

CDP Associate News

AUTUMN/WINTER 2020



Sisters and Associates gather in Santo Domingo in May 2020 for prayer, Mass, and social time, following Covid-19 protocols.

De la Hna. Myriam Colón Cruz en Santo Domingo

Después de muchos meses debido a la pandemia, los Asociados Y Asociadas de Santo Domingo se reunieron para un día de oración y socialización. El grupo se reunió a las 08.15 a.m. para rezar el Santo Rosario y poner en manos de la Santa Madre María el fin de la pandemia. Además, también se rezó por sus familias, por la congregación de las Hermanas de la Divina Providencia y por sus hermanos y hermanas Asociados en cada uno de los países. La misa comenzó a las 09:00 am.

A las 4 pm. el grupo se reunió nuevamente para compartir café y socializar. Se les pidió a cada uno que siguiera un protocolo para la reunión de la tarde. Cada persona debía usar una mascarilla. En la entrada, había una alfombra para limpiar sus zapatos y antes de entrar a la habitación, se desinfectaron las manos con alcohol. Dentro de la reunión, las sillas se mantuvieron a distancia.

[See additional photos on [page 6.](#)]

After many months of not being able to meet due to the pandemic, the Santo Domingo Associates gathered in May for a day of prayer and socializing. The group came together in the early morning to pray the Rosary and place the hoped-for ending of the pandemic in the hands of Holy Mother Mary. They also prayed for their families, for the congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, and for their Associate brothers and sisters in each country. This prayer time was followed by Mass.

In the afternoon the group gathered again to share coffee and refreshments. All those who participated were required to follow a protocol for the meeting. Everyone had to wear a mask, and at the entrance, there was a tray where they could clean their shoes. Before they entered the room, each person's hands were disinfected with alcohol. At the meeting, chairs were kept at a distance.

The Sisters and Associates were happy to be able to finally meet with each other, and grateful for the protocols that helped them protect themselves and each other.



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Mission Statement

We, as Associates, proclaim to be a part of the international Community of Divine Providence (CDP). Our participation calls us to live in a spirit of unbounded trust in, and openness to, the Providence of God. We challenge ourselves to an ongoing discovery of the richness of the charism entrusted to us by Mother Marie and Bishop Ketteler. We support each other in our diversity of lifestyles while we strive to creatively confront the problems and issues of our time. As prophetic witnesses, we respond in compassion, holding all life sacred.

From the Director

Linda Hoefflin



As I sit watching the rain fall and an occasional cardinal fly into view, I wonder what is in store in the coming weeks for me, my family, my town, my state, my country, and the world. The dark skies and the stripped trees feel cold and damp. Dawn arrives late and dusk comes early.

But Advent is approaching, and for me it is a time of fond memories. Sisters and Associates would pray a Christmas novena beginning on December 16 at Mount Providence in St. Louis. The chapel was dimly lit, and I remember the smell of incense. With Sr. Joan Albaugh at the piano, we sang a different "O Antiphon" for each night. It was a holy time, a time of expectation and a time of preparation.

The holy surrounded me as I prayed with Community before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, engulfed in the graces free-flowing from Jesus. As I knelt in stillness, I was reminded of a night when Mary and Joseph sought shelter.

For seven of the nine days, we prayed a different O Antiphon: O Wisdom of the God most high, O Leader of the House of Israel, O Root of Jesse's Stem, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of all Nations, and finally, O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law. On the ninth day, or December 24, the Gospel of Luke recounting the gathering of the Jews for the census was read. My expectation rose with each night, knowing that soon I would celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Outward signs of preparation are all around me. With the decorating of a tree, the hanging of lights, the search for the perfect gift, and preparations for family gatherings and special meals, I make ready for Christmas day. But, what of my internal preparations? Again, the Christmas novena, reminds me to prepare my heart and soul for the coming of my Lord. Can I speak a gentle word to someone who is hurting? Can I feed the hungry? Can I spend time with an elderly person? What else can I do to prepare my heart to be that room at the inn?

May I suggest that each of us say a Christmas novena to feel the holy, to expect Jesus' birth, and to prepare ourselves for what God has in store for us. I will post the novena daily on the Associate Facebook website beginning December 16, 2020.

May God's peace be with you.

Desde el escritorio de la Directora Linda Hoefflin

Boletín de otoño / invierno para los asociados(as)

Mientras estoy sentada mirando la lluvia caer y a un cardenal volando ocasionalmente ante mi vista, me pregunto qué nos espera en las próximas semanas, tanto a mí, mi familia, mi ciudad, mi estado, mi país y el mundo. Los cielos oscuros y los árboles desnudos se sienten fríos y húmedos. El amanecer llega tarde y el anochecer llega temprano.

Pero se acerca el Adviento. Es una época de buenos recuerdos para mí. Las Hermanas y algunos Asociados(as) de la Casa Madre Mount Providence en St. Louis rezarían una Novena de Navidad a partir del 16 de diciembre. La capilla estaba tenuemente iluminada y recuerdo el olor a incienso. La Hermana Joan Albaugh sentada al piano mientras cantábamos una "Antífona Oh" diferente para cada noche. Era un tiempo santo, un tiempo de expectativa y un tiempo de preparación.

Lo sagrado me rodeaba mientras oraba con la Comunidad, unidas ante el Santísimo Sacramento expuesto. Estaba sumergida en la gracia que fluía libremente de Jesús. Mientras inhalaba el incienso, recordaba que mis oraciones, eran elevadas al cielo y serían contestadas. Mientras me arrodillaba en silencio, recordaba que en una noche María y José buscaron refugio.

Faltaban nueve días para la mañana de Navidad. Mis expectativas aumentaban cada noche, sabiendo que pronto celebraría el nacimiento de Jesús, mi Dios. Durante siete de los nueve días, rezaba una antífona diferente: Oh Sabiduría del Dios Altísimo, Oh Líder de la Casa de Israel, Oh Raíz del tallo de Isaías, Oh Llave de David, Oh Radiante Amanecer, Oh Rey de todo Naciones, y finalmente, Oh Emmanuel, nuestro Rey y Dador de la Ley. El noveno día o 24 de diciembre se leía el Evangelio de Lucas que relata la reunión de los judíos para el censo. El viaje de una mujer en los últimos meses de su embarazo a lomos de un burro conduce a la expectativa del nacimiento del niño Jesús.

Los signos externos de preparación me rodean. Con la decoración de un árbol, el colgado de luces, la búsqueda del regalo perfecto, y los preparativos para reuniones familiares y comidas especiales, me preparo para el día de Navidad. Pero, ¿qué hay de mis preparativos interiores? Una vez más, la novena de Navidad me recuerda que debo preparar mi corazón y mi alma para la venida de mi Señor.

¿Puedo decirle una palabra amable a alguien que está sufriendo? ¿Puedo alimentar a los hambrien-

(Continued on page 4)



Meet an Associate — Mary Carini

In the late 1980s Mary Carini walked into St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Community in Antioch, TN (a suburb of Nashville) seeking a parish family after moving to Tennessee from Clarksburg, WV. At that time Mary was a retired executive of Monongahela Power Company in Clarksburg. It didn't take long for her to become an active participant in parish life through her dedication to RCIA, Scripture groups, and prayer groups.

Mary states that she was drawn to become an Associate because of the strong examples of the "special women of Providence" in her life. Mary refers to her meeting of Sr. Maria Patterson, who was the Liturgical Director at St. Ignatius, as her "second call to Providence." "Second," because her first sense of "calling" to Providence was through her friendship with Sr. Loretta Jean Schorr, whom she had met while in Clarksburg.

In 1996 Mary became aware of the Associate relationship in the Community and began her journey with Sr. Barbara McMullen and the St. Louis Associates. She speaks fondly of her travels to St. Louis and her growth in the Providence charism during that time with Sr. Barbara and the Associates who participated in her preparation. She was received as an Associate in 1997 and has been fully committed and active for 23 years.

Mary was born in Lynnwood, PA, into a very strong Italian family. Both her maternal and paternal grandparents were from Italy. She prides herself on a very strong Italian family heritage, to which she attributes the strength of her faith and her love of family, and she laughingly adds her "love of food" to that list! When she moved to Tennessee, she brought her mother with her and cared for her until her death.

(Continued on page 4)

New Pittsburgh Area Associates Welcomed

On October 24, five women from the Pittsburgh area made their covenant commitments as new CDP Associates. Andrea Alderson, Mary Ellen Jutca, Peggy Santelli, Lisa Toomey, and Michele Yotz were welcomed by current Associates from the Pittsburgh, Ohio, and Michigan areas at a special ceremony via Zoom.

As new Associate Lisa Toomey expressed her experience, "I was excited and honored to be accepted as an Associate of the Sisters of Divine Providence! I look forward to the feeling of community and the task of making God's Providence visible in our world."

And, according to new Associate Michele Yotz, "The Inquiry process, led by Sr. Elena Almendárez, was a journey that was both educational and spiritual. I learned about the social justice programs and serving persons on the margins of society. As I plan for my retirement and look forward to that next chapter of my life, I hope to be more involved in the ministries of the Community. I am very excited to be an Associate with the CDP Community."

Current Associates renewed their covenants at the ceremony. Roberta Campbell, Mary Dieter, Linda Rendulic, Karen Snyder, and Sandy Stevenson were honored as Wisdom Associates.

We congratulate our new Associates, our Wisdom Associates, and those who renewed their covenants. Let us all continue to journey in faith, trusting in our Provident God.



The Caritas faith-sharing group of Washington, PA, includes two new Associates. Left to right: Ellie Field, new Associate Mary Ellen Jutca, Sr. Margaretta Nussbaumer, new Associate Andrea Alderson, and Denise Champe.

De la Directora Linda Hoefflin

(continued from page 2)

tos? ¿Puedo pasar tiempo con una persona anciana? ¿Qué más puedo hacer para preparar mi corazón para ser esa habitación en la posada?

Permítanme sugerir que cada uno de nosotros haga una novena de Navidad para sentir lo sagrado, esperar el nacimiento de Jesús y prepararnos para lo que Dios tiene reservado para nosotros. Publicaré la Novena diariamente en el Facebook a partir del 16 de diciembre de 2020. Que la paz de Dios esté contigo.

Meet an Associate

(continued from page 3)

Mary is an avid reader and lover of Thomas Merton's books. She says she has probably read every single one of his writings. She put her love for reading into action several years ago by establishing an extensive library of books at St. Ignatius, which continues to be available to all in the Parish.

Mary has experienced health problems in the past few years, and because of her inability to drive to Associate meetings and faith-sharing, she has welcomed the Tennessee Associates into her home for all gatherings — at least prior to the pandemic, which has prevented in-person gatherings. She loves playing checkers "and winning," feeding her reading addiction, and spending time with all the special friends and family in her life.

Through her deep spirituality, her care and concern for others, and her zeal for social justice and equal opportunity, Mary makes Providence visible to all who know her!

—*Sylvia Resha*

[*Sylvia, who lives in Tennessee, recently joined our Communications Committee. Welcome, Sylvia!*]

New England Associates Renew Covenants

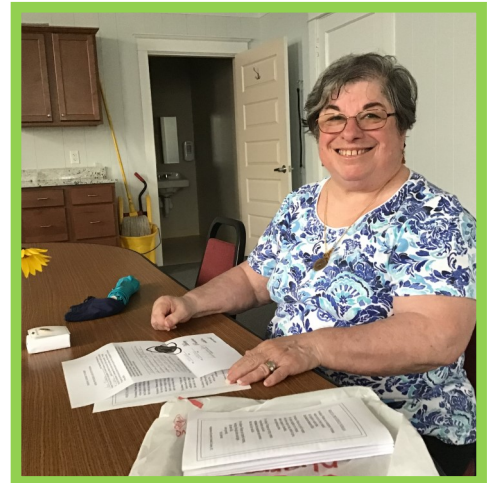
On September 28, at St. Mary's Parish Church in North Plymouth, MA, the Kingston Associates attended Mass and renewed their covenant statements as active participants in the mission and goals of the Marie de la Roche Province. It has been our custom to select the Foundation Day of the Congregation as a focal point for our annual renewal.

The pandemic affected our ability to have the renewal at Providence House, and Father Graham graciously permitted us usage of the parish space. He addressed our presence during the sermon at Mass. Ann Moberg is a lector for several daily Masses at this parish.

Those Associates who were able to be present were Ruthanne Curran, Anna Mae Perrault, and Ann Moberg. Not able to be present were Cynthia Merry, who is recovering from successful surgery, and Mary Ann Wusenich, who needed to attend her husband who is ill; both requested to be recorded in absentia. The ceremony was simple but meaningful.

We celebrated the occasion by wearing our Associate earrings and eating lunch together at a local restaurant.

— *Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf*



Ann Moberg prepares her covenant statement before the Renewal ceremony.



Ruthanne Curran, Ann Moberg, and Anna Mae Perrault renewed their Associate covenants in a ceremony that took place on September 28. The covenants of Cynthia Merry and Mary Ann Wusenich were recorded in absentia.



Faith-Sharing Group Holds Virtual Meetings

The Providence Peace Associates group met via Zoom on November 16. Members of the group are reading and discussing the book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent"

by Isabel Wilkerson. The book examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and goes beyond systemic racism, influencing people's lives, behaviors, and the nation's fate. The group meets monthly.

Fond Memories of Assumption Convent in Bellevue, PA

The last two Sisters moved out of Assumption Convent on November 16, 2020, marking the end of the convent's 36-year tenure as the home of CDP Sisters and Associates — and as a cherished gathering space for Associates' meetings and get-togethers.

After weeks of working to empty the house and decide on which few belongings to take with them, Srs. Janet Schaffran and Ellen Rufft bade a reluctant farewell to 49 North Sprague Avenue and moved to Providence Heights. Sr. Janet reports that they were received at their new home with a warm welcome and caring support as they settled in.

Associates who visited Assumption Convent over the years have treasured memories of times spent there. Nuala Filberg writes: "Over the years I spent many happy times at Assumption Convent. There was always room at the table, in the chapel, or on the back porch. Most of all, I cherish what I learned there and the dear Sisters and Associates who shared with me. Thanks and prayers to all of you!"

And this from Julia Lynn: "I remember Providence Peace small group meetings on the back porch in the summer and all the tomatoes and other vegetables from the garden that we were invited to take home with us. I remember how the Sisters and Associates who lived at Assumption Convent made me feel at home when I was a brand new Associate and felt a stranger to the Community. And I remember the clambake when Paula Gilchrist and Srs. Janet and Rita invited all the Community, Sisters and Associates, and we ate clams and shrimp and vegetables at tables covered with newspaper in the backyard."

Karen Snyder remembers: "I always felt completely welcome and 'at home' in the convent. It felt both sacred, because of the many prayer times and the spiritual sharing we did there — and cozy, because of the good meals, the camaraderie, and the laughter we shared as well." More memories are shown in the photos on this page.



Srs. Roberta Bradley, Rita Adams, Janet Schaffran, Veronica Kim, and Betty Sundry, and Associate Mary Lucas lived in community at Assumption at one time.



Nuala Filberg and Sr. Janet share a moment on the back porch swing in 2011.



Three sets of sisters get together at Assumption: Erin Middleton and her sister Nancy; Paula Gilchrist and her sister Rona; Sr. Janet and her sister Nanci.



Sisters and Associates, plus Libby the dog, gather in the dining room at Assumption for a Meager Meal during Lent 2017.



Sisters and Associates enjoy Paula Gilchrist's backyard clambake in the summer of 2018.

Kvell & Tell



LEFT: St. Louis Area Associate **Judy Unger** and her husband **Walt**, who live in Maryville, IL, welcomed new great-granddaughter **Madison** in September. Madison's grandparents are Judy and Walt's daughter **Janet** and son-in-law **Bill**, who work as missionaries in Malawi. Janet and Bill are home for a 3-month visit with their USA families.



RIGHT: **Erin Middleton** at home in Arizona with her granddaughters **Hartley**, age 4, and **Haevyn Joy**, born in August. Of her July 2020 move to be with family, Erin says, "I believe this is the ministry God called me to for this Providential time."

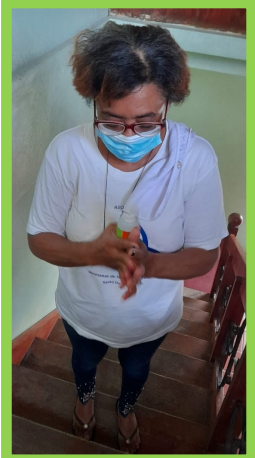
Santo Domingo Associates Get Together in May with Covid-19 Protocols (Story on page 1)



Shoe cleaning before entering the building.



Gathering for Mass in the morning.



Hand sanitizing before entering the meeting room.

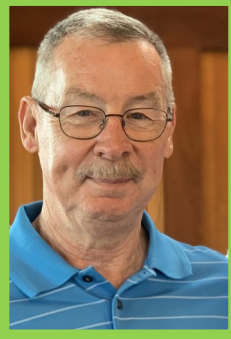


Social-distancing inside at the Associate meeting.



Refreshments and song after the meeting.

St. Louis Associates and Sisters “Zoom In” on Autumn



Ron Payton

The Covid-19 pandemic has turned our lives up-side-down since its arrival in late March. One after another, the annual gatherings that our St. Louis Associates have enjoyed in the past have had to be either canceled or postponed.

It looked like a similar fate would befall the annual Turning Leaf Party. However, under the leadership of Linda Reynolds and her

team, our annual Associates' Renewal ceremony in August via Zoom had gone very smoothly.

Given this successful experience, our leadership team decided to hold the Turning Leaf Party via Zoom on October 19. The response from our Associates and Sisters was very positive, and 14 Sisters and Associates were able to join the Zoom call. There were a few glitches, a few late arrivals, and a few unexpected visits from household pets. But after everyone settled in, we all seemed to get the hang of this party thing via Zoom.

After she set out some “ground rules” (mostly aimed at maintaining some semblance of order for the meeting), Linda Reynolds asked each participant to share her/his personal “highlights of the year,” “lowlights of the year” and “what is on the horizon, my hope for the next year.”

Highlights ranged from tales of bountiful harvests from “Covid gardens” to bragging about the success of new recipes tried during periods of sheltering in place. Lowlights ranged from heartfelt feelings of loss suffered by families over the course of the year, to the yearning to be with others during this pandemic. The sharing of “what is on the horizon” brought all sorts of wishes for the future — not the least of which will be the joy of being able to gather again, in person, and share our experiences, our faith, and our confidence in a Provident God.

All-in-all, everyone seemed to have a good time at the “party.” And the Zoom environment didn't seem to cramp our style one bit!

—Ron Payton

[Ron, an Associate from the St. Louis Area, recently joined our Communications Committee. Welcome, Ron!]

Special Thanks

Layout Assistance: Mary Seljak

Photos: Sr. Myriam Colón Cruz, Ellie Field, Nuala Filberg, Linda Hoefflin, Peggy Huwe, Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf, Erin Middleton, Sylvia Resha, Sr. Ana Lydia Sonera Matos



A memory from 2019: Julia Lynn and Peggy Santelli help decorate Providence Heights for the Christmas holidays.

Mark Your Calendar

December 2020

20 Pre-Chapter Conversation Circle Meetings

February 2021

20 **Providence Event** (live-streamed)
(See information below)

Summer 2022

TBD **Provincial Chapter**
(Postponed from Summer 2021 to Summer 2022; dates to be determined)

Providence Event 2021

The new date for the Providence Event is **February 20, 2021**. Due to the pandemic, the day's events will be live-streamed. The committee has been working hard to make this first-time virtual event happen. The keynote speaker, **Nancy Sylvester, IHM**, will be addressing “**Providence — Where Justice and Radical Hope Meet.**”

You can sign up on the web at <https://www.wpcweb.org/>. We hope many of you will join us for this single-day event that promises to be challenging and rewarding.