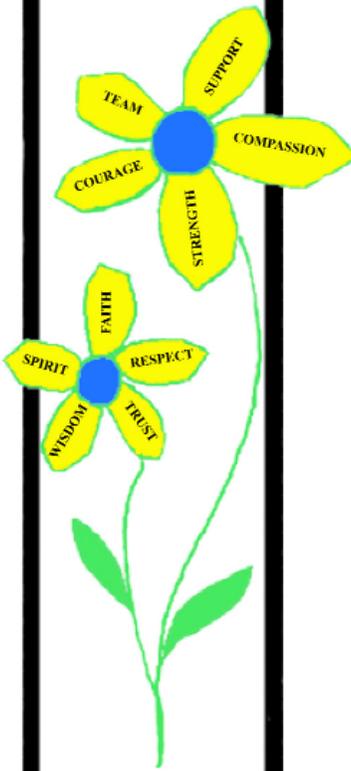


Providence Pages

Vol. 3 No. 6 WINTER 2007

Celebrate

**Our
Gifts**



Mission
Week
2007
Feb. 5-9

Celebrate Our Gifts 2007

During a bitterly cold week in February, a celebration inside Providence Motherhouse offered some relief from the mid-winter doldrums. Mission Week 2007 carried the theme “Celebrate Our Gifts.” The event, to recognize the gifts and dedication of staff, featured a special poem written by Sister Anna Moran. General Superior, Sr. Kathryn LaFleur gave the official welcome address. Her speech is on page 2 of this edition of Providence Pages. Other highlights from the week — a commemorative DVD featuring music and photographs, special affirming messages handwritten by Sisters to staff, and Sisters Pauline Lally and Sheila Langton’s slideshow presentation re-telling the story of their recent trip to Peru.



General Superior, Sr. Kathryn LaFleur officially opened Mission Week 2007 at Providence Motherhouse in early February.

Chapter 2007

Chapter 2007, which will take place April 10th — 19th, has two parts: Chapter of Affairs, and the Chapter of Elections when the members of a new Leadership Team will be elected. These Sisters will formally be installed in June 2007.

Chapter is a word used by religious congregations for a general meeting of elected participants.

Celebrate Our Gifts

This welcome greeting was given by General Superior Sister Kathryn LaFleur at the opening of Mission Week 2007.

Good afternoon, everyone! I am delighted to bring greetings on behalf of the Leadership Team and the Sisters, and to officially open Mission Week 2007.

Your 2007 theme, “Celebrate our Gifts”, is in keeping with the spirit of the Congregation as we celebrate our gifts of 145 years of ministry in Kingston.

A celebration is generally a wonderful, positive, life-giving experience. The word “celebrate” even seems to lilt along. From last year’s “Celebrate Our Spirit” it has danced into “Celebrate our Gifts”. Indeed we have many gifts to celebrate with you. Each of you is a very special and unique gift to us. Whatever and wherever your ministry is within the Motherhouse structure, your gifts and talents contribute to creating a safe, comfortable, home environment for the Sisters and an excellent work environment for Leadership and other Congregational ministries. For this, we thank you.

Your logo, of the two flowers with petals bearing gifts that are essential to the development of teamwork and team-spirit, reflect your mission statement and echo the values that we all espouse.

In reflecting on the larger flower, I noted that “team” seemed to be the collective word that represented all of you — your

work together as a team — and I see this — we see this. You are a team because you support one another; you support us — we witness this whenever there is a difficulty, an illness or someone is in need. We witness it as well when there are times to rejoice, to party, to celebrate, to come together for a common goal. Your courage, strength and compassion are the gifts of the Spirit that permit you to support one another and to become an effective team. Each team member will have different gifts but shared together the whole will benefit.

The motivation underlying your team is represented, I think, in your smaller flower, where the key word is “spirit”. And what are the qualities of that spirit? Your logo indicates faith, respect, trust and wisdom. We all know that the basic quality of any relationship is respect. Without it, faith, trust and wisdom cannot grow.

Rooted in mutual respect, faith and trust can be nurtured and the spirit of the team can blossom. In such an atmosphere, one has the personal freedom to encourage and affirm the gifts of another and to appreciate and draw on the wisdom that others have gained and manifest. We all have “wisdom” figures in our lives and often we find them in surprising places, so it is necessary for us to be alert.

A number of years ago there was a book called “Hope for the Flowers”. As I reflected on your logo, I thought that there is much hope for the flowers of Providence Motherhouse Staff, this Mission Week.

Continued on next page

Mission Week Welcome

Continued previous page

Your team qualities of courage, support, strength and compassion, inspired by your spirit of respect, faith, trust and wisdom, sing out of your personal and cooperative gifts that you are willing to share with one another and with the Sisters.

We, the Sisters, affirm you in your giftedness for mission with us:

- we thank you for your various ministries among us which you carry out so graciously;
 - we encourage you to continue to nurture your positive team spirit;
 - we congratulate you and your committee on your creativity in preparing yet another Mission Week celebration;
 - we ask our Provident God to continue to bless each of you and your families as you continue to journey with us as “partners in mission”, here at Providence Motherhouse.
- May each of your gifts continue to bloom like the flowers and bring forth joy and celebration to all who witness them.

Have a wonderful week. God bless each of you.



Sr. Barbara Thiffault delivers handwritten notes of affirmation to Kelly-Lewis Kenny and Laura Cobb.



Sister Anna Moran reads a poem she wrote for the Opening Ceremony of Mission Week 2007.



Employee Doreen Hoekstra visits with Sister Jean Edey.

Retreat



Holy Week Retreat

Sunday April 1, 4 p.m. - Sunday April 8, 1 p.m.

Register by Monday March 19

\$475 or \$75 / day

Lucy Bethel, Anne Harvey, Beverley McDonald and Irene Wilson.

**Women's
Retreat**

Women Called to Connect, Bond and Heal in a Broken World, Thursday May 24, 7 p.m. Saturday May 26, 3 p.m.

Retreat Conference (accommodation and meals)

\$220

Limited space for commuters \$150

Pre-register with non-refundable deposit (\$35) by: April 5

Full payment of balance by May 4

Edwina Gateley

We will explore, from a woman's perspective, some of the women in scripture, the history of God as Mother and the importance of compassion in beginning the process of healing in ourselves, and the global community. We will also look at the experience of some contemporary women whose struggle for new life is a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit and the redeeming power of God's grace.

Dedicated Service

PROVIDENCE PAGES

The last teaching Sister of Providence in the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board retired January 31 after more than 30 years teaching in eastern Ontario.

Sister entered the novitiate 42 years ago to begin her life as a Sister of Providence. Her teaching resume includes eight years at Holy Cross, 19 at Nicholson Catholic College in Belleville and six years at elementary schools in Batawa, Trenton and Prescott. She was most recently the Religion Department Head at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Kingston, a position she held for almost five years. She has been a Department Head at Catholic secondary schools for more than 20 years.

“Teaching is a mission. Bringing the teachings of the Church into the lives of these students is my work, and the work of most teachers,” says Sister Marian.



Sister Marian McCallum

Thank You, Father Dominic

The following appreciation was delivered by Albert Dunn, Co-ordinator of Pastoral Liturgy, to the Sunday Assembly at the Chapel of Mary Mother of Compassion on January 28th.

This morning, this assembly bids farewell — not goodbye — to one who has led us faithfully in our worship with genuine inspiration, wit and wisdom. Due to increased responsibilities elsewhere, Fr. Dominic McGee will be unable to be with



Father Dominic McGee

us regularly for Sunday celebrations at Providence Motherhouse. Fr. Dominic is not saying goodbye, however, we hope we will still be able to call on you to join us for some occasions. There is much to thank you for — your presence, your humour, your deep spirituality (Franciscan and Vincentian), your guidance, your smile, your incomparable stories, your collaborative spirit, and, of course, your friendship. We are privileged and blessed in the presence of Fr. Don Clement, who will minister to us on Sundays. Fr. Dominic, we wish you well in your future responsibilities and we will keep you in our prayers. You will be missed.

Goodbye Faithful Shepherd



Archbishop Anthony Meagher

1940 — 2007

8th Archbishop of Kingston

2002 — 2007

Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul have said goodbye to a special friend. On January 14th, 2007, Kingston Archbishop Anthony Meagher succumbed to the cancer he had been living with for more than four years. Hundreds gathered in St. Mary's Cathedral to pay respects at the ecumenical vigil and the funeral liturgy of the beloved religious leader.

In his short tenure as Archbishop, he endeared himself to so many, through his personable, pastoral personality, his passion for youth and ecumenism and his openness in sharing his own journey.

Archbishop Meagher touched the lives of clergy, religious and laity as he faithfully lived his mandate of chief Shepherd of the Diocese. He will be missed!

Sister Kathryn LaFleur, General Superior of the Sisters of Providence, wrote an article for a special edition of the *Journey*, a newspaper published by the Archdiocese of Kingston. An excerpt is reprinted here with permission.

One month after my election as General Superior of our congregation, I was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer. The immediate question for me was whether to resign or trust in Providence and see how

things would evolve.

I knew that Archbishop Meagher had faced the same dilemma and had chosen to trust in Providence. He would have a special ministry as shepherd of the sick and suffering of his flock. His witness of deep trust in a loving God was instrumental in giving our new Leadership Team the resolve to choose life and to go forward in hope. For his inspiration we are grateful.

As the past three and one half years have unfolded, I have been blessed by Archbishop Meagher's daily prayer support, hospital visits, phone calls, special blessings and words of encouragement. As we shared the challenges of our recurring cancers, the treatments and the prognoses, we also shared our hopes and dreams for miracles if it were God's will. If our missions were completed, we hoped we would leave a legacy of faith-filled leadership, service and compassionate caring. We also shared our feelings of admiration and deep gratitude for the healthcare teams and patients at the cancer clinic. In so many ways they had become a special community for us.

Personally, I have lost "my companion on the journey" but in faith, I know he will continue to pray for me because loyalty to his family and friends was one of his great virtues. Until we meet again, Your Grace, may you enjoy the heavenly banquet; may there be superb merlot wine, lots of laughter and Monet landscapes to gaze upon.



Archbishop Anthony Meagher presided over the Eucharistic celebration at Jubilee 2006 at Providence Motherhouse.

Seed Savers

Workshops

“Latin Lives in Your Garden”

Sunday, February 18, 2007 @ 2 p.m.

Heirloom Seed Sanctuary

Heathfield Barn, 1200 Princess Street

549-5833, 544-4525 Ext. 179

“Secrets of Starting Seeds Indoors”

Sunday, March 18, 2007 @ 2 p.m.

“Tips on Transplanting”

Sunday, April 15, 2007 @ 2 p.m.

Culture & Faith

Renowned speaker Sister Elizabeth Davis brought her message to Providence Motherhouse in November 2006 — A Dialogue Between Culture and Faith from the Perspective of Religious Life.



Sr. Elizabeth Davis

She spoke to about 60 Sisters during a weekend gathering sponsored by the Sisters of Providence. Members from other religious congregations in Kingston also attended. Sister Elizabeth is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy,

Newfoundland and Labrador. Her background includes teaching, leadership, health care administration and government positions. She has served on numerous boards, given hundreds of speeches throughout the world and won many awards including the Order of Canada in 2004.

“Throughout all my different roles, the dominant thread has been teaching. I found there’s wisdom in everyone,” says Sister Elizabeth.

“When I’m part of an organization entrusted by the community to provide service, I’m conscious that trust requires me to be a leader in finding ways to respond to community needs and be a just steward of resources in the organization.”

Aids Pandemic

Sisters of Providence gathered on January 4th 2007 to watch a documentary video by Stephen Lewis, one of Canada’s most influential commentators on social affairs. The video, presented by the Healing Violence Against Women Committee, highlighted Lewis’ work in Africa in regard to the Aids pandemic. Sister Frances O’Brien says the Healing Violence Committee is particularly interested in the grandmothers who are caring for thousands of orphaned grandchildren whose

parents have died of aids. “We had a rich conversation after the viewing about the joy of these grandmothers as they met with



Sisters of Providence view documentary during the January screening.

Canadian grandmothers at a recent conference sponsored by the Stephen Lewis foundation,” said Sister Frances. “We will continue to dialogue together about concrete actions we might take to support this work.” Stephen Lewis vows to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa even though his UN envoy term ended in 2006.

Living in Sacred Thyme

BY SISTER DIANE BRENNEN

On January 27th, Linda Gregg led a day on *Living in Sacred Thyme*. Beginning with a refreshingly green display of plants, shells, wood, and flowers, the day unfolded with the Thyme to reflect on a “God that can hold sacred polarities in creative tension and bring them into meaning and harmony,” said Barbara Doherty, SP

Using Sacred Scripture, we looked at our founding Biblical Story. Psalm 8 pointed out our place in the Universe and the New Testament references helped us to learn to trust in the Providence of God for what we need.

Linda then explored with us the early and Medieval Church and the development of the need to be in touch with the earth in order to be in touch with God. Connection was made with St. Irenaeus of the second century, with Philip Newell, the Benedictines, Hildegard of Bingen, St. Francis of Assisi, Teilhard de Chardin and Thomas Berry of this time.

Quoting from John Paul 11, Linda pointed out that the ecological crisis is a moral issue that calls Christians and the entire human community to take seriously the responsibility that is theirs.

“At this moment in history, at the beginning of the third millennium, we are saddened to see daily the suffering of a great number of people from violence, starvation, poverty and disease. We are also concerned about the negative consequences for

humanity and for all creation resulting from the degradation of some basic natural resources such as water, air, and land, brought about by an economic and



Sr. Linda Gregg, CSJ

technological progress which does not recognize its limits.” Now is the time for a Prophetic Response which will move us to action on behalf of justice for the earth. We need to realize the deep connections between social injustice and ecological devastation. In fact, one stringent criteria must now measure the morality of our actions:

“Whether or not our actions contribute to a sustainable Earth community”

As quotes were made in reference to Providence, St. Vincent and Louise, it was pointed out that now is the moment to walk in Sacred Thyme.

This day of reflection was in keeping with our 2003 directional statement -

“To transform relationships and structures as we strive to live in harmony with all creation.”

Women's Day

International Women's Day March 8, 2007.

2007 marks the 30th anniversary of International Women's Day. Established in 1977 by the United Nations, this important day provides an opportunity to celebrate the progress made to advance women's rights and to assess the challenges that remain.

This year's theme: Ending Violence Against Women: Action for Real Results.

Workshop

Discernment and Deception

Mondays March 19 & 26, 1:30 — 4 p.m. or 6:30— 9 p.m.

\$25 for series

\$15 for session

Lucy Bethel

Living one's life in an attitude of discernment is filled with challenge and yet our willingness to acknowledge unfreedoms and deceptions leads one to personal interior freedom. In this workshop we will explore together some of the challenges we face on this journey to interior freedom.

Social Justice Work

BY TARA KAINER

On the topic of Discipleship and the Social Gospel, Fr. Paul Hansen spoke at Heathfield on November 24th and 25th to a full house.

This was the fourth in an on-going series of networking meetings aimed at solidifying parish-based social justice work in the Kingston region.

On Friday he addressed the Anglican and Catholic Clergy, Deacons, and Religious, and on Saturday he spoke to parish representatives from both denominations. Sister Pauline Lally welcomed the crowd, Alice Gazeley introduced the conference, and Debra Fieguth opened the session with a Pakistani prayer. Jamie Swift introduced Fr. Paul and recounted his many accomplishments as a Redemptorist priest over the years, including his seven years in Rome as Director of the Redemptorist Office of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation, and his position as Chair of the Board of KAIROS since 2001.

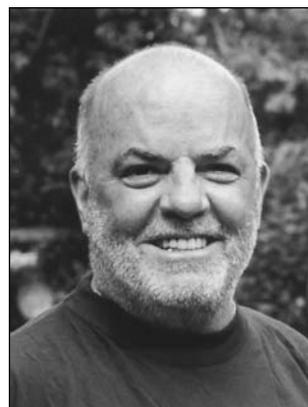
Fr. Paul's lectures included more questions than answers: How does one make a commitment to the life and values of Jesus in these times? What does it mean to believe? Do we need the Poor more than the Poor need us? Where is God in all this?



Tara Kainer

To illustrate his points, Fr. Paul drew on the writings and experiences of various theologians, writers, and individuals, including Walter Brueggemann, Jim Loney, Oscar Romero, Lewis Lapham, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Nelson Mandela, Carl Sagan, his family and friends, and many others. He recounted several stories from the Bible — the story of the Good Samaritan, for example, suggesting that “KAIROS tries to be a Samaritan for these times.”

Always inspiring, certainly challenging, Fr. Paul's penetrating and sometimes unsettling words expertly yet guilelessly guided us through a maze of human emotions, psychologies, actions and events in search of the relevance the Scriptures might have for those who embrace the Christian faith in “these times.”



Fr. Paul Hansen Chair of the Board of KAIROS

Photography as a Witness

Sister of Providence Pauline Lally is among the thousands of people photographed by award-winning photographer and author Vincenzo Pietropaolo. The list also includes political/religious world leaders and Italian immigrants in Toronto.

Born in Italy, now based in Toronto, the self-taught documentary photographer has been pursuing his passion for 36 years. His approach to subjects is simple, and usually reveals individuals and groups overlooked by history, particularly workers and their unions.

His work has appeared nationally and internationally as featured exhibits; in books and magazines and is collected by the national Archives of Canada.

He visited Providence Motherhouse during a speaking tour in Kingston in January to share his photographs. In her introduction, Sr. Pauline Lally commented it was a meeting of the two Vinces — Vincenzo presented his slide show in the Vincentian room, named after founder St. Vincent de Paul.

Pietropaolo prefers to shoot his subjects from close range.



Vincenzo Pietropaolo.

“When I shoot from far away, I feel like I’m spying. When I get close, it’s more personal, there is more communication and body language,” says Pietropaolo.

Religion has become a major theme he’s explored over the years — attending and photographing every Good Friday procession in Toronto since 1969.

“Growing up, the church was paramount, for both community and religious events”, says Pietropaolo.



This photo of Sr. Pauline Lally is featured in the book *Celebration of Resistance, Ontario's Days of Action*.



This photograph by Vincenzo Pietropaolo was taken at the main cemetery in Mexico City. Vincenzo describes this photo.

“People were waiting for the funeral of a presidential candidate who had been assassinated during the election campaign. This young boy climbed on top of a statue to get a better view. The expression on the face of the boy and the stone angel combined to resonate with a feeling of loss and incomprehension.”

Water Day

'Coping with Water Scarcity' is the theme for World Water Day 2007, which is celebrated each year on March 22.

This year's theme highlights the increasing significance of water scarcity worldwide and the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources, both at international and local levels.



every drop counts

Silent Vigil Travels

The weekly silent vigil uprooted from its traditional City Hall location in November and moved to Queen's University on Friday November 3rd. That's where Liberal MPP Deb Matthews was speaking about child poverty. Vigil keepers saw the visit as an opportunity to ask the politician some questions about poverty. Her visit comes on the heels of a shocking report released earlier in the week, which states since 2001, the number of Ontarians forced to rely on food banks has increased by 18.6 percent. Over 40 percent are children. When asked about the \$10.00 minimum wage bill, she admits she doesn't support raising it, claiming it will result in job losses.



A soggy day couldn't keep vigil keepers from setting up outside the Policy Studies building at Queen's University in early November. Left to right Sister Pauline Lally and Tara Kainer.

Vigil Keepers Visit Prison



On a frigid February afternoon a handful of regular City Hall vigil-keepers raised their voices of conscience at Millhaven. Three men are on a life-threatening hunger strike to protest their detention without trial or due process, under Canada's controversial immigration security

certificates. From left to right Joan Sherwood, Janice McAlpine, Sister Peggy Flanagan, Marijana Matovic, Stephen Fox and Bert Horwood, whose sign reads *Each country is defined by the prisoners it has: Dostoevsky*

Another Chance at Life

Source: Ontario East Transplant Support Group

We would like to introduce you to some of our friends. A picture says a thousand words. Don't they look like an ordinary group of people? Happy, smiling and ready to welcome you into their

company. What you would not know by looking at this picture is that there are really six people in this pic-



**left to right
Transplant recipients
Jean Higgins sp, Dennis
Richardson and Ian Robb.**

ture; the three that you see and the three whose transplanted organs provided them with the "Gift of Life." Each of these people owe their lives to the anonymous "Gift of Life" that came from an unknown donor. Being told that your life is likely to end in a matter of months is not something that any of us wish to hear from a doctor or specialist, and yet it happens week in week out in our regional hospitals. For some lucky ones, there was a chink of light at the end of a dark tunnel, and it came through the possibility of transplant surgery to replace the damaged organs. Saying "YES" to this process is the begin-

ning of a long and stressful journey: a journey which requires much support and information to be given to the patient who has many questions, and requires much needed answers. Because of our unique personal experience, we are able to answer many of the questions that arise.

The Ontario East Transplant Support Group is a "not for profit" organization. It accepts donations from corporate sponsors, service clubs, non-secular organizations and private individuals, who recognize the contribution that the OETSG is making to life, comfort and peace of mind of those who are traveling together on this often difficult and unique journey.

This transplant support group comes together once a month for friendship, mutual support, and to discuss how they can help others who are faced with having to have an organ transplant to survive. In addition, they discuss ways to broadcast the urgent need to encourage the public to consider signing an Organ Donor Card and perhaps provide the "Gift of Life" to another.

OETSG Mission - We work to help others live. Because we have received, we try to give back knowledge, encouragement, and hope to those who are waiting, and to those who have received The Gift of Life. Please permit us to be a part of the healing process and support our work in any way that you can.

OETSG

February is heart month across Ontario.

Today in this province, 1,742 patients are on the transplant waiting list. Of those, 1,074 are men, 623 are women and 45 of those are children.

For more-information on the Ontario East Transplant Support Group, contact

In Belleville, Ian Robb 613-476-9199

In Kingston, Jean Higgins sp 613-548-8901



Retreat

Spring Seniors
Christian
Spirituality Series

Thursdays 9:45 a.m.
1 p.m. (includes
lunch)

May 10 & 31
\$20/session

Register 2 weeks in
advance for meal
count.

Anne Harvey and
Beverley McDonald

Poetry, music and
art convey the
language of the
soul and can
express our lifelong
search for God. We
will explore them as
enrichment for
prayer. Come with a
favourite poem,
melody or piece of
art. Each day
includes a presenta-
tion, a quiet person-
al reflection, shar-
ing our wisdom, a
closing prayer and
lunch together.

Centering Prayer Group

BY SR. THERESA MOHER

Centering Prayer is a method of prayer which prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer.

Centering Prayer consists of responding to the Spirit of Christ by consenting to God's presence and action within. It furthers the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to cooperate with this gift.

Centering Prayer facilitates a movement from more active modes of prayer; verbal, discursive or affective prayer into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer is meant to enrich and compliment other forms of prayer, not to exclude or replace them. Centering Prayer is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. It is Trinitarian in its source, Christ-centered in its focus, and ecclesial in its effect; that is, it builds communities of faith and bonds the members together in charity.

Centering Prayer is drawn from ancient prayer practices of the Christian contem-

plative heritage, notably the Fathers and Mothers of the Desert, the monastic practice of Lectio Divina (praying the scriptures), The Cloud of Unknowing, St. John of the Cross, and St. Teresa of Avila. It was distilled into a simple method of prayer in the 1970's by three Trappist monks, Fr. William Meninger, Fr. Basil Pennington and Abbot Thomas Keating at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts.

The group, pictured below, meets at St. Leonard's Anglican Church in Toronto on Tuesday mornings at 10:30.

Source: Contemplative Outreach

Website: www.contemplativeoutreach.org.



Back row L to R:

Keith Gauntlett, Jean Sinclair, Anne Marie Montgomery, Elsa Clarke, Theresa Moher sp, Lei MacFarlane, Muriel Kinney, Mare Clito

Front row L to R: Peter Catt, Valerie Brady, Juliette Labo, Sylvia Skippen

Unique Spiritual Experience

PROVIDENCE PAGES

For the first time in her life, Sister Sheila Langton kept a journal during her trip to Peru in November 2006.

Calling her visit profound and spiritual, she has a deep desire to return to the South American country and work for a time alongside the Peruvian-based Sisters of Providence who have ministered to the poor over three decades.

“I have a great appreciation of the Sisters’ work in advocating for the rights of the poor,” says Sister Sheila. “I felt attracted to the people of Peru; they are so poor and oppressed, yet so very genuine in struggling for their rights.”

Sister Pauline Lally, the council liaison with the formation program in Peru, accompanied Sister Sheila on the 12-day trip.

It was a reunion for Sister Sheila — getting reacquainted with Sister Rose Healy, her grade 12 teacher at St. Michael’s High School in Belleville, and Sister Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, who entered the congregation the same day as Sister Sheila.

Health care in Peru is a far cry from the Canadian system. Sister Sheila, who has dedicated 22 years of her life to health care in this country, saw first hand the work of the Sisters.

Mental illness is pervasive and medications are too expensive for most residents. The Sisters of Providence buy medicines for those in need from donations received.

Sister Sheila says they not only help



Sisters Sheila Langton and Pauline Lally present a slideshow on their trip to Peru during Mission Week at Providence Motherhouse.

financially, but also advocate to change unjust structures so the people can learn to help themselves.

Recalling many fond memories of the trip, Sister Sheila points to one highlight — a powerful presentation by the Christian Workers Movement. Organized after Vatican II, this group combines faith and justice to protest on behalf of workers.

The Sisters of Providence are based out of two houses near Lima, Peru. Sisters Rose-Marie Bokenfohr, Rose Healy, and Irene MacDonell live in El Progreso, Peru. The Formation House in San Felipe, is home to formator Sister Sara Jiménez Angulo, Sister Pátricia Rosa Marquez Sánchez, temporary professed, and novice, Maria Mercedes Chinchay Luca.

The Peruvian trip was the subject of a slideshow presented to staff and Sisters during Mission Week at Providence Motherhouse.

Christmas Raffle



Father Christmas made a special appearance at the annual Christmas dinner and raffle at Providence Motherhouse. The event was a huge success — Sisters and staff raised \$1,160.56 for In From The Cold.

Easter



Lent Easter Schedule

Chapel of Mary Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse

| LENT | HOLY WEEK | TRIDUUM 2007 |
|--|-----------|-----------------------------|
| February 25 | 10 am | 1st Sunday of Lent |
| March 4 | 10 am | 2nd Sunday of Lent |
| March 11 | 10 am | 3rd Sunday of Lent |
| March 18 | 10 am | 4th Sunday of Lent |
| March 25 | 10 am | 5th Sunday of Lent |
| Friday, March 30 | 6:30 pm | Sacrament of Reconciliation |
| April 1 | 10 am | Passion Sunday |
| Beginning with Blessing of Palms in the Auditorium | | |

*With Mind and Hearts
Renewed*



| THE EASTER TRIDUUM | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| April 5 | 7 pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| April 6 | 3 pm | Celebration of the Lord's Passion |
| April 7 | 7 pm | The Easter Vigil |
| April 8 | 10 am | Easter Sunday |



The draped cross at the entrance to the chapel reminds us of the Lenten season's call to conversion.



"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel"

Sweet Music



Sister Mary Rosaria keeps busy these days teaching piano to 7 students. It's not a new experience — she's been teaching piano throughout her adult life. Her students are all beginners and range in age from 10 years to adult. Pictured here, student Bella Bragenza practices while Sister Mary Rosaria looks on.

Saving Lives

Sisters of Providence Activities coordinator Nancy Stevens continues to visit area schools delivering the message of life-saving mosquito nets. The organization, Buy-A-Net, is saving lives by offering Ugandan families insecticide-treated mosquito nets that prevent the spread of malaria. Every year, one million children, mainly under five years old, die from Malaria in Africa. For \$10, you can Buy-A-Net and save a life.

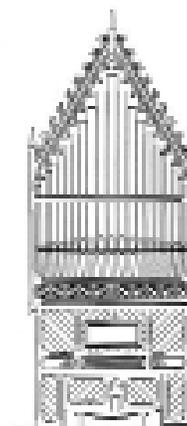
The schools are getting actively involved in the project, raising funds through pizza sales, bake sales, car washes and donating allowances. For more information visit <http://www.buyanet.ca>



left to right: Buy A Net founder Debra Lefebvre and Nancy Stevens wrapped in mosquito netting.

Sacred Music

The music tradition of the universal church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as a combination of sacred music and words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy.



Gifted Educator

PROVIDENCE PAGES

For most, retirement signals a time to slow down, but Sister Barbara Thiffault's pace has never changed. Her energy level rivals that of a thirty year old- pre and post retirement.

Born in a small community east of Midland Ontario, Sister Barbara Thiffault picked up an early interest in music, a passion passed down from her music-teaching mother. Her instruments of choice are the violin and piano. The eldest of four children, Barbara entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in 1955.

Prior to entering, Barbara focused on her studies at Toronto Teachers' College and at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. After becoming a Sister, she spent many summers studying at the University of Ottawa to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree, and the University of Toronto for a Bachelor of Education.

Once becoming a certified teacher, her first job proved to be a rich training ground — one teacher per 52 students. Even more challenging, many of the students in her elementary class at St. David's Catholic School, Toronto, couldn't speak English. Years later, Sister Barbara would draw on



Sister Barbara Thiffault

this experience when teaching English as a Second Language to immigrant adults in Belleville and Trenton.

Her exposure to religious life at Rosary Hall in Toronto, where she stayed while studying and teaching made a life-changing impression. Her friendship with Sister of Providence, Sr. Nora Forestell, lead to regular chats about religious life. Once she made the decision to enter, she needed to investigate all congregations.

"I believe one is called not only to religious life, but to a specific congregation," says Sister Barbara. "I had an inner feeling that this Congregation was right for me."

Her fulfilling teaching career spanned thirty-seven years, and included the title of Principal at three Belleville schools, Chesterville and Batawa. She retired in 1992, but teaching was still in her blood. Her gifts lead her to teach basic literacy to the unemployed in Trenton through the Labour Adjustment Program set up by the Government of Ontario and then to a most unusual place — a sock factory in Trenton where she taught basic literacy skills to employees.

Flash forward to 2007. The workload remains the same; Sister Barbara is the General Secretary for the Sisters of Providence — a job that includes planning funerals, keeping Sisters' files updated, assisting with Chapter proceedings (2003 and 2007), preparing minutes of Leadership and Corporation Meetings, tending to correspondence and assisting the Leadership

Musical Roots

Continued from previous page

Team. In addition, she sits on four Congregational Committees and the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Yet music has remained a focal point in her life. She's a member and a cantor with the choir at

Providence Motherhouse, and is actively involved with the Kingston Community Strings, and the Quinte Symphony. in Belleville.

Teaching & Holistic Health

PROVIDENCE PAGES

A miniature toy horse sitting on a side table in Sr. Diane Brennen's office is a reminder of her passion for the animal. Every Sunday, rain, snow or shine, Sr. Diane heads out of the city to ride a horse she leases at an area farm. Her connection to horses began years ago, after her sister moved to a sheep ranch in Kelowna, British Columbia. Sr. Diane makes the annual trek to the picturesque ranch to unwind, and spend time with her sister and mother.



Sister Diane Brennen

Sister Diane serves on the Leadership Council of the Sisters of Providence, and is

the director of the Associates office, but still finds time for her other passion — teaching yoga and meditation to inmates. She calls it a rewarding experience not only for the men, but also for her and teaching partner Sister Marie Dundon.

Born in Belleville, Ontario, Sr. Diane Brennen recalls her attraction to religious life at a very early age — a decision that didn't please her father who thought his 17-year-old daughter was far too young to make such a life-changing decision. Her mother however, was supportive. Growing up, she was taught by many Sisters of Providence including Sister Anne Hudec, who made a profound impact on the young grade 5 student.

"She was very much her own person," recalls Sister Diane.

Sr. Diane entered the novitiate before completing high school and spent three years at Providence Motherhouse. She returned to high school at both Nicholson Catholic College Secondary School in Belleville and at Providence College, an all

continued on next page

Ministry

Country Girl at Heart

Continued from previous page

girls school in Brantford.

“All I ever wanted to do was teach grade 1,” says Sister Diane.

Her dream led her to Toronto Teachers’ College for a year which landed her a teaching job in Gananoque for 7 years. During this time, she spent summers studying at the University of Windsor to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree.

She moved back to Brantford, not as a student, but to St. John’s Catholic College as the high school’s teacher librarian, a job held previously by Sister of Providence Gayle Desarmia. After a decade in Brantford, it was time for a change. Her next career move brought her deep satisfaction — director of Gabriel Home, a Kingston group home for unwed mothers.

“It was extremely challenging work psychologically but it marked the first time in my life I felt ownership,” admits Sister Diane.

As for the future? Sr. Diane will continue to ride horses, teach yoga and be wherever God calls her.

Asked if there have been regrets along the way, she admits there have been challenges but they only serve to strengthen her decision to choose religious life.



Sister Diane Brennen, far right, poses with her sister Pat Loewen and her mother Pauline Brennen at her sister’s sheep ranch in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Faith-filled Sister

BY SISTER BARBARA THIFFAULT

Caroline Josephine Kramps was born on March 28, 1907 at home, the second of 13 children born to Caroline and August Kramps. Her parents were immigrants from Europe. Her father, born in Germany went to the United States in 1889 at the age of 17 and later came to Canada. Her mother came to Canada from Austria at 4 years of age.



Sr. Mary Vincent

Caroline grew up on the family farm at Daysland, Alberta with loving, faith-filled parents. As a child, Caroline felt a desire to be a Sister. She lived through the dreadful 1918 flu when her entire family fell ill with it and people all around them were dying. Her mother told her some time later that she had made a promise to God that if Caroline lived she would not prevent her from entering the convent. Caroline arrived at the House of Providence in Kingston on September 21, 1928 to begin her novitiate.

Her first appointment after Profession in 1932 was to St. Mary's of the Lake, to help with cooking and caring for the orphaned children. That same year she went to the House of Providence to work in the sewing room and then in the infirmary. In 1934 she went to St. Mary's Home, an orphanage in Edmonton, where she was house mother for the next 14 years. She returned to the House of Providence in Kingston for a

year and then again to St. Mary's Home in Edmonton for another year. In 1950 she went to St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton and on to St. Joseph's Vocational School in Winnipeg. In 1959 she was appointed Superior of Rosary Hall in Edmonton. After 6 years at Rosary Hall she returned to St. Joseph's Vocational School to look after the chapel and to help with the cooking. In 1980 Sister Mary Vincent was appointed to the new St. Joseph's Day Nursery in Winnipeg to cook for the children and later just for the Sisters. Sister loved to garden and was a wonderful cook. She was a faith-filled, prayerful person whose life was modeled on her name sake, St. Vincent de Paul. In 1992 Sister returned to the Motherhouse where she visited the Sisters in the infirmary and always enjoyed a good game of cards.

Sister Mary Vincent was called home to her loving God on February 19, 2007 with her sister, Sister Charlotte, and several Sisters at her bedside.

Sister is survived by her brother, August (Irene) of Westlock AB, and her sisters, Anne Lingle of Skagway, Alaska, Cecilia Diemert (Paul) of Kelowna, BC and Sister Charlotte Kramps of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston. Sister M. Vincent is pre-deceased by her parents, August and Caroline (Muller), by seven brothers, and by two sisters. She will be fondly remembered by her family and the Sisters of her Religious Congregation.

Day of Prayer

March 30, 2007 Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in our World.

All congregations are being encouraged to participate in a day of prayer and fasting for an end to violence and war in Darfur, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Northern Uganda, Nepal, Columbia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and all those places in our world where there is discord and division.



**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.

