

Providence Pages

Vol. 3 No. 8 FALL 2007

40 years in Peru Special Insert

1967



Then and Now...

2007



From the editor

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul have reached numerous milestones in their 146-year history. In this issue of Providence Pages, we celebrate several anniversaries — 40 years ministering in Peru, 30 year anniversary of Providence Spirituality Centre, and the Lay Associate program marks 20 years.

Since 1861, the congregation has grown as its pioneering work with the poor has taken Sisters across the country and beyond. The Peru mission continues to this day, while the 36 year mission in Guatemala ended in 2003.

Religious congregations established international missions in response to a request from Rome after Vatican II. The Sisters of Providence wasted no time picking up the challenge and began the north-south spiritual connection, carrying the dream of St. Vincent de Paul to the Southern Hemisphere.

Read the special insert **40 years in Peru**, which contains reflections from both Sisters and Associates.

It's been a remarkable and lengthy journey for three Sisters in particular. Sister Rose-Marie Bokenfohr has spent 38 years in Peru. Sister Irene MacDonell has called Peru home for 37 years. Sister Rose Healy, the original Sister to minister in Peru, has been there for 35 years. She is the only original Sister who remains in Peru.

Sr. Josephine Doiron, who now lives in Perth, was in Peru at the beginning (1976) and spent a total of 24

years ministering in the South American country.

In preparing this edition, a tragic and unexpected disaster — a powerful 8.0 magnitude earthquake hit Peru killing 510. The most serious damage was done in towns and cities along the country's Pacific coast south of Lima, including Chincha, Ica, Canete and Pisco.

The Sisters of Providence based in Peru were not injured and the following message was delivered to the congregation immediately following the quake.

“Dear Sisters, Sister Pauline spoke to our Sisters in Peru and they are all safe thanks be to God. They felt the shaking, etc. and were frightened but not in danger. Let us pray for the towns and people suffering as a result of the earthquake.”

— The Leadership Team

This edition also contains a special tribute to the late Sister Kathryn LaFleur, General Superior 2003 - 2007. A woman of faith and strength will be her legacy. Despite failing health, she carried out her term with energy and enthusiasm. Her friend, General Superior Sr. Pauline Lally, shares her personal reflection on page 22.

Cover photo:

top photo L to R — Sr. Shirley Morris, Sr. Josephine Doiron, Sr. Mary Anna Rita Moran and Sr. Rose Healy.

bottom photo L to R — Maria Mercedes Chinchay Luca (Novice), Sr. Irene MacDonell, Sr. Sara Jiménez Angulo, Sr. Rose Healy, Sr. Rose-Marie Bokenfohr and Sr. Patricia Rosa Márquez Sánchez.



**Director of
Communications
Christine Tripp**

BGH pays tribute to Sisters of Providence

Brockville General Hospital recently paid tribute to the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul during the hospital's annual general meeting. The Sisters are deeply rooted in the history of the Eastern Ontario city — setting up Brockville's first hospital in 1892. In 2005, services were transferred from St. Vincent de Paul Hospital to Brockville General — a move the Sisters view as a new beginning for health care. During the meeting, letters of congratulations from politicians to the Sisters were read, including a hand-written note from provincial health minister George Smitherman. Sister of Providence and Liaison of the Providence Health Sponsorship, Sheila Langton, gave the keynote address during the June 18th meeting. The following is an edited version of her speech.

BY SISTER SHEILA LANGTON

St. Vincent's was the first hospital the Sisters of Providence founded. We, Sisters, have called Brockville "home" for a very long time (well over a century now). Our Sisters were pioneers among the pioneers of this community. The Sisters came to Brockville to take charge of a hospital in 1887 - just 26 years after their foundation. The first hospital was a residence on Schofield Hill where the Sisters ministered to the sick for 5 years. In 1892 a residence on Pine and Garden Streets was converted to a hospital, and around this modest structure, St. Vincent de Paul Hospital grew with the addition of many wings over the years.

At one time, there were 23 Sisters living in the residence and working in the hospital. Many of them gave the service of their whole professional career to looking after the sick in Brockville and area. To this day, they have good memories of their days in Brockville, and strong bonds of friendship with staff who were their partners in mission.

The Sisters of Providence have been supported by the citizens of Brockville and area over all those years

and right up to the present as is demonstrated by the generosity of the community for the palliative care program. It has been a long journey with changes in our role in healthcare services, and multiple plans for building and renovation. The Sisters, in conjunction with their Governing Boards, continued at each stage of the journey to assess their service and their ability to meet the healthcare needs they were mandated to provide.

By reading the signs of the times, it became clear in 2005, that the Sisters of Providence could best preserve the full range of programs with the high quality care we all desire for the people of Brockville, Leeds and Grenville by passing on this mission to Brockville General Hospital to carry on the legacy. We, Sisters, did not look upon this transfer as an end. It was the beginning of the next phase of the healthcare journey

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From left, Dan Smith, past chair of the BGH Board of Governors, Sister of Providence and Liaison of the Providence Health Sponsorship Sheila Langton, Sister of Providence Patricia Ann Ryan, and current board chair Andreas von Cramon. In the background a commemorative plaque mounted in the main hallway of Brockville General Hospital's Garden street site. The plaque depicts St. Vincent de Paul Hospital from the 1920's and recognizes the more than 100-year contribution to health care by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

**Hospital
Legacy**

Catholic Hospitals have played a vital role as health care providers in Canada from the very beginnings of this country.

The following are hospitals built, administered and staffed by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul:

1887 - Vincent de Paul Hospital, Brockville ON

1904 - St. Francis de Sales General Hospital, Smiths Falls ON

1908 - Providence Hospital, Daysland AB

1912 - Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw SK

1924 - St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose AB

1927 - St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, Edmonton AB

1943 - St. Mary's Hospital, Montreal QC (only administered and staffed)

1946 - St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Kingston ON

1957 - Holy Family Hospital, Vancouver BC

120 years of Dedicated Service

continued from previous page

in Brockville.

The page has been turned. I encourage the Board, Administration and staff to be filled with hope as they see something new emerging and realize that this is "their moment in history".

Again looking back to the beginnings, we note that the Sisters always welcomed patients into their home (for many years they lived in residence within the institutions).

To continue the legacy, I ask you to emulate the warmth, welcome, and hospitality as

you provide a refuge for healing and caring. The frontline staff is our richest resource. Affirm them as you see them ministering to the patients and one another. They often do not realize how well they are daily living the mission. Example: Mission Moments.

I believe and trust that all at Brockville General Hospital will continue to be the hands of Providence.

I conclude with the motto of the Sisters of Providence and invite you to go forward in this spirit. Serving with Compassion, trusting in Providence, we walk in Hope.



Official opening of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville May 15, 1968. Sister Sheila Brady tours the new facility with Matthew B. Dymond, minister of health.

Sr. Josephine O'Neill provides pastoral care to a patient at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.



Great Canadian Catholic Hospital Project

BY SR. GAYLE DESARMIA

Archivists Sr. Gayle Desarmia and Danielle Hughes undertook a major research project this year when they participated in the Great Canadian Catholic Hospital Project.

Mr. Greg Humbert of the Catholic Health Association of Canada is compiling information which documents the legacy and contribution of Catholic hospitals to healthcare in Canada. He hopes to publish an English and a French book of the gathered material, and to create a CD-ROM version of the material.

His goals include:

- Document the history of existing Catholic hospitals in Canada as well as all those hospitals that existed in the past.
- Pay tribute to the people who have envisioned, built, administered and maintained these institutions.
- Document innovative programs initiated within Catholic hospitals in Canada.
- Record the histories of Nursing and Nursing Assistant Training Schools that operated in conjunction with these Catholic hospitals.

Sister Gayle and Danielle researched the history and foundations of the hospitals operated by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and prepared a package of materials for Mr. Humbert which included, in addition to historical facts, anecdotes, photographs, souvenir books, pamphlets and lists of administrators of the hospitals and the dates they served.

This is the second such project by Mr. Humbert in which Sr. Gayle has participated. In 2003 Mr. Humbert produced A Compendium of the Catholic

Health Association of Canada on CD-ROM. This compendium provides up-to-date statistical information on all Catholic hospitals and nursing homes. A copy of this compendium is on file in the Archives.



Sister of Providence Monica Laton and Dr. R J Barr visit a young patient in a pediatric room at St. Francis de Sales General Hospital, Smiths Falls in 1954.

Teaching Award



Sister of Providence Marian McCallum received the Principal's Award from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Kingston. She was gravely ill at the time of the award presentation. She passed away on July 5. Read more on Sr. Marian's life on page 26.

Sister Marian Honoured

Sister of Providence Marian McCallum received the prestigious Principal's Award during graduation ceremonies at Holy Cross Secondary School in Kingston on June 28, 2007. Holy Cross principal Paul Walsh delivered the following speech during convocation.

Our school community has benefited tremendously over the years due to the spirit of volunteerism, responsiveness and care of a great many people. Tonight we continue the tradition of recognizing those who have taken such an interest in Holy Cross. The Principal's Award of Recognition looks to highlight the contributions of an individual to the Holy Cross community.

Many in attendance this evening have benefited tremendously from the Catholic Education that they have received in this province. The older high school graduates like myself in this room were taught by sisters and priests who were the foundation of our present Catholic School system. I, like many others in the room, benefited from the example, commitment, sacrifice and leadership of the religious sisters and priests.

This year Sister Marian McCallum, the last teaching Sister of Providence in the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, retired on January 31 after more than 30 years of teaching. Sister McCallum made her Final Vows as a Sister of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in 1971 and began her teaching career. In 1998 she came to Holy Cross.

Tonight we honour Sister McCallum as the



Sister of Providence General Superior Pauline Lally accepts the award from Holy Cross principal Paul Walsh.

recipient of the Principal's Award of Recognition. In doing so, we honour all religious and in particular the Sisters of Providence who have devoted their lives to serving our Catholic elementary schools in Kingston and at Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville. Sister Marian as the last teaching sister of this order in our system will forever be remembered for her love of singing, her love of languages and her love of seeing students involved in community service.

Sister Marian is gravely ill and cannot be in attendance with us this evening. I ask that you continue to keep her in your prayers. Accepting the award on Sister's behalf is a former teacher of mine, at St. Patrick's Elementary School in Kingston where she delighted all of the students with her enthusiasm, smile and interest in our activities. I would ask that Sister Pauline Lally come forward to accept the Holy Cross Principal's Award of Recognition on behalf of Sister Marian McCallum.

Welcome Archbishop O'Brien

PROVIDENCE PAGES

During his installation July 25, Kingston's new Archbishop announced his goals for this region's Catholic Community. Most Reverend Brendan Michael O'Brien, 63, becomes the ninth Archbishop of Kingston. The former Archbishop of St. John's Newfoundland was installed during a ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral in front of a crowd that included Sisters of Providence, representatives from other religious communities, family, friends and dozens of bishops from across Canada. He replaces the late Archbishop Anthony Meagher, who made a huge impact by reaching out to youth and interfaith groups during his five years as Kingston's Archbishop. Born in Ottawa, and a priest since 1968, Archbishop O'Brien will oversee 50 parishes in the area. An excerpt from Archbishop O'Brien's homily is reprinted here.

Some of you may have noticed in the program the motto which I chose when I was named a bishop 20 years ago - *redimere tempus* - "Redeeming the time." I chose it to emphasize the need to be alert to the present opportunities that are ours to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Certainly today there are many difficulties which prevent people from knowing and accepting what the Lord wants to give us but this should not blind us to all that is good and positive in our society and which is compatible with the Gospel: the desire for peace, the efforts to eradicate poverty and disease, the concern for the well being of creation.

I know that Archbishop Meagher worked with you to develop a Mission Statement which helps to keep the core message of the Christian life before our minds

and hearts. Today we give thanks for his ministry and remember him as a dearly loved Pastor and friend to so many. We acknowledge as well the many years of wise pastoral leadership which Archbishop Spence has given to this archdiocese and to the Church in Canada.

As I begin my own Episcopal ministry among you my first priority will be to visit you in your parishes, rectories, schools, convents, homes and institutions. "Redeeming the time" means both spending time with the Lord so as to discern his will but also spending time with God's people so that their needs are understood.

Without prejudging what those needs might be let me mention four areas that I will want to explore with you.

1. Responsibility. As we go forward there is a need for more and new members of our Catholic community to accept their baptism as a call to responsibility for the life of the Church. How are we fostering this sense of responsibility?
2. Formation. All of us need opportunities to be fed so that we come to know Christ better and his call to each of us. What opportunities exist, what efforts can we take to form and equip the members of our communities so that they will be more informed and enthusiastic about their faith?



Archbishop Brendan Michael O'Brien with his mother in the foreground.

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Eucharistic Conference

49th International Eucharistic Conference

When: June 15 - 22, 2008

Where: Quebec City

Theme: The Eucharist, gift of God for the life of the world

visit www.cei2008.ca

Redeeming the Time

continued from previous page

3. Solidarity. What is the state of our solidarity and communion? How do we share ministry among clergy and laity so as to meet today's need? While being proud of our parish, are we open to work with other parishes and to see ourselves as part of the bigger mission of the Church?

4. Presence. We need to be present so that we are where people are in order that they can question us, benefit from our support and be challenged by our witness. Firstly, then how are we present to: children, youth, and adults of all ages who are members of our parish communities? What is the

situation of our chaplaincy teams, youth activities and

pastoral care initiatives? A second kind of presence

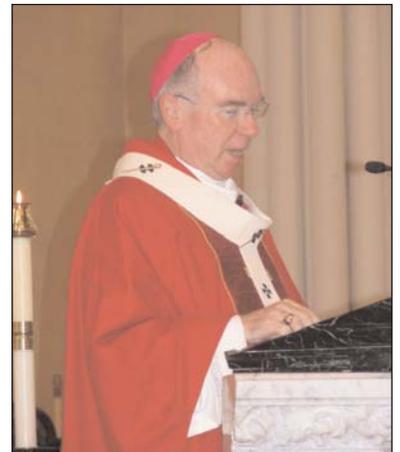
is our presence in the broader community. How are we helping to resolve, or at least improve, the lives of our fellow citizens especially those who suffer from poverty and other social ills with which people struggle today.

As I get to know you as your bishop, I am

sure I will be delighted with the many answers which you will be able to give me to those inquiries and then hopefully we can work together on what remains to be done, with the recognition that, though we are earthen vessels, we have been entrusted with a great treasure.



Assembled clergy gather at St. Mary's Cathedral prior to the installation



Most Reverend Brendan O'Brien addresses those attending the installation

Associates Celebrate Milestone

BY CHRISTINE DIZAZZO

Following a year of soul-searching on the part of both Sisters and Associates about the nature of their relationship, the celebration on September 29th of the first commitment ceremony of Canadian Associates was a joyous occasion. Several members of that first group of 14 women who made their commitment as Associates in 1987 were present for the Annual Retreat. Sisters and Associates shared in a special liturgy, reminisced, and enjoyed a social gathering that enabled all to renew and celebrate the strong bond among us.

Sister Lucy Bethel led the group in reflection on the topic of discernment — an apt subject as Sisters and Associates embrace the changes we all face as we try to faithfully respond to God's call to us in the events of our lives and our times. Both as individuals and as a Providence community, this is a time of discernment. The goal of Association is to promote the growth of each Associate into a deeper relationship with God while sharing the Community charism of compassionate care for the needy and trust in Providence. The retreat and anniversary celebration provided spiritual refreshment and support for the journey and for our ongoing ministries as we all continue to answer God's call to serve his people.



Providence Associate Director Sr. Catherine Cannon



Members of the Toronto Associate group

Companions on the Journey

We are companions on the journey, Breaking Bread and sharing life. And in the love we bear is the hope we share for we believe in the love of our God. We believe in the love of our God.



Camrose Associates 2007

BY MIRIAM HANOSKI, DR. SUNA SMITH AND SR. BERNADINE BOKENFOHR

In 1996, at the invitation of Sr. Judith Ann Murphy, we received the first group of seven inquirers. Miriam and Norm Hanoski, Doug and Mary Tien, Debbie Muise, Hildegard Schafter and Anne Roper began deepening their Spiritual Journey with God. After an intense formation of over three years including studying about our Spiritual Founders, our Provident God, Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Vincent, St. Louise, Blessed Emilie, Mother Edward, (Catherine McKinley) and other pioneer Sisters, a commitment was publicly made and each associate was engaged in a local ministry with the poor, sick, elderly and dying in our community.

A second group began in 2000 with Jan Kehoe, Dr. Suna Smith, Rita Gould, Pat Niehaus and Cathy Liebel. A third group began in 2003 including Connie Prost, Audrey Heck, Bernice MacFarlane and Aaron and Lillian Hamilton. The Hamilton's are currently on a two year assignment, but they remain candidates. Connie, Bernice and Audrey made their Commitment in 2006.

In 2003, Dr. Smith, Miriam Hanoski and Sr. Bernadine Bokenfohr traveled to El Progreso, the Sister's Mission in Peru. They took with them the \$10,000 raised at a fund raising drive for the mission. The poverty they witnessed prompted them to continue their fund raising projects. In conjunction with the Catholic Women's League, the Catholic School Children and St. Mary's Staff and Auxiliary, a further \$15,000 was raised over the next three years through bake sales and financial contributions.

The funds were used to build an addition to the school, a proper bathroom and notebooks for the Peruvian children. Almost 19 hundred pupils

benefitted from this project. In addition, the Mental Health Clinic was given samples of medications that Dr. Suna received from pharmaceutical companies. The mental health clinic is run by a physician, two psychologists and Sr. Rose Marie Bokenfohr, based on the therapeutic community model of Dr. Maxwell Jones.

We now have 11 Associates, 3 prayers and 2 candidates. Doug Tien joined the Deaconate Program and will be ordained as a Deacon on July 2, 2008.

His wife is committed to assisting and supporting him. Doug states that the Associate Program led him to a desire to deepen his spiritual life as a Deacon.

Each year, the Associates have a full day retreat. Some were facilitated and led by Sr. Gertrude Mulholland and the last two by Sr. Jeanette Filthaut. Our program recommends that the Associates have a Spiritual Director as a large number of Associates find this enhances their relationship with God.

The Associates have committed themselves as a group to pray the Church's Prayer *The Companion to the Breviary*. The Spirit is alive among the Associates at St.

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Camrose Associates

Happy 30th Providence Spirituality Centre

BY BEVERLEY MCDONALD

On Monday October 15th, Providence Spirituality Centre celebrated its 30th anniversary with an open house invitation to Sisters, staff and the Kingston community!

In her opening remarks, Beverley McDonald, the Director, said, “For 30 years people of differing Christian denominations, differing faiths, differing cultures, differing economic, social, spiritual, emotional and physical life situations have crossed the Centre’s threshold... breathed deeply... and encountered peace. This is no small thing.

“To have such a place, which offers the gift of peace, even the possibility of peace, for an hour, a day, a week, is blessing and grace. And yet, the peace that is discovered here is cherished by so very many, well beyond their short time with us. God’s gift of peace, in this place, seems to enter into their souls and seep deep into the unfolding journey of their living. It has for me, and I am sure for each member of our team. We are exceptionally blessed with the gift of ministering in this place.

How this has come to be is one story of the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul who listen, hear and respond to the voice of our Provident God speaking through the needs of all. Today we will share that story with you.”

So very many had come not only to celebrate with us but also to hear our story. Sister Irene Wilson had compiled an extensive and comprehensive history of the Spirit’s movement within the Centre’s 30-year

journey. All who attended were deeply moved by and grateful for the lives of so many Sisters of Providence, religious of other congregations, priests and lay people who had contributed to enriching the Centre's mission.

The Ecumenical nature of the Centre’s mission was truly brought home by the gracious and unexpected presentation of a certificate of congratulations to the team by Rev. Phil Hobbs of the Bay of Quinte Conference of the United Church of Canada.

Our thanksgiving for these thirty years was extended to all and also to all those who have passed through the Centre’s threshold. In Sister Irene’s words, “Last, but far from least, are the wonderful people who have come to Providence Spirituality Centre. We have been deeply enriched by your presence, challenged by your spirit and greatly affirmed by so many of you. Without your response, our raison d’être would be in vain.

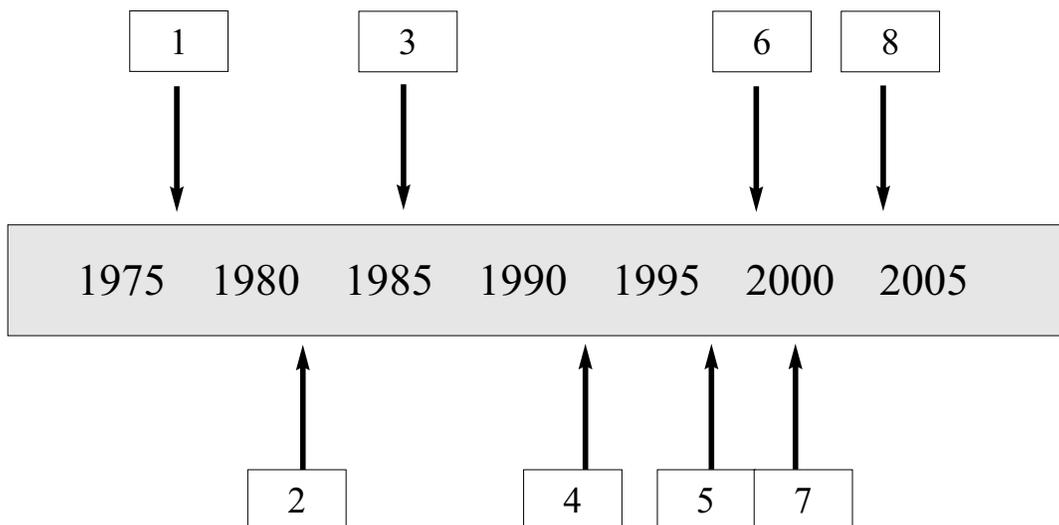
“Above all, we are grateful to our provident God who has been with us on the journey.”



**Beverley
McDonald,
Director
Providence
Spirituality
Centre**

Spirituality

Timeline: Providence Spirituality Centre



- 1 - October 15, 1977 Heathfield Retreat Centre opens. Adopts butterfly and Ezekiel 36:26 as logo.
- 2 - 1981 Name changed to Providence Centre.
- 3 - 1985 First Vision Statement created.
- 4 - 1993 New Vision Statement created. Adopts burning candle and halo with John 12:36 as logo.
- 5 - 1997 Logo and theme phased out.
- 6 - 1999 New location and name changed to Providence Spirituality Centre.
- 7 - 2000 PSC officially opens.
- 8 - 2004 New and current Vision Statements.



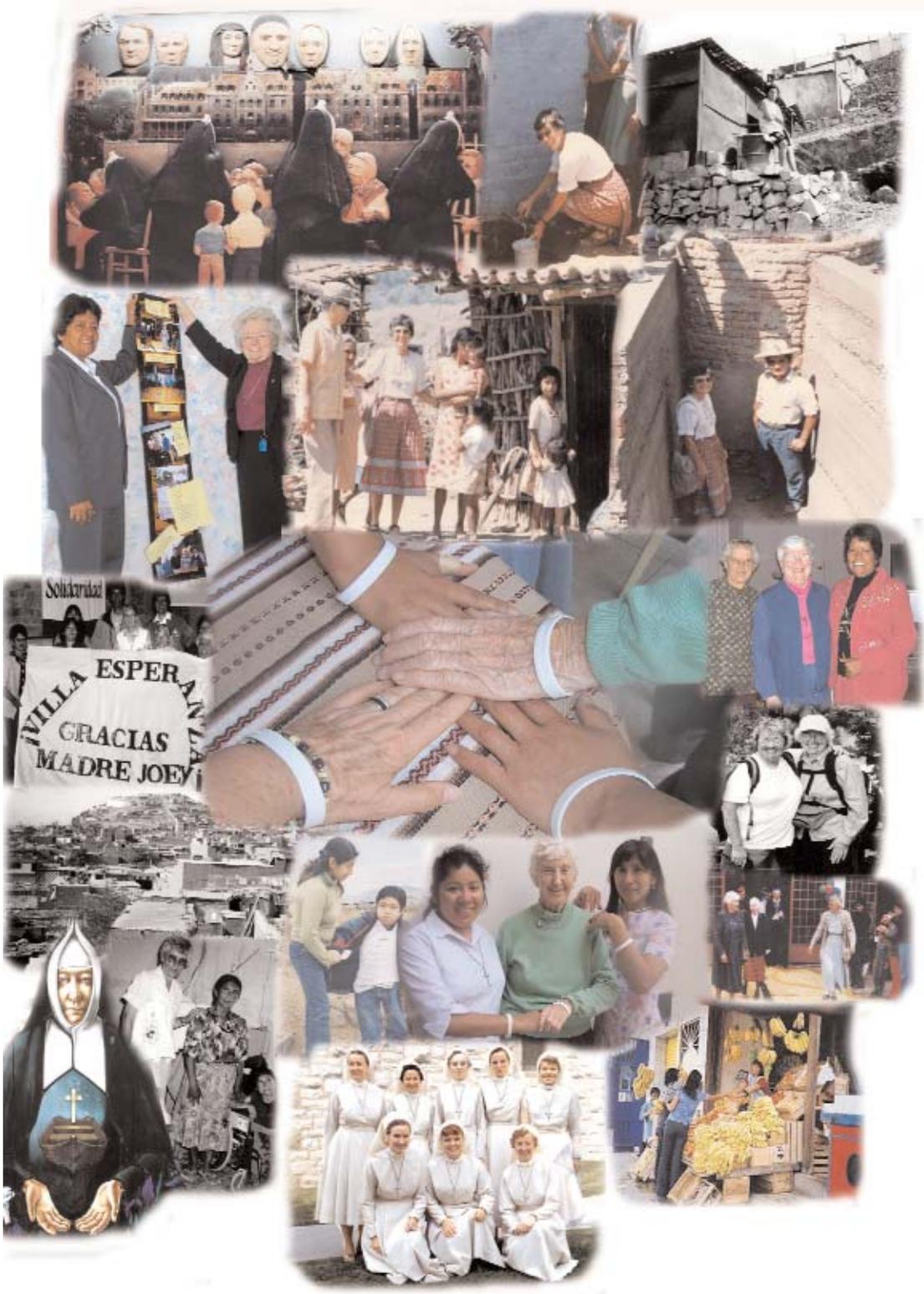
Rev. Phil Hobbs of the Bay of Quinte Conference of the United Church of Canada presents a certificate of congratulations to the PSC team.



PSC Team Member Sr. Reinalda Kloosterman at the celebration.

40 years in Peru

Special anniversary supplement Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul



Images from Peru



First & Lasting Impression

BY SR. IRENE MACDONELL

April 7th, 1970, found me sitting on a bench in the Peruvian airport. In vain I waited but no SP's came to claim me. Fortunately Sister Shirley Morris had prepared a card of directions in case of an emergency. I felt my situation fit that description.

At this moment a very kind looking tour driver came to my aid. Out came Shirley's card! The gentleman accepted to drive me "out there" but first looked for a second driver because it was a dangerous area at night. I thought if he's afraid to go, what am I doing here? I blessed myself and said let's go! My friends were very solicitous and encouraged me not to be afraid.

From the airport we travelled towards the Northern corner of Lima. 40 minutes later, my guardian angels informed me that electricity ended there. I didn't know this but we had arrived in Comas, the mission centre of the Canadian OMI group. Again, I was encouraged not to worry about a thing.

Our journey continued north over the bumpy road and I was informed that the highway ended there but not to be afraid! We climbed the mountainside trail and followed it to the road leading to El

Progreso in the district of Carabayllo.

First view of El Progreso, finally we had arrived. No electricity, no paved roads however the candlelight from the roadside stands shed light amidst the darkness. Immediately, I opened the back door but was told I must wait for the return of the other "angel" who was investigating the situation. Within minutes, Sr. Rose-Marie's face appeared in the back window and I heard her say "Si, she belongs to us." I felt like a Canada Care Package but very relieved.

These two workers won my heart. There was something so beautiful in their acceptance of a stranger, the courtesy and protection they lavished on me. We never met again and never knew each other's name but they planted in me the seeds of love for Peru and its courageous people.

Eventually I accepted to work within the Christian Workers Movement in their efforts to build Base Christian Communities in the spirit of Justice and Peace.



Sister Irene MacDonell

“Popular Religion” Flourishing

BY SR. ROSE HEALY

I began this reflection with memories of our first days here which impressed, surprised and even amused us. I decided all of these events are covered in our original newsletters or annals. So I have taken another direction - I am reading the newly published history of the congregation *Walking in Hope*. In the account of the opening of the Latin American missions, there are references to the lack of faith and religious practices in this area.



Sr. Rose Healy

When I look back now, I realize that the people of this area were as uprooted and disoriented as we were. The great majority left the provinces where they led a simple life, much more structured than here. In the towns and villages, the early missionaries had constructed large churches. The migrants did not find that here with us. We had a small structure of three walls and a roof — the front was open to the elements. It housed a wooden altar of planks attached to uprights. A small chapel occupied part of the newly built convent. It was simple but had the necessary altar, prie-dieus and the Blessed Sacrament. I remember an elderly peasant lady visiting us with flowers for our capilla. When I invited her inside, she looked around and turned to me said,

“Pero no hay nadie.” (But there is no one here!) She was accustomed to something different, colourful statues, glittering gold decorations and soaring walls.

Others came from the extreme remote areas, high in the mountains or deep in the jungle. A priest visited these people once or twice a year, if at all, to attend their patronal feast celebrations. We arrived as part of the influx of missionaries from North America. There was mixed reaction to what has been dubbed “Religiosidad Popular” (Popular Religion) — dancers in colourful costumes, fireworks, statues of Christ mounted on a platform and carried in procession. Some viewed these traditions as semi-pagan, superstitious practices. Others were intrigued. A decade after our arrival, there was great interest in this popular religion. What was authentic? What did it mean to the indigenous population? I recall groups of specialists who studied the phenomenon and published their findings. We were fortunate to attend conferences facilitated by these academics. I have always questioned the origin of these devotions. Before Pizarro landed in Peru, the inhabitants knew nothing of Jesus, Mary or all our host of saints. Through the missionaries, the church introduced these practices. Where is Popular Religion after 40 years? Flourishing. Each Sunday, groups bring images of their special patron to the church. This year, over 30 were represented at the Feast of the Cross of May.

Images from Peru



Associates in Peru

BY CARMEN ALOMIA GUIA
COORDINATOR PERUVIAN ASSOCIATES

*To Remember is to Return to Live
Go and make disciples of all the nations.
-Mt. 28,18*

These words of the bible resounded clearly and strongly in the minds and hearts of the Sisters: Irene MacDonell, Rose Healy, Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, Joey Doiron and Shirley Morris in 1967. For this reason they took their luggage and left for South America: Peru and Guatemala.

Here in Peru, Dec. 8, 1967, a Peruvian girl brimming with energy and hunger for God, formed part of the committee for the reception of the Canadian missionaries who were arriving in Progreso-Carabayllo-Lima. That was Clementina Torres (today an associate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul) who together with other poor families inhabited the dry arid hills to the north of Lima.

Walking with a Peruvian flag, flowers and much happiness along the road to Canta (there were no streets nor well-built houses, no running water, no electricity nor vegetation) they received the Sisters who would live among them. And so with Clementina, we associates, were part of the lives of the Sisters during the 40 years of their presence here in Carabayllo. Our lives intertwined; we formed a town together, struggled for a life of dignity, for human living conditions and we suffered social injustice as we worked to become aware of our situation and to change it with the strength of our faith in a liberating and just God.



Associate Carmen Alomia Guia

During the years 1970-1980, we (Gricel Arroyo, Alfonso Acero, Carmen Alomia, Teresa and Edelmira Marquina and Ignacio Tavera) were young adolescents without much future in life, without possibility of advanced studies or suitable work — we were excluded by the Lima Society because we were from the provinces who had invaded Lima. Our lives were transformed as we were accepted by the Sisters. With this experience, we came to know from studies, prayer and the example of the Sisters' lives, a loving but exacting God. A God who was very concerned for the poor, a God who asked us to look out for our brothers and sisters, a God who asked that we practice justice and love tenderly, and that we walk humbly before God.

For this reason, when we had the possibility of being Associates of the congregation, we thought this was the most natural thing to do. We would continue our following of Jesus as Associates. When we came in contact with the documents of the Congregation, in which is outlined the Spirituality and Charism , with one voice we exclaimed — this is what we have been doing for some time: to serve the poor, trusting in Providence! We had learned this from the example of our Sisters. And so, like us, hundreds were formed by the witness of service to the poor shown by our Sisters. We have seen and followed their example. This experience has made us feel and act as Christian citizens with one mission — that of Christ's.

“... to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour!” Luke 4,18

Thanks be to God for this grace received!
Thanks be to God for our Sisters!

General Superior Honoured

PROVIDENCE PAGES

Sr. Pauline Lally, General Superior, is this year's recipient of the Clare Campbell Award given to an individual who exemplifies the mission, mandate, visions and goals of the Elizabeth Fry Society. The society provides counselling in a group setting for women seeking to address their behaviour in a safe, nonjudgmental atmosphere. It also assists women facing criminal charges for offences.

The award was presented during the annual general meeting of the Elizabeth Fry Society in late August.

Jo-Ann Connolly delivered the following introduction:

I cannot do justice to the person who will receive the Clare Campbell Award tonight which states, in part: This award is given to individuals who exemplify the mission, mandate, visions and goals of the Society. The recipient has a significant history of work around poverty issues, equality issues and justice issues. Her commitment to the citizens of Kingston is exceptional and is evidenced by everything she does: her religious work, her justice work and all the work aimed at reducing poverty, including the well-known 'vigils for poverty'. She is, without doubt, a stellar citizen and we thank her for that.

Having said that, the thing that tipped the scales in choosing the recipient was that she was also our Executive Director Trish Crawford's Grade Eight teacher. For that feat, Sister, I wish we had another award for you tonight!

"Please join me in congratulating Sister Pauline Lally

as the recipient of the Claire Campbell Award."

This is the introduction of Sr. Pauline's acceptance speech.

"I thank you for this honour but not in my own name do I accept it but in the name of the many people with whom I stand: first, in the name of my sisters, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul living and dead who have served the poor in this city and abroad — from Montreal to Vancouver, from Moosonee to Peru, from Guatemala to Uganda — with compassionated care for 145 years. Secondly, I humbly accept in the name of the community of faithful vigil keepers who for 11 long years have claimed public space every Friday noon in front of City Hall. Thirdly, I accept this honour in gratitude and in the name of all those folks and groups with whom we network in the city and the nation and especially in the name our own Justice and Peace Office as partners in the mission of Justice."



**Sr. Pauline Lally,
General Superior**

On the Web

Check out www.providence.ca/justice for more information on the Justice & Peace office at the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Poems reflect Justice & Peace

PROVIDENCE PAGES

S *capas, Poetry & Company, A Kingston Community Anthology* celebrates the thriving poetry community in Kingston. Launched in July, the new book features selections from fifty local poets including Sister Peggy Flanagan and Tara Kainer of the Justice and Peace office at Providence Motherhouse. Both women read their poems during the book launch at Kingston City Hall July 16, 2007. The poems appear here.



Tara Kainer (left) and Sister Peggy Flanagan

NATURAL DESIRES

BY TARA KAINER

I want to be able
to say the word

STONE

feel it smooth
and heavy
on my tongue
drop
it

from
my mouth
whole
and measure
its weight
as

it

falls

I want to utter

BIRD

have its wings unfurl
take flight
straight for the sun

not grope
toward the light
of this shadowy world
stop cold
at the boundaries

I can't cross over

I want to name things
know what things are

want *grass*

to sprout before my eyes
to spring up tall and green

sway gently in the wind

Before my mind's eye
that tiny orange flower

continued on next page

Poetry

continued from previous page

fluttering in the breeze
like licks of fire:
overweening desire
for that flower
to burst into flame
to come alive
 here
on the page

KINGSTON'S SILENT VIGIL

BY SR. PEGGY FLANAGAN

Fridays at city hall, we stand, silently
Throwing snowballs of justice and peace.
Few are caught, but many are not.
They fall to melt in gutter-tears.
Ignored, unheard, like the voiceless poor
For whom we pray in silent solidarity.
A horn toots, or a hand waves to say we're
 not alone.
Thus we stand in hope.

Supporting First Nations

Vigil keepers carried signs reading “Make Poverty History for First Nations” during the weekly City Hall Silent Vigil on June 29, 2007 to mark National Day of Action for First Nations. Pamphlets distributed at the vigil encouraged citizens to write or email federal politicians and to sign an on line petition. The brochures detailed Canada’s failing grade when it comes to this country’s track record on Native issues. The headline read, “First Nations poverty is the single greatest social injustice facing Canada.”



Darko and Marijana Matovic attend the June 29 vigil.



Golfers Putt for Palliative Care



Dynamic foursome!
left to right
 Louise Lally, Sr.
 Pauline Lally,
 General Superior,
 Tom Lally and Sr.
 Alda Brady.



Father Charles
 Gazeley and
 Sister Sheila
 Langton enjoy a
 great day of golf!

Three Sisters of Providence took part in the 14th annual Friends of Palliative Care Golf Tournament in Brockville on a gorgeous late summer day. The one day event featured 240 golfers and raised \$136,000 for the Brockville and District Hospice Palliative Care Service. The annual golf tournament is one of two major fundraisers for the palliative care service, along with the 30-hour telethon held in February.

Nativity of the Lord Cycle 2007-2008

All are welcome on God's Holy Mountain

Saturday, December 1	6:30 pm Evening Prayer
Sunday, December 2	10 am 1st Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 8	6:30 pm Evening Prayer
Sunday, December 9	10 am 2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 16	10 am 3rd Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, December 18	6:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday, December 23	10 am 4th Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 24	7 pm Vigil of Christmas
Tuesday, December 25	10 am Christmas Day
Sunday, December 30	10 am Holy Family
Tuesday, January 1	10 am Mary, Mother of God
Sunday, January 6	10 am Epiphany
January 6,7,8	6:30 pm Eucharistic Devotions



Uganda



UGANDA

Population 23,000,000

Life expectancy 42 years (1 in 12 Ugandans is an orphan)

Income 44% make less than 60,000 shillings (\$34.00) per month

Geography Landlocked nation of 91,000 square miles Neighbors North - Sudan East - Kenya South - Rwanda West - Congo

-49% rely on word of mouth as main source of information

- 17% have no access to toilet facilities

- 56% are children below 18 years

Saving lives..one net at a time

BY NANCY STEVENS

We breathe the same air, we look at the same sky but we were not born there. Africa is in dire need of our help, and I am going to do just that!

In November I will travel to Uganda and assist in the distribution of long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets in 91 villages. I will also net a pediatric ward, and an orphanage in Gulu, Northern Uganda. I am on a mission, and with the support of the community, family, friends and strangers, I will be hanging nets on behalf of all of you!

BUY-A-NET has been a huge part of my life since returning from Zambia two years ago. I joined forces with founder, Debra Lefebvre, and we have been working tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for these life saving nets. A child dies every 30 seconds from a simple mosquito bite — Malaria is the number one killer of children in Africa. The disease is totally preventable, and this is what BAN does — prevent death. The mosquitoes bite at night while the children sleep. These bed nets begin to save lives the very night they are hung in huts. These nets cost just \$6 and last for five years. It's remarkable how easy it is to save a life, one village at a time!

BUY-A-NET recently collaborated with Healthy Child Uganda to fight the deaths due to malaria. Working together in this partnership will provide bed nets to many more villages.

I am so proud and excited about my upcoming trip. I have dedicated my heart, soul, and time into a project I believe in. I have been going on speaking engagements for the past year and a half to educate our youth, and raise awareness to all ages regarding this forgotten disease.

I truly appreciate the support I've received and I'm proud to be doing this life-saving work for everyone who supports this initiative. On behalf of the Ugandan children and myself, thank you for helping us Fight the Bite and save lives. I will see you all in December!

Gold bless all of you!



Motherhouse activities co-ordinator Nancy Stevens travels to Uganda in November to deliver life saving nets to prevent the spread of Malaria.

photo by Ryan Holland, reprinted with permission from Smiths Falls This Week

check out www.buyanet.ca

Legacy of Faith and Strength

BY SR. PAULINE LALLY

The celebration of the life and death of Sister Kathryn (Blanche La Fleur) was just that — a celebration, and a promise of her own transformation within the celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. It was truly a tribute to this remarkable woman from her numerous friends, many colleagues, relatives, priests and sisters attending the funeral liturgy in our sunny, spacious, flower-filled chapel on Saturday, September 22.

Weeks before her death, Sister Kathryn was never alone, it seemed. There was always someone in her room, or waiting outside to see her. Her sisters, Sister Mary Joan and Marie, were such faithful vigil-keepers, as well as Sisters Judith Ann and Sheila Langton. I loved going in to tell her what I was up to: what I intended to do or where I was going. She was always so interested. She never seemed to lose interest in us and what we were about. Often we would pray together before I left her room. I enjoyed those moments, sad though they were, at times; they were special. I always left uplifted by her interest and her deep, encompassing prayer.

Over these past four years Sister Kathryn lived in confidence within her reality. No one knew her diagnosis better than she. But she did not wallow in it. No pity parties for our Kathryn. She lived in great faith with a strong hope in her Provident God. She lived her reality with compassion especially for those who suffered, in particular for those who were living with cancer. For example, “Bishop Tony,” our Archbishop Anthony Meagher, and Kathryn became good friends as they supported each other through

their journey. She went to her treatments at the clinic with her faithful companion, Sister Diane Brennen, in an unbelievable upbeat fashion, giving hope and strength to the others who were receiving treatment with her. Several attested to that at her wake. And she lived that kind of spirit for the whole congregation.

A little over four years ago, before we were elected, she told me, “I love this

congregation so much. I could die for it.”

And she did. The last time I was with her, it was before I left for our

Western Fall Gathering in

Edmonton. Sister Diane was on the other side of her bed, and she said,

“Pauline, why don’t you mission

her?” I answered, “Oh, Diane, I don’t want to do that.” At which point,

Kathryn opened her eyes, looked at me and said, “Why not?” So I said, “Alright, I

mission you to whatever God wants. I mission you into the hands of Providence. And when you get to heaven, don’t you dare forget us. Send us a sign with some roses or those purple flowers that you and St. Louise de Marillac loved so much.”

Believe it or not, the first flowers to arrive in my office after her death were a beautiful bouquet from the Women of Providence in Indiana with purple flowers in them!

Thank you, Kathryn, for that gift and the gift of your life with your service, your compassion, laughter and joy. But above all thank you for teaching us how to live fully until death.

Farewell, dear friend. Don’t just rest in peace. Continue to live as you lived here - with joy!



Educator, Author, General Superior

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Kathryn Blanche LaFleur was born in Kingston on October 16, 1940 the youngest of 4 children of Evelyn Blanche Wiskin and George LaFleur. She attended St. John's and St. Patrick's Elementary Schools where she

was taught by the Sisters of Providence, and Cathedral School where she was taught by the Sisters of the Congregation of



Notre Dame. She was active in sports, class leadership, choirs and drama. By the time she was 13 years of age, she had lost both her parents. When she graduated from Grade 10 in 1956 she moved to Vancouver to live with her married sister, Marie, and her husband. There she completed her high school years at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School operated by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax. From Vancouver she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on September 7, 1958.

On March 19, 1961 she made her First Profession taking the name Sister Mary Catherine Louise and observed her Feast Day on March 15th, the Feast of St. Louise de Marillac. In September 1961 she was sent to Providence Hall in Belleville to study at Nicholson Catholic College. She was in the first group of Sister students to attend Nicholson.

Following graduation from Toronto

Teachers' College in 1964, Sister Kathryn went to Sacred Heart School in King City to teach Grades 6, 7 & 8. In 1968 she was assigned to the new Holy Name School in King City as the first principal and taught Grade 8. In 1972 she was missioned to St. Gregory's School in Picton as principal, teacher and local Superior of the convent. In 1976 she was sent to Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville to teach English and Religious Studies in Grades 9 & 10. In 1977 she began working on her M.Ed. at Queen's University. From 1976 - 1987 she worked in Guidance in Grades 9 - 13 and was Head of the English, Religion and Guidance Departments. From 1972 -1987 she obtained a BA from the University of Ottawa, a M.Ed. from Queen's University, a Principals' Certificate and Specialists Certificates in Guidance and Religious Education.

In 1983 she had a sabbatical year in Rome studying Spirituality at the Angelicum. She then returned to Nicholson until 1987. In 1988 Sister Kathryn returned to Rome to pursue studies in Spirituality and Sacred Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. She obtained a Certificate in Spirituality, a BA and a MA in Theology, a Licence in Sacred Theology and in 1995 she earned a Doctorate in Sacred Theology, summa cum laude. Her dissertation was on St. Louise de Marillac and was published as a book, Louise de Marillac - A Light in the Darkness. In 1995 she returned to Kingston

continued on next page

In Memoriam

Sister Kathryn LaFleur

(Sr. Catherine Louise)

October 16, 1940 - September 19, 2007

Prayers of the Faithful

Written by Sr. Irene Wilson

For our dear Sister Kathryn LaFleur whose deep trust in her provident God, commitment to compassionate service and joyful walking in hope endeared her to so many people. May her life of deep faith and courage in suffering continue to inspire us on our journey, we pray...

For the living members of Kathryn's family-her dear Sisters, Sister Mary Joan and Marie as well as Michael and Cathy. May the memory of her great love for you along with her deep gratitude for all that she received in life sustain you at this time of grief, we pray...

For the deceased members of the LaFleur family and of the Sisters of Providence family.

Prayers of the Faithful

May they whom she cherished on earth welcome her into her new home with a jubilant song of praise, we pray...

For the many people whose lives were touched by Kathryn's ministries as teacher and principal as well as lecturer at Queen's Theological College, May all those who are called to be educators live out their vocation with integrity, wisdom and compassion, we pray...

For the people with whom and for whom Sister Kathryn lovingly ministered as General Superior of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. May all those who are called to leadership be open to God's spirit of truth and justice, we pray...

For her many friends, family members and clergy persons as well as the health care professionals who assisted Sister Kathryn during her time of illness.

continued →

continued from previous page

where she lectured and worked on her book for publication. She also did free lance speaking, worked in parishes and conducted retreat days. From 1996 until 2003 Sister Kathryn was associated with Queen's University Theological College as lecturer in the field of spirituality and as a member of the Spiritual Advisory Team. In 2006 she received the Outstanding Service Award from Queen's Theological College.

In 2003 Sister Kathryn was elected as General Superior. Shortly after her election she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She embraced her illness with deep faith and trust in Providence and completed her term in June 2007.

In the various parishes where Sister Kathryn lived she served on the Parish Councils, was involved with the RCIA Program and the Youth Group Retreat Program, known as COR, was lector, Eucharistic Minister, and was involved with Prayer Groups and the CWL.

Within the Congregation Sister Kathryn has served as local co-ordinator, served on the Vocation Team, the Chapter Steering Committee, was a member of the Committee for the Revision of the Constitutions for the 1977 Chapter, and was elected Chapter Secretary for three General Chapters.

May our generous support of one another in quality health care enable each of us to experience the love of God incarnate, we pray...

Most of all Sister Kathryn wished to be remembered first and foremost as a teacher. Through her ministry of teaching she had a profound impact on the lives of both staff and many young people from the elementary to post secondary levels of education.

After a life of total dedication to the mission of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Sister Kathryn was called home to her loving God on Wednesday, September 19th.

Sister Kathryn is predeceased by her parents, and her sister, Joan. She is survived by her sisters, Sister Mary Joan LaFleur of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, of Kingston and Marie Cooke (Norman) of Bath, Ontario.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on September 22, 2007, was presided over by Most Rev. Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston, accompanied by many members of the clergy. Rev. Msgr. Don Clement was the homilist. Several of her colleagues from Queen's Theological College were in attendance as were former students and many friends.

All of us gathered here today for this funeral liturgy. May we emulate Jesus, the Bread of Life, as we give ourselves in joyful service, especially to the poor and needy, we pray...

Educator made a difference

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Sister Mary Teresa was born at St. Francis Hospital in Smiths Falls. The eldest daughter of Patrick and Helena (Sloan) Cole, she was baptized Zelda Anna Camella Cole. Sister grew up in Smiths Falls and attended elementary and secondary school there except for two years when her family moved to Windsor. She was taught by the Sisters of Providence in Smiths Falls and the Ursuline Sisters in Windsor.

On August 15, 1934 at the age of 17, Sister Mary Teresa entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston. Following her religious profession two years later, Sister Mary Teresa attended Ottawa Normal School and from there was assigned to teach high school at Maryvale Abbey in Glen Nevis for one year. There, Sister Mary Electa was her companion and mentor. In 1939 she joined the staff of St. Michael's High School in Belleville, and except for two years (1945 - 1947) spent in Glen Nevis, she was associated with Catholic Secondary School education in Belleville until her resignation in 1978. She served as principal of St. Michael's High School and continued as principal of Nicholson Catholic College which opened in 1961. Sister received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queen's University and a Masters Degree from the University of Ottawa. She also did post graduate studies at the University of



Sr. Mary Teresa Cole

Windsor and at the Catholic University of America in Washington. In 1976 Sister received the Sir MacKenzie Bowell Educator of the Year Award in recognition of her dedicated service in the Belleville area. In her role as teacher and principal she served as an academic and spiritual inspiration to the students and teachers on her staff. Sister was also a recipient of Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee Medal.

From 1977 - 1985 she served as First Assistant to the General Superior on the General Council. Following a sabbatical year, during which she took courses at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, she went to Providence Manor as Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care. After leaving this position, she continued to visit the residents on a daily basis as a volunteer with the Spiritual Care Department.

During the past year when her health began to decline, she became a resident of the Marian Infirmary at the Motherhouse. On July 31, 2007, Sister Mary Teresa was called home to her loving God with her own sisters, Peggy and Emily, and several of her Religious Sisters at her bedside.

She is predeceased by her parents and her brother, Raymond. She is survived by her sisters, Emily Dyke and Peggy (Joseph) Dwyer all of Niagara Falls, Ontario.

continued on page 27 see Sr. Teresa Cole

In Memoriam

Sister Mary Teresa Cole

April 5, 1917 -
July 31, 2007

Sister Marian
McCallum

May 11, 1948 -
July 5, 2007

Gifted Educator

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Sister Marian McCallum was born in Montreal on May 11, 1948 and attended St. Malachy's School and Marymount High School. Following her graduation, she entered the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on September 8, 1965. After graduating from the Ottawa

Teachers' College in 1973, she began her teaching ministry at Sacred Heart School in Batawa, Ontario. Her ministry took her from Batawa to St. Peter's School in Trenton, Ontario then to St. Joseph's School in Prescott.

While in Prescott she served as the Recording Secretary and as a Board Member of the Grenville County Historical Society for 2 years. In June 1979 she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Society for service rendered and archival research as secretary and Board Member.

In 1979 she joined the staff at Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville where she taught for 18 years. During these years she taught Latin, English, French and Religious Studies as well as enrichment classes for gifted students and life skills classes for life skills students.

Sister Marian spent the last eight years at Holy Cross Secondary School in Kingston teaching English, French and Religion

including five years as Religion Department Head. She retired from teaching on January 31, 2007. She received her B.A. from Queen's University (1977), her M.A. in French from Middlebury College (1985) and a M.Ed. from Queen's University (1992). She obtained a Specialist Certificate in Religious Education, an Honour Specialist in French and a Principals' Certificate. She also obtained certificates in Vocal Music, Guidance and Special Education.

Over the years, Sister's vocal abilities were continually put to use. She was a Cantor in the parishes where she lived and at St. Mary's Cathedral for special liturgical events. She also assisted with the singing at Providence Manor's Sunday Liturgy. Sister Marian was also a member of the Belleville Choral Society and later the Kingston Choral Society.

Sister Marian McCallum was called home to her loving God at Providence Motherhouse, Kingston, Ontario, on July 5, 2007. She is predeceased by her father, Cornelius McCallum. She is survived by her mother, Dorothy (Nowlan) McCallum, of Montreal, her sister, Janet Medlyn of St. Thomas, Ontario, and her brother, John David (Tracey) of Hudson, Quebec. The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse on July 9th, was presided over by Most Rev. Francis J. Spence, Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston, accompanied by several members of the clergy. Rev. René Labelle was the homilist.



Sr. Marian McCallum

Correction

In the summer 2007 edition of Providence Pages, the story on Sr. Kathleen Maguire should have read “Rev. Charles Gazeley delivered the homily.” Sr. Kathleen’s

birthplace should have read Moyglass, Ireland. We apologize for the errors.

Sr. Teresa Cole continued

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The Mass of Christian Burial held on August 3, 2007 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 several members of the clergy. Rev.

Charles Gazeley, a former faculty member of Nicholson Catholic College, was the homilist. Her two sisters and several nieces and nephews were in attendance as well as were many of Sister’s former students.

Camrose Associates *continued from page 10*

Mary’s Hospital. We walk in hope and we journey in solidarity with the poor.



Associate Dr. Suna Smith and Constable Robert Grant at the “Mission to Peru Bake sale”. The sale has become an annual event during Mission week.





**Providence
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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.

