

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

F A L L 2 0 1 3

**PROVIDENCE**

*Alive!*

**“... we live in the abundance of  
God’s loving Providence, and we  
are strengthened by the bonds of  
inclusive Community.”**

—Charism Statement, Marie de la Roche Province







# Living in the abundance of God's loving Providence, we dare to risk!

by Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, Provincial Director

**T**HIS MANTRA, SUNG REGULARLY AT OUR RECENT Annual Assembly, celebrates the charisma that grounds and challenges us. As Sisters and Associates, we are deepened in a call of our Provident God, as it finds resonance within us today, knowing it has struck the same chord in those who have preceded us through the years.

The Vision Statement presented to us during our Assembly was contemplated deeply in prayer and conversation. The days of our Assembly provided us with graced opportunities to look back, to look within and around at our world, and to be clearer about how we want to look ahead.

*We were and are called* today to be in touch with our founders and the women who envisioned and served in our Providence community all the way back to 1851. We seek to recognize how they heard God's call in their own *living in the abundance of God's loving Providence*, and as they risked the journey of presence, compassion, and faithfulness.

*We were and are called* in our day to be grateful to those women who traveled from Germany to Ohio and then Pittsburgh in 1876 to serve the needs of the people. We strive to realize how they lived and witnessed a deep trust in *God's loving Providence* and to emulate their commitment as they *dared to risk* in the midst of new struggles and challenges.

*We were and are called* to stand tall as we walk in the footsteps of our foremothers, the women who led us into Rome and Puerto Rico, Korea and Peru, Poland and the Dominican Republic. We learn from their lives and stretch ourselves toward one another, linking arms with those who are our companions in community, association, and ministry for our world today.

*We were and are called* to know and believe the moment is now; this is our time, the only time we have! We trust in Providence, aware of the signs of the times today, awake to the local and global needs, believing we have been given all the gifts we need to respond with generosity. We ask for and open ourselves to the graces of courage, perseverance, and fidelity, *daring to risk*, as we walk into the future from which God calls us and for which God has prepared us.

The mantra, *Living in the abundance of God's loving Providence, we dare to risk*, invites us to *let go* of whatever blocks our ears, clouds our vision, or delays our journey, knowing the people of our world need us now. The mantra reminds us to open our hands to lighten our load for the journey and to *let come* whatever may free us to live our compassionate response for our world.

With our Provident God, we invite each and all of our readers to be open to and trust in God's loving Providence for your journey. Believing that God calls each and all of us to witness and service for a world of love, justice, and peace, let us "*Dare to Risk*" together. The needs of our world call us now!

## Marie de la Roche Province LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP  
Provincial Director

Maria Fest, CDP  
Asst. to the Provincial

### COUNCILLORS

Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP  
Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP  
Mary Traupman, CDP

### EDITOR

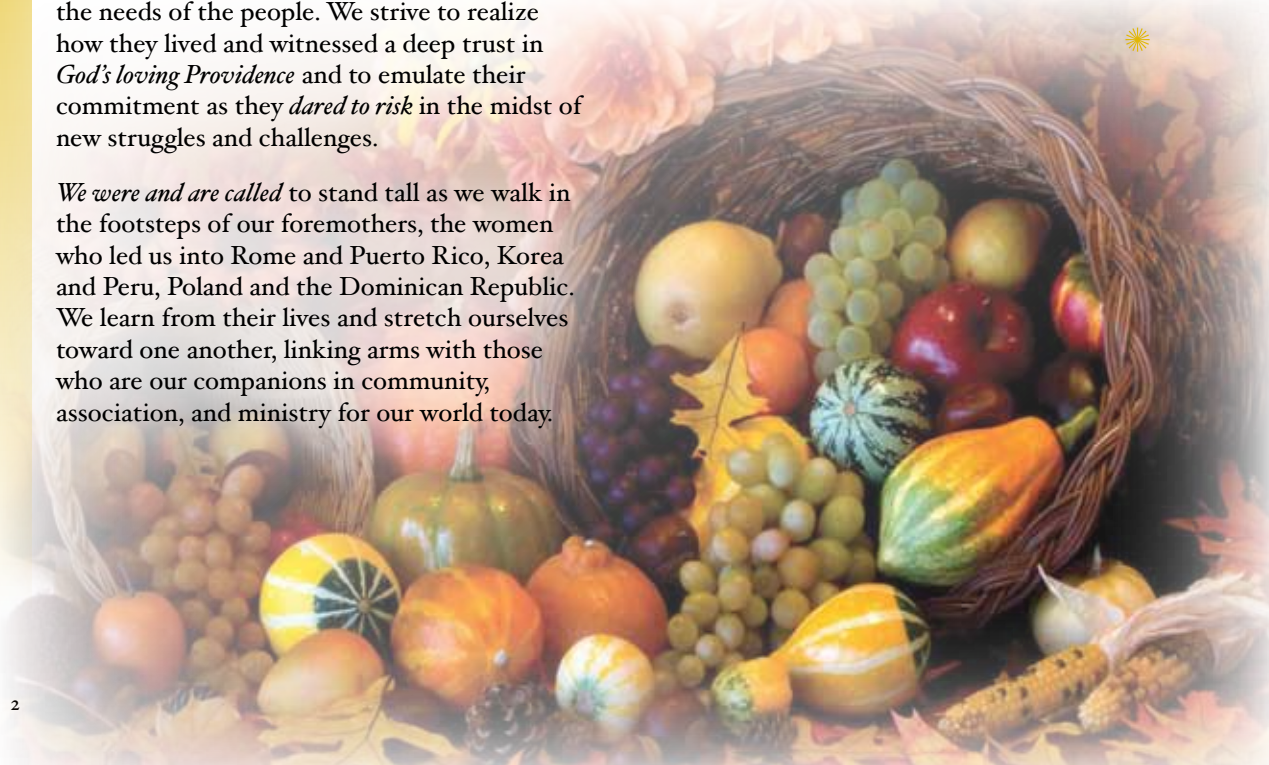
Jean Dennison  
Executive Director  
Office of Mission Advancement

Providence Heights  
9000 Babcock Boulevard  
Allison Park, PA 15101-2713  
412-635-5428  
Fax 412-635-5406  
jdennison@cdpsisters.org  
www.divineprovidenceweb.org



## INSIDE

Living in the abundance of God's Providence ...	2
Living in Providence ... Daring to Risk	3
Oktoberfest 2013	4
Reframing the Charism	5
Nonprofit Firm Hired for Web Design	6
Jubilee Celebration 2013	8
Ketteler Award	10
In Memory	11



# Living in Providence ... Daring to Risk

by Jean Dennison | Executive Director, Office of Mission Advancement

ONCE AGAIN THIS AUGUST, THE SISTERS and Associates of the Marie de la Roche Province gathered to reflect on the past year and make plans for carrying the Community's mission into the future. The theme of this year's Assembly, which was held from August 1 to 4, at Providence Heights in Allison Park, was "Living in the abundance of God's loving Providence ... we dare to risk." Barbara G. Stanbridge, IHM, was engaged as the facilitator for the Assembly. Her role, as she describes it, was "to ensure that the good of the whole is attended to, which means everyone is involved for the whole system's benefit. The facilitator needs to stay focused on the big picture, rather than the needs, desires, or biases of individuals or subgroups," she said.

Sister Stephanie Turck, who along with the Assembly Committee, headed up the preparations for the Assembly, commented, "Sister Barbara and the Assembly Committee were wonderful to work with, and I am very grateful to them. Sister Barbara created a very prayerful, engaging, and non-threatening atmosphere to work in while getting us back in touch with our roots." (Assembly Committee members were Sisters Ella Jane Bruen, Karina Conrad, Sandra DeNardis, Maria Fest, Diane Dunn, Kay Koller, Elsa Medina Rivera, Janet Schaffran, Loretta Jean Schorr, Marian Senish, and Ana Lydia Sonora Matos.)

When asked to identify the biggest challenge in preparing for Assembly, Sister Stephanie said, "The biggest challenge was hoping the Sisters would respond well to the process. We tried assigned tables this year, and I was a little nervous about

how that would go." Many reported that the arrangement worked well. Sister Rochelle Holly felt very comfortable and pleased with the Assembly. "The time given for silent reflection, discussion, 'reporting back,' was very inspiring," she said. "And the seating

value the few days we gathered together as Community. It gave me the opportunity to see many Sisters whom I have not seen for more than a year. The fact that I had time to share and spend time with many of my Sisters refreshed and nurtured my religious commitment." She went on to say, "I loved the emphasis given to

the six pioneer Sisters and the historical piece about the beginnings of the Community's foundation in the United States. There is no doubt that the six women were led by God's Providence and were determined to give their best for our Community."

arrangement and method for assigning discussion groups by age was helpful in getting to know our Sisters in a deeper way."

The theme resonated with Sister Emma Jean Middendorf. She noted, "When I consider the personal risk of daring, living as I do, in the abundance of God's loving Providence, the sense of daring to risk morphs into faith. And faith is the underlying premise of living in Providence. And trust is, too. We've been at this a long, long time."

Sister Nélide Naveros Cordova, currently a graduate student at Loyola University in Chicago, lives away from her Community. "I highly

There was a session to explore the "Deep Story of the CDPs," and one to examine the "Vision Statement, Justice, Spirit of Ketteler Today." The group pondered the "State of the World 2013" and "Recreating the Story of Our Time." Business was also conducted in sessions addressing financial sustainability. Morning prayer services were held each day, enhanced with beautiful music and liturgical dance. There was a memorial prayer service for all the Sisters and Associates from across the province who passed away in the past year. This was a wonderful time to remember and celebrate their lives. The Commissioning Service was a time to recommit to the mission and charism of the Community. Perhaps the most

continued on page 7



# Oktoberfest 2013

**Saturday, October 19, 2013 1 to 5 P.M.**  
9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA  
(*Rain or Shine—event held indoors!*)

## SPECIAL DRAWING TICKET ORDER FORM

Return completed form and check made payable to the Sisters of Divine Providence to Development Office, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101. You can also purchase tickets online at [divineprovidencweb.org](http://divineprovidencweb.org). Just click the "Oktoberfest" button and the "Purchase tickets online" link. Online tickets must be purchased by Friday, October 11. Major credit cards are accepted. For those who do not have internet access, call 412-635-5437.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Dinner Ticket – \$12 through Sept. 30; \$15 starting Oct. 1

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tix

Children's Dinner Ticket (ages 4 –12) – \$5 each

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tix

### Special Drawing Tickets – \$5 each

*Scrap Country Quilt* (handmade by Sr. Rose Anne Krantz)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tix

*Flowers of the Field* picture (hand-stitched crewel by Sr. Agnes Raible)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tix

*Forget-Me-Not* tablecloth (needlepoint pattern by Thelma Pappaterri)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tix

Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*All proceeds benefit the Sisters of Divine Providence*

*Help us help others by bringing a non-perishable food item (or paper product)  
for North Hills Community Outreach Food Pantry*

## Development Directors

### Patricia Malinowski

Providence Heights  
9000 Babcock Blvd.  
Allison Park, PA 15101  
412-635-6315  
[pmalinowski@cdpsisters.org](mailto:pmalinowski@cdpsisters.org)

### Ana Schulz

Providence Center  
3415 Bridgeland Drive  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
314-209-9181  
[aschulz@divineprovidencesisters.org](mailto:aschulz@divineprovidencesisters.org)



**German food • Theme baskets  
Crafts • Bake sale • Photo booth  
Live entertainment • Special drawings**

# Reframing the Charism

by Myra Rodgers, CDP, Director of Mission Integration

“As Sisters of Divine Providence, our ministry is characterized by the particular response to God’s providential love, which is our charism—trust in, and openness to, the Providence of God.”

– Constitutions/Charism Statement

ON A COLD WINTER DAY IN JANUARY, WHEN THE SNOW MADE traveling a bit hazardous, a few intrepid souls braved the elements to attend a scheduled meeting of the Mission/Vision Committee. The majority of the committee was unable to attend due to inclement weather. At an earlier community area meeting, Sister Mary Francis Fletcher had asked the committee to reframe the charism to speak to our present time and to our Sisters today. So that we did not lose the momentum and excitement for the task before us, the small group that was present set about reworking the traditional charism statement. We spent the morning reflecting on how Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie would have responded to this present age and to what we thought our founders would have summoned the Congregation. By noon, a small group of the Sisters present was ready to write. Sisters Ellen Rufft, Michele Bisbey, Donna Gribshaw, and Sandra DeNardis repaired to the kitchen to write, as Sister Janet Schaffran, Associate Paula Gilchrist, and I looked over their shoulders and assumed the chore of wordsmithing. By early afternoon, the mission/vision statement was written. The statement was sent to the other committee members, Sisters Ella Jane Bruen, Clara Kreis, Paulita Kuzy, Barbara McMullen, and Francesca O’Regan for input/approval. The document drawn up that day was the only draft of the statement. It had been accepted unanimously by the committee!

At the next meeting of the total Mission/Vision Committee, the group reviewed the mission/vision statement. Because of the excitement the document engendered in the committee, it was decided to propose to the Assembly Committee that the opening ritual of the Assembly be designed by members of the Mission/Vision Committee. The Assembly Committee graciously agreed to this proposal. Sisters Michele, Janet, Marian Senish, and I designed the opening ritual. Sister Charlene Schaaf composed a mantra for the Assembly based on an excerpt from the statement “Living in the abundance of God’s loving Providence, we dare to risk.”

## Newly Reframed Statement

*Inspired by Mother Marie, who in response to the lure of Providence, sacrificed her religion, family and culture, we, as women religious called to a prophetic life form and compelled to make God’s providence visible, choose a future characterized by justice and compassion.*

*We are energized by the life of Bishop Ketteler, who made God’s providence visible as he confronted those in civil and ecclesiastical authority; who risked his status and reputation in the pursuit of justice; who opened his home to the poor, in the name of compassion.*

*We are blessed by God’s indiscriminate graciousness, we live in the abundance of God’s loving providence, and we are strengthened by the bonds of inclusive community.*

*Therefore,  
we will cherish our intercultural and international ties;  
we will strive for right relationships with all;  
we will courageously risk being marginalized;  
we will live and promote every form of non-violence;  
we will generously share even in the midst of scarcity.*





# Nonprofit Firm Hired for Web Design

by Jean Dennison, Executive Director, Office of Mission Advancement

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that we have retained the Center for Educational Design and Communication (CEDC) to design our new website. After months of due diligence, many meetings, and careful consideration of the nine proposals we received, the CEDC most closely matched our requirements in terms of philosophy, technical and design ability, and price. The tagline for this organization is “social justice by design,” and the goal of the organization is to help their clients reach their stated goals and strengthen technology at the service of mission.

The CEDC is an office of the Stuart Center, a nonprofit that serves other nonprofits, social justice, and faith-based groups. CEDC provides graphic design and web development services to a wide variety of partners. The organization is a sponsored ministry of the United States Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart, which established the CEDC in Washington, D.C. in 1984. One of the stated goals of the organization is to serve the Society of the Sacred Heart as well as nonprofits and other faith-based groups that are in the forefront of social justice and to open the doors of communication arts to organizations that might not otherwise afford such services.

What differentiates the Center’s approach from other organizations is the relationship between the Center and its clients. Projects are taken on as a collaborative process where needs and goals are identified; then strategies are designed to fulfill the needs and goals. CEDC is committed to the work of education through the empowerment of people, and the Center emphasizes a strong sense of partnership in mission. We are looking forward to working with CEDC to create a vibrant new website that will reflect the charisma and ministries of the Community. Our hope is to launch the new site in early fall.

Some sites created by CEDC:

**LCWR** - [lcwr.org](http://lcwr.org)

**NETWORK** - [networklobby.org](http://networklobby.org)

**Center of Concern** - [coc.org](http://coc.org)

**Education for Justice** - [educationforjustice.org](http://educationforjustice.org)



# Living in Providence ... Daring to Risk

continued from page 3

joyous celebration was the Jubilee Mass and dinner—a time of rejoicing and celebrating the many years of service and love shared by the Sisters celebrating milestone jubilees (25, 50, 60, 65, 70, and 75 years).

Associate Nuala Filberg commented on her experience: “Early on in the Assembly there was a good spirit of hope, which deepened as we heard the stories. We had time to reflect on the early Sisters and wondered what their lives and lessons mean to the Community of today and of the future. Confidence and hope built up as the days passed, and our times of reflection took hold in us. Even if the future will bring changes, we just know it will be okay and Providence will prevail. Many Sisters felt the Assembly was a mountaintop experience for them.”

Sister Sharon Nolte was energized by the Assembly. “I had not participated in the Assembly for two years because of caring for my dear mother. This year, I noticed that when I returned to St. Louis, I was very energized.” She contributes this to the deeper conversation and sharing that went on. “I feel more oneness with myself, those with whom I had shared, and the larger Community,” said Sister Sharon.

When asked what she took from the experience, Sister Mary Joan Coultas responded, “I prefer to answer with *we*, because I felt there was communality, which is more important than my take. We talked about an upbeat feeling due, in part, to excellent liturgical events, such as

the service for our deceased Sisters, the Commissioning, and the Jubilee Liturgy.” She went on to say, “We are at our best in these situations.” Sister Mary Joan believes that the Assembly was important in that “this part of the process will set a great backdrop for next year’s strategic planning



endeavor in setting the stage for daring to risk.”

Sister Emma Jean commented, “This type of Assembly, designed with reflective spaces, resulted in deeper thinking. With the much-appreciated option to personally suggest ways of daring to risk, we closed our Assembly grateful for renewed hope.”

Associate Sylvia Resha is hopeful for the future also. Reflecting on what she experienced, she said, “In addition to remaining in touch with, and reveling in, the wisdom of our elders, the most important thing I took away from the Assembly was a sense of wonder and hope for our future in the deep story

of this Community of Providence. As Sister Barbara stated, even if out of context here, ‘Providence embraces all time.’”

One of the homework assignments Sister Barbara requested leading up to their time together was that everyone watch the film *The Legend of Bagger Vance*. The late Roger Ebert reviewed the movie in 2000, and said, “Robert Redford’s *The Legend of Bagger Vance* could be a movie about prayer, music, or mathematics, because it is really about finding yourself at peace with the thing you do best. He went on to say, “... quietly, the movie suggests that how the golf tournament is won is more important than who wins it.”

When asked what her goal was for this Assembly, Sister Barbara said, “My goal was to have the Community experience its best self. The movie was a good metaphor for the Community at Assembly. In many ways, events like Assembly, Chapter, and Jubilees are when the Community invites itself to be together as its best self for this moment in time ... not the past moments, but the present ... to dance together ... and this Community can dance!”





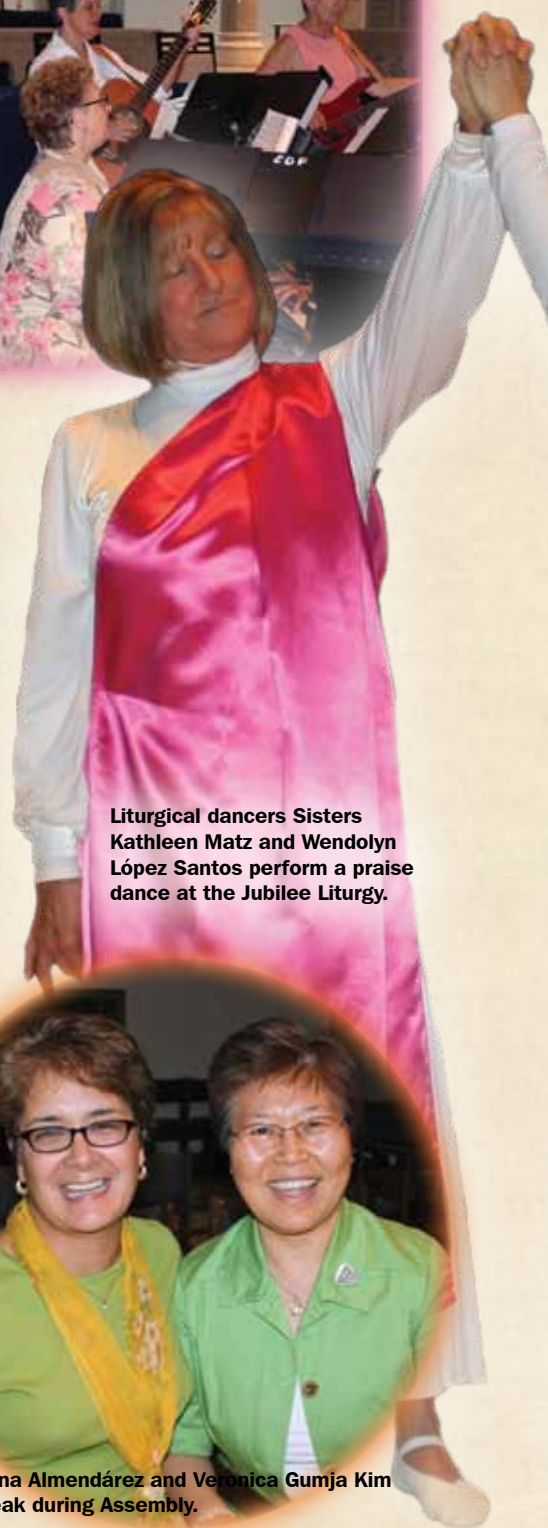
# Assembly Celebration 2013



Associate Mary Rose Hensel shares a smile while checking out the Assembly setups.



(l-r) Sisters Rosemonde Deck, Carol Stenger, Patricia Baker, Maria Patterson, and Charlene Schaaf play at an Assembly liturgy.



Liturgical dancers Sisters Kathleen Matz and Wendolyn López Santos perform a praise dance at the Jubilee Liturgy.



(l-r) Sister Carol Stenger, Associate Sylvia Resha, and Sisters Kathleen Matz and Marie Dolores Griffith chat before an Assembly liturgy.



Sister Mary Francis Fletcher (in red) hugs Sister Grace Babuscio after blessing her at the Assembly Commissioning Service. Sister Néilda Naveros Córdova assisted in the ritual.



Sisters Elena Almendárez and Veronica Gumja Kim enjoy a break during Assembly.





Sisters Inesita Vélez Negron (left) and Myra Rodgers (right) celebrate Sister Nélida Naveros Córdova's 25th Jubilee.



Sister Rosalia Caulfield celebrates her 75th Jubilee.



Associate Judith Montgomery with Sister Phyllis Scello (seated), holding a photograph of Sister Dorothy Marie Wanner at the prayer service for deceased Sisters and Associates.



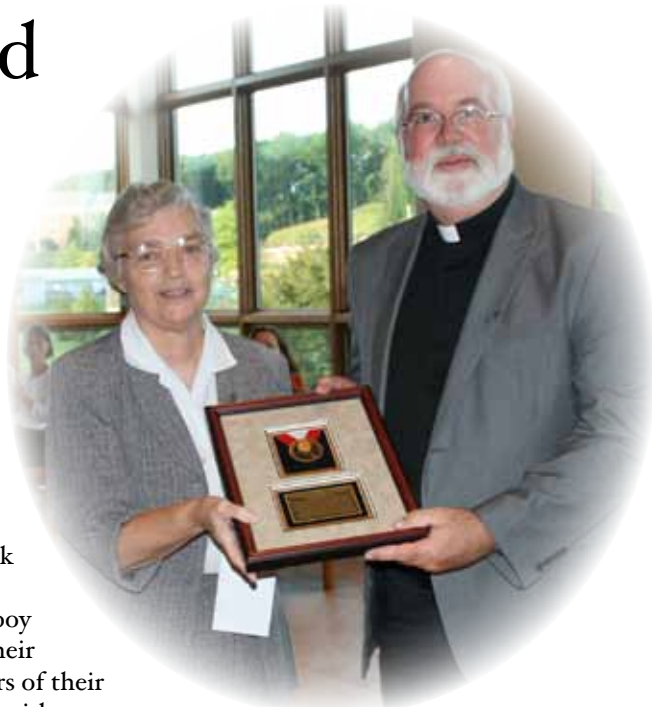
Sisters Genevieve Brandstetter and Natalie Marchetti share their memories of our deceased Sisters and Associates by placing them in the memory bowls.



(back row, l-r) Sisters Lisa Paffrath, Rita Adams, Margaret Walsh, Barbara Horenkamp, Marilyn McMillin, Sharon Nolte (front row), Janet Schaffran, Francesca O'Regan, Rosella Uding, Stephanie Turck, and Judith Anne Rotunda celebrate their 50th Jubilee.

# Ketteler Award

ON SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 3, THE Ketteler Award for Social Justice was presented to Fr. Gregory “Greg” Boyle, SJ, at an event attended by 150 Sisters and guests. The award recognized Fr. Boyle, founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries, and his commitment to helping high-risk, formerly gang-involved men and women, gain an education and job and life skills. Fr. Greg spoke of the supportive community and sense of family that Homeboy Industries offers to those with whom they work. “Finding work is important, but ‘connection’ is critical to the healing process,” said Fr. Greg. Homeboy Industries assists these young people on their journey to becoming contributing members of their families and communities. Fr. Greg’s work with the organization and those it serves parallels Bishop Ketteler’s unwavering support of the disenfranchised in Germany in the 1800s.



**Sister Mary Francis Fletcher presents the Ketteler Award to Fr. Greg Boyle.**

Fr. Greg is the author of the New York Times bestseller “*Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion.*” To learn more about his work, visit [homeboyindustries.org](http://homeboyindustries.org).

*Happy 100th  
Birthday!*

Sister Victorine Verosky celebrated her 100th birthday on July 22.

Joining in the celebration were Sisters Ann Martin Schmidt, Natalie Marchetti, Veronica Gumja Kim, and Margarita Jung.





# In Memory



*The Sisters of Divine  
Providence  
also remember  
Associate ...*

*Terry Snyder  
June 15, 2013*

*Sister Elizabeth Apel  
July 25, 2013*

*Contributions in memory of Sisters and Associates can be sent to  
Development Office, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, Pa.  
15101.*

*To make contributions in memory of Sister Liz or Terry, you can  
donate online at [divineprovidenceweb.org](http://divineprovidenceweb.org). To read more about our  
deceased Sisters, visit us online and click the "In Memory" button  
on the home page.*

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

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



*Sisters of Divine Providence*  
Marie de la Roche Province

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 2877



KINGSTON, MA

PITTSBURGH, PA

PUERTO RICO

SANTO DOMINGO, DR

ST. LOUIS, MO



Recycled Paper

### 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.

# Save the Date

## OKTOBERFEST

Saturday, October 19, 1-5 p.m.  
9000 Babcock Boulevard  
McCandless Township

For more information:  
412-635-5437

## MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Monday, November 4, 4 P.M.  
Mother of Divine Providence Chapel  
9000 Babcock Boulevard  
McCandless Township

Join us in remembering your deceased loved ones. RSVP to Patricia Malinowski at 412-635-6315 or email [pmalinowski@cdpsisters.org](mailto:pmalinowski@cdpsisters.org).

For more information, or to submit the names of your loved ones, visit our website.

[www.divineprovidencewebsite.org](http://www.divineprovidencewebsite.org)