



Sisters of Providence  
of St. Vincent de Paul  
[www.providence.ca](http://www.providence.ca)

# PROVIDENCE PAGES

Summer 2016



**Congratulations to you all!** Jubilee is a highlight of each year as the Sisters of Providence celebrate milestone anniversaries of their religious vows. This year's jubilarians are, from left: Sister Dorothy Fournier at 50 years; Sister Shirley Morris at 60 years; and 70 years for each of Sister Josephine McCaffery and Sister Julia Hamilton.

## In this issue:



Faith in action, vigils abounding



War and Children art project



Music ministry, then and now

## 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.



Sisters of Providence  
of St. Vincent de Paul

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# Marking milestones of 50, 60, 70 years

*Providence General Superior Sister Sandra Shannon offered these remarks to the Jubilarians:*

At the International Union of Superiors General meeting I attended in Rome in May, we heard from Sister Mary Sujita, SND from India. Her question to us was, “Who has benefited from your vows?” On reflection I would say both “the others out there” and “community in here.”

Let us see how this message relates to our Jubilarians:

**Sister Josephine McCaffrey** has always been the servant to the servants of God. Josephine has brought life and laughter and comfort to those out there in ministry and love, hijinks and support to us here in community.

**Sister Julia Hamilton** was a teacher to many in the schools of Canada and the wise Madre to many more in Guatemala. She is a great comfort to us in community and has always been willing to put herself last and her Sisters first.

**Sister Shirley Morris** comforted the sick and dying in Canada with expert nursing care then transferred those skills to Guatemala and Peru. She brought home her concern for the poor and thus served the people at St. Vincent’s. Of late her love for Mother Earth has called Shirley to teach us to be aware of what we are doing to our environment.

**Sister Dorothy Fournier** in her quiet way supported our institutions by toiling in the business offices in Kingston, Moose Jaw and Camrose. Dorothy, like Jesus, believed

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# Vowed life is a life of relationships

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in honesty and fairness in the marketplace. Dorothy's compassionate heart still listens to and helps many out there in Kingston and here in community.

Those qualities of humility, compassion, deep respect can transform religious life as religious life is all about relationships.

Relationships is the non-negotiable of religious life. First there is our relationship

with God. We live for God and we live for intimacy with God. Contemplation and mission are the ways we come home to God. Also we live imbued with our charism and we present that facet of God to all those we meet.

Relationships are lived in community. We can do work for as long and hard as we like but we need community with whom to share our joys, successes and

failures. We need community for sustenance to be able to go out to the other. And when we can no longer go out, we need community for companionship, support and understanding within.



## Celebrating 100

On June 19, **Sister Anna Moran** turned 100 years old. Sister Anna is not the oldest Sister of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. She has not yet broken the record as the longest-serving Sister, though she is close. But because she entered at the tender age of 17, she has been a Sister longer than anyone else alive. That is an interesting vantage point to look back, as she marks a century.

Sister Anna's story and her poem on turning 100 can be found on the website: [www.providence.ca/AnnaMoran](http://www.providence.ca/AnnaMoran)

Coincidentally, June 19 also happens to be the birthday of Sister Anne Louise Haughian, 102!

*Photo courtesy of Hollie Pratt-Campbell/Metroland*



## Following the example of Jesus

Your eyes have been fixed on Jesus even before you consecrated your life to him. You accepted his invitation to join him in building the Kingdom of God. Over the years you have read the scriptures, searched the scriptures and examined his life.

Over the years you have turned to Jesus for guidance in your spiritual life. You saw how he lived, how he talked to people, how he was compassionate to the poor, the sick, the blind and the lame. He was firm with Peter, invitational to Thomas and supportive of the woman caught in adultery.

You exemplified his lifestyle by your dedication, your willingness to help others and your personal commitment to your community. Developing strength of character, confidence and a conviction of your call to evangelize and help build the Kingdom of God comes about by not only *focusing* on Jesus but by encountering Jesus.

You responded to this imperative from Jesus. In your assignments you preached the Gospel to the people you met by doing all you could for others. You have done great work for the building of the Kingdom of God, to evangelize others. Encountering Jesus involves a mutual confidence in each other. It includes an acceptance and a love for one another; a desire to collaborate with Jesus in his mission.

When you were appointed to different tasks, you accepted them. In doing so, you collaborated with the Holy Spirit to go to places that the Lord wanted you to minister in his name.

This jubilee celebration doesn't mean your work is done. Your love for Jesus continues. Keep on praying and keep on doing things for the building up of the Kingdom of God. God bless all of you.

■ *From the Jubilee homily of Friar Ed Debono OFM Conv.*



*At the Jubilee mass, Friar Ed at the altar with Archbishop O'Brien and eucharistic ministers.*



## Sr. Marie's meditations for peace/fulness

From February to April this winter, Sister Marie Dundon transformed the auditorium of the Motherhouse into an oasis of stillness and peace. Her Wednesday evening series, Kingston Meditates for Peace, was held in partnership with PeaceQuest.



PeaceQuest is a movement that started in Kingston to bring peace to the anniversaries of war, especially the years marking the centenary of the Great War. Its focus is largely outward – public events, school events, cultural events. But Sister Marie's intentions were personal. Her sessions were to be about inner peace – the basis, she believes, of any deeper and larger peace. They were to be calm and focussed. And they were part of an international movement to meditate for peace.

She prepared carefully, finding photos and articles to use for her sessions. She set the room well – creating an interesting and peaceful atmosphere. And she chose music to centre the participants. She thanks them now for “maintaining the theme of inner peace throughout,” so that “each time, as one, we aided in creating an atmosphere of peaceful stillness.”

What Sister Marie found, as the weeks moved on, is that the more the participants focussed on peace, the more peace was experienced. Read that sentence again. Isn't that exactly what you would expect? Now think about this: In focussing on peace, sometimes participants

brought up war, violence, unrest and issues. They did this because those topics are what caused them to seek peace. But Sister Marie found that when the topic turned towards violence, so did the atmosphere and the ability to “be” peaceful. People got excited and worked up. She found that to be peaceful you had to stay peaceful, quiet and still, and she steered the meetings that way.

The participants enjoyed it. Barbara Jackson had never meditated before but was curious to try so she took her friend Mary up on her offer to come with. Her life is fast-paced and she enjoyed the experience. Sister Susan Pye had been to most of the sessions and appreciated the “goal of peace, going out from us into the world.” She also recognized how much work Sister Marie put into her preparation. David Best went to the last session to enjoy Sister Marie in action: “It's wonderful to see her energy,” he said. “She's an inspiration.” His wife Carole had attended numerous sessions and found it a chance to be inspired by others and their sharing.



## Through the eyes of children

A fascinating new web-based PeaceQuest project will soon be providing teachers with an innovative tool to help students learn about war and peace - through the eyes of children.

Unlike many Remembrance Day lessons and conventional history teaching, *War and Children* has no patriotic message. There are no stories about heroism. No soldiers sacrifice themselves for a noble cause. There is none of the shopworn us-versus-them approach to explaining war.

There is, however, a rich assortment of photos, drawings, videos and text, lamenting war's tragedy. And what's unique about *War and Children* is its child-centred approach.

"War seems very remote for students who are taught about it in the traditional manner," says retired Kingston teacher Judi Wyatt, a PeaceQuest stalwart.

PeaceQuest undertook *War and Children* in co-operation with Children/Youth as Peacebuilders (CAP), an organization that works with young people in conflict/post-conflict situations.

CAP founder, Linda Dale, has conducted many art workshops with young people in a variety of conflict situations. The artwork produced from these sessions, many by children who have never before held a paintbrush, are

featured in the website. Now those drawings will be available - free of charge - to Canadian teachers.



*Self portrait, child soldier, northern Uganda. Courtesy: Children/Youth as Peacebuilders*

"These are not sophisticated drawings and paintings," explains War and Children. "But that does not diminish their strength. Instead their power comes from lived experience.... Young people invite us to accompany them, to stand alongside as they provide a map of what it means to be a child soldier, to be present inside a genocide, or to find dignity as a refugee."

The website also showcases ads, cartoons, and popular music to help young people understand the connections between military and civilian life as they've been forged since World War I.

*War and Children* offers a slideshow on the use of children as wartime propaganda tools as well as explanation of how militarists have played upon traditional notions of manliness and femininity to promote war. Before WWI, influential politicians and opinion makers claimed that boys were becoming "sissified" and lacked masculinity. War was supposedly a remedy, the chance to show courage and strength.

"When WW I was declared in 1914," concludes War and Children, "thousands of young men rushed to the recruitment office. They were eager to be part of this great adventure."

# Teachers: war art by children for your use

As we know, kids relish adventures. PeaceQuest hopes that, in an era that glorifies war through ultra-realistic video games, War and Children will serve as a modest antidote to this kind of corrosive thinking. The website offers only small sections of text, relying on compelling images to make these connections. One gallery features famous war photographs, mostly featuring children.

The idea here is to “take the viewer into the heart of children’s experiences of war and communicate fundamental truths about the reality of war.”



*Soldier and boy. Above and right, a boy’s hand, Colombia. Courtesy of Children/Youth as Peacebuilders*

One image is among the best known photographs of the twentieth century. It shows nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phúc fleeing with other Vietnamese children after being scorched with American napalm. Ms. Phúc, who now lives near Oshawa, survived and is still being treated for her war wounds. She initially hated the famous photo, as it exposed the trauma of a terribly personal

experience. Yet she would eventually change her mind, describing it as “a path to peace.”

“I realized,” she said, “that if I couldn’t escape that picture, I wanted to go back to work with that picture for peace. And that is my choice.”



The hope is that teachers across Canada will use War and Children to help young people understand the reality of war.

Says Judi Wyatt, “This website shows that trying to resolve conflict using violence is not only unjust and cruel. It doesn’t work and must be eliminated.”

■ *Jamie Swift is a Providence staffer and PeaceQuest co-founder*

Unit 6 - Working for Peace

Over the past hundred years many young people have contributed to the struggle for peace and social justice. Here are some examples of their work.

Sophie Scholl

SAGE (Students Against Global Extermination)

United Network Of Young Peacebuilders

warandchildren.com



# Clergy sexual abuse and bursary follow-up

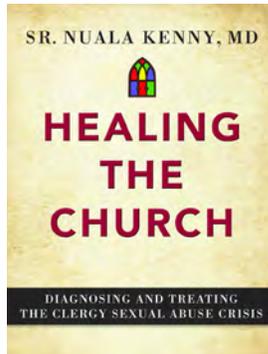
As a follow-up to our conference last September 11 and 12, 2015, entitled “Healing the Church: Diagnosing and Treating the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis” the Healing Violence Committee of the Sisters of Providence wishes to report on the work we have done since that time. The suggestions given to us by the small groups for further steps towards healing the church were collated and studied. They were then compiled under the following headings: Priests, parishes, archdiocese, youth and students, and further workshops. At a meeting with Archbishop Brendan O’Brien we shared our summary of these suggestions and received his gratitude and support. You will find them at [www.providence.ca/healingsuggestions](http://www.providence.ca/healingsuggestions).

Since that time, the committee has been invited by St. Mary’s Cathedral Parish in Kingston and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Gananoque to facilitate a workshop called Promoting Healing in our Church. The first hour was a 45-minute PowerPoint presentation with a condensed version of Sister Nuala Kenny’s material, followed by questions. The second hour was a guided process where people were safe to express feelings and thoughts regarding the impact of sexual exploitation and abuse in the church and within the faith community. Approximately 75 people took part in these experiences. Many participants expressed how helpful and moving this experience was for them.

We hope that participants have continued to

respond to the call to bring about healing in themselves and in the church. Perhaps some have formed study groups based on Sr. Nuala’s book. Our committee is also willing to bring our workshop to any parish or church group when we are invited. Let us pray for each other and for our faith communities that together we can eradicate all forms of clericalism and abuse from the Church.

As a Committee which has worked on healing violence since 1998, we have devoted our energy on Healing the Church of the Sexual Abuse Crisis for the past 3 years. The fact that 320 people participated in the conference we held with Sister Nuala Kenny says to us that there is still a lot of pain in this area and much work to be done. Whether or not our work has brought about any change remains to be seen, but we are proud of the steps we have taken.



- With the increase of the bursary committee funding from \$10,000 to \$20,000 the committee was able to award bursaries to all 10 applicants that applied this past spring.
- Not all received the full amount requested but all received a portion of their request.
- All recipients were victims of abuse who wish to further their healing through counselling (8) and/or education (3).
- The new date for sending in applications to receive the bursary is March 1, 2017.

# Students give witness to social teaching in an

Throughout the month of April, students in each of the 39 schools of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board were asked to show mercy by standing in solidarity with those who experience injustice. They did that by holding vigils and pilgrimages that honoured the legacy of the Sisters of Providence and vigil-keepers who held a Friday vigil in front of Kingston City Hall for 20 years.

These events allowed students to give witness to Catholic social teaching, living out the school board's spiritual theme of Faith in Action. It was their special Catholic Education Week project, tied to the year's theme of Opening the Doors of Mercy, a direct link to the Jubilee Year of Mercy. When Catholic Education Week occurred in May, we celebrated that witness.

In preparation for this event, principals and teachers were provided with information and prayer resources for vigils and pilgrimages, as well as a link to the video *Vigil, Witness to Justice* on the providencesisterstv.com website. The signs prepared by the students in each school reflected topics they had studied or issues that were meaningful to them. The

format of the vigils held throughout April varied from school to school to reflect the local community.

In some cases the entire school body was involved. At Nicholson Catholic College, all students and staff walked in silence to Belleville City Hall where they stood for peace, justice, and those who experience poverty. The community of St. Michael Catholic School also in Belleville gathered in the school yard to pray a living rosary for those who do not have access to clean water. In Trenton, the students of St. Mary Catholic School chose the theme Bringing Community Together and invited those from neighbouring public schools to stand with them. Food security was the issue chosen by St. Peter and St. Patrick Catholic Schools, who gathered at St. John the Apostle Church in Kingston to celebrate Mass and then walked together to the Memorial Centre.

In other locations, a single class or group participated. Students who recently returned from a mission trip to Jamaica led the vigil at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. Grade 7 and 8 students at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School in Bancroft participated in a "We Are Silent" activity during which they did not talk



# homage to 20 years of social justice vigils

or text for an entire day as a way to speak up for children around the world who are fighting for basic human rights. Showing kindness was the theme for the kindergarten class at Holy Name Catholic School.

Many schools used the vigil as one of the criteria needed to become a PeaceQuest School. Others focused on environmental concerns. One of these, Mother Teresa Catholic School, used their outdoor classroom as a prayer centre where students reflected on the gift of creation. Sacred Heart Catholic School in Marmora combined both issues using sunflowers as a symbol of the interconnectedness of people, plants and the planet.

A photo from each event was submitted to create a video which was shown at the Catholic Education Week luncheon. It provides clear evidence that the students of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board are growing as “responsible citizens who contribute to the common good and dignity for all.” (ALCDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being 2015-2016)

As Pope Francis stated in *The Joy of the Gospel*, “An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it.”

■ *After 32 years in Catholic Education, Ann Boniferro retired in June from her position as Coordinator – Religious and Family Life Education.*



# A global call for just solutions on every level

Climate change is a global problem that hurts vulnerable people most. In Canada, it disproportionately affects seniors and those with pre-existing health problems, remote and First Nations communities, low-income individuals, and the marginalized.

That's why it's necessary to talk about climate change not just as an environmental issue, but also as an issue of climate justice focused on the way in which people, especially the most vulnerable, are being affected. That is the lens of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office as we approach these issues. We listen to Pope Francis who states, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, that the "dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all ...policies." Here are two ways in which we have been involved, recently.



*The Kingston climate change town hall. Photo: Kim Sutherland Mills*

**Provincially:** The Ontario government has developed a carbon cap-and-trade system that was made law in May. This system allots a specific amount of carbon that companies may emit; exceeding these limits means that companies will have to pay; unused portions can be traded with companies that exceed their limits. While it is right to be skeptical of such a system, if it is done with correct limits and oversights, it may actually work in reducing greenhouse gases.

To be effective, the cap and trade system must adhere to the polluter-pays principle. The companies responsible for the emission must pay and not the people already struggling to make ends meet.

Initially, the Ontario system omitted the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. After organizations, including our own, advocated on behalf of low-income families and individuals, the government amended the bill. It is now required to consider the impact that the regulatory program has on households and vulnerable communities. The province also committed close to \$1 billion to help social housing with energy retrofits and residential multi-tenant buildings with energy efficiency improvements.

**Federally:** This spring, the federal government initiated a national discussion on climate change. As part of that, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked Members of Parliament to hear what Canadians have to say.

In Kingston, Member of Parliament Mark Gerretsen held a town hall meeting on a sunny Saturday afternoon in June. With the help of our JPIC office, 350.org and other community groups, the room was filled with 100 people.

The meeting focused on these six issues:

1. First Nations rights
2. Paris Agreement and Canada's targets
3. 100% renewable by 2050
4. Economic benefits of a massive green shift
5. Re-thinking economics
6. Food security

The discussions made it clear that people are making the justice connections.

■ *Bridget Doherty*

## Remembering Marg in song

Dr. Mark Sirett was first taught piano by a Sister of Providence – and he didn't forget. Now a distinguished composer and the music director of the Cantabile Choirs of Kingston, every year he brings at least one of his choirs to perform for the Sisters at the Motherhouse. For many years, this was coordinated by the director of liturgical music for the Motherhouse, Marg Spooner, who passed away in December to great sadness.

Born of her love of singing, Marg became an accomplished organist and choral director. She was also a founding member of the Cantabile Choirs. In June, Cantabile held a concert in tandem with a visiting choir in her memory. Called *In the Evening*, it was lovely.

Instead of selling tickets, the concert was by donation towards a

charity Marg supported, the Marillac Mission Fund. It supports the work of the Sisters in Peru. \$3400 was raised, a beautiful testament to Marg.



## August 2 deadline for prison farms survey

One of the corporal acts of mercy is to visit the prisoner. Isaiah urges us to free the captives. The Sisters of Providence, situated in the prison region of greater Kingston, have long followed these teachings.

We supported prison farms because they made sense to us: putting those in prison

in contact with living beings, giving them responsibility for the wellbeing of animals, caring for land and crops. It was a way of being connected.

Studies have now shown that those most involved in prison farms were less likely to

commit crimes after released.

And so we urge you to fill out the online survey, issued by the Correctional Service of Canada, to test the feasibility

of re-instating these farms. You will find the link – and tips and

pointers – on our web page. (MP Mark Gerretsen has paper copies of the survey).

[providence.ca/farmsurvey](http://providence.ca/farmsurvey)



## Welcoming Ann

In June, Ann Boniferro began her official tenure as the new organist and director of liturgical music. It's a new start for Ann as she closes another chapter of her life. At the end of the school year she retired as the coordinator of religious and family life education with the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board.

Ann was the choir director and organist at The Church of the Good Thief in the Portsmouth

area of Kingston before it closed in 2013. She made her way over to the Motherhouse for liturgy and joined the choir two years ago. Now she will direct the Motherhouse choir, take part in the seasonal planning committee and select, prepare and teach music

for Sundays, feast days, funerals and seasonal events. Ann is also an inquirer with the Providence Associates. She and her husband, Rich Bannard, have two adult children.

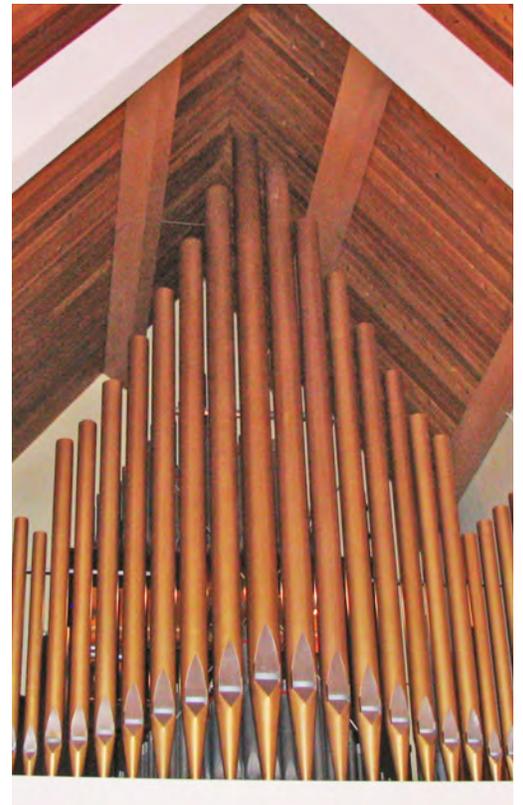


*The Motherhouse choir at Jubilee, led by Ann Boniferro on the piano*

## Motherhouse organ part of historic tour

The Motherhouse Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion features a rich and resonant organ. When the Royal Canadian College of Organists began planning their 2016 convention in Kingston, they ensured that the organ was on the program. Indeed, the organ was included three times this year: For a member concert in February, a student concert in March, and for the college's convocation as part of the July festival.

The 30-rank Casavant pipe organ (Opus 3008) was purchased and installed in the new Chapel in 1969. Keeping the original specifications, it was completely restored and revoiced in 2006.



# From private students that paid for missions to choirs and bands, Sisters taught them all

Music has a long history as an important ministry of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. From the 1880s until today, Sisters of Providence have shared and continue to share their musical talents with the communities they serve.

When the Congregation opened its teaching mission in Perth in 1892, St. John's Convent was staffed with five sisters: the local superior, three school teachers and a music teacher. This set the precedent for approximately 20 teaching missions that all had a music teacher on staff. The music teacher would teach music to private students, direct parish choirs and play the organ in the parish. It would also include teaching music in the school, including leading school choirs and bands. Sometimes the music teacher was also the sacristan for the parish. The music teachers were integral to the success

of the teaching missions. Each convent had to support itself and, as the teachers were not paid a lot, it was often the income from the teaching of private music students that enabled the mission to make ends meet.



Teaching music was not without its challenges. In the 1920s in Arnprior, Sisters Mary Gerard and Mary Carmel Teresa taught private students in the front lobby of Sacred Heart Convent at two pianos that stood side by side. They counted out loud to help their students concentrate while the nine other Sisters in residence passed by them on their way in and out. In another case, in her early days

teaching music, Sister Mary Carmel Rose wrote out music for her students as music books were not provided and there was no particular curriculum to follow.

*continued on next page*



*Sr. Mary Mercedes and the St. Michael's Junior Band, Belleville, Ontario in 1938. Above, Sr. Margaret Mary teaching music at St. John's Convent, Perth, likely in the 1980s.*



## Organ scholarship established

This year, the Sisters of Providence established a scholarship with the Kingston Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists:

The Sisters of Providence Scholarship is given to honour all Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul who have served as liturgical musicians and organists and who have fostered others to do so in the Archdiocese of Kingston. It is intended for, but not limited to, a beginning organist who wishes to minister in a Roman Catholic setting.

Its first recipient is 19-year-old Madison Compeau.

Madison thanked the Sisters, saying: “Winning the Sisters of Providence Scholarship has been an honour and an excellent opportunity to expand my musicality. I plan to continue playing the organ in years to come.”



## From harmonica choir to flower cantata

*continued from previous page*

The music teachers offered more than just piano lessons. They conducted bands, taught singing, piano, violin, guitar and more. The various convent studios were known for their musical recitals. In the June 1922 issue of the Guardian magazine, Jessie Keith of Trenton describes a recital given by Sr. Mary Germain and the music students of St. Peter's Convent Trenton in which she both sang and danced: “The Cantata ‘Wildwood Flowers’ was a grand number and received enthusiastic applause... We may thank our kind teacher Sister M. Germain who composed the Cantata and

trained us to sing it with such success.”

The Sisters were known for the bands and orchestras they led. On May 23, 1930, the music students of St. John's Convent Gananoque put on a ‘Musical’ which included a Convent Orchestra and the first appearance of the Harmonica Band.

Teaching music was an active part of the Sisters' ministry in Kingston. The House of Providence had a well-known music studio. Sister Mary Genevieve and Sister Mary Hildegard developed and taught the music curriculum at St. Mary's and St. John's Schools

## Renewed life for old instruments

As music teachers retired and local convents closed, many instruments made their way to the Motherhouse in Kingston. After a while, quite a collection accumulated made up of tambourines, drums, many recorders and more. There were a fair number of pitch pipes and metronomes as well.

This winter, many of those instruments were donated to the Joe Chithalen Memorial Musical Instrument Lending Library (Joe's M.I.L.L.), a first-of-its-kind charity that will lend out any of its 800 instruments, from violas to digiridoos. They took everything that could be taken apart and cleaned. What is especially lovely about this is that new generations of musicians will benefit from these instruments and the music legacy continues in a new form.



in Kingston, as well as being vital to the music studio at the House of Providence and integral to the Sisters' legacy of music in Kingston. Several sisters had music studios at Providence Motherhouse.

As the Congregation gradually withdrew from teaching in schools, the music teachers continued to teach private students and be involved with parish music ministry. In Picton, for example, while the last Sister taught in the separate school in 1978, a Sister continued teaching music at St. Gregory's Convent until 1997. Music is still being taught today by Sister Rita Gleeson in Edmonton and Sister Marie Dundon in Kingston.

■ *Archivist Veronica Stienburg*



*Sister Gertrude Casey teaching the guitar*

# Sister Stella Szybisty

Stella Szybisty was born on July 19, 1926 in Janatowica, Poland, the second of two daughters of Elizabeth Joseph Szybisty. Her family immigrated to Canada in 1930 and settled on a farm in Polonia, Manitoba where she and her sister attended the local schools and worked on the family farm.

She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on September 15, 1948 and made her First Profession on August 15, 1950. Her first assignment was as housekeeper at St. Carthagh's Convent in Tweed where she also studied piano and theory.

Between 1955 and 1975 she was housekeeper in the convents in Trenton, Prescott, Montreal, and at the Community's Group Homes in Kingston. From 1975 to 1976 she worked in the dining room and was chauffeur at the Motherhouse. In 1978 she spent a short time in the mission at San Cristobal, Totonicapan, Guatemala then returned to the Motherhouse. From 1979-1981 and from 1986-88 she once again served on the mission in Guatemala.

When she returned to Canada she was assigned, in succession, to: the group homes in Kingston;

Rosary Hall in Edmonton; Providence Hall in Belleville and, finally, to St. Joseph's Parish in Brantford for pastoral ministry to the Polish community. In 1988 she enjoyed a sabbatical year at the Galilee program in Arnprior and took the CHAC Pastoral Care course in Ottawa. She was then assigned to pastoral ministry at St. Michael's Parish in Pincher Creek, Alberta. In 1990 she went to St. Anthony's Home in Moose Jaw to minister in pastoral care and, in 1995, she transferred to Providence Place, Moose Jaw.

In 2005 she returned to the Motherhouse where she assisted the coordinator of one of the community groups.

Sister Stella was called home peacefully to her loving God on May 3, 2016 after a long illness. She will be remembered for her deep faith, her generous and compassionate spirit as well as her sense of humour which she never lost even during her illness.

The Mass of Christian Burial, held in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion, Providence Motherhouse, Kingston on May 5, 2016 was presided over by Most Rev. Brendan O'Brien. Friar Ed Debono, OFM Conv. delivered the homily.



# Offerings of mystery, hope and connection

FALL SENIORS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY SERIES:  
**Christian Hope: Keeping the World Alive to the Promises of God**

Thu. Sep 22 & Oct 6, 9:45 AM – 1 PM  
*Denise Bérubé, CND*  
 Cost \$20/session (includes lunch)  
 Register 2 weeks in advance for meal count.

When tragedy strikes, when trouble comes, when life disappoints us – as it surely will – we stand at the crossroads between hope and despair. Which will we choose? Macrina Wiederkehr talks about Christian hope as “standing on tiptoe”, with our whole being and gaze “on the lookout”, our hearts open to the unexpected, the God-surprises along the way.

Senior or not, if you’d like to come, you’re welcome!

OVERNIGHT RETREAT:  
**Body, Mind and Spirit**

Fri. Oct 7, 7PM – Sat. Oct 8, 4PM  
 Register by Fri Sep 23  
*Deacon Bill Gervais*  
 Cost \$75

We often hear the phrase “body, mind and spirit” and understand it as a description of the unity of the human person. But our experience tells us that more often we feel disconnected and disengaged from this trinitarian view of the person. This overnight retreat will allow persons to reconnect their body, mind and spirit through a series of talks, reflections and meditation that explores John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body” and the wisdom and practices of mindfulness and meditation as taught by such authors as John Main, Thomas Merton, John Cassian, Thich Nhat Hahn and others.

OCTOBER DIRECTED RETREAT  
 Wed. Oct 19, 6:30pm – Wed. Oct 26, 1pm  
 Register by Wed Oct 5  
*Fr. J. Roy Boucher, OMI & PSC Team*  
 Cost \$495 or \$75/day

J. Roy Boucher, OMI, Founder and First Director of Galilee Renewal Centre, is an Oblate of Mary Immaculate with over 40 years of experience in spiritual animation and religious formation, group process facilitation, and retreat/renewal ministry. After serving as Provincial Leader of his OMI Province, Roy worked in mission education in hospitals in Hamilton and Sudbury. During these years in health care, he represented the OCCB on the Government of Ontario Multi Faith Council. Currently, he resides in Arnprior and continues his ministry in spiritual accompaniment of individuals and groups.

## “Holy Mystery ... Sacred Presence”

Thu. Nov 3, 7pm – Sat. Nov 5, 1pm  
 Call to pre-register with deposit ASAP  
 Full payment by Oct 6

*Hilary Musgrave & Monica Brown*  
 Cost \$135 (includes meals)  
 Accommodation & Thu. supper add \$100

Using music, imagery, ritual and sacred clowning, Monica and Hilary will provide a creative reflective space to ponder the Incarnational mystery with a renewed appreciation of God’s continual self-expression within the context of the New Cosmology. Integrating the wisdom of the New Universe Story with our Christian story, this retreat experience invites participants to embrace the Sacred within their own being and to open themselves to the transforming vision of life that recognizes God, “as the mystery of human experience...” (Rahner) and life-giving Presence in all creation.



# Sr. Jeannette's class are Changing Together



Since 2006 I have been involved with Changing Together Centre for Immigrant Women in Edmonton, working in research and teaching levels 3 and 4 of English as a Second Language. This year I had upwards of 12 - 16 women in my classes every Wednesday morning. These are women of all ages, some married, some single, who come from a variety of countries seeking assistance in learning English and other life skills to help them settle in their new homeland. Many other services are offered at Changing Together. The community bonding that happens among the women of different nationalities is a tribute to the spirit of Changing Together and I am most grateful to have a small part in helping that to happen.

■ *Sister Jeannette Filthaut*

