

CDP Associate News

SPRING 2020



Associate Cathy Cassy has been the organist and choir director at St. Elizabeth Parish in Granite City, Illinois, since 2013. From 1998-2013 she was assistant director. Cathy has been playing the organ for church services since age 11.



Making Providence Visible in the Time of Covid-19

Church music during a pandemic.

Before Covid-19, preparing music for church services was a routine which included selecting music appropriate for the readings, gathering the accompaniments, and working with the cantors and the choir. Our liturgy team worked together to make the services meaningful.

Most of these things I've done since I was 11 years old. I grew up being in the choir loft while my mother, who was the organist and choir director for 65 years, played the organ at Mass almost every day. When I was confident enough, at the age of 11, I started playing for the church services during the summer, and my mom was able to go to work with her mind at peace, knowing there would be music at the service.

I am not an organist by training but was trained through enculturation. It has always been my goal to enhance the services with music that touches the hearts and

souls of those in attendance; to bring the words and music alive; to reach out and pull the congregation in closer to a spiritual connection with God.

Today, during this time of a world-wide pandemic, these tasks are still important, but some new tasks are now part of the routine. In order to use music at the live-streaming/podcasts, an entirely new set of guidelines has to be followed due to copyright laws and protection for composers.

Copyright laws are complicated and vary depending on whether there is live music, recordings, or use of worship aids, and on the composers and copyright holders. Research must be done on the music being used and the church needs licenses to cover the hymns they want to use. Each hymn and sung part of the mass must be reported to the licenser for every service. If the licenser does not hold permission from the composers or

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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.

Best Wishes and Heartfelt Thanks to Our Director, Erin Middleton



As most of you know, Erin, our dear Associate Director of the past three and a half years, recently resigned to pursue her next adventure. This winter, Erin began full-time work at Mt. Nazareth Learning Center and assists Sr. Diane Dunn in caring for infants and babies.

In March, Erin's daughter and son-in-law, Hannah and Brian, invited her to live with them in their new home in Queen Creek, Arizona. They are expecting another daughter in August to join 4-year-old Hartley, a favorite from this column and Erin's Facebook page. Erin will continue to be part of us as a long-distance CDP Associate.

Erin, we thank you for gifting us with your love, enthusiasm, creativity, joyful spirit, and long hours of work as our Director. We appreciate your efforts to get to know every Associate in every area, and for showing each of us our own gifts and encouraging us to share them.

We will miss your presence among us, and we pray that you will be blessed and happy in whatever God has in store for you in the future.

Request for Applicants

The Search Committee is looking for Associates who are interested in applying for the Director of Associates position. This is a paid, part-time position open to any Associate who feels called to serve the Associate Relationship in a leadership capacity. A formal letter of invitation with a copy of the job description is being sent through e-mail.

Please prayerfully reflect on this ministry opportunity and encourage other Associates to apply for this important role. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Tish Donze at 412-952-1026 or tish.donze@gmail.com. You can also reach her by mail at 41 Radium St. Pittsburgh, PA 15214.

Tish Donze, Chair

Linda Reynolds

Sandy Stevenson



Ruthanne and Chris Curran

Meet an Associate — Ruthanne Curran

Ruthanne Curran's life could be a novel! She was born and spent her childhood in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but loved visiting relatives in Plymouth. After her marriage she moved to Marshfield and had 5 children in 5 years.

In 1973, while teaching Sunday school at her home parish, she met Sr. Mary Agatha, who recruited her to work at Sacred Heart High School, a job she continued for several years. Eventually Ruthanne found herself raising her 5 little ones by herself. Then she met Chris, a mailman who lived in her neighborhood and loved children. Ruthanne believes that our Provident God was really present in this meeting. Thus began years of a long and loving marriage in a home filled with hospitality. Ruthanne and Chris would often host students from Mexico who were attending Sacred Heart High School, making them feel at home and helping them to learn English as a second language. This meant that their house was filled with 7 teenagers at one time!

Ruthanne retired from her job as secretary to a town clerk in 2002, and Chris retired that same year after having a heart attack and open heart surgery. During their retirement years they traveled extensively in their RV. They journeyed to Mississippi to visit CDP Sisters who had a mission there. They traveled to Oregon to visit pen pals that Ruthanne had written to years before.

In and around her travel, Ruthanne found time to volunteer helping challenged children. She worked with an exercise program for school children with learning disabilities and with a program that fed handicapped children.

Ruthanne loves to write letters and has written to 100 pen pals whose names she found in a Mission

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Making Providence Visible in the Time of Covid-19 *(continued from page 1)*

publishers for use with their license, that permission must be obtained. The time involved in weekly planning is more involved but the end result — music at the service — is all the more rewarding.

As we begin to emerge from this coronavirus cocoon, we are thinking about “next steps.” When will we be able to go back to church and participate in the Mass fully and actively? When and how will there be song? There is a possibility that congregational or choir singing may not be allowed due to the risks of particles exhaled onto others and into

the space. This is devastating news for me as a liturgist, organist, and choir director. Yet I am sure we will find some creative ways to ensure that music again becomes a part of active participation in the service.

God is challenging us in many ways, and we are being asked to be creative in ways to gather, worship, and bring praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May we trust that they will continue to be loving and merciful Guides.

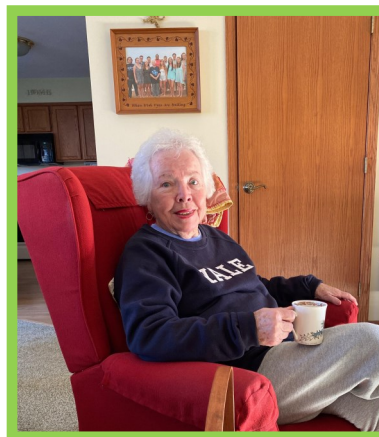
—Cathy Cassy



Parish “take-out.” Fr. J. Friedel, assisted by Sr. Cabrini Koelsch, RSM, prepares for the noon rush at St. Peter the Apostle Parish Outreach House in Joplin, Missouri. Fr. Friedel, who is a CDP Associate, writes, “While much of parish ministry has gone ‘virtual’ these past few weeks, feeding our neighbors in need is not something that can be done via computer.

Normally we invite our guests to sit down and visit for a while; however, with new social distancing guidelines we have still been handing out from between 150 to 300 meals for ‘carry out’ during this time.

Ministry is interesting, to say the least, in time of plague!”



A good time for prayer. Associate **Nuala Filberg** sent this message from her home in Ohio: “This time of isolation has not been my most active time as a Providence Woman. Fortunately prayer counts big time!

My great joy was and is to join in Holy Mass every morning on YouTube, offered by my own pastor, Fr. Kevin. I was able to enjoy the lovely Easter decorations in my own parish church, Saints Philip & James in Canal Fulton, Ohio.

I hope the Sisters and Associates have had a meaningful isolation too!”



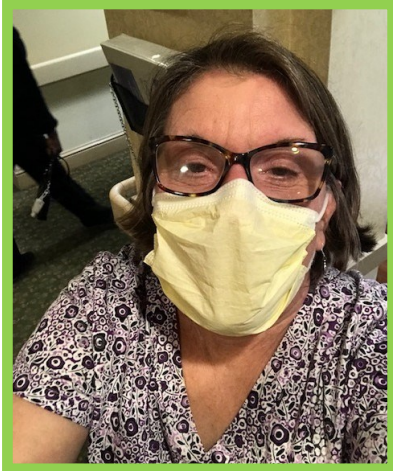
Front-line job. Associate **Linda Sandhu** writes from Arizona: “I work at a hospital, so am on the front line daily. Part of my ‘new’ job is triaging patients as they arrive at the emergency room.

People are scared. People are driving themselves because they are afraid of catching the coronavirus if they call 911.

Staying calm, giving people and their families, who cannot go in with their loved ones, a kind word, a bottle of water, or just listening to them is what I do best.

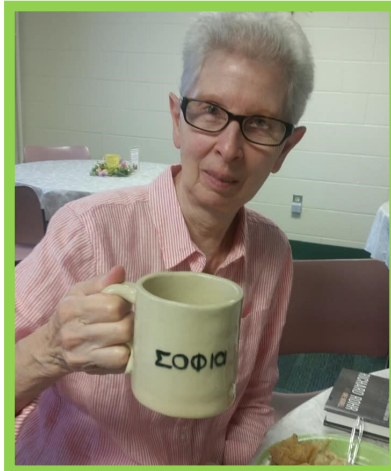
Stay safe, stay home, and wash your hands.”

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Michele Yotz: "I am spending my days in redeployment as an employee screener at a skilled nursing facility. I take employees' temperatures and screen them for Covid-19 symptoms so the residents are not unduly exposed to the virus.

I am humbly doing the required task for the overall health of the elderly/vulnerable residents at the facility."



Sally Shamalla: "A fellow Kearns Spirituality Center book group participant, Carol Rosenberg, and I have become 'book partners.'

On Wednesday mornings we have been meeting on FaceTime to discuss a chapter of the book 'Sacred Fire,' by Ronald Rolheiser. (Only one more chapter to go.)"



Tish Donze: "Usually I don't read my entire homeowners policy each year, but since I had the time due to the pandemic, I reviewed it carefully and discovered that I had great line protection coverage.

I have been paying for line protection through my gas company, but since it is duplication, I canceled and am now saving \$20 a month on my bill! (You might want to check your coverage too!)"



Pat Schneider: "I spent the first days of staying home calling those who I know live alone, as I do. A seamstress friend of mine made masks and gave me several of them. I distributed them after taking one for myself."

Ruth Mills: "Because of my illness I have been unable to join in all the activities and programs that make up what an Associate is all about. This virus has literally stopped my scheduled treatment for lymphoma and I may have to postpone it again in May.

Meanwhile, I am sewing masks for those health care workers on the front lines and for other at-risk workers, to calm their fears. That's how I'm staying busy. Pray I could do more.

I am praying daily for the Associates and Sisters of Divine Providence."

[Ruth was able to continue her treatment in May. Please pray for God's healing for her.]



Linda Hoefflin and Lela: "What have I been doing during the pandemic?"

Sitting on my deck, watching my hair and the trees grow. Enjoying these moments of grace.

Guess who else needs a haircut?"

Meet an Associate

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Magazine. She visited many of these letter friends when she and Chris traveled across country in their RV. She also loves singing, and sang with the group "Saints and Singers," which performed locally every Christmas and Easter and even once at Carnegie Hall.

Ruthanne's history with the Sisters of Divine Providence began when Sr. Mary Agatha asked her to take a job in the kitchen at Sacred Heart High School. She became good friends with Sr. Patricia, Sr. Danella, and Sr. Florita. In the 1980's Sr. Florita invited her to join the new Associate group that was forming in Kingston. Eventually, Chris became an Associate as well.

Since her beloved Chris passed away in 2018, Ruthanne continues to be an active Associate in the Kingston area. She describes their Associate group as small but supportive of each other. There are currently 5 active Associates, and Ruthanne is companioning a new inquirer who is preparing to make her covenant as soon as Inquiry can be resumed.

Ruth describes her family as her passion. She has 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. She also always had a dream to see the place where Jesus was born. So in March of this year she joined a group from her parish to visit the Holy Land. Their visit was interrupted by Covid-19, but she did visit Jesus's birthplace and took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee on a windy day. She described it as a holy experience, remembering the apostles' ride in a boat with Jesus on a windy day.

—Julia Lynn



Sisters and Associates in Santo Domingo celebrate Associate renewal and the reception of a new Associate.

Associate Renewal in Santo Domingo

On Sunday, February 8, 2020, the Associates of Santo Domingo celebrated their renewal. In addition, there was a reception for one new Associate. We celebrated Holy Eucharist and then shared breakfast together.

Later, Associate Deivy López, who will soon be ordained as a deacon, gave a reflection. He is the brother of Sr. Wendolyn López Santos. After the reflection time, we shared a delicious lunch.

In the afternoon, Sr. Myriam Colón Cruz led the renewal of commitments. She also welcomed our newest member, Kenia Castillo. Thirty people renewed, and with the latest member, we are now at 31.

Greetings to our fellow Associates in Korea, Germany, the United States, and Puerto Rico.

—Ileana Núñez Sánchez [Translated by Linda Hoefflin]



Associates sign their commitment papers.



Sr. Myriam welcomes new Associate Kenia Castillo.



Sisters, Associates, and friends have a farewell party for Sr. Veronica Oravec, who retired from her ministry in Puerto Rico in August 2018.



Sisters and Associates gather in January 2019. Front row: Eulalia Arroyo, Roberto López, Hna. Sally Vega Alvarado, Ana Rivera, Hna. Inesita Vélez Negrón. Back row: Hna. María Torres Meléndez, Zenaida Báez.

News from Our Puerto Rico Associates

We are very happy to have news of our Associates in Puerto Rico. Sr. Veronica Oravec, who spent a total of 39 years ministering in Puerto Rico, recently spoke with Sr. Margarita Rivera about the Associates.

Currently there are 14 Associates in Puerto Rico, most of whom live in the northern part of the island. The oldest of the Associates, Ester Jimenez, is in her 90s. Ester fell and broke her leg and is recovering at home.

Thankfully, the northern area around Arecibo and Bayamon was not affected by the recent earthquakes, although many residents there did feel the resulting tremors.

Just as with our Associates in the U.S., the Associates in Puerto Rico have not been able to meet during the last few months because of the coronavirus. They are under serious lockdown.

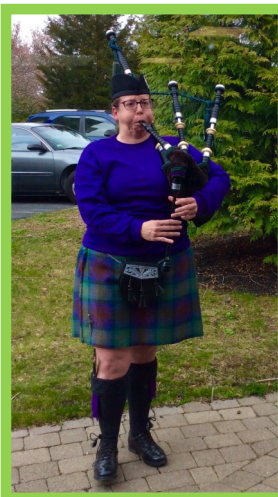
Prior to the pandemic, the Associates would all meet together monthly, some traveling a distance to be there. Because of roads damaged by Hurricane

Maria, a couple of the Associates have not been able to attend since the hurricane. The Sisters and Associates now are concerned about the coming hurricane season. Puerto Rico is currently experiencing a period of drought, so they would welcome the rain if only the hurricane would pass by.

The monthly meetings held prior to the lockdown would begin with prayer and Scripture reading and reflection, followed by a social time of sharing with each other what was happening in their lives and families. On holidays and special occasions they would gather to celebrate and sometimes exchange cards and gifts. The Associates also gathered for retreats and worked together on community projects such as collecting food for a local orphanage and visiting a home for the elderly.

Please keep our Puerto Rico Sisters and Associates in your prayers as they continue to deal with this time of lockdown, ongoing recovery from Hurricane Maria, the current drought, and the approaching hurricane season.

Kvell & Tell



Outdoor bagpipe concert! On an April afternoon, Sacred Heart High School alumna Beth Butts entertained her teachers at Providence House in Kingston. Beth enjoys playing the bagpipes and has performed in many local events. Our Sisters had a unique experience that enlivened this time of limited travel, and Beth was happy to play for us.

And on a Friday in early May, one of our former nurses brightened our "stay home" mandate by surprising us with individually wrapped lobster rolls for lunch. She couldn't have pleased us New Englanders more!

—Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf



Memory from the past: Associate Mary Lucas on retreat with Benedictine Sr. Joan Chittister. Mary passed away in 2016.

May She Live in Peace



Catherine Wronkovich passed away on May 18, 2020. She was 85 years old and had been a CDP Associate for 23 years.

Cathy was a true Providence Woman! A registered nurse for about 45 years, she used her skill to help many people. Cathy volunteered on various programs of mercy, even going with a medical team from her church to Central America in the early 2000's.

For over 20 years, Cathy and I traveled to Pittsburgh from Ohio, 2-to-3-hour trip, to attend CDP assemblies, retreats, education days, and celebrations. We loved being a part of the Community, even when we could only stay for a little while! We even traveled to St. Louis and Kingston for retreats and to get to know our Sisters there.

We were a part of a 10-year Associate group in Ohio led by Sr. Mary Jane Kiley, CDP. We are grateful to Sr. Janet Schaffran, Sr. Marilyn Bergt, and Sr. Joan Marie Harper for always supporting the Ohio Associates.

It always helps in our walk through life to have compatible companions to share our life and interests. Cathy was such a person to me, and I am going to miss her very much. Rest in peace, Cathy, and thank you for all we enjoyed together while trying to be good Providence Women.

—Nuala Filberg

New Facebook Page Added for Associates (and Sisters)

CDP Associates now have **two** Facebook pages:

- **CDP Associates** — our original page for Associate news, pictures, and announcements; and
- **CDP Associates (& Sisters) social group** — a new "social" page for Associates and Sisters to post/chat and share their lives.

If you have a personal Facebook page, (even if only to look around at what everyone else is doing and not really post), we invite you to join both of these Associate Facebook pages.

Here's how:

Once you log into your own Facebook account, you will need to find the appropriate group page.



To join the **CDP Associates** page (if you are not already a member), go to this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/124080838214153/>

Or, in your search bar inside of Facebook (usually at the top of the page on your computer screen, on the left with the little magnifying glass):

- Type in "CDP Associates." You will know the group by the **picture of the Associate pin and fall leaves** in the background.

- You will see a blue button that says "Join group."
- You will have to answer two questions and be approved by an administrator on the page. This page is only for CDP Associates and Sisters.



To join the **CDP Associates (& Sisters) social group**, go to this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/556637711902701/>

Or, in your search bar inside Facebook (usually at the top of the page on your computer screen, on the left with the little magnifying glass):

- Type in "CDP Associates (& Sisters) social group." You will know the group by the **picture of spring tulips** on the background.
- You will see a blue button that says "Join group."
- You will also have to answer two questions and be approved by an administrator on the page. This page is for CDP Sisters and Associates, and we also have a few former CDPs in the group.

If you are not already a part of our pages, we look forward to seeing you there!

—Shelley Johnsen

U.S. Census Survey Reminder!

Take a few minutes to complete your 2020 census survey if you haven't already done so.

You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. If you have misplaced the invitation, you can complete the survey online at mycensus2020.gov. If you want to complete it by phone or have questions, you can call the Census Bureau Call Center at 844-330-2020 (open every day from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. EST).

The census will collect basic information about your household, and you should count everyone living in your household on April 1, 2020. The short survey can be completed in about 10 minutes. For more information, visit 2020census.gov.

The census has an impact on our daily lives. It affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. The higher the response rate, the better the data reflects our current population and the more benefits your community will experience.

Please remind your family and friends to respond too. Thank you!

Margaret Schramm, Recruiting Assistant
Pittsburgh Area Census Office
census.gov | margaret.m.schramm@2020census.gov

[Peggy Schramm, a CDP Associate, is currently working for the Census Office.]

Governance Committee Report

The newly reactivated Governance Committee consists of Cathy Cassy, Ellie Field, Julia Lynn, Pat Montgomery, Sandy Stevenson (chair), and Gil Weyhaupt. The committee met on March 23 and April 6 regarding the hiring of a Director of Associates. The Committee submitted a proposal to Sr. Donna Marie Gribshaw for consideration by the PLT.

Special Thanks

Layout Assistance: Mary Seljak

Photos: Cathy Cassy, Ruthanne Curran, Nuala Filberg, Fr. J. Friedel, Linda Hoeflin, Shelley Johnsen, Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf, Erin Middleton, Mary Pérez, Linda Sandhu, Pat Schneider, Sally Shamalla, Michele Yotz

Mark Your Calendar

June 2020

10 ALT Meeting for Pittsburgh/Michigan Leaders
Via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. EDT

August 2020

2-4 Assembly 2020
Via Zoom (see important notice below)

September 2020

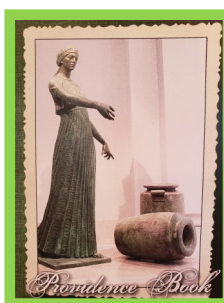
3-5 Associate Meeting (to be confirmed)
St. Louis

October 2020

24 Pittsburgh Associates Rite of Acceptance
(Location and manner to be determined)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- * Associates who wish to attend Assembly on August 2-4, 2020, which will be conducted via Zoom, must activate their cdpsisters.org email account and know their password in order to log in. The Zoom link for each day's session will be sent to each Associate's cdpsisters.org email address.
- * To activate your account, or to reset your password, please contact Sr. Margie Walsh at mwalsh@cdpsisters.org or 412-290-5526.
- * Training and practice for using Zoom will be offered. Email to come with more information.



CDP Memorial Cards Available

Enrollment in the Providence Book is a way to remember a loved one, friend, or Associate who has died, or to honor a birth, graduation, marriage, anniversary, or healing intention for someone who is ill. Enrollees are remembered on the second Sunday of each month in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel and are held in prayer by CDP Sisters throughout the Marie de la Roche Province. Enrollment cards are available from the Mission Advancement Office or online at cdpsisters.org. **If you are sending a check, please write "Associate Relationship" on the memo line.**