



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

PROVIDENCE PAGES

Summer 2023



***The 2023 Jubilarian celebrants are, standing from left: Sisters Ellen Murray (70 years), Elaine Hogan (70 years), Sandra Shannon (60 years), and sitting is Sister Joanne Colligan (60 years).
story on page 4***

In this issue:



Everything Has Its Time



Retreat Centre Closes



Climate Rally



Sisters of Providence
of St. Vincent de Paul

Vision Statement

A world where the vulnerable
experience compassion,
justice and peace.

Mission Statement

The Sisters of Providence
of St. Vincent de Paul are
a congregation of vowed
women religious called
to be channels of God's
Providence.

Rooted in the mission
of Jesus, we empower
the vulnerable through
compassionate service,
advocacy and networking.
Sharing our spiritual, human
and financial resources, we
promote justice and peace
for all creation.

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Providence Pages readers,

The overriding theme of this issue is "Everything has its time" and so too does the Providence Pages newsletter have "its time". Due to the congregation's dwindling membership and the reduced public presence of the Sisters as their ministries come to completion, the Communications Advisory Committee and I have decided that the Providence Pages newsletter has fulfilled its need and so it too will come to completion.

We will produce one more issue in the Fall/Winter which will include an update from the Chapter session in the Fall, ministry changes and a look back at the Providence Pages newsletter.

Sisters are still active in the community and stories will still be produced, but they will be published on the Sisters website and social media instead of Providence Pages after the next and final issue. As these stories are infrequent, we felt this was the best course to follow as the Sisters continue to address the needs of the time. The Sisters vision and legacy, Providence Village, will feature updates and stories on their website so be sure to check it out as well (www.providencevillage.ca).

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You Are Making a Difference in Peru

Your generosity through the Marillac Mission Fund continues to significantly and positively impact the people of Carabayllo where our Sisters and Associates live and are engaged in ministry. Your financial donations provide support in these areas: **education, health, construction projects, disaster relief, poverty relief and rural pastoral care.**

Thank you for your ongoing support of our work in Peru.

Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Marillac
Mission Fund
Supporting our Peruvian Missions



Everything has its time

Providence Village is a community of hope, belonging and wellbeing for the vulnerable where diverse partners offer compassionate care and support services to honour and continue the spirit and Catholic legacy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. The construction phase has started and Sister Jeannette Filthaut reflects on it in this article. For updates on Providence Village go to www.providencevillage.ca.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...” (Ecclesiastes 3.1-2)

Arborists are presently moving forward with protection and removal of many of the trees that have blessed the grounds of the Providence Motherhouse and the neighbourhood, some for over a century. Before birds build their new nests, many trees are being removed to realize the benefits of Hospice and Providence Manor to be built for new residents... “there is a time!” Old growth trees that have heard many stories from our sisters, associates and retreatants are giving way to progress. Letting go of these trees is difficult for the sisters, staff and the neighbours of 1200 Princess Street. In this we are truly “forsaking the good in our quest for the best”.

While not equaling the mature trees lost, where one goes two will be replacing it with new life. “Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another.” (Pope Francis in Laudato Si #42)

Change is necessary for new growth for future generations. The changes for Providence Village have been in a long planning process which involves others when bringing carefully planned environmental efforts to the construction process.

“There is a time for everything – time for us to reconnect with the wonders of nature and to build positive relationships with the nature that surrounds us wherever we may live.” (Sister Jeannette Filthaut) We hope to continue doing this as Providence Village unfolds and brings forth new life. Thankfully, our Old Growth Oak tree will remain as the sentinel guarding this process, to bless the construction project and the Village for years to come.

■ *Sister Jeannette Filthaut*



This old growth oak tree is remaining.

The 2023 Jubilee Celebration, Jubilarian

On Saturday, June 10, four Sisters of Providence celebrated milestone Jubilees totaling 260 years.

It was a wonderful celebration which opened with Sister Frances O'Brien welcoming everyone on behalf of the Sisters, as General Superior Sister Sandra Shannon was one of the Jubilee celebrants this year. Friar Ed Debono presided over the Mass and Sister Una Byrne delivered a reflection on the readings.

Each of the Jubilarians submitted a reflection on their jubilee or a note of thanks.



Sister Ellen Murray
70 years

I raise the chalice of my life, my vocation, in thanksgiving to the One who called me to be His in a special way for 70 years. Seventy years filled with joy and service, loss and sadness, prayer and peace.

I am grateful to the Sisters of Providence for embracing me into their fold as a Servant of the Poor.

To my companions over the years – both living and deceased – I am grateful for your kindness and fidelity.

We lived through seven decades of change in our world, church and congregation. In fact, our generation has lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life. Time does not stand still. What happens next, we do not know; but this we do know, that God's faithful love and mercy for me and us all is fresh every morning.



Jubilarians gathering around the font by the main chapel entrance during Saturdays celebration ceremony.



reflections and thank you's



Sister Elaine Hogan
70 years

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.

It seems to me that Jubilee ranks high as one of the best times to celebrate and give thanks to the on-going Provident Care of our Loving God.

I like to think that Sr. M. Jerome O'Reilly who died the day I was born has watched over me these 70 years.

Early in life I watched and learned from my Mom Aileen, faithfulness to duty and

courage when faced with life's ups and downs.

As teachers many of the Sisters of Providence in Perth and Belleville had a prominent place.

Of the ministries to which I was called, the experience of serving the developmentally challenged women (the girls as we called them) in McKinley Centre is still the closest to my heart.

It is with grateful thanks to my family, community and each Sister for their support, love and prayers in good times and bad.

United always in prayer.



Sister Joanne Colligan
60 years

I wish to pass along a thank you to everyone involved in making this a wonderful Jubilee.

Thank you everyone for the gifts, enrollments and cards; Thank you Sister Barbara Thiffault for organizing the Jubilee; Thank you Liturgy committee, the choir, the readers, and the homilist Sister Una, for a lovely celebration Mass; and thank you to the Kitchen staff for the beautiful food.

continued on next page...





Sister Sandra Shannon
60 years

It is hard to believe that it has been 60 years since Mom and Dad, my sister and her husband drove me from Toronto to Kingston to enter the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. All I knew of the Sisters was what I had read in their literature. So I came with mixed feelings of anxiety, sadness but also excitement.

Visions of hard work and austerity filled my naïve mind before I arrived at “Heathfield” but I soon learned that the hardest part of living religious life laid in developing and maintaining relationships. To be thrown together with a group of strangers and my expectation of getting along with everyone

put a lot of pressure on myself. However, everything worked out well throughout the novitiate.

Life after novitiate was an adventure too – school in Brantford, and Belleville and nursing school in Montreal, at St. Mary’s School of Nursing. Again building relationships with Sisters and fellow students was part of growing up and developing.

Making perpetual profession in this regard changed nothing. Except now I felt like more of an adult and now put adult expectations on myself. God has given me the personality to adapt and change. This was important as I moved from Montreal to Brockville to Kingston to Moose Jaw (not my favourite place) to Camrose (my favourite place) to Kingston to Arnprior and back to Kingston. Religious life and community life changing rapidly over those years. I develop as a person too. I fell in love with God more profoundly and treasured my time and experiences of spiritual

development. The years of work, study and reflection were a gift.

Life from 1994-2003 was my first call into leadership. Sister Joan Whittingham taught me much about community, patience, vision and love of the Sisters. I cherish our time together. I appreciated coming to know the Sisters at a deeper level. It was a time of closures and letting go of ministries, institutions and houses. Many Sisters experienced moves and the population of the Motherhouse grew. We re-defined ourselves as Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul once again.

Being with the sick and dying is another call I received while ministering at St. Mary’s of the Lake Hospital. Relationships established there continue until today.



The Jubilarians renewing their vows.



Another call to leadership came in 2011 which has lasted up until today in 2023. Once again years of great change and letting go of property, and funerals of Sisters. There have been great challenges and much chaos due to COVID and realizing that we as a congregation had to change everything in order to move into a new reality, in order to live in a new way. But not everything has to change. Again relationships forged over the years have become even more important. These bonds we have with each other, those with friends and especially with our God is the glue that can hold each one of us together – no matter what.

I am finishing this unexpectedly long epistle on the day after our Jubilee celebration.



The procession out of the chapel.

Yesterday's prayer was all about gratitude. How good God has been to me. Through the gift of consecrated life, I have been nourished, lead, refined, challenged and loved by our Provident God who has been my constant companion throughout the good and not so good times. God has always provided me with the right person(s) at the right time to give me support.

I am grateful for my loving family both dead and alive who have carried me over the years.

I am certainly grateful for the many, many Sisters of Providence who have supported and shaped me through their relationships with me over these 60 years. I pray that I have been a good companion in return.

Relationships in Religious Life can bring both pain and much joy.

It is said that consecrated life is a life of service and giving. For me it has been a life of receiving, receiving, receiving.

Deceased Sisters who would have celebrated this year



Sister Carol Cornish
70 years



Sister Irene MacDonell
70 years



Sister Marie Dundon
70 years



Sister Yvonne Patry
70 years



The closing of Providence Spirituality Centre

It was with a mixed sense of 'sadness and gratitude' that the Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul announced the closure of Providence Spirituality Centre (PSC), September 6, 2022. The Centre will no longer be hosting external groups.

Sadness, because it means saying farewell to a spirituality ministry that has flourished, and nurtured countless hearts and souls for over 45 years. Even in a pre-pandemic world a significant decline in registration numbers in all PSC Programming was noted. This decline was in part due to the aging and decrease in numbers of women and men religious whose congregations have, in many ways, been the pillars/foundations of retreat/spirituality centres and the programs offered therein. It became quite clear however, that the decline in program registrations was more widespread than men and women religious. The drop in program registrations across PSC clientele was being paralleled in another group, that is, the faith-filled men and women who have supported and enriched our lives by their attendance/presence in all PSC programs. The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence sensed a new call, an invitation to listen to possible partners in mission that the Spirit was sending our way.

Thus, we experience a sense of 'gratitude', as the closing of PSC is 'one more step in paving the way' for the unfolding of the Vision of Providence Village Inc, the non-profit organization created by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul and designed to carry out the legacy of the Sisters into the future. 'Gratitude' that we are fostering/nurturing the creation of "a



The Providence Spirituality Centre main entrance. neighbourhood of people helping people, inspiring hope, fulfillment and care of the earth".

As I reflected on the closure of Providence Spirituality Centre (PSC) and the 45 years of ministry to which so many persons – Sisters of Providence/spiritual directors/retreat directors/ presenters/ Providence Motherhouse Staff/volunteers et. al - have contributed and, in and through which so many have been blessed, these words from Ecclesiastes surfaced in me:

Everything Has Its Time

~Ecclesiastes Chapter 3: 1-8 (in part)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;



and opening of Providence Presence Ministry

This text seems to provide a synopsis of experiences lived, and witnessed, by those of us who have worked at PSC. For me it captures experiences in which, PSC staff, presenters, clientele, and all those who have been associated with us, have shared over the past 45 years as we served and ministered in this sacred space. So many people from all walks of life, from many faith traditions, from around the globe, have shared life with us in this sacred environment. Recently someone made the comment, "If these walls could speak what a rich story they would have to tell!" The task of sharing the story is left to us, and words fail to capture all there is to share. We will have to settle for the reminder held in this Scripture text,

"Everything has its time!"

Providence Spirituality Centre has indeed had its time! From early 1977 – December 31, 2022. Presence and prayer energy of the many visitors we have welcomed continues to permeate this space. I doubt Archbishop Wilhelm could have imagined where his invitation in 1977, to the Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul, to open part of their Motherhouse as a retreat centre, would lead.



Early entrance leading to the 'Providence Centre' when it was located near McKinley Hall.

The agreement of the Sisters to his request was indeed a response to 'the needs of the times', something for which the Sisters of Providence are known. On October 15, 1977, the centre was officially opened as 'The Heathfield Retreat Centre'. The large hall (McKinley Hall) with the adjacent rooms below the chapel, as well as the third floor of the Marian wing of the Motherhouse was set aside for this purpose. "The rest is history!" And a rich one at that!

Since its inception the Centre has continued to evolve... in response to 'The needs of the times'. In 1981 the name was changed to 'Providence Centre' when Sister Irene Wilson, SP was named the first director for this ministry. In 1999 the name of the centre was changed to Providence Spirituality Centre. And, in 2000 Providence Spirituality Centre moved to its 'new space', that is, the location currently being vacated. The new space was blessed, and the team missioned in the fall of 2000. We might say, "We never looked back!"

Keeping the focus of the PSC ministry on the mission of the Sisters of Providence and God's compassionate care for the world and all of creation, a new vision statement was developed in 2004. This is the Vision to which PSC staff has remained committed these past 18 years:

"Open to the Spirit moving within each person, we desire to be instruments of God's love. We welcome all to this sacred space. We trust that serving with compassion we will all experience a deeper fullness of life and will strengthen one another to participate more responsibly in creating a just and peaceful world. Glory be to God whose power working



in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. (Eph 3:20) Providence Spirituality Centre shares in the mission of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul."

The ministry of Providence Spirituality Centre has been focused on welcoming people to our sacred space and offering an environment of quiet and peace. A peace that has permeated not only our beings but the very environment within which we have lived and ministered. We have strived to offer high quality and assured diversity in programming including retreats, days of reflection, social justice programs & retreats, ecology programs, reflexology, reiki, spirituality programs and other services facilitating spiritual/personal growth.

PSC has attracted and hosted many diverse groups. The PSC staff over these many years has included priests, religious and laity. Our lives, and the lives, of our PSC clientele have been enriched by many guest facilitators & directors from across Canada and around the globe who have blessed us with their time and presence. We do believe that by our commitment to, and presence in the PSC ministry we have indeed contributed to the creation of a just and peaceful world.

"Everything has its time!"

What a blessed and privileged time the past 45 years have been for us all!

The time has come to bid farewell to Providence Spirituality Centre, a sacred space, a privileged ministry! As we pause...we wish to take this opportunity to:

...thank everyone, staff/presenters/facilitators/directors/who have contributed in anyway to



Sisters and staff participating in the 30th anniversary celebration of the Providence Spirituality Centre.

the ministry of PSC.

...thank every person who has blessed us by their presence as a participant at the many programs/retreats offered throughout the years.

...thank all groups participants and their facilitators who have been a blessing for us all.

...express our gratitude for all that the ministry of Providence Spirituality Centre has been.

As we bid farewell to Providence Spirituality Centre, we are happy to announce that something new has been created, "Providence Presence Ministry" through which the staff will continue a ministry of ongoing spiritual direction, as well, an online ministry of personal spiritual direction and retreats. Providence Presence Ministry offices are located on the second floor, front hall of Providence Motherhouse. Directors will welcome individuals, to this 'new' space, for personal spiritual direction meetings. Please check our website for additional information and updates re future programming (www.providence.ca/presence)

■ *Lucy Bethel, SP*



History of Providence Spirituality Centre

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul opened the Heathfield Retreat Centre at Providence Motherhouse in Kingston on October 15th, 1977 to serve the Archdiocese's need for a space where retreats could be held for the priests and other diocesan groups. A chapel and conference rooms were set up in the basement, beneath the Motherhouse chapel. Sleeping quarters were located on the third floor of the Marian Wing and originally consisted of 24 double rooms and 11 single rooms.

During the first year of operations, from October 1977 to August 1978, Heathfield Retreat Centre was used by diocesan and religious groups only, mostly consisting of Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, chaplains, priests. By the

second year, the bookings had more than doubled, and use had expanded to private retreats, teacher retreats, other denominational church groups, and use by other religious communities. Use continued to grow and expand in the next few years.

Sister Irene Wilson became the first Director of the retreat centre in 1981. Heathfield Retreat Centre started attracting a wider audience from the surrounding regions. In December 1981, the name was changed to Providence Centre, as the name Heathfield was felt to be meaningful only to locals. Under Sister Irene's direction, Providence Centre expanded its offerings from being primarily an event venue for incoming groups, to offering programming to the general

public including workshops, general retreats, and ongoing courses. Spiritual directors were on staff, and in the mid-1980s pastoral counseling was added to the services provided.

In 1985 Providence Centre chose to focus on staff training, openness to the laity, physical surroundings, and outreach to the parishes. Through this shift in focus, Providence Centre was renovated, and the new facilities blessed in May 1987, and lay employees were hired as facilitators and session leaders.

Sister Irene Wilson was elected to the General Council of the Sisters of Providence in 1989, which brought her term as Director of Providence Centre to a close. Martin Jeffery joined the team as Director in September 1990. Under Martin's leadership the staff of the centre continued to grow and expand its offerings.

Steve Hill replaced Martin Jeffery as Director in February 1997. The Search Conference was held in May 1997 to mark the 20th anniversary of the retreat centre. The conference

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Providence Centre staff in the Centre library, June 1990.



Providence Centre staff say farewell to Sr. Pat Amyot, May 1993.



Sister Marie Dundon

Marie Cecile Dundon was born in Gananoque, Ontario on May 2, 1935, the youngest of seven children of Leo Dundon and Irene Leader. She grew up in Brewer's Mills, Ontario.

Marie entered the novitiate of the Sisters Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on September 19, 1953. Following her First Profession of Vows in 1956 she began teaching private piano lessons and school music part-time as well as being the church organist in Arnprior, then in Gananoque, Prescott, Tweed, Picton, Napanee and Belleville. From 1988 - 2008 she was part-time pastoral assistant and organist at St. Michael's Parish in Belleville.

During a sabbatical year at the Avila Retreat Centre and Music School in Thunder Bay she took courses in yoga and massage.

She offered the program, 'Freeing the Human

Spirit' at both the Bath and Joyceville Institutions for about ten years.

Over the years she attended various music summer courses including courses at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and at the Ontario Liturgical Conference for church musicians. She also took many courses in Yoga and Therapeutic Touch. She offered Tai-Yoga Massage at the Seniors' Centre in Kingston as well as at Providence Motherhouse. Her love of music drew her to offer music therapy sessions at the Motherhouse infirmary, at Providence Manor and at Providence Care Hospital where she also played the organ for Sunday Mass.

Sister Marie was a cheerful person full of life who generously shared her gifts with many different groups. She accepted her final illness peacefully with resignation. Sister Marie returned to her loving God on June 10, 2022.



Sister Mary Rosaria Andries

Born on January 17, 1924 in Deloraine, Manitoba, Sister Mary Rosaria (Marie Louise) was the youngest of eleven children of Marie Heavens and Charles Andries. Her mother died on February 19, 1924 and so she was raised by her uncle and aunt whom she called Papa and Mamma and her own father she addressed as father. These three people were very dear to her.

She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on February 18, 1945. Following her First Profession, she was missioned to Newmarket as housekeeper of the convent. She then went to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton where she was a supervisor of the senior citizens area. Her next move took her to Athabasca, Alberta to work with high school girls in residence at Rosary Academy. From 1952 - 1959 she went to Belleville where she studied and taught music.

Between 1959 and 1991 she taught private piano lessons and some school music in Belleville, Picton, Chesterville, Gananoque and Kingston. In 1963 she obtained a Supervisor's Certificate in School Vocal Music. In 1978 she obtained a Music Teacher's certificate in Piano from the University of Western Ontario. After a sabbatical from 1991 - 1992 in Arnprior at the Galilee Institute of Personal and Spiritual Renewal, she took Pastoral Care training. She ministered as a pastoral visitor and continued to teach private piano lessons until 2010.

She was a quiet, prayerful person with a great devotion to the rosary and the Divine Mercy. She loved her family and enjoyed her visits with them and they with her.

She died peacefully in the infirmary on December 15, 2022.



Sister Mary Bernadette Reichert

The eldest of five children of Elizabeth and Sigmund Reichert, Mary was born on April 1, 1933 in Fulda, SK. She went to Business College after graduating from High School. She worked in British Columbia and Edmonton, Alberta until she entered the novitiate in 1961. Following her First Profession in 1964 she was assigned to Rosary Hall, Edmonton where she worked with women who were mentally challenged or suffered from mental illness. In 1968 she was transferred to Rosary Hall in Toronto. On her days off she would go to Riverdale Hospital to visit the chronically ill.

In 1970 she was missioned to San Cristobal, Guatemala to teach religion in the public schools and to teach adults to read and write. She worked with the catechists, the youth and served the poor who came to their door. In February 1979 she was transferred to Momostenango, Guatemala where she worked with the poor defending their

rights and with the AA groups. With the help of women leaders from the town whom the Sisters had formed, she worked in the rural areas helping women realize their dignity. She also participated in the Diocesan Vocation Team meetings, women's groups, formation of lay leaders and assisted in many other areas of need. She returned to Canada when the mission closed in February 2003.

After a transition period she was assigned to Rosary Hall, Edmonton to minister to people with mental illness. She returned to the motherhouse in October 2010 when her memory began to fail. She died peacefully on January 15, 2023.

Although she had very poor eyesight throughout her life, she never allowed that to deter her from serving others with much love, joy and compassion.



Sister Irene Wilson

Irene Wilson was born in Perth, Ontario on February 8, 1934, the fifth of ten children of Ruby White and William Wilson. She graduated from St. John School and Perth Collegiate. She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston on August 15, 1952. Two years later, she attended Toronto Teachers' College. She later graduated from Queen's University with her Bachelor of Arts degree.

She taught at the elementary level in Trenton, Montreal and Kingston and at the secondary level and in Belleville, Smiths Falls and Brantford. In 1970 she was assigned as the Vocation and Formation Director for the Congregation. In 1978 she took a program in Spiritual Direction at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago and was subsequently assigned as the Director of the House of Prayer at Providence Hall in Belleville, worked part-time

at the Motherhouse Retreat Centre and served on the Vocation Team. In 1981 she added the position of Spiritual Animator at St. Peter's Parish in Trenton. In 1986 she obtained a Masters degree in Pastoral Studies at Loyola University in Chicago and then became Director of the Retreat Centre. After serving in leadership as General Assistant to the General Superior from 1989 to 1994, she went to Toronto where she offered spiritual direction and worked on short and longer retreats in Toronto, Guelph and Kingston.

In 2002 she returned to Kingston and offered spiritual direction until 2011 when she became Co-Director of the Associate Program until 2017.

Sister Irene died peacefully on March 26, 2023 in the infirmary.



Sister Mary Labouré

Sister Mary Labouré, baptized Doreen Alexina Lalonde, was born in Perkinsfield, Ontario on May 23, 1923 one of nine children of Paul Lalonde and Elizabeth Desjardens. She grew up on the family farm outside of Midland, Ontario. When she worked in Toronto in a factory during the war years, she boarded at Rosary Hall where she first met the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Then, on February 2, 1943 she entered the novitiate in Kingston.

Her ministries included working with seniors at Providence Manor then at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston. After a year in Arnprior as sacristan at the parish church, she was assigned as housekeeper and cook at St. Michael's Convent in Belleville for three years, then at St. Carthagh's Convent, Tweed for twenty years. She returned to Belleville for another twenty years. Added to her duties as cook she engaged in pastoral work at the request of the pastor bringing Communion to the sick in their homes, hospital and

nursing homes.

In 1995 she retired to the Motherhouse and volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She became Coordinator of Marian II for two years and then began looking after the decorating of the Motherhouse for special occasions. In the month of November each year she, along with some staff members, held a pre-Christmas sale to raise money for the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Kingston.

Throughout the years Sister took courses in paper tole, quilting, macramé and gourmet cooking as well as the Pastoral Care course through Queen's University. She was an excellent cook and loved to try new recipes. She became well known for the beautiful place cards that she made for the Jubilarians over several years.

Sister died peacefully at Providence Motherhouse on May 12, 2023.



Sister Theresa Moher

Theresa Moher was born in Peterborough, Ontario on June 6, 1928 the fifth of seven children of Albert Moher and Ann Condon. She attended Peterborough Teachers' College and began her teaching career in September 1946 in Douro, then in Wellesley, Belleville and Toronto.

She entered the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston on September 15, 1954. As a postulant she taught at St. John's School, Kingston. After her first profession of vows, she returned to the classroom at St. Mary's School, Chesterville then at St. Francis School in Smiths Falls, St. Michael's Academy in Belleville and St. Mary's School in Camrose, Alberta. In 1968 she became a Parish Worker. After taking two university courses in Family Life, she was involved in writing the Family Life Curriculum for the Edmonton Separate School System and then piloted the program in one of the schools. For five years she taught at St. Cecilia Junior High School where she continued her work in Christian Family Life. During this time,

she completed an Honours BA from the University of Windsor.

She went to Guatemala from 1978 – 1980. After a year teaching at Nicholson Catholic College, she went to Peru for five years. After she completed a Masters' Degree in Pastoral Sciences and Individual Counselling, she worked as a volunteer at the Catholic Immigration Reception House for Refugees in Ottawa.

From 1992 – 1993 she worked for the Catholic Family Services in Toronto counselling Latin American persons with a focus on family violence. She then joined the Latin American Coalition to Eradicate Violence in the Spanish Community. She also became involved with the "Out of the Cold" program.

She underwent heart surgery in Toronto in 2010 followed by intense rehabilitation then moved to the Motherhouse in November 2014. She died peacefully at Kingston General Hospital on May 18, 2023.



Sister Sheila Way

Sheila Way was born on March 26, 1929 in Tamworth, Ontario the third of five girls of Anne Keeney and Angus Way. When she completed secondary school, she attended Peterborough Normal School. During the next few years, she taught in Douro, Indian River, Whitby, Burlington and St. Catharines before entering the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on September 15, 1957. As a postulant and later as a senior novice she taught part-time at St. Joseph's School in Kingston.

Following her First Profession of Vows, she taught at St. Patrick's School and Holy Family School in Kingston. In 1962 she taught at St. Carthag's School in Tweed. In 1964 she returned to Kingston as principal of St. Peter's School. In 1975 she was assigned to St. Joseph's School in Gananoque. In 1981 she went to St. Francis School in Smiths Falls to teach a Special Education class. During her teaching career she often taught catechism classes in the rural areas of the Archdiocese during the summer

and on the weekends. She obtained her BA from the University of Ottawa through summer sessions. She served on the local OECTA unit, the Archdiocesan Sisters' Council and Parish Council.

When she retired from teaching in 1987, she enjoyed a sabbatical of spiritual enrichment in Cottonwood, Idaho and Dover, Massachusetts. After taking Pastoral Care courses, she began her ministry in Pastoral Care as Director at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital in Kingston. She later went to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton to continue her ministry in Pastoral Care. In 1997 she returned to Kingston and was assigned as coordinator of Marian II infirmary. In 2000 she began volunteering in Pastoral Care at Providence Manor. In 2003 she included assisting with the Art Program at Rideaucrest Nursing Home in Kingston. She continued in these ministries until 2010.

Sister Sheila died peacefully in the infirmary on May 25, 2023 following a brief illness.



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invited participants to enter into a process of becoming a learning community and to search for their role in the future.

In 1999-2000 the Motherhouse underwent large renovations including creating a new home for the retreat centre. In preparation for that move Providence Centre changed its name in June 1999 to Providence Spirituality Centre (PSC). The entire western wing of the Motherhouse was renovated to enable all the retreat centre

functions, including sleeping quarters, event rooms, and offices, to be located together in a wheelchair accessible space. The newly renovated PSC was blessed on October 23rd, 2000 by Archbishop Spence.

In 2003, Steve Hill moved on, and Beverley McDonald started as Director of PSC. Sister Lucy Bethel took on the role of Director in November 2011 when Beverley McDonald retired.

■ *Veronica Stienburg,*
Archivist



Climate Rally at RBC

After we sang our blessing and a spontaneous rendition of “Irene Goodnight” to send our beloved Sister Irene Wilson off on her journey to eternity, a niece of Irene’s came up to me, pointed to the button on my coat, and said, “I like that.” It read, “SCAN: Seniors for Climate Action Now!”

SCAN is a national organization, to which I belong, composed of a lot of grandparents concerned about the future for their grandchildren. Young people are calling on governments to act decisively on the climate emergency. As seniors we support their lead, amplify their voices and add our own to the growing movement for climate action.

And that’s what many of us did on April 1 – Fossil Fools Day. We stood, we marched, we listened to speeches in front of the Royal Bank of Canada on Princess Street with about 100 young people and old folks together. The protest was made in solidarity with opponents of the Coastal Gaslink pipeline being built through traditional Wet’suwet’en lands in British Columbia.

One young graduate student, Brandon, who studies resource extraction in Canada, at Queen’s spoke with great passion, “RBC’s investment in fossil fuels is a violation of our future. Our government’s inaction is a violation of our future. The



Sister Pauline Lally, SP (left) and Providence Associate Eleanor Casey participating in the march.

Wet’suwet’en peoples deserve better; our children, our families deserve better; those in the global South, who are already experiencing the effects of climate change in ways we cannot even imagine, deserve better. WE DESERVE BETTER. We deserve a world which is free from dirty money and dirty oil, free from colonial violence, free from labour exploitation, free from pollution and free for us to decide for ourselves what we want our lives to look like.”

And so, to the chants we, along with puppets – one of the devil himself - marched, “Climate Change is not a lie; do not let our planet die.” “No more coal! No more oil! Keep your carbon in the soil!” “Royal Bank! Ding Dong! Wrecking native lands is wrong!”

“Royal Bank don’t make us die! We’re going to stop you bye and bye.”

And that’s just what we, along with these committed young people, intend to do. Why? A report from a coalition of environmental groups shows that Royal Bank of Canada was the biggest fossil fuel financier in the world last year after providing over \$42 billion US in funding.

Because of the increasing awareness of the Royal Bank’s complicity in the fossil fuel industry, across the country, there has been a growing movement of protests. So much so, that the Bank, feeling the heat, shifted its place for their Annual General Meeting from Toronto to Saskatoon. Judi Wyatt, a longtime activist and a valuable member of PeaceQuest said, “RBC can’t hide from its accountability.” She and her family have terminated their longstanding relationship with RBC as part of a growing divestment movement away from fossil friendly banks. RBC needs to stop funding planetary destruction and we’re going to help them.

■ *Sister Pauline Lally*

