuals that I’ve heard mentioned numerous times is Sr. M. Angel Guardian (M. stands for Mary). She is often referred to as the Congregation’s “Pioneer of the West.” But I didn’t really know what this meant or what else she did.

Sr. M. Angel Guardian, born Bridget Mangan of Brewer’s Mills, Ontario, was 31 when she entered religious life in 1889. Two of her sisters, Sr. M. Teresa (Margaret Mangan) and Sr. M. of the Rosary (Kate Mangan), and her niece Sr. M. Clotilda (Margaret Brady) were also Sisters of Providence. The three sisters and their niece remained close throughout their lives.

Sr. M. Angel Guardian spent her first year after the novitiate at the mission in Holyoke, Massachusetts, until August 1892, when that mission separated to form its own Congregation. She served nine years at St. Vincent de Paul Hospi-

tal, Brockville and six years as Directress of Tertiaries at the House of Providence, Kingston. She then spent six months at St. Francis de Sales Hospital in Smiths Falls before going west in 1908.

Sr. M. Angel Guardian, Sr. M. Camillus, Sr. M. of the Assumption and Miss Davis, a lay nurse, left Kingston on May 7, 1908 to establish Providence Hospital in Daysland, Alberta. There are numerous references in the archives to the big sacrifice these three sisters were making by going to the “wild west,” as Daysland was referred to in one instance. It was hard for me to grasp what a big sacrifice this was until I realized that, until 1908, the furthest west the Congregation had missions was Trenton, Ontario. It’s a long way west from Trenton to Daysland! Alberta had only been a province for two and a half years and Daysland itself only became a town in 1907. Sister M. Angel Guardian and her companions’ first impression of Daysland was “how desolate & lonely & small – after leaving our lovely home The House of Providence, Kingston.” They opened the first Providence Hospital in a house that served for a year as convent and



Left to right: Sr. M. Teresa (Margaret Mangan); Sr. M. of the Rosary (Kate Mangan); Sr. M. Angel Guardian (Bridget Mangan)

# of the West

hospital. Sr. M. Angel Guardian planned and supervised the building of a purpose-built hospital which opened in April 1909.

After four and a half years in Daysland, Sr. M. Angel Guardian and Sr. M. Camillus were sent to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan to establish another hospital. They started Providence Hospital in a house and, again, Sr. M. Angel Guardian oversaw the construction of a new hospital, which opened in 1917.

Sr. M. Angel Guardian returned to the House of Providence in Kingston in 1918 before becoming Superior of St. Mary's of the Lake Orphanage, Kingston a year later, and Superior of Maryvale Abbey, Glen Nevis in 1921. In September 1923 she returned to Daysland with the task of planning and supervising the building of St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. Once the hospital was built she was once again appointed Superior of Providence Hospital

Daysland in August 1924.

In 1927 Sr. M. Angel Guardian was elected to the General Council of the Congregation and was forced to leave her beloved Daysland for Kingston. In the fall of 1927 she went west again and negotiated the purchase of property in Edmonton, which was the beginning of what was to become St. Joseph's Hospital. As a councillor, she was also involved in Kingston matters, overseeing the addition to St. Mary's of the Lake Orphanage and the purchase of the Heathfield property.

After her term on council finished in 1930, Sr. M. Angel Guardian lived at Providence Manor, visiting the sick and going on collecting tours. She was always interested in the Western Missions and spent several months in 1939 visiting her niece, Sr. M. Clotilda, at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital Edmonton. Sr. M. Angel Guardian died on Christmas Day, 1940, aged 82.



*April 25, 1909, Blessing of the newly built Providence Hospital, Daysland. Left to right: Fr. Leduc, OMI; Fr. van Weelen, chaplain; On the stairs, far left: Sr. M. Angel Guardian; In white: Miss Margaret Davis; Far right, top to bottom: Sr. M. Austin; Sr. M. Camillus; Sr. M. of the Assumption*





# Helping people, helping groups: companion ministries

BY SISTER JEANNETTE FILTHAUT

Spiritual direction and process facilitation might seem like strange bedfellows, yet I have found them each to be enriching and collaborative.

As a spiritual director I am called to listen attentively to another's spiritual journey; listening to the nudgings of the Spirit when I ask questions or share something to assist the directee in deepening their relationship with God. Hearing where their journey is taking them unfolds as we are attentive to the present moments of what's happening in their lives now.

As a process facilitator I also listen attentively to the group before me, asking the questions in the initial planning meeting that will assist me in developing a process to guide this group in their desired outcome. Listening is key in these two ministries, but so is being open and flexible to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Preparation for both of these ministries is essential. Before a directee arrives, I



*Sister Kay Taylor (right), Provincial of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, presents Providence Sister Jeannette Filthaut with a pewter carving of the creation story as a gift for facilitating their 2014 Provincial Chapter.*

personally reflect and review, finding a prayer/scripture that might speak to where this person presently might be on their journey. I set the environment to make it welcoming and conducive to reflective sharing, including a steeped cup of tea as part of the process.

Many hours of preparation go into process facilitation, planning a gathering like a Provincial or General

Chapter, but contemplative prayer is key to each day of the process. It's in this quiet listening to God's Word, and then the sharing in small groups, where we deepen our relationship with one another and discover where the Spirit is guiding the group. As a result, when the actual work begins, what transpires has a more reflective base and the interaction/dialogue between members is more spiritual than confrontative.

Although I've done a lot of preparation for both ministries, I often feel like an "empty flute" that God uses to assist the individual or group in their discernment. Even as this "empty flute," I too am blessed to experience the workings of the Spirit in the individual or group – and the notes of my own life experience are richer for the presence and sharing of these people.

# Holy Mystery – Love Unending – Uniting All

March 8	10 am	3rd Sunday of Lent
March 15	10 am	4th Sunday of Lent
March 22	10 am	5th Sunday of Lent
March 29	10 am	Passion Sunday, beginning with the blessing and distribution of palms

## ***The Paschal Triduum***

April 2	7 pm	Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper*
April 3	3 pm	Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion*
April 4	7 pm	Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil
April 5	10 am	Easter Sunday

## ***The Easter Season***

May 23	6:30 pm	Vigil of Pentecost*
May 24	10 am	Pentecost Sunday



\*Please be advised that non-choking incense will be used as indicated.

- Envelopes will be provided for the Marillac Mission Fund in support of the Peruvian missions of the Sisters of Providence
- Envelopes will be provided for the Share Lent Collection
- Donations of food and toiletries will be given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Thanks to Mary Southard, CSJ for permission to use the image: The Beams of Love

*Chapel doors will be opened 30 minutes before liturgies commence.*



# Sister Mary Joan LaFleur August 12, 1930 - December 5, 2014

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Sister Mary Joan, baptized Marion Doreen LaFleur, was born in Kingston, Ontario, the eldest of four children of Evelyn Wiskin and George LaFleur. She received her elementary education at St. John's School and her high school at Notre Dame Convent.

She entered the postulancy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on March 15, 1948. As a postulant she went to Maryvale Abbey in Glen Nevis to take some high school courses. After her First Profession of Vows she went to St. Michael's High School in Belleville to complete her high school.

After graduating from Toronto Teachers' College in 1952, she began teaching Grades 3 and 4 at St. Joseph's School in Kingston. The following year she continued teaching in the primary grades at St. Carthag's School in



Tweed. In 1955 to 1957 she taught at Sacred Heart School in King City, Ontario. In 1957 she returned to Kingston to teach the junior grades and was assigned as principal of St. Peter's School. In 1961 she went to St. Michael's Academy in Belleville to teach Grades 9 and 10. In 1965 she went to Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville teaching Grades 9-13 religion, Latin, science, geography and history, as well as being vice principal.

She took a sabbatical year in 1975 -76 and enrolled in the CREDO program at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. In 1978 she became principal of Nicholson Catholic College, remaining in this position until her retirement in 1993, the year in which she was the recipient of her school district's Sir MacKenzie Bowell Award for Educator of the Year. In 1992 she received the Canada 125 Medal for her contributions to the City of Belleville. In 2001 she was the

recipient of the Church's Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal.

Sister Mary Joan received her B.A. from Queen's University in 1967, and an honour specialist in geography in 1975. She also took the Principals' Course and received Ministry of Education certificates in guidance and religious education specialist. She did postgraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh, Boston College, St. Paul's University and Gonzaga University.

In her retirement, Sister Mary Joan continued to be involved in congregational and diocesan committees. She was a member of the re-organization group for the restructuring of the Congregational Vocation Committee and served on the Providence Continuing Care Centre Board. She served on the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, the Finance Committee, the History Update Committee and the Visioning and Planning Committee for the Archdiocese. As well, she was involved in the Association of Roman Catholic Chaplains. Sister was a member



# Sister Gertrude Casey October 6, 1914 - November 3, 2014

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Mary Gertrude Casey was born in Tweed, Ontario on October 6, 1914, the youngest of five children of Mary Murphy and Peter Casey.

She entered the novitiate in Kingston on March 19, 1944. Following her First Profession, her ministries of caring for the elderly and sacristan took her to Providence Manor and St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital in Kingston and the Father Dowd Home in Montreal. In 1968 she went to St. Peter's Convent in Trenton where she served as sacristan of the convent chapel and took guitar lessons. Eventually she gave guitar lessons at the local music store and at the convent. Ten years later she moved

to the Motherhouse where she taught guitar lessons, assisted at the switchboard and took charge of the Altar Bread Department, distributing altar breads to the parishes.

Throughout the years, Sister Gertrude enjoyed playing the piano or strumming her guitar at various community celebrations. She also was gifted at writing poetry about the Sisters and events in the community and provided much entertainment through these gifts.

Sister Gertrude was called home to



her loving God at Providence Motherhouse, Kingston, Ontario, on November 3, 2014 in the 71st year of her religious life.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on November 7 was presided over by Most Reverend Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston, accompanied by members of the clergy. Reverend Timothy Shea, a close friend, was the homilist. Her nieces and several other relatives and friends were also in attendance.

## *Sr. Mary Joan LaFleur continued*

of the Nicholson Catholic College Corporation Board, a member of the Newman Board of Trustees and the Roman Catholic Representative to the Board of Management of Queen's Theological College. She was also the first Sister of Providence to be elected to the Queen's University Council.

Sister Mary Joan was called home peacefully to her loving God on December 5. The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on December 11, 2014, was presided over by Most Rev. Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston, accompanied by other members of the clergy. Reverend John Brennan, a former student, delivered the homily.

# Sister Rose Bekar

November 21, 1918 - December 10, 2014

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Sister Rose Bekar was born in Bayard, Sask., the twelfth of 13 children born to Joseph and Ludvina (Maierhoffer) Bekar. Her parents immigrated to Canada from Austria in 1913 and settled on the vast prairies of Saskatchewan.

She entered the postulancy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on February 4, 1938. After making her First Profession of Vows, her first assignment was to Anthony's Home, Moose Jaw in June 1940. In April 1947, she was missioned to a new venture, the establishment of a hospital for chronically ill and aged women. With two other Sisters she went to Vancouver to establish Holy Family Hospital. On May 14, 1953, sod was turned for the construction of the first 52-bed unit.

In September 1953 she left for St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Montreal,

graduating in September 1956 the recipient of the Gold Medal for General Proficiency.



In November of 1956 she was missioned to the newly completed St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton where she did one year of general duty and four years as director of nursing services.

In September of 1961 she went to St. Mary's Hospital in Montreal as nursing supervisor. While there she took the Hospital Administration, Organization and Management correspondence course from the Canadian Hospital Association, Toronto. In September of 1965 she went to St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose as administrator. From 1976 to 1988, Sister Rose was administrator of Providence Hospital in Moose Jaw. In 1983 she was named executive director of both St. Anthony's Home and Providence Hospital. In 1988, she received the Provincial Smith-Walshaw

Award for Outstanding Service in Health Care. That same year she retired from active healthcare service and moved to Edmonton as a volunteer at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. She served as vice president of Providence Health System for three years, working in mission education, as well as serving on St. Joseph's and St. Mary's governing boards.

Throughout her healthcare ministry, she served in various positions on a number of boards, including the boards of the Catholic Health Associations of Canada, of Alberta and of Saskatchewan. She was a founding member of the Catholic Health Council of Saskatchewan and served 10 years on the board, including six years as secretary treasurer.

Sister Rose was a capable administrator, able to empower the staff who worked with her and teach them through her generous ways. She was always there for her staff and patients. Her generosity and gratitude were shown to the hospital board members, to the other Sisters who worked with her and to the staff. Sister Rose was truly a giant in the

# Sister Eunice Sugars

July 28, 1924 - December 5, 2014

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

In the little village of St. Andrews East, Quebec, Eunice Sugars and her twin brother, Gerald, were born on July 28, 1924 to Maria Rayson and Allan Sugars. Since her father had to move to different towns and cities to seek employment during the Depression of the 1930s, the family lived in Lachute, Quebec; Cornwall, Ontario; Baie Comeau, Quebec; and Montreal. She was first taught by the Montreal Sisters of Providence in St. Andrews East and later by the Holy Cross Sisters and the Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame. In Montreal she took a stenographer's course, after which she was employed at the Canadian National Railways and worked in the Central

Station for three years. It was at this time that she decided to enter religious life. On March 19, 1946 she entered the postulancy, along with her second cousin, Sister Mary Gerald Francis, and with Sister Winnifred Callary.

Her first mission after her Profession of Vows was St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston, to work in the wards. From 1948 until 1960 she worked between the House of Providence and St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital. In 1963 she went to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville where she spent 26 years. She served as an electrocardiograph technician



and, for 10 of those years, as a medical records technician. From 1989–1992 she took care of her mother until her death. In February 1992 she went to the Motherhouse to help in the archives department and remained in this work until she retired in June 2010.

Sister Eunice was called home to her loving God on Friday, December 5, 2014.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on December 13 was presided over by Friar Edward Debono, OFM Conv., who also delivered the homily.

## *Sr. Rose Bekar continued*

healthcare systems of the western provinces, having been instrumental in the establishment of outstanding Catholic health care.

Sister Rose moved to the Motherhouse infirmary in October 2005 when her health began to fail. She was called home to

her loving God on December 10, 2014.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held on December 16, 2014 in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse, was presided over by Most Rev. Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston, assisted by other members of the clergy. Friar Edward Debono, OFM Conv. was the homilist.





# Sister Miriam Lawless

August 2, 1917 - January 2, 2015

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Miriam Lawless was born in Kingston, Ontario on August 2, 1917 to Irene Belanger and Patrick Lawless, the eldest of four children. She was baptized and received her First Communion and Confirmation at St. Mary's Cathedral. She received her early education at St. Vincent's Academy and Notre Dame High School.

The deep-rooted faith of her parents and her close association as a music pupil with Providence Sisters Mary Hildegard and Genevieve, led her to embrace religious life, August 15, 1934, making First Profession on August 15, 1936.

Sister Miriam received her nurses'



training at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Brockville. Her ministry in nursing included general duty and supervisor of medical, surgical and obstetrics departments in Brockville and Smiths Falls. After post-graduate studies in obstetrics, and acquiring a Bachelor of Nursing Science degree, she joined the teaching staff at St Mary's Hospital in Montreal, where she remained for 15 years. Following this she was assigned to St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital in Kingston to organize a nursing service department and, later, to the same duties at Providence Manor. When the news broke that Sister Miriam was leaving Providence Manor, one of the staff members wrote, "She has melded a beautiful feeling of loyalty

and co-operation in the nursing team of Providence Manor." When her brother, Father Francis Lawless, a priest for the Sault Ste. Marie diocese, was in failing health, the community granted her permission to be his parish assistant. After spending 10 years with her brother until his death, she returned to St Mary's of the Lake Hospital. She retired from active duty but kept busy with "behind the scenes duties" until she moved to the Motherhouse.

Sister Miriam died peacefully on January 2, 2015. The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on Wednesday, January 7, was presided over by Most Rev. Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston, accompanied by other members of the clergy. Rev. Robert Masters delivered the homily.

# Looking ahead to the spring and summer

## SENIORS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY SERIES:

**“I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10)**

Thu May 7 + May 21 9:45 AM – 1 PM

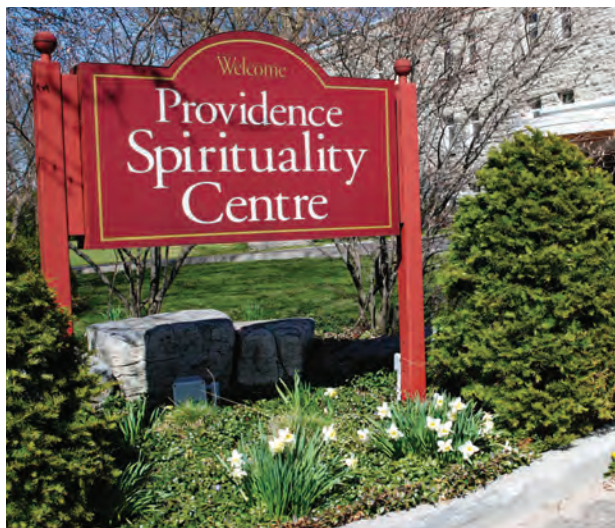
Cost \$20/session (includes lunch)

Register 2 weeks in advance for meal count.

*Denise Bérubé, CND*

How do we embrace growing into God as we age? How do we live into a “healthy old age rather than simply length of years?” (Joan Chittister, OSB)

Come together with others to reflect on the opportunities to deepen and enrich your spirituality in this time of new beginnings that are the senior years.



## JULY GUIDED RETREAT:

### **The Grace of Acceptance**

Wed July 8, 4 PM – Wed July 15, 1 PM

Register by Wed June 24

*Jan Novotka*

Cost \$525

The Grace of Acceptance is a silent retreat that invites us to acknowledge and embrace the things in our lives which we are having a hard time embracing. When we come to “accept what is as it is” a deep peace comes over us. It is as if we let go of our need to change things, fix things, avoid things and our demand that life unfolds according to “our plans.” This surrendering to “Life” as it is in this moment is actually a way of entering into union with each moment and with God, bringing not only peace but a sense of well being at the deepest level. Integral to this retreat is input, experiential opportunities, group sharing, time for personal reflection, and plenty of singing.

*Jan Novotka is an internationally known retreat facilitator, song writer, and a sought out liturgist for her gift of creating a more contemplative approach for assemblies, congregational chapters, and other spiritual and/or Earth focused gatherings. She is committed to the evolutionary shift occurring*

## DIRECTED RETREATS

### HOLY WEEK DIRECTED RETREAT

*two options*

1. Sun Mar 29, 4 PM – Sun Apr 5, 1 PM  
Cost \$495

2. Thu Apr 2, 2 PM – Sun Apr 5, 1 PM  
Cost \$225

Register by Mon Mar 16

*PSC Team*

### JUNE DIRECTED RETREAT

Wed June 17, 4 PM - Wed June 24, 1 PM

Register by Wed June 3

*PSC Team*

Cost \$495 or \$75/day

### JULY DIRECTED RETREAT

Wed July 8, 4 PM - Wed July 15, 1 PM

Register by Wed June 24

*PSC Team*

Cost \$495 or \$75/day

*at the level of consciousness. Jan holds a masters degree in Religious Education from Fordham University, is certified in Earth Literacy, and is an organic gardener.*



# Celebrating with joy: The church's Year of Consecrated Life

*In November, the Catholic Church opened a 14-month "Year of Consecrated Life." While many Christians consider themselves consecrated to Christ, the Code of Canon law of the Catholic Church reserves the term "consecrated life" for those who have made*

*public profession of what it calls evangelical counsels – poverty, chastity and obedience. As a result, you might hear Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul referring to themselves as vowed. To launch the year, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies*

*of Apostolic Life, the Vatican body that oversees religious orders and congregations, released a letter to consecrated women and men entitled: Rejoice! Here is a taste of that letter. The letter includes numerous citations and references and those are not included here.*

**I** want to say one word to you and this word is joy.  
Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy!  
Pope Francis

Consecrated life is a call to incarnate the Good News, to follow Christ, the crucified and risen one, to take on "Jesus' way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to the brothers and sisters." In practical terms, it is a call to take up his way of life, to adopt his interior attitude, to allow oneself to be invaded by his Spirit, to absorb his surprising logic and his scale of values, to share in his risks and his hopes. "Be guided by the humble yet joyful certainty of those who have been found, touched and transformed by the Truth who is Christ, ever to be proclaimed."

Remaining in Christ allows us to grasp the presence of the Mystery which lives in us and expands our hearts to the measure of (God's) Son's heart. Those who remain in (God's) love, like

the branch attached to the vine (cf. Jn 15:1-8), enter into intimacy with Christ and bear fruit. "Remain in Jesus! This means remaining attached to him, in him, with him, talking to him."

Consecrated life is in fact a continuous call to follow Christ, and to be made like him. "Jesus' whole life, his way of dealing with the poor, his actions, his integrity, his simple daily generosity, and finally his complete self-giving."

