



Sisters of Providence
of St. Vincent de Paul
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PROVIDENCE PAGES

Spring 2021



St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville was transferred to the Marguerita Residence Corporation for use as affordable housing for seniors. Holding symbolic keys of the transfer are Brockville General Hospital President Nick Vlacholias, Sister Sandra Shannon, General Superior, and Bruce Hynes, Chairman of the Marguerita Residence Corporation.

Photo Courtesy Dale Kenney.

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Sisters of Providence
of St. Vincent de Paul

Vision Statement

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

Mission Statement

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

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

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

Thank you!

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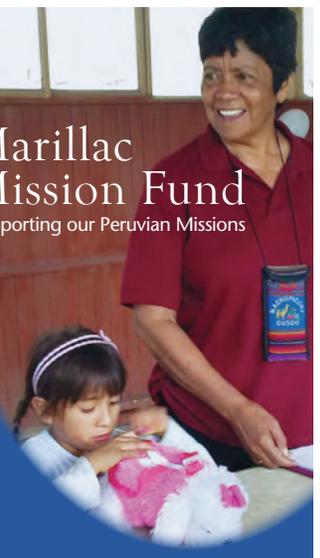
You Are Making a Difference in Peru

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

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

Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Marillac
Mission Fund
Supporting our Peruvian Missions



Transfer of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital

The Sisters of Providence have always helped the most vulnerable in our communities by addressing the needs of the times. The St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, which had in the past been leased to Brockville General Hospital, found new purpose in a plan to fill an unmet need in the Brockville area. Once Brockville General Hospital had vacated the building, the land and building were transferred to the Marguerita Residence Corporation for use as affordable housing for seniors. A ceremony was held outdoors at the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital site on December 11, 2020 where several dignitaries were present including Brockville General Hospital President Nick Vlacholias, Bruce Hynes, Chairman of the Marguerita Residence Corporation, Ahmed Hussen, federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, and MPP Steve Clark, Ontario's housing minister. Sister Sandra Shannon, General Superior, spoke to the group on behalf of the Sisters of Providence.

This day, the day the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul officially sever our ties to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital has long been coming as we came to Brockville in 1887 to establish our first “hospital”, a house on Schofield Hill. The Pine and Garden Street building opened in 1892 as St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. Over the years we not only served the sick in mind, body and spirit but also taught nurses in RN and Certified Nursing Assistant programs. I believe the Sisters instilled in their staff and students the ethic of service to the vulnerable in an attitude of humility, simplicity and charity.

If we personify the St. Vincent's building as a woman, she has been a “good old girl.” She has seen the birth of countless Brockvillians; experienced the joys and sadnesses of life;



The transfer of ownership papers being signed by Sister Sandra Shannon, General Superior, and Sister Barbara Thiffault, General Secretary on October 27, 2020.

celebrated life's passages of young and old and the transition of many from this life to the next. During all its years of activity, a Spirit, both tangible and deeply felt existed between her walls. The staff always had an inner joy, unexplained, but evident in their service to others.

Over her years she saw health care change. There was a time when the doors of the hospital opened to the most vulnerable of our society without all the paperwork and protocols of today. They opened because people were in need. There was a time when, if a patient was discharged to their home in Smith's Falls but had no way of getting there, the Sisters would drive them home. There was a time when a Sister in the x-ray department

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History of the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital

In December 2020 the Sisters of Providence transferred the former St. Vincent de Paul Hospital site in Brockville to the Marguerita Residence Corporation to be repurposed as affordable housing for seniors. St. Vincent de Paul Hospital was the first hospital founded by the Sisters of Providence and marks their entry into institutional health care.

A railway accident in April 1887 made it clear to the people of Brockville that they needed emergency facilities. As a result of that accident, Archbishop Cleary of the Archdiocese of Kingston asked the Sisters of Providence to found a hospital in Brockville. In November of 1887, the Sisters of Providence opened St. Vincent de Paul Hospital with 12 beds, 7 doctors and 17 nurses, in a repurposed house on Schofield Hill, in

Brockville.

Five years later, in 1892, the hospital had outgrown its Schofield Hill location and the hospital moved to a former convent at 42 Garden Street. Over time several additions were built including the east wing in 1896 that included a surgical unit and obstetrics ward, another wing in 1912, a nurses' residence in 1924, a new surgical unit in 1948, and a new wing in 1958. In 1968, the old east and west wings were demolished and replaced with a four-storey addition, which included new operating room facilities, an intensive care and cardiac unit, and service areas.

In the early 1900s contagious diseases were prevalent in Brockville and the hospital frequently had to deal with cases of Scarlet Fever, diphtheria, typhoid

and deadly small pox. This meant that Sister nurses were confined to isolation wards with the patients and, in cases of small pox, often accompanied the patient to the isolation hospital. Sometimes the outbreaks overwhelmed the staff, as noted in the Brockville Annals in May 1901, "We had four kinds of contagious diseases and had to have a Sister for each. We were obliged to ask at the Mother House for an extra Sister. Two were sent down, Sr. Mary Ephrem and Sr. Mary Isidore. The contagious diseases in the hospital are diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, mumps and erysipelas."

A Training School for Nurses opened at the hospital in 1904. The first class graduated in 1906. That same year, Sister Mary Eulalia, a 1906 graduate, took over



St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Brockville in August 1933



St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Brockville in 1972.



in Brockville Ontario

as superintendent of the nursing school. During her twelve years running the training school, Sister Mary Eulalia earned a reputation as an excellent organizer and disciplinarian. The training school ran for more than forty years until 1946 when it closed due to a change in government regulations. The training school reopened in 1950 to train Nursing Assistants. The School for Certified Nursing Assistants operated at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital from 1950 until 1972.

In 1996, the hospital became part of Providence Continuing

Care Centre and the Sisters moved out of their hospital residence into apartments. Acute care services ended at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital Brockville in 1998 and the hospital focused on complex continuing care and rehabilitation services. In the 119 years that the Sisters of Providence ran the hospital, 32 Sisters served on the governing board and 20 Sisters served as administrator of the Hospital, including Sister Mary Clement Shea, who held this position for 17 years. The hospital services were transferred to Brockville General Hospital in 2006, who then leased the site

and ran it as the BGH Garden Street site until December 2020.

■ *Veronica Stienburg, Archivist*



1932 graduating class of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital Nurses Training School. Back Row: Dr. McAvoy, Ruth Muldoon, Kathleen Walsh, Alice Grooms, Marie Gormely, Ellen Zink, and Dr. Carron. Front row: Anna Grice, Sr. M. Magdalen de Pazzi (Sr. Olive Gibbons), Sr. M. Veronica Williams, Rubena Cook and Catherine Consitt.

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was called to the parking lot with the portable x-ray machine to find the patient to be a horse of one of the doctors. There was a time when Sisters would sit through the night, keeping vigil, when someone was near death. Yes – there was a time...

In 2006, Brockville General Hospital leased the building and continued the ministry of health care between her walls.

But now, the “old girl” is tired and needs to be put to rest herself. We, Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, are more than pleased that



Sister Sandra Shannon

the holy ground on which St. Vincent de Paul Hospital stands will see the creation of apartment buildings for seniors, a vulnerable population of today. These buildings will, like a Phoenix, rise from the ashes.

So in a different way, but a meaningful way, the transfer of building and property of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital to the

Marguerita Residence Corporation ensures that a vulnerable population of the people of Brockville will continue to be cared for. We have seen to the continuation of our original mission.



Campaign for Oxygen in Carabayllo

On Sunday August 16, 2020, the Peruvian Associates met virtually and during the meeting Providence Associate and Public Health nurse, Lourdes Alvarez made a proposal that the Associates participate in a campaign to save the lives of persons with Covid-19 in Carabayllo, Peru. We made suggestions about people who could join the campaign to get an oxygen processing plant for Carabayllo. It is well known that the hospitals do not have enough oxygen to be able to attend to the entire population affected by the virus and many die at home or in hospitals because of the lack of oxygen.

August 20, 2020 we had the first meeting via Zoom for the campaign members. This campaign is being called “No One Else Dies”. I will be representing the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

I find myself moved by many signs of Hope and Light in this time of darkness. The campaign for oxygen for Carabayllo has motivated many people to participate, especially the youth and the organizations of the town. We meet every week via Zoom with the leadership team of the commission. Many ideas and suggestions have been put into practice. Our Bishop Lino Panizza Richero is supporting the campaign. Donations are being deposited in the Caritas Carabayllo account. Broadcast media have supported the campaign. Fund-raising activities and events have begun and culminate November 30, 2020. The beneficiaries of the Glass of Milk Program, which total more than three thousand at the district level, will contribute 1/2 sol each. Some of the young people of the El Progreso Library plan to hold a “Flea”

Bazaar, others a Raffle, etc. The Peruvian Associates are also organizing to support it.

You can feel the warmth and the joy, the Solidarity and Hope that comes from projects to help the weakest. I feel happy because Our Provident God loves us, guides us and takes care of us.

■ *Sister Sara Jiménez Angulo*



Persons line up for 2-3 days in order to refill oxygen tanks at inflated prices for covid-19 patients. The Marillac Mission Fund has contributed \$10,000 US to this campaign for oxygen in Carabayllo, Peru.

Regarding the Campaign for Oxygen, it is on its way. As Associates, we decided to make a common fund for the initial contribution to the dissemination of information to the population. Those of us who are teachers are working on this issue in our classes so that as citizens we become aware of the importance of being organized and feeling that this campaign is ours, that is, it is of the entire population and moves us in solidarity and love. People are giving what they can...only a few soles sometimes.... but there is confidence that it will be possible.

■ *Associate Carmen Alomía Guía*



Teaching in Peru during the pandemic

Carmen Alomía Guía is the Coordinator of the Providence Associates in Peru. She teaches Spanish language and literature at a high school in El Progreso, Carabayllo.

Here in Peru the situation is complicated. I think the government is making the right decisions, but the big problem is poverty, the lack of respect for the rules by the citizens and our poor health system, which is not prepared to deal with what we are facing.

We started with a state of emergency and quarantine but in many parts people did not comply. This was often out of absolute necessity because they do not have a salary, but live on what they earn day by day as street vendors or casual labourers.

By closing down everything and taking care of only the essentials like medicine, food and security many were left without an income. In the face of this, the government gave a bonus to the families, but it did not reach everyone. There is solidarity among the people. The houses that do not have food to eat put up a white flag asking for help. The water, light and gas services are

maintained. The government asked the companies to only incrementally increase what they charge throughout the year after the quarantine is lifted.

Education is another dilemma. The government proposed remote education, starting April 6th. We were going to start on March 16th. However, we came across the stark reality of having no means of connecting with the students. First, the registration system of our schools did not have phone numbers for all the students. Every teacher had to look for ways, usually by phone, to find the families. Others are without Internet connection as only a few have computers connected to the Internet. The teacher's contact with the students has been difficult. Out of the 38 students in each of my classes, only 15 have access to a phone with a prepaid plan costing 6 soles for one day with Internet service. Therefore, we connect only by WhatsApp, once a week. Ahead of time we send an outline of a topic with simple directions, then we connect so that the students can ask questions and have the teacher clarify



Carmen Alomía Guía

the topic and specify the one required activity. I have five 5th cycle sections each with 38 students, in total 190 students. In other words, we are accompanying only those with whom we make contact. Those we do not know about are the students that we cannot contact. It's frustrating. The good thing is that the government has arranged to give 25-minute classes on television and radio once a week. The majority of students have access to television or radio. From there the teachers are able to reinforce the classes. The government also offers a ministry platform for education but of 38 students, only one has access.

■ *Associate Carmen Alomía Guía*



Associates Plan for an Autonomous Future

The Providence Associates have known since 2018 that sometime in the future we would need to move away from our dependence on the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. At our AGEM that year, Sister Frances O'Brien facilitated our gathering as we talked about possibilities for an autonomous future. At that time, we thought the best option for us would be to become a Non-Profit Organization.

On October 31st of last year, Peter Pula from Axiom News, facilitated a Summit that brought together 32 Providence Associates, 3 Sisters, Frances O'Brien, Gayle Desarmia and Pauline Lally and one guest, Bridget Doherty Director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office. We talked about what we wanted to get rid of, what we wanted to hold on to and what we wanted to bring to our new reality. We talked about our values and what we wanted to focus on as we planned for our future. The conversations were rich and energizing. By the end of our day, we had chosen four foci that we would pursue and four people to act as facilitators for our circle conversations.

They were "Structures/Finances" with Barbara Baker, "Staying Connected" with Ann Boniferro, "Spirituality" with Laraine Corbin and "Relationship with JPIC" with Bridget Doherty.

Later we chose dates for our follow-up Zoom Circle conversations that are giving direction to our planning for the next few years. Ann hosted three Zoom calls where she guided many of us through the process of participating in and hosting Zoom calls. The participants also talked about how we could stay in touch with one another over space and time. A schedule was created for the groups to connect with one other group each month over the year ahead. A few people have agreed to stay in touch with those Associates who are at a distance and are not able to use the technology needed to access Zoom conversations.

Barbara hosted two conversations about our Structures. There were many who

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From left: Barbara Baker, Ann Boniferro, Laraine Corbin, and Bridget Doherty.



Protecting physical, mental & spiritual health during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In January of 2020 an Infection, Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) was established to plan for the case of outbreaks, especially of the seasonal flu, at Providence Motherhouse. The role of the IPCT is to identify and reduce the risks of infections and restrict the exposure to the Sisters and staff. As the team was formed just prior to the global pandemic declaration, planned responses were changed to include stricter precautions as per Public Health's recommendations.

Sisters, staff, contractors and visitors (when allowed) enter at designated entrances where they are greeted by dedicated screening personnel. Properly worn disposable masks are mandatory in all areas. Motherhouse nursing staff perform COVID-19 testing regularly on Sisters and staff to rapidly detect infections. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed by the maintenance personnel at many high traffic locations in the Motherhouse.

On the nursing floors, isolation wards were created should an outbreak occur or in case a Sister has come in close



*Sisters playing BINGO.
From left: Sister Irene Wilson, SP,
Sister Mary Cockburn, CND, and
Sister Judith Ann Murphy, SP.*

contact with someone who has tested positive. The housekeeping staff have prepared for a COVID-19 outbreak with an isolation plan restricting assigned staff to an isolation area with full PPE and having supplies ready for cleaning and disinfecting. Housekeeping staff are key to keeping this virus at bay and eradicating it if it gets into the facility.

The mental health of the Sisters living at Providence Motherhouse is very important and many safe projects and games have been developed or adapted over the last year to keep the Sisters active and challenged. During the warmer months, indoor and outdoor games such as lawn darts and washer toss were played. BINGO and WINGO games are weekly favourites. Creative art classes are led by Sister Diane Brennen, and

Sister Rita Gleason guides the newest activity, line dancing. All items are isolated or sanitized between uses to ensure they are safe for the next time.

Meals are prepared by dedicated dietary staff, and are served to the Sisters at tables setup with physical distancing in mind. Meal options are chosen by Sisters ahead of time to simplify meal service and allow for extra COVID-19 safety protocols.

Spiritual health is also important and the Sisters have made use of technology to help nourish their spiritual lives. Masses have been performed within the limits of Public Health guidelines. A closed circuit camera in the Chapel has enabled Sisters to view the celebrations on their televisions in-house, on their computers or smart devices online.

With vaccines being rolled out there is hope to return to some normalcy in life, but until then we are prepared to keep everyone safe and healthy.

■ *Michael Hammond,
Communications Officer*



Providence – Where Justice and Radical

A good thing – no, a very good thing - happened 40 years ago and we Sisters of Providence and Associates from two nations and thirteen different Providence congregations honoured “that very good thing” on the 3rd Saturday of February, 2021. The beginning of the Women of Providence in Collaboration. And the pandemic didn’t stop us. Thanks to amazing technology and its technicians we did it virtually.

In a beautiful opening ritual orchestrated by our Executive Director Barbara McMullen, CDP and Chair of the Board Dawn Tomaszewski, SP of St. Mary’s of the Woods, we honoured our Provident God, the founders and our persistence in theologizing and evolving to a new understanding of the name we all hold in common – Providence. Thus, began our 2021 Providence Event from chairs in our own homes.

Our Facilitator for the day was author and international speaker Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM of Monroe, MI. Nancy founded the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue in response to her experience working for justice and right relationships in church and in society. Nancy was just the person to work with our topic, “Providence – Where Justice and Radical Hope Meet.”

How do we do justice in these times? Sister Nancy began by saying that Providence calls us from the future in ways we cannot see or imagine luring us into a new relation

with justice and hope. “How do we do justice in these times?” she questioned. We offer a prophetic vision with new possibilities, speaking truth nonviolently as we advocate against every form of discrimination. She had us reflect on what we had done over the years in the area of justice, and I surprisingly realized we certainly had done something. But Nancy again questioned, “What newness might we be called to today?” We are witnessing a

radical new way of thinking. There is a new rupture in our western democratic countries and we are called to address these dominate issues. The tension and vision is explosive. We must beware of passively abandoning it all to Providence.

Providence unfolds in the universe and in us.

Quantum Physics gives us significant insights. Consciousness, how we see the world and all reality, plays a serious role in a radical way of being, sensing and knowing. Nancy said, “Take it in and let it change you.” It is physical with a spiritual dimension. Rational knowledge AND the intuitive dimension could reconstruct the fragmentation of humanity. This will involve an imaginative leap, a radical shift in consciousness. As Einstein said, “We cannot solve the problems out of the same consciousness that created them.” We need to see in new ways. Common Good issues cannot be addressed with short term vision. The stakes are too high.

Consciousness shapes our values, beliefs and assumptions. It is not stagnate. It evolves.



Sisters attending the “Fill the Hill” climate event in Ottawa, October 2009.

Hope Meet

Each stage of consciousness is more complex, transcending and including the healthy values of the former stage. Each stage offers values and wisdom at that time. Then Nancy proceeded to speak about each stage and its characteristics.

The stages of consciousness

The *first* is Ego-centric, Magical, Mystical, Pre-modern. In this stage safety and survival is supreme. There is great allegiance to a leader, the chief, the empire, a super-hero. Power is paramount. Might is right. Winning and being in charge is very important. It is difficult to see things from another's perspective. 30% of the western population is at this stage. An unhealthy exposition of this stage was the insurrection of the Capitol in Washington in January.

The *second* began about 5,000 years ago. It is called Ethnocentric. In this stage there is a strong sense of belonging and purpose in life with absolute principles. Law and order is important. Conformity and obedience are its serious virtues. According to James Marion, it is from here that all major religions originated and continue to operate. 45% of our population operates at this level. That is why there is so much opposition to the defunding of the police.

The *third* level is called Modern, Rational, Mental, World-centric. It is objective, scientific. Thus reality is what you observe; reason is the only way of knowing.

Individuality and achievement are its new values. Success is found in privatization, democracy, capitalism, indoctrination, universal education and global trade. Faith and science seem to be in opposition. Belief in God becomes a question; faith systems are tolerated. There is often a split in persons who are pre-modern in their religion and postmodern in other areas. Thus, there are attempts to delegitimize Vatican II and Pope Francis. It is thought that 30% of our population is operating at this level.

Common Good issues cannot be addressed with short term vision. The stakes are too high.

The *fourth* stage, called Post Modern, Sensitive, Egalitarian, World centered Consciousness, is about diversity, inclusivity, integration, reaching consensus through dialogue, justice for all – even beyond the human; pluralism is instrumental to achieve unity in diversity. Those at this stage are connected to and take seriously the teachings of Vatican II. 10% of the people operate at this level.

Sister Nancy stated that all these stages were first tier consciousness. At each of these stages one believes that the way they see the world is the right way.

The stages of consciousness - 2nd Tier

However, there is a second tier stage of consciousness. It is called the Integral Kosmocentric Tier. The flow is not always linear but can include variations, as well. Paradox and ambiguity are accepted as signs of maturity. One is able to hold and

appreciate the complexity - the “both-and” - for wholeness and integration.

When we enter the space between and among the stages, we seek a new way forward that weaves the various values into new possibilities to achieve a common good without the intention to convert, impose or engage with blame and shame. Here justice widens our vision and engages us in a new consciousness. Can we reconcile the different world views and ask open-ended, generative challenging questions in language to generate the imaginative response which can move us together to do the work of justice? Is Providence inviting us to do justice from an integral second tier Kosmocentric consciousness? If so, what might it look like? What are the challenges for me personally and the Women of Providence in Collaboration as a whole?

These are the questions that we attempted to answer in our chat rooms. Some feedback that stayed with me was: Lean into truth and beauty, and goodness will prevail; we are enriched by the folks we interact with; don't judge ourselves and others; aging is a justice issue; the challenge is to get more articulate in what we believe and be able to respond at other levels than our own; share in language that doesn't alienate.

The afternoon was devoted to our commitment to Contemplation. This will help keep us in Tier 2. Contemplation, as you know, is a non-discursive form of prayer. It is simply resting in God's love in that deep spaciousness within us where mystery dwells. It is a surrender to the fullness of the now. Evelyn

Underhill, a famous WWI mystic, says, “It is our birthright – a gift given to everyone.” Over time it awakens us to our stages of consciousness and we become aware of our biases, assumptions, beliefs and world views. Our True Self has a desire to think and act differently, from the heart. We begin to see Divine Mystery EVERYWHERE. This in itself is a witness to radical hope. Bonnie



Peace pole installation ceremony, August 2014. Words inscribed on the pole say, “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in English, French, Spanish and Cree.

Fitzgerald, O. Carm says, “There is no escape from the world we have built,” but through radical hope resulting from our exercise of contemplative prayer we know we will get through this. Such prayer brings a paradoxical new vision as we yield unconditionally to God's future. Providence IS calling us from that future. The needs are so many. Justice is so needed.

As we are lured in the loving, caring flow of Providence we freely choose the future by working IN the present but not FOR the present. We trust in a time which lies beyond our time. It is a messy place with all the different world views. Yet, it is the place where justice and radical hope meet as we radiate spiritual energy from our contemplative stance and become Icons of Hope for Justice.

Such was the challenge given to us. Collective sacred energy from the daily discipline of contemplation imagines new possibilities for our world and all its needs.

All in all, it was a wonderful experience of superb collaboration. Many might not have been able to join in person but thanks to modern-day technology we had just under 300 participants actively involved.

■ *Sister Pauline Lally*



Called to be ICONS of Providence

The week after the 2021 Providence Event, Sister Jeannette interviewed several participants and correlated their responses.

First time participants who were interviewed included Bridget Doherty and Jeremy Milloy from our JPIC Office and Beverly Koski, Providence Associate. Other participants interviewed were Regina Lannon, Providence Associate and Sister Gayle Desarmia from the Leadership Team.

First time participants shared their thoughts on the experience

It was energizing, very enjoyable, good guest speaker, message offered new approach and direction; Helpful from perspective of theme and speaker, helped to set focus and what lens to process what's happening; Centre of Dignity; Inspiring, Cool to connect with people from all over North America, Hearing about Providence.

Seasoned participants reflected on their experience at the 2021 Providence Event

Wonderful to be with everybody, 6 hours on Zoom

was exhausting, this way of meeting may be with us for awhile, but look forward to meeting in person for the connection that happens; Like much better meeting in person, but virtual event was fine in that it allowed more sisters and associates to participate who wouldn't normally be able to do so.

What participants liked and the small group experience

Kosmocentric stage is Nancy's own style; Appreciated Nancy's presentation which was well done – move forward to following the “lure of Providence” into the future; Having someone identify places where people are and where participant finds her place; The wisdom found in the small group sharing of ideas – great opportunity; Particularly liked next action phase – bringing JPIC people together from various congregations for a JPIC collaborative effort – a positive action coming out of this gathering; Small group allowed for rich



Heirloom seed rematriation ceremony held in 2019. Sisters are joined by members of Ratinenhayen:thos, a group of indigenous seed savers, and KASSI, a not-for-profit seed saving group.

sharing and thoughtful silences; The powerpoint for the 40th Anniversary was rich and filled my heart with gratefulness for the bigger entity of Providence Collaboration; What is required for change on a consciousness environmental situation – IN present, not FOR present – good awareness for our ministry of JPIC.

How have we been and how are we being called to be ICONS of Providence – where Justice and Radical Hope meet?

Messages of Providence and the lives of the sisters and associates are so relevant for our present society – community, humility, serving others; Lives can be more fulfilling and more connected in the web of our planet when



PROVIDENCE EVENT

we are more in solidarity with others; Contemplation allows us to be more fully present;

We have been visible and witnesses through presence in ministries that have been done – e.g. Silent Vigil to Kingston community and beyond – uplifting for vulnerable people; Providence Village is brilliant – a wonderful legacy to leave – attention to vulnerable people; Associates moving forward to more autonomy – interest, new members, hopeful and future oriented – continuation of charism and mission; We have been edgewalkers in the years through the communities in which we've served.

Our work as a congregation – see now the mission and legacy can carry on – i.e. Providence Village; Our congregation has been forefront in Justice issues, Seed Sanctuary, Liturgy – things we've become known for; Active participation in cosmic energy.

Stretch the conversation to the arch of Justice and Hope – Moving forward, tie it to our PC-JPIC Vision and Mission statement. Our proposed statement is ICONIC and meaningful because it came from our local group. (See article *Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation News*)



Foundation Day Mass streamed live for Sisters to view.

PROVIDENCE unfolds one step at a time – an important reminder to not rush ahead of Providence, but to slow it down and see with God's own eyes from God's own heart – our contemplative Providential action. PROVIDENCE is that place between the known and the yet to be!

■ *Sister Jeannette Filthaut*

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attended these very exciting and energetic conversations. By the end of our time 3 people, Ann Boniferro, Eleanor Casey and Helen Driver agreed to work on a draft of by-laws. At this time the first draft has been submitted to Queen's Law Business Clinic (QLBC) asking if they will take us on as a client and guide us in the process of becoming a Non-Profit Organization. Three people have agreed to work on a future budget for the new organization, they are Susan Kennedy, Eleanor Casey and Wen Bogues.

The third focus for the Providence Associates is Spirituality. Laraine Corbin hosted an initial conversation in January of this year to

encourage us to talk with each other about our Spiritual life as exemplified in the lives of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. It was a very enriching time and we agreed to continue the conversations.

The fourth focus was relationship with the JPIC Office. Bridget Doherty decided to hold off on this topic until more of the business issues have been taken care of.

There is much work to be done and the Providence Associates and Sisters are happy with what is unfolding and the plans we have in place for our future.

■ *Barbara Baker, Providence Associate Director*



Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation News

Our JPIC Office’s mandate states that “We, the members of the Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Office, are missioned, in company with others, to challenge and heal the injustices on our Mother Earth, helping to support the rights and dignity of all life upon her.”

JPIC’s goals are explained on the Sisters of Providence website, right under the 1981 Charism. “Providence has been traditionally known as God’s loving care for all that God has made. This is difficult to see at times with so much violence in our world today, both what we inflict upon each other and on our planet-home. Nevertheless, Providence is in that chaos because Providence is that name of God which can hold these conflicting polarities and movements of life in creative tension, eventually bringing forth meaning and harmony.”

It is our mission to address these challenges and aim to bring forth meaning and harmony. As Pope Francis states: “Where there is no

justice, there is no peace!” (May 12, 2015)

As we prepare to transition towards the Providence Centre for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, a transfer that is planned to take place around the end of 2022, members of the JPIC Steering Committee gathered to consider what the Centre’s mission should state and how do we ensure



Bridget Doherty

that the Sister’s commitment to Providence and the gospel continues.

Through our discernment process we crafted the following Mission Statement:

Providence Centre for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation advances the legacy of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, working for systemic change and regenerative justice in light of Catholic social teachings and the social determinants of health.

Our vision is of “A world where

all experience compassion, justice, and peace in solidarity with creation.”

The work of JPIC will be done as it always has been.

We will See the needs of the times that reflect the injustices on Mother Earth; Discern the opportunities where we can build bridges for the common good; and Act with prophetic advocacy and collaborative relationships.

When this transfer takes place and we become the Providence Centre for JPIC, we will continue to “stand in solidarity with all life on Mother Earth” and that “understood in its deepest sense, is a way of making history.” Pope Francis (October 28, 2014)

■ Bridget Doherty, Director of JPIC Office



Sisters showing off a banner that they helped create to wrap around Kingston City Hall during the 10th anniversary Silent Vigil in 2005.



Thank you for many years as our proofreader

Creating publications requires many hands and minds to go from idea to completion and deliver it to readers, whether it's print or digital. One member of our team has decided to retire from proofreading duties this year after more than 15 years of lending her English writing talents to the Communications Office.

Sister Anne Hudec has been a fantastic support to the work of this office and has always been generous with her time and her friendly smile in all the years I have worked in the Communications Office. Our public newsletter, Providence Pages, as well as many other projects have been enhanced by her keen eyes and sharp mind.

Many thanks for all of your support, Sister Anne.

Michael Hammond, Communications Officer &
The Communications Advisory Committee



Sister Anne Hudec

Opt-in to continue receiving newsletter

Thank you readers for your patronage over the years. Providence Pages has changed formats several times and is offered digitally too. Environmental issues are still a pressing concern in the world and we are trying to do our part to reduce paper waste by encouraging readers to switch to the digital edition of Providence Pages. With this in mind, we plan to still have a print edition for those who prefer it. Enclosed with your mailed copy of Providence Pages, is an insert card. Please confirm your preference for the print copy or digital copy of this newsletter. Anyone that does not return the mailing card or contact me directly through e-mail (communications@providence.ca) will be removed from the print mailing list by September 1st, 2021.

■ *Michael Hammond, Communications Officer*

