

*A newsletter of the
Sisters of Divine Providence
Marie de le Roche Province*

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

PROVIDENCE

Alive!

Witnessing
through prayer,
presence, and
action





Opening Our Hearts

by Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, Provincial Director

AS WE APPROACH ANEW THE DAYS OF PENTECOST, WE CELEBRATE OUR LIFE IN THE RISEN Christ; we rejoice in the Divine promise of forgiveness and grace offered to all Christians who follow Jesus; we anticipate once more a deepening presence of God's Spirit of Love, alive and active within us!

For the past two months, we Sisters, have gathered together as area communities in the United States and the Caribbean, seeking to discern where and how God is leading us and what it is we are called and challenged to consider, as we strive to live our days, as it says in our mission statement, in "compassion, justice, and peace." Over and over in these times of sharing, we have sung, in Spanish and in English,

In your Spirit, gather us, (En tu Espíritu, reúnenos.)

In your Spirit, open our hearts, (En tu Espíritu, abre nuestro Corazón.)

In your Spirit, O God, guide and direct our paths. (En tu Espíritu, Oh Dios, guíanos y dirígenos.)

As we live our vowed commitment within society, we regularly ask ourselves, how is the Spirit of God breathing in us new invitations to serve others? How is God opening our hearts to be a compassionate presence in our world today, "in the spirit of Jesus Christ himself" [Constitutions, Art. 2]? How does our God strengthen us to make Providence visible in our service of others?

Several years ago, as a community gathered in God's Spirit, we made a corporate commitment, i.e., set a communal goal, "to promote a consistent ethic of life." Three years ago, we took a corporate stance to work against the systems that create human trafficking by educating ourselves and others and finding ways to assist those caught in this global evil. We know we cannot promote life without allowing God's Spirit to "open our hearts" and minds, so that we can be touched and see more clearly the life needs of our local and global society. We accept that we cannot be witnesses of God's love and healing without the Holy Spirit's guidance and direction. And so, we sing and we pray for that openness to work for the sake of God's Reign today.

In all the services given by our Sisters, individually or in small groups, in ministries sponsored by our community or by other communities, or public service agencies, or the Church, our corporate commitment to all life, inspired by God's Spirit, "guides and directs our paths. Our lives, our faithfulness, are expressed in human and graced ways, through prayer, presence, and action, in promoting life and seeking to heal brokenness and bring wholeness. We strive to witness our consecration through who we are and what we do as we reach out to the homeless and poor, the oppressed and undocumented, the elderly and frail, the families and students, the clients and parishioners, the women and children, those who find themselves unable to access basic services, those affected by natural disasters or impacted by war, and those whose talents remain undeveloped through the systemic limits of our societies.

Our commitment to a consistent ethic of life, our mission of compassion, justice, and peace, our intention to live according to the spirit of Jesus Christ himself, all have the same purpose and goal: to bring about God's Reign, the Kingdom and life promised by Jesus. We are helpless without God's grace, without Jesus' gift of salvation, without the Spirit's presence and guidance. Thank you, Provident God, for this new Pentecost moment!

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Go Green with the Sisters

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE SISTERS OF Divine Providence and staff have undertaken a number of green initiatives in support of their commitment to hold all life sacred, which includes practicing responsible stewardship of God's resources. Raising awareness of the finite nature of the natural resources of planet Earth has been a priority. Some of the things undertaken include installation of electric hand dryers, which reduces the use of paper products; recycling computer and computer components, aluminum and plastic, and batteries; switching to earth-friendly cleaning products; using cloth napkins in many convents and at the Pittsburgh motherhouse, creating and posting signage for public spaces urging conservation of water and electricity. Likewise, our sponsored ministries are very active in practicing "green" initiatives, including sustainable agriculture.

Another important way for us to conserve resources is to assess our newsletter procedure in an effort to find ways to meet the need of communicating with you while being responsible stewards of our financial and material resources. Currently, our newsletter is mailed to more than 15,000 readers. You can imagine the cost of printing and mailing such a large number of newsletters! We are asking your help. Inside this issue of *Providence Alive*, you will find a postage-paid postcard that we hope you will complete and return to us to indicate your desire to remain on our mailing list. If we do not receive your return postcard, or should you elect to remove your name from the list, this will be your final mailed issue of *Providence Alive*.

Staff and Sisters at Providence Heights plant a tree to mark this year's Earth Day celebration.

Don't forget that our newsletter is posted on our website at www.divineprovidenceweb.org and you are welcome to read it there. If you elect online reading as your option, please remember to indicate that on the postcard and include your email address so that we can send you a reminder when the newsletter is posted.

Providence Alive is an important vehicle for staying connected with our Providence family and sharing news of the Sisters and their ministries; however, if you do not read the publication, or if you would prefer to read it online, we would appreciate your letting us know.

Note, if you are an Associate, DPA alumna, or a recent donor, your name will not be removed from our mailing list.



Sister Melanie Kambic recycling aluminum and plastic at Providence Heights, Allison Park, Pa.



Sister Bernadette Young



It seemed natural that Sister Bernadette would become a teacher. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Duquesne University and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Dayton. She went on to teach at St. Cecelia in Rochester, Pennsylvania, followed by years at St. Mary's in Beaver Falls and St. Martin's in Pittsburgh's West End neighborhood. She also taught eighth grade at St. Cecelia in Glassport, where she is remembered as a kind and gentle teacher who expected much from her students. She spent a number of years as a teacher/guidance director at Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

It had long been the dream of the Community to establish a college that would reflect the values of its co-founders, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Mother Marie de la Roche. On the journey toward making that dream a reality, Sisters were educated in a number of disciplines necessary to operate an institution of higher learning. In the mid 1950s, Sister Bernadette interned in the field of college administration at Marillac College in St. Louis. In 1963, when the dream of La Roche College became a reality, Sister Bernadette was prepared to move into the position of Registrar and Dean of Admissions, developing the processes and procedures for these departments. She spent eight years in the positions, some of the time living in the college dormitory!

Sister Bernadette left the College to attend the University of Pittsburgh in pursuit of a doctorate in Foundations of Education. It was while she was writing her doctoral dissertation (John Dewey and Selected American Catholic Thinkers: 1900-1975 From Anathema to Dialogue) that she accepted an invitation that was to

change her future: joining the campus ministry team. Sister Bernadette agreed to try it "for a year or two."

For more than 30 years, Sister Bernadette ministered with enthusiasm to the many college students who crossed her path at the Newman Catholic Oratory Center in Oakland, Pennsylvania. To her, visibility was important; she could be seen walking the Chatham and Carnegie Mellon campuses, connecting with the students. That's how Sister Bernadette believes that she made Providence visible. "I'm available. I listen. If I see students who are lonely or alone, I'll sit with them and talk," she said.

In addition to her educational ministry, which included RCIA religious instruction, Sister Bernadette provided spiritual direction and individual and group retreat leadership. She remained healthy and active until 2006, and at the age of 80, her desired retirement age, she left active ministry. Sister continues to stay connected to her many friends and former students through email and phone calls, and she is active in the ministry of prayer. About her influence, a former student remarked, "There are people all around the world who have a relationship with Christ as Roman Catholic because of Sister Bernadette. In our lives, we meet people who plant seeds, but she spent time pruning and cultivating, too." ☀

IN 1963, THE SISTERS OF DIVINE Providence founded La Roche College and named it for the co-founder of their religious community, Mother Marie de la Roche. Since then, the Sisters have taken a vital interest in the ongoing mission and development of the College, and continue to animate the values and inspire the College community. The Woman of Providence Award is given annually at the spring Commencement to a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence whose life of service, as a part of the mission of the Congregation, is a compelling example of God's Providence made visible.

This year's recipient, Sister Bernadette Young, can't remember a time when she didn't love to learn. A native of New Philadelphia, Ohio, she attended Sacred Heart Elementary and then St. Joseph's High School in neighboring Dover, Ohio. She was a good student, who loved and respected each of the Sisters of Divine Providence who taught her. According to Sister Bernadette, they made her think. In 1946, at the age of 20, she joined her older sister, Sister Muriel, in religious life, becoming a Sister of Divine Providence.



St. Patrick's Day Parade



THE PITTSBURGH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE BILLS ITSELF as one of the top five parades in the nation. For the third year, Sisters from a number of religious communities participated in the festivities. This year we enlisted the aid of Molly's Trolleys, so that some of the older sisters who could not walk the parade route would be able to participate. About 65 Sisters marched the mile and a half route and were greeted by well wishers all along the way. It was a wonderful witness to religious life and the parade goers were happy to see the Sisters, often shouting, "We love you, Sisters!" or calling out the name of their grade school or the name of the community that taught them. The Sisters passed out candy and bookmarks with an Irish blessing. Post parade note: We have been notified that the Catholic Sisters of Western Pennsylvania marching unit was named Best Senior Non-Irish Marching Women and will receive an award! This is becoming a Pittsburgh tradition and one that everyone looks forward to.



Parade participants: front, Sisters Wendolyn López Santos, Bertshabé Palomino Montalvo, Betty Sundry; standing, Sisters Doris Kretzler, Marian Senish and Rosalia Caulfield.



Vocation Video: How Is God Calling You?



THE CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK OF YOUNGSTOWN (CTNY) IS PRODUCING A Vocation Series entitled, "How Is God Calling You?" This series will feature every religious congregation represented in the Diocese of Youngstown, as well as persons/groups representing other vocations. Each series for the religious features one religious congregation and will be 30 minutes long. Sisters Lu Haidnick, Rose Anne Krantz, and Lisa Paffrath will be featured in the Sisters of Divine Providence segment. Sister Lisa is vocation coordinator and she selected Sisters Lu and Rose Anne to share their vocation story in part because they live and minister in Ohio. The filming was completed in March and we are eagerly awaiting the air date. Not only will the series be broadcast on Youngstown TV, but also in other areas such as Brooklyn, New York City, Providence, Long Island, and possibly Boston. It will also be posted on the Internet. Thank you, Sisters Lu and Rose Anne, for sharing your personal vocation stories!



Sister Lu (left) and Sister Rose Anne prepare to be interviewed.



Vocation Ministry Initiatives

SISTER LISA PAFFRATH HAS BEGUN full-time ministry as Vocation Coordinator for the province. She is supported in the Vocation Office by Rose Beauclair Radkowski, who works with social media and outreach, and by two office assistants for Vocations, Sisters Ann Catherine Fuchs and Bernie Duman. Sister Lisa's work is to coordinate the vocation-promotion ministry of all Sisters in the province, particularly the efforts of the area vocation contacts. Current vocation contacts include Sisters Kathy Matz (Detroit area), Elsa Medina and Juanita Torres Acevedo (Puerto Rico), Margaret Mertens (St. Louis area), and Jeanne Morris (Kingston area).

Recently, Sisters Margaret Mertens and Kathy Matz have been active in their work to increase awareness about and support for vocations to the Sisters of Divine Providence. The weekend of February 25-26, Sister Margaret organized a very successful Vocation Fest at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Granite City, Illinois. The event, which was held after all Masses, gave parishioners an opportunity to learn more about priests, brothers, and Sisters and how they live today. Sisters Maria Fest, Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, Karina Conrad, Sally Vega Alvarado, Barbara Mulnik, Kathleen Angel, and Linda Hylla joined Sister Margaret. Sister Margaret spoke at the end of each Mass. Sister Margaret said that many people visited the vocation display and shared memories of the Sisters who taught at the school or were active in the parish. "We thanked them for their prayers and support," she said.

In Detroit, Sister Kathy worked with Sisters from several other communities to host a "Nun Run" on the weekend of March 30-31, for eight women interested in discerning vocations to consecrated life. These women visited several Sisters' houses

and convents during the weekend. Sister Kathy gave a presentation in which she shared her own vocation story, explored the Providence charism, involved participants in liturgical movement, and explained the "CDP Rosary," which is becoming a signature element of the Community's vocational outreach.

As part of a province-wide project inspired by the initial popularity of the CDP Rosary in Puerto Rico, Sisters Margaret, Sally, Karina, and Kathleen have been making special vocation rosaries that can be used to pray for vocations. Sister Wendolyn López Santos has also made many of these simple single-decade rosaries and has been teaching other Sisters and supporters how to make them. The accompanying prayer card, available in both English and Spanish, includes

five Mysteries of Divine Providence on one side and a Prayer for Vocations on the reverse. If you or someone you know would like to receive a vocation rosary and prayer card, contact the Vocation Office at 412-931-5242 or cdpvocations@yahoo.com.



Sister Margaret explains the CDP Rosary to a young parishioner at St. Elizabeth.



Sister Wendolyn guides La Roche students (from left) Yihong Peng, Cassie Johnson, and Stephanie Wizoreck as they gather to make single-decade rosaries.



Associate News

Retreat Days

The St. Louis Associates recently held an Education Day on March 24. The featured speaker was scripture scholar and teacher Sallie Latkovich, CSJ. Sister Sallie works at Chicago Theological University (CTU) and leads pilgrimages and tours in the Holy Land. She is also a close friend of Sister Barbara McMullen. The theme of her talk was Lenten scripture reflection. "Sister Sallie provides wonderful insights into scripture," explains Associate Colleen Price. "She can explain what things mean in the Greek. For example, she talked about the passage where Jesus asked Peter, 'Do you love me?' and how we can apply Jesus' acceptance of Peter's response to our own lives." Associate co-director Sister Stephanie Turck was in attendance.

Kingston Retreat Day was held on March 24 at the Visitation Convent, a place of quiet beauty. Sister Florita Rodman, expectant and well-prepared, presented the Gospel of the 5th Sunday of Lent and the Annunciation of Mary, using the Lectio Divino method of prayer. It was a lovely day to be together and share the Good News.

Welcome Pittsburgh Associates

On March 31, the Sisters of Divine Providence welcomed four new Associates at the Rite of Acceptance and Renewal, held in Mother of Divine Providence Chapel in Pittsburgh. Betty Kost, Maryann D'Alessandro, Shelley Johnsen, and Sandy Stevenson look forward to the companionship with fellow Associates, deepening their spiritual and prayer life, and learning more about God's providential ways.



From left, new Pittsburgh area Associates Maryann D'Alessandro, Shelley Johnsen, Sandy Stevenson, and Betty Kost, received at the Rite of Acceptance and Renewal at Providence Heights on March 31, 2012.



Special Event News

❁ Breakfast with the INN Crowd

“Be the change you wish to see in the world” was the theme of the fourth annual Breakfast with the INN Crowd on Friday, April 20. Friends and partners who contributed their time, talents, and treasure over the past several months to the Breakfast certainly embraced this inspiring quote by Mahatma Ghandi.



From left, Associate Tami Stoneburner, Sister Agnes Marie Geringer, and Sister Margaret Mertens at Breakfast with the INN Crowd.

Their efforts led to the success of the morning fundraiser, for which nearly 400 people were in attendance.

Serving as emcee this year was veteran St. Louis television personality Patrick Murphy, vice president of production for KETC Channel 9. Once again, we were honored to have Steve Rupp, director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and vice president of Missouri Right to Life, as our auctioneer.

The program consisted of a new video featuring night sites volunteers and what serving the homeless in their community means to them and their congregations. Former clients also spoke on how they have become self-sufficient since their stay at Room at the Inn. There were raffles and a live auction, as well as a fund-a-need oral auction, the proceeds of which will help clients directly through the purchase of bus passes, additional night shelter, and gasoline for the program's van. The highlight of the live auction was the beautiful Cardinals quilt, created especially for this year's Breakfast by the talented quilting ladies of Eliot Unitarian Chapel, a Room night site. They were in attendance as Steve Rupp auctioned off the one-of-a-kind quilt for \$2,000.

This success would not have been possible without the efforts of so many dedicated people willing to be the change. We are thankful to our committee members, volunteers, donors, solicitors, advertisers, sponsors, and bidders. Because of them, Breakfast with the INN Crowd again received an increase in total donations to help shelter clients this year. (To view more photos from the Breakfast, please visit www.facebook.com/RoomSTL.)

❁ Hands & Hearts

The success of Hands & Hearts, a champagne brunch and auction to benefit La Posada Providencia, was overwhelming. The event was held on Saturday, January 28, at the Texas State Technical College Cultural Arts Center, with nearly 200 in attendance. We credit the success of the event to our many friends and partners who contributed their time, talents, and treasure over the last several months.

We were honored to have Velma De Los Santos serve as our emcee. The morning began with a welcome from Program Director Sister Zita Telkamp, followed by a prayer composed and led by La Posada Board Member Rev. Ryan Pederson. Entertainment was provided by local musician Carlos Cañas, and the youth choir In Bloom.

One of the highlights of the program was hearing “Karim’s” story, a client of La Posada’s who was born in Ghana, West Africa, and was persecuted for his political beliefs. He fled to the United States seeking asylum and served four months in detention before he was released to La Posada. Karim continues learning English and working on his GED.



La Posada Fundraising Committee Co-Chair Paula Olivarez (left) with Sister Zita Telkamp at Hands & Hearts.

There were drawings and raffles and auctions, which did very well: auction proceeds, ticket and ad sales, and sponsorships will go to support our general fund.

We are grateful to our committee members, volunteers, donors, solicitors, advertisers, sponsors, and bidders. Because of you, Hands & Hearts received an increase in total donations to help La Posada clients this year. Thank you!

❁ Charting a Course for Success

Sacred Heart School hosted its first all-campus event “Charting a Course for Success” on Friday, March 19, at Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston. Planned by a dedicated committee of school parents, alumni, faculty, and staff, the sold-out gala included silent and live auctions, raffles, a gourmet dinner, and dancing.

Prior to the live auction, school president Pamela Desmarais welcomed the more than 325 guests and thanked the numerous corporate sponsors in attendance, including Provincial Director Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, several members of the Sisters of Divine Providence Leadership Team, and Sisters serving on the faculty and staff of the Sacred Heart School. The audience acknowledged the Sisters for their dedication and unwavering commitment to the school and its students with a rousing applause and standing ovation.

If the vibe in the room was any indication of Sacred Heart’s future, the school has truly marked its course for success. The event brought in revenues in excess of \$115,000. The net proceeds will benefit the programs and students at each of Sacred Heart’s three campuses: the Early Childhood Center, Elementary School, and High School.

❁ Sacred Heart Golf Classic

The Sacred Heart Golf Classic is slated for Monday, June 18, at the Country Club of Halifax at 1:30 p.m. The 18-hole scramble format event benefits the William C. Hunt ’87 Memorial Scholarship, which provides scholarships for deserving Sacred Heart students, and also funding for the Hunt Youth Sports Leadership Program, held at Sacred Heart for students in grades 6 through 8. Bill Hunt was an active member of the school community and died on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Towers in New York City. For further information on participating in the event as a sponsor or player, or to contribute to the Hunt Fund, contact Sue Giovanetti, Director of Institutional Advancement, Sacred Heart School, sgiovanetti@sacredheartkingston.com.



▲ Sisters Emma Jean Middendorf, Jacqueline Meyer, Lydia Steele, and (seated) Francesca O’Regan enjoyed the gala.

▲ Newly appointed Sacred Heart High School Principal Michael Gill (pictured left to right) and his wife, Tara, joined President Pamela Desmarais and her husband, Dennis O’Connor, at this year’s spring gala, “Charting a Course for Success.”

❁ Backyard BBQ

The Seventh Annual Backyard BBQ is being held on Friday, June 15, at the Senator John Heinz Regional History Museum in Pittsburgh. Proceeds from the event support the work of Providence Connections, a ministry that provides programming and services to more than 200 families and 300 children. All of the organization’s accomplishments have only one purpose in mind—to better fulfill its mission of “strengthening families and enriching lives.”

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Development

by Ana G. Schulz, Director of Development, St. Louis Office of Mission Advancement

To Print or Not to Print ...

That is the question for many non-profit managers these days, including those of us in the Office of Mission Advancement. Should we continue printing newsletters and other direct mail pieces given the rising costs of printing and postage, not to mention the implications of paper usage on the environment? On the other hand, when we consider eliminating the printing and mailing of long-standing written pieces, we ask ourselves, "How do we stay connected with our friends and supporters? How can we inform the general public about all the activities we continue to engage in to make God's Providence more visible?"

We pray the answers we have developed for these questions will adequately satisfy all of these concerns. First, those friends and supporters who are receiving this newsletter in their mailboxes and want to continue to receive it this way certainly may do so. But please, you must indicate your preference on the enclosed postcard. Those of you who prefer to read an online copy of the newsletter can do that, too. All that is needed is to check the line that indicates you prefer reading an online copy of *Providence Alive* and provide us with your email address. There are two ways you can retrieve the newsletter online: First, our newsletters are always posted on our website: www.divineprovidencweb.org. There is a *Providence Alive* button on our home page. In the future, we hope to have many more links on our site directing visitors to the newsletter. In this way, we also hope to attract new, interested parties to the newsletters; second, using the

email address you provide on the postcard, we will send you an email with a link to the newsletter as soon as it is published.

The enclosed postcard also gives our supporters and friends the choice of opting out of receiving *Providence Alive* in the future. We will honor that request and look forward to communicating with you in other ways.

Regardless of the choice you select, we encourage you to continue your partnership with us in helping to make God's Providence more visible in the world. There is still much work to be done and opportunities abound for ways in which to make positive change happen. Your financial support plays an important role in moving forward with these endeavors. Please consider making a gift of financial support through the envelope we enclose in our printed newsletter and/or by visiting our website and selecting the Donate Now button.

You, our loyal friends and supporters, are appreciated. Thank you for your help as we follow through with our decisions to make the best use of our resources.

Note: If you are an Associate, a DPA alumna, or a recent donor, your name will not be removed from our mailing list.

Online Reading

If you haven't visited the Ways to Give page of the Sisters' website, www.divineprovidencweb.org, you are missing informative and helpful articles about estate planning. Even if you have no immediate plans for making this kind of gift, the articles are timely and are prepared by financial and legal experts in the field of estate planning; they include handy planning tools. Inspiring donor stories are also featured on the site.

Jubilees

Imminent celebrations abound for our Sisters throughout the Province who are celebrating their Jubilees. Their names and pictures will be posted in our September issue of *Providence Alive*. If you would like to make a donation in honor of the 2012 Jubilarians, please do so with the enclosed remittance envelope.

In the News

What do current headlines say about the needs of our times? What do they say about the Sisters of Divine Providence? Current headlines talk about the strained economy and the resulting hardships for individuals and families, including homelessness. They highlight our conflicted opinions on ways to help families teetering on social dependency and how immigration rules and regulations should be changed or enforced. Every

day we read more and more about the stresses being placed on school systems, which affect the quality of education we can give our children. We read about our Catholic schools doing more with less to avoid closing. These and other issues that burden our society are weighty.

More than 160 years ago, the Sisters of Divine Providence were founded during similar times of need. Those needs were deemed no less weighty than what we experience today. The fact that the Sisters continue striving to meet current needs says boldly, "The Sisters of Divine Providence are committed to helping make God's Providence more visible in the world today and for the foreseeable future." However, the Sisters can't do this without your help.

To respond to current priorities, we write to you, and other donors and friends, and ask you to consider making a contribution for the "greatest need" of our Sisters. A donation for the "greatest need" will be used for ongoing living expenses of the Sisters, thus freeing other funds for the Sisters to use in support of their mission and to meet the new needs of our day. We remain grateful to all who have partnered with us in the past and pray you can continue with us as we endeavor to move the mission forward. We look forward to

the opportunity to build relationships with new friends and partners as well.

The *Marie de la Roche Giving Society* is named after the Community's co-founder. A gift in any amount enrolls you in the Society. Membership is renewable annually each July 1. If you would like more information about the *Marie de la Roche Giving Society*, please contact your regional development office.



Please remember the Sisters of Divine Providence in your will or estate planning.



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Setting up a fund to honor or remember a Sister can begin by making a phone call to one of the Development Directors listed above.



Save the Date!

11th Annual Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 13
1 to 5 p.m.
9000 Babcock Boulevard
McCandless Township

For more information, call
412-635-5401.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In support of the Community's stance against human trafficking, we have recently joined the St. Louis Rescue & Restore Coalition, a partnership of agencies working to combat human trafficking. The coalition covers a ten-county area around St. Louis and Eastern Missouri. Catholic Charities, in the greater St. Louis metro area, is the lead organization in the coalition that includes agencies specializing in law enforcement, legal services, counseling/therapy, case management, employment services, shelter/housing, interpretation/translation, and many other areas.

In early January, Gil Weyhaupt and Ana Schulz were on hand in St. Louis to join the Nix Conference & Meeting Management to celebrate the signing of the ECPAT-USA Meeting Planner's Code of Conduct. Nix is the first Meeting Planning Company in the nation to do so. ECPAT-USA protects children from commercial sexual exploitation through research, training, awareness raising, policy development, and advocacy.

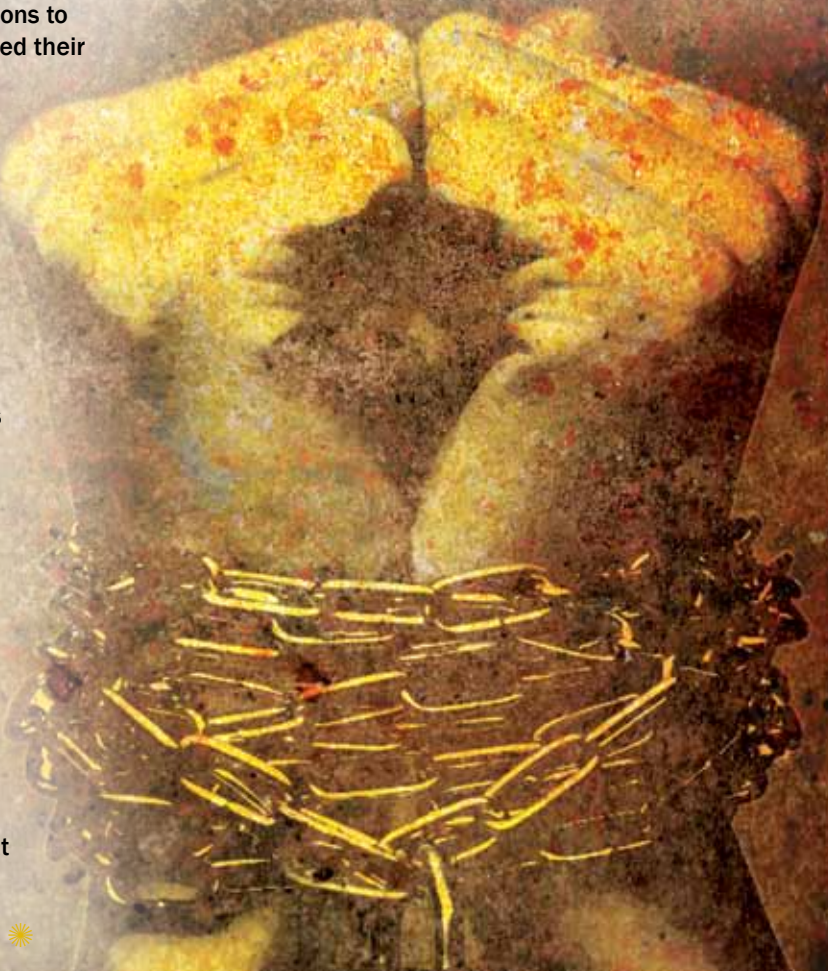
Sister Margaret Mertens is representing the Sisters in the St. Louis coalition. Sisters and Associates have already hosted several Human Trafficking 101 presentations to help raise awareness of this issue and have offered their unique facilities, via Room at the Inn, to support other coalition objectives.

A similar group is active in the Pittsburgh area. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition is comprised of representatives of local, state, and federal law enforcement, social service organizations, religious/church groups, university officials, and concerned citizens. The FBI is the lead organization. The group's mission statement is: To develop and maintain a network of individuals and agencies to educate the community about human trafficking, to work collaboratively with other organizations in identifying at-risk possible victims, and to provide emergent support for survivors. Our sphere of concentration is under-aged victims.

Sisters Roberta Grzelak and Betty Sundry, and Pat Serafini, in the Office of Mission Advancement, represent the Community in the Coalition. Sister Roberta, working in a local parish, has firsthand information concerning some labor trafficked persons whom she has encountered and helped, and Sister Betty and Pat are part of the speaker's bureau to educate the wider community.



Rescue & Restore Coalition Organizer Abby Howard (right) and Director of Development Ana Schulz (left)
Rescue & Restore Coalition Organizer Abby Howard (right) and Director of Development Ana Schulz (left)



Ketteler Award for Social Justice

An Evening With Natalie Grant



Natalie Grant
Abolition International

This year's Bishop Ketteler Award for Social Justice will be presented to award-winning Christian singer and activist Natalie Grant for her passionate commitment to fighting the atrocities of human trafficking and the child sex trade, her dedication to living out her faith, and her commitment to making God's providence more visible in our world. She will be presented the award at a reception and dinner event on Tuesday, October 23, at Shannopin Country Club, Ben Avon Heights in Pittsburgh.

In accepting the award, Ms. Grant will speak about her involvement in the fight against human trafficking and the work being accomplished by her foundation, Abolition International. She has committed her life and public platform to fighting for the freedom of all who are forced into the commercial sex trade. Her work against trafficking has domestic and international impact and provides advocacy, education, and relief efforts to end the suffering of women and children sold into sexual slavery.

Plan to join us and our lead sponsors UPMC Passavant and UPMC St. Margaret's for *An Evening with Natalie Grant*. Dinner tickets are \$75/each; special pre-dinner reception with Ms. Grant and dinner tickets are \$125/each. Information about tickets will be posted on our website beginning July 2012. In the meantime, save the date, October 23, for this very special event. Proceeds benefit the ministries of the Sisters of Divine Providence. (Ms. Grant will not perform at this event.)



Special Event News

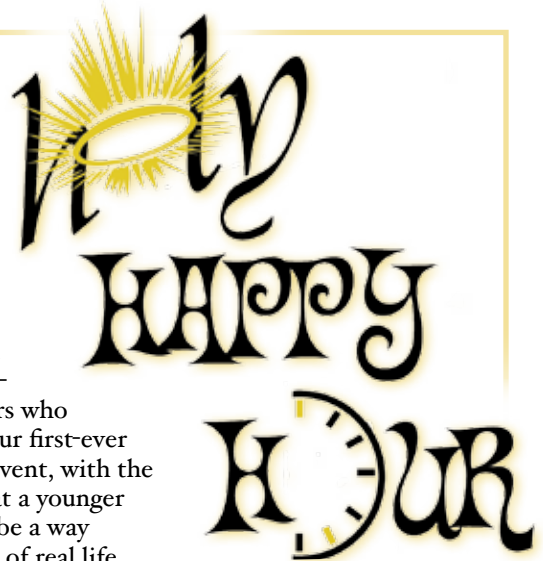
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Holy Happy Hour

Our Habits Have Changed, but Our Mission Hasn't

One of the most challenging areas for the Office of Mission Advancement is finding creative ways to cultivate relationships with young adults. Most of our friends and benefactors have had decades-long relationships with the Community, mostly because of the Sisters who taught them and their family members. This summer, we will host our first-ever Holy Happy Hour at the New Hazlett Theater in Pittsburgh. This event, with the theme "Our habits have changed, but our mission hasn't," is aimed at a younger demographic (although everyone is very welcome to attend). It will be a way for us to introduce a new group of people to the lives and ministries of real life Catholic Sisters. The event, which will be held from 6 to 8 p. m., will feature appetizers, beer, wine, and soft drinks, entertainment, and a photo booth courtesy of Ham It Up! If you are in the Pittsburgh area, mark your calendar and join us for this fun event. Tickets are \$40; \$35 for young professionals under age 35, and can be purchased online at www.divineprovidencweb.org or by phone at 412-635-5401.

In conjunction with the event, we are selling tickets for a special drawing with some great prizes: 1st prize: \$500 Ticketmaster gift card; 2nd prize: Four tickets to a Pittsburgh Penguins hockey game; 3rd prize: Gift cards to a number of Pittsburgh restaurants. To purchase drawing tickets, visit our website or call 412-635-5401.



In Memory



Sister Mary Ann
Haug
December 4, 2011



Sister Joan
Albaugh
December 24, 2011



Sister Catherine
Odelehr
December 28, 2011



Sister Assumpta
Capaccio
February 7, 2012



Sister Mary Alvin
Hunter
April 14, 2012

The Sisters of Divine Providence
also remember Associate ...

Joella Gipson
January 31, 2012

Contributions in memory of Sisters Joan Albaugh, Mary Ann Haug, and Catherine Odelehr can be sent to the following address: Development Office, 3415 Bridgeland Drive, Bridgeton, Mo. 63044

Contributions in memory of Sisters Assumpta Capaccio and Mary Alvin Hunter can be sent to the following address: Development Office, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15101

To make contributions in memory of these or any of the Sisters, you can donate online at www.divineprovidenceweb.org.



A Providence Woman
lives forever
in the hearts
of those who remember...

I Support Religious Life

Ribbon Campaign

The 16th annual World Day for Consecrated Life was celebrated on Sunday, February 5, 2012. It is a day to honor men and women religious in consecrated life, to express appreciation for the service of those who have chosen the consecrated life, and to pray for an increase in vocations. Sisters of Divine Providence participated in an I Support Religious Life Ribbon Campaign by making and wearing black and white ribbons during the weeks surrounding the celebration. Ribbons were made available to the Sisters and staff and to visitors or others who requested them. News of the campaign was posted on the Community Facebook page, and many of our 'friends' stated that they were going to make their own ribbons and join in the campaign. It was a very popular initiative and one that we hope will grow larger with each passing year. ✨



Prayer for Consecrated Life

*Gracious God of Life and Love,
we give you thanks for
countless women and men
from ages past unto this very day
who, enflamed with your love,
consecrate their hearts to you
while they pour out their lives in
service for all your people,
especially those most in need.*

*Continue, through the power of your
Holy Spirit and the example of these
dynamic men and women, to draw others
to dedicate themselves to you in
Consecrated Life
for the sake of the Gospel.*

*In a world at times cold and dark,
may all those consecrated to you
be ever living flames of love and light.
Amen.*

— EVELYN DETTLING, OSB

Sister Ana Lydia Sonera Matos showing support for Religious life during the black and white ribbon campaign.



Sisters of Divine Providence
Marie de la Roche Province

c/o 9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101-2713
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Mission Statement

We, the Congregation of Divine Providence, impelled by the Spirit of Jesus, commit ourselves to co-create a world of compassion, justice and peace. Guided by the legacy of Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Marie de la Roche, we nurture in ourselves and in others a trust and confidence in God's faithful presence.

We further commit ourselves to making God's Providence more visible in our world.

The Sisters of Divine Providence is an international congregation of three provinces (Germany, American-Caribbean, Korea) and one region (Peru) with approximately 500 vowed members and 200 Associates. Since its founding in Finthen, Germany in 1851, the Congregation has expanded its ministries to meet the needs of the times in education, health care, pastoral care, social work, campus ministry, work among those who are poor or homeless, and peace and justice concerns.



heads up!

This could be your last issue of *Providence Alive!*

Don't forget to mail back the enclosed postcard—postage paid—and let us know if you want to continue receiving *Providence Alive* by mail.

www.divineprovidencewebsite.org