

# CDP Associate News

SPRING 2021



**Sr. Gladys Segovia León gets tips from Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf as they talk over Sr. Gladys's new role as Local Coordinator of Associates in Kingston.**

## Kingston Baton Passes from Sr. Emma Jean to Sr. Gladys

The story began over a year ago when Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf voiced her desire to retire from her position as Sister Local Coordinator of Associates. Our PLT liaison, Sr. Donna Marie Gribschaw, began the prayerful process of finding the right person to carry on in this role. Sr. Emma Jean served in this position from 2004 to the present, and we are so grateful for her 17 years of service to the Associate Relationship.

We are very happy to announce that Sr. Gladys Segovia León has agreed to serve as the next Sister Local Coordinator for the Kingston area. Sr. Emma Jean was glad that Sr. Gladys would be leading the group, because Sr. Gladys has very strong technology skills. Sr. Emma Jean has happily started her retirement, and we wish her every blessing in her new chapter of life and ministry.

Already, Director of Associates Linda Hoeflin has invited Sr. Gladys to participate in online

training on Zoom with NACAR, as she learns more about the Associate movement nationwide. Her technology skills will be an asset in reaching out to current Sisters and Associates to ascertain their dreams for the future, and to new women and men who desire to be grounded in Providence.

"Following in the steps of our previous Associate Coordinators, my desire is to continue to engage current and future Associates in the spirit of our charism. I hope to encourage them to deepen their Providence spirituality, addressing the social justice issues of today with compassionate service. My prayer is that our efforts may give life to them, to our community, and to the church as we witness to God's tender care and love," Sr. Gladys said.

"In the face of the pandemic, my wish is to find ways to reach out to others who long for a similar expression of spirituality to be united in God's Providence through prayer and action."

We wish Sr. Gladys the very best in this vital ministry!

—Erin Middleton

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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



I am sitting in my kitchen enjoying the bright sunlight against the stark whiteness of 8 inches of snow. Lent has arrived and I am wondering what new knowledge I will gain this season. I think about my call to being a CDP Associate.

**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."**

—1 Peter 4:10-11

The Apostle Peter presents a challenge to each of us as Christians and as Associates. We are called to be faithful stewards of all that God has provided for us. My personal question is: "What gifts am I to use for our Associate Relationship?" After being accepted as an Associate, I had a responsibility to fulfill my commitment to the CDP community. How can I best fulfill that commitment? As we have so often heard in our parishes, we are called to share our talents, time, and treasures. Here are some possibilities for your consideration.

### Our Talents:

- ◆ Driving assistance for a Sister or Associate
- ◆ Writing cards, letters, or emails to Sisters or Associates, especially our shut ins.
- ◆ Writing an article for the Associate newsletter.
- ◆ Joining NACAR.
- ◆ Using your secular world talents to assist the Sisters and Associates, in language training, business and budgeting assistance, writing skills.
- ◆ Assisting in CDP ministries.

### Our Time:

- ◆ Serving on a committee for the Community or the Associates
- ◆ Reading the posts on the CDP website and joining the Sisters in prayer against human trafficking, gun control, capital punishment, human hunger.

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## Desde el escritorio de la Directora Linda Hoefflin

Estoy sentada en mi cocina, disfrutando de la luz brillante del sol sobre la blancura cruda de 8 pulgadas de nieve. Ha llegado la Cuaresma y me pregunto qué nuevos conocimientos obtendré en esta temporada. Pienso en mi llamado a ser Asociada de la Congregación de la Divina Providencia. ¿A quién y a qué estoy siendo llamada/o?

**Cada uno de ustedes debe usar cualquier don que haya recibido para servir a los demás, como fieles mayordomos de la gracia de Dios en sus diversas formas. Si alguien habla, debe hacerlo como quien habla las mismas palabras de Dios. Si alguno sirve, que lo haga con la fuerza que Dios le da, para que en todo Dios sea alabado por Jesucristo. A él sea la gloria y el poder por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.**

—1 Pedro 4: 10-11

El apóstol Pedro presenta un desafío para cada uno de nosotros como cristianos y como asociados. Estamos llamados a ser mayordomos fieles de todo lo que Dios nos ha provisto. Mi pregunta personal es: "¿Qué don debo usar para nuestra relación como asociado?". Después de que me aceptaron en la relación de asociado, tuve ciertas responsabilidades para cumplir con mi compromiso con la Comunidad de la Divina Providencia.

¿Cómo puedo cumplir mejor con ese compromiso? Como han oído tantas veces en nuestras parroquias, estamos llamados a compartir nuestros Talentos, Tiempo y Tesoros. Aquí hay algunas posibilidades para su consideración.

### Talentos:

- ¿Ayudar con la transportación de una hermana o asociada que lo necesite?
- Escribir tarjetas, cartas o correos electrónicos a las Hermanas o Asociadas, especialmente en este tiempo de encierros.
- Redacción de un artículo para el Boletín de los Asociados.
- Unirse a NACAR (La Asociación Nacional de Asociados)
- Usar sus talentos del mundo secular para ayudar a las Hermanas y Asociadas, en capacitación de idiomas, asistencia comercial y de presupuesto, habilidades de escritura.
- Ayudar en los ministerios de la Comunidad de las Hermanas de la Divina Providencia

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## Meet an Associate — Mary Pérez

Mary Pérez has been an Associate for 16 years, but her connection with the Sisters of Divine Providence in Puerto Rico began 42 years ago, when she was 8 years old. At that time the CDP Sisters had a convent in San Miguel Parish in Utuado.

Mary's parents had been separated for a long time, and Mary, wanting to befriend and play with other children, decided to follow a group of children who passed by her home on Saturdays. They were going to CCD class, and although Mary was not enrolled and her family did not go to church, Sr. Leticia Plasencia Barrios, the CCD teacher, allowed her — and the pet dog Mary had with her — to stay.

Mary became a regular at CCD, and eventually she was ready to receive her First Communion. When she was asked to bring in her baptismal certificate, it was discovered that Mary had never been baptized! She was baptized just a week before her First Communion.

First taken to the convent by Sr. Leticia, Mary became a frequent visitor there, even sleeping overnight at times, with her father's permission. The Sisters fell in love with her and would sometimes take her with them to visit their families. Eventually, the convent became Mary's home, and the Sisters became her family.

Now living at the CDP convent in Bayamón, Mary sees herself as a member of the Community. "I pray and eat with the Sisters and help as much as I can. It gives me joy to know I can be of service," she says.

Mary is skilled with computers and fixes technology problems for the Sisters. She helped Sr. María Torres Meléndez, who is the Coordinator for the Associates in Puerto Rico, to connect the Associates using WhatsApp during this time of pandemic. Thanks to this application, the 15 Associates there meet virtually once a month. "We share with one another and support each other in trying to live the charism of Providence," says Mary.

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## Conoce a una Asociada — Mary Pérez

Mary Pérez ha sido asociada durante 16 años, pero su conexión con las Hermanas de la Divina Providencia en Puerto Rico comenzó hace 42 años, cuando tenía 8 años. Sus padres se separaron por un gran tiempo y fue en ese momento que comenzó su historia con las Hermanas de la Divina Providencia que tenían uno de los Conventos en la Parroquia San Miguel del pueblo de Utuado.

Queriendo hacerse amiga y jugar con otros niños, Mary (¡y su perro mascota!) decidió seguir a un grupo de niños que estudiaban los sábados en la catequesis de la Parroquia, que estaba a cinco minutos de su casa. Iban a la clase de Catequesis (CCD), y aunque Mary no estaba inscrita en la catequesis y su familia no iba a la iglesia, la Hermana Leticia, que era la directora del CCD, le permitió a ella —y a su perro— quedarse. Mary se convirtió en una habitual en el CCD, y cuando estaba lista para recibir su Primera Comunión y se le pidió que trajera su certificado bautismal, se descubrió que nunca había sido bautizada. Así que fue bautizada de emergencia, justo una semana antes de su Primera Comunión.

Llevada por primera vez al convento por la Hermana Leticia, Mary se convirtió en una visitante frecuente allí, incluso durmiendo durante la noche a veces, con el permiso de su padre. Las Hermanas se encariñaron con ella y a veces la llevaban con ellas a visitar a sus familias. Con el tiempo, el convento se convirtió en el hogar de Mary, y las Hermanas se convirtieron en su familia.

Ahora que vive en el convento del CDP en Bayamón, Mary se ve a sí misma como miembro de la Comunidad. "Rezo y como con las Hermanas y ayudo en todo lo que puedo y comparto en la vida de comunidad. Me complace saber que puedo ayudar," dice.

Mary tiene conocimientos en computadoras y soluciona problemas tecnológicos para las Hermanas. En este tiempo de la Pandemia Covid-19 ayudó a la Hermana María Torres, quien es la Coordinadora de Asociados en Puerto Rico, a conectar de manera virtual a los Asociados por medio de la aplicación WhatsApp. Gracias a esta aplicación los 15 Asociados se reúnen una vez al mes. "Compartimos los un-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Meet an Associate *(continued from page 3)*

Mary travels more than an hour each day to the Pontifical University campus in Arecibo, where she works in the Student Life program. She also serves as secretary for a total of eight offices there. Many of the students benefit from the student help program because they are very poor. Some of them live in the mountains, where their homes and communities were devastated by the hurricane. They wanted to continue their studies after the storm but had no money.

Mary discovered that some students were sleeping in their cars and going without food and other basic needs. "Twice a week, the Sisters in Bayamón prepared food for the poorest of the students identified by the institution. With the help of other employees, we distributed the food to these students so they could attend classes all day. Money donated by Sisters and Associates in the U.S. helped make this possible," explains Mary.

A life-long animal and nature lover, Mary is a member of the Association of Animal Protectors of Puerto Rico. Mary and the Sisters cared for a pregnant cat that appeared on the convent doorstep during the hurricane. The cat gave birth to five kittens, and Mary and the Sisters found homes for all but the tiniest kitten, Motita. "She is now quite big," Mary exclaims with a laugh. She also rescued two tiny parrot chicks whose nest was blown out of a tree by the hurricane, and which they had to feed with a syringe. (See photos of Mary with Robby and Rubi on page 3 and below.)

Mary also loves music and directed the parish choir at Utuado for 16 years. She is a very good photographer, and many of the photos of Assemblies and Chapters on the CDP website were taken by her.

Mary would like to express her gratitude first to God, then to the Sisters for letting her be part of their Community. Her heart is full of love for every Sister and Associate in Puerto Rico and in the States, and especially the Sisters at the Motherhouse.

—Karen Snyder; based on interview with Mary facilitated by Linda Hoefflin, with Sr. Inesita Vélez Negron as translator.



## Conoce a una Asociada *(continued from page 3)*

os con los otros y nos apoyamos mutuamente para tratar de vivir el carisma de la Providencia", dice Mary.

Mary viaja más de una hora cada día a la Pontificia Universidad Católica recinto de Arecibo, donde trabaja en el área de Servicios Estudiantiles. También se desempeña como secretaria y brinda apoyo a un total de ocho oficinas. Allí, muchos de los estudiantes en la Universidad son pobres y son ayudados en el Programa de Estudio y Trabajo en el que está Mary. Algunos de estos jóvenes vivían y aún viven en áreas rurales y montañosas donde sus hogares y comunidades fueron devastados por el huracán María. Querían continuar sus estudios después de la tormenta, pero no tenían dinero.

Mary se enteró que algunos estudiantes dormían en sus carros y carecían de alimentos y artículos de primera necesidad. Las Hermanas en el Convento de Bayamón ofrecieron ayudar a los estudiantes más necesitados e identificados por la institución. "Empecé a llevarles el desayuno y almuerzo preparados por las Hermanas en el convento dos veces por semana y repartirlo junto con los empleados de la Universidad para que pudieran continuar estudiando hasta por la noche. La Institución y los estudiantes estuvieron muy agradecidos por ese apoyo, en medio de la gran crisis.

Es amante de la naturaleza y de los animales, de toda la vida; Mary es miembro de la Asociación Protectora de Animales en Puerto Rico. Durante el huracán las Hermanas y ella se preocupaban por una gata que apareció en la puerta del convento, estaba embarazada y dio a luz a cinco gatitos. Mary y las Hermanas encontraron hogares para todos menos para el gatito más pequeño, Motita. "Ahora es bastante grande", exclama Mary, entre risas. También rescató a dos pequeños polluelos de Cotorras cuyo nido fue sacado de un árbol por los vientos del huracán, y que tuvieron que alimentar con una jeringa. Están sobre sus hombros en la foto de arriba.

Mary también ama la música y dirigió el coro de su parroquial en Utuado durante 16 años. Ella es una muy buena fotógrafa, y muchas de las fotos de las

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## From the Director, Linda Hoefflin

(continued from page 2)

- ◆ Reading the posts on the Women of Providence in Collaboration website
- ◆ Following Sr. Betty Sundry's Peace and Justice Calendar
- ◆ Praying with the Sisters and Associates

### Our Treasure:

- ◆ Making a monthly donation to the Sisters and/or Associates
- ◆ Offering food or preparation for Associate meetings and festivities
- ◆ Donating in-kind items such as stamps, paper, envelopes

Each of us is called to respond in a different way. But we are called to respond, to participate, to be an active Associate. **What will you do?**

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## Desde el escritorio de la Directora Linda Hoefflin

(continued from page 2)

### Tiempo:

- Sirviendo en un comité de la Comunidad o los Asociados
- Leer las publicaciones de la Comunidad en el sitio web y unirse a las Hermanas en oración contra la trata de personas, el control de armas, la pena capital, el hambre humana.
- Leer las publicaciones Mujeres Providentes en Colaboración en internet
- Siguiendo el Calendario de Justicia y Paz de la Hna. Betty Sundry
- Orando con las Hermanas y Asociadas

### Para el tesoro:

- Hacer una donación mensual a las Hermanas y / o Asociadas.
- Ofrecer comida o preparación para reuniones y festividades de Asociados
- Donación de artículos como sellos, papel, sobres.

Cada uno de nosotros está llamado a responder de manera diferente. Pero estamos llamados a responder, a participar, a ser un Asociado activo. **¿Qué vas a hacer?**

## Conoce a una Asociada (continued from page 4)

Asambleas y Capítulos en el sitio web del CDP fueron tomadas por ella.

Mary desea expresar su gratitud primero a Dios, luego a las Hermanas por dejarla ser parte de su Comunidad. Su corazón está lleno de amor por cada Hermana y por los Asociados,

tanto en Puerto Rico, como en los Estados Unidos, y especialmente por las Hermanas de la Casa Madre.

—Karen Snyder, basada en una entrevista con Mary Pérez, facilitada por Linda Hoefflin, con la Hermana Inesita Vélez Negrón como interprete.



Mary Pérez and Motita

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## Noticias de Puerto Rico

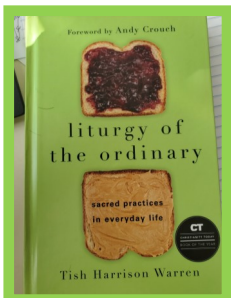
**De la hermana Elsa:** Gracias a Dios, aquí todo es normal. Tenemos luz, agua y comida. Solo tenemos la situación con pandemia, como el resto del mundo. Las clases aún no han empezado, pero poco a poco estamos ahí. Seguimos sintiendo temblores, no son fuertes, pero todavía los sentimos unos más fuertes que otros. Gracias a Dios que no hubo huracanes la temporada pasada. Poco a poco el país se va recuperando del huracán María y los terremotos.

## News from Puerto Rico

**From Sr. Elsa Medina Rivera:** Thanks be to God, all is normal here. We have electricity, water, and food. Now we only have the situation with the pandemic, like the rest of the world. Classes have not started yet, but little by little we are there. We continue to feel tremors; they are not strong, but we still feel them, some stronger than others. Thank God that there were no hurricanes this past season. Little by little the country is recovering from Hurricane María and the earthquakes.

—Submitted by Linda Hoefflin

## St. Louis and Pittsburgh Virtual Faith-Sharing Groups Open to All Associates



### St. Louis Book Group and Retreat

The inability to have in-person gatherings due to the pandemic has interrupted most of the Associate faith-sharing group meetings, and has definitely curtailed retreat planning. Linda Reynolds, St. Louis Associates' Local Coordinator, presented the opportunity for a "Virtual Faith-Sharing Book Study" via Zoom to the St. Louis Associate leadership team, gaining unanimous acceptance.

The Zoom gatherings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. CDT. Associates will be using the book "Liturgy of the Ordinary—

Sacred Practices in Everyday Life" by Tish Harrison Warren. An invitation has been sent to all the St. Louis Associates to participate. An organizational meeting was held on February 16, with the actual faith-sharing to begin March 16.

Linda also led the Associates in a 2-hour Virtual Retreat via Zoom on March 13.

Coming together, even though virtually, provides an avenue for strengthening our Associate relationship and further grounding us in our Providence commitment and prayer.

***Since the book study is virtual, it is open to all Associates in the Province. If you are interested, please contact Linda Reynolds at [lreynolds@cdpsisters.org](mailto:lreynolds@cdpsisters.org).***

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### Pittsburgh Monthly Group Meetings

— Pittsburgh Associate small faith-sharing groups are opening their Zoom meetings to anyone who would like to join one or two sessions or would like to join that group permanently. This will allow any Associate who is not currently part of a group to participate as they can. Please contact the leader ahead of time so you can receive materials for the session and to receive the link for the Zoom connection. The groups and contact information are:

#### Caritas Small Group

**Meetings:** Third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. EDT

**Contact:** Denise Champe by text 724-747-3951 or [dchampe04@gmail.com](mailto:dchampe04@gmail.com)

**Next Meeting:** April 15

#### Semper Fi Small Group

**Meetings:** Third Sunday of the month from 3-5 p.m. EDT

**Contact:** Mary Dieter [mdeiter7@aol.com](mailto:mdeiter7@aol.com)

**Next Meeting:** March 21

#### Providence Peace Small Group

**Meetings:** Third Monday of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. EDT

**Contact:** Tish Donze [tish.donze@gmail.com](mailto:tish.donze@gmail.com) or phone/text 412-952-1026

**Next Meeting:** April 19

#### Providence Peers Small Group

**Contact:** Sr. Elena Almendárez [ealmendarez@cdpsisters.org](mailto:ealmendarez@cdpsisters.org)

**Next Meeting:** Not yet set

— Tish Donze

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## Stewardship Committee Looking for New Members

**Interested in using your gifts to help advance our Associate Relationship?** Serving on this Committee may be the perfect opportunity for you. The Stewardship Committee, formally the Finance Committee, meets bi-monthly to assist the Director of Associates with budget matters, the annual appeal, potential fundraising, and encouraging Associates to share their time, talents, and treasure with Associates and ministries of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Since the Committee just changed its name, the committee will be reviewing our tasks and expanding them a bit. This would

be a great time for new ideas from new members. Please think about it!

Our next meeting, by Zoom, is scheduled for April 8, at 6 p.m. EDT. Please contact Tish Donze if you are interested or just want a little more information.

**Tish Donze, Chair 412-952-1026**  
**[tish.donze@gmail.com](mailto:tish.donze@gmail.com)**

## St. Louis Area Associates Welcome New Leadership Team

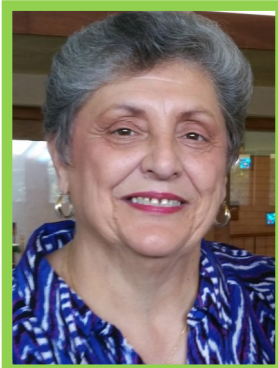


**Linda Reynolds**

At our last business meeting, the St. Louis Associates affirmed their new leadership team. Affirmation included Linda Reynolds as Coordinator, Sylvia Resha as Secretary and Ron Payton as Communication Liaison.

As Coordinator, Linda provides leadership not only to the Leadership Team but also to the entire St. Louis Associates' organization. Her position requires active participation in meetings of the Province Associates' Leadership Team and input into the development of programs and activities for the St. Louis Associates.

Sylvia's position, as Secretary, involves recording and distributing minutes of the St. Louis As-



**Sylvia Resha**

sociate Leadership Team meetings and business meetings, actively participating in all St. Louis Leadership meetings and all Province Associates' Leadership Team meetings, and serving on Province committees as requested.

Ron's position, as Communications Liaison, involves facilitating communication, including contact information, with the local St. Louis Associates' group, providing updates on St. Louis Associates' group activities to the Province Leadership Team, handling or assisting with virtual events for the St. Louis Associates' group, and participating with the work of the Province Communications Committee.

—Ron Payton



**Ron Payton**

### New St. Louis Area Associate — Cynthia Sue Durbin

On December 6, 2020, the St. Louis Associates happily welcomed Cynthia Sue Durbin ("Sue" to her friends) as a new Associate to our Sisters'/Associates' family. Sue lives in Hawaii and has, for many years, been interested in the Sisters of Divine Providence and their charism. Her interest was sparked initially by meeting and developing a friendship with Sr. Maria Patterson.

Sue's professional career led her to many different positions, each requiring a spirit of service, compassion, and the formation of others. She has served as a high school teacher, college professor, director of educational programs serving Native Americans, manager of communications for federal agencies, manager of international contracting for the DHHS, and manager of training for FEMA.

Last June, Sue reached out to Sr. Maria and they reconnected. Sue had been studying the Sisters' charism, history, and mission for some time, and she now felt the call to join as an Associate.

When I interviewed Sue for this article, I asked her who the person or persons were that had the most impact on

her life. She told me that there were actually four groups. First, her mom, who had emigrated from Italy and suffered discrimination because of the color of her skin. She

taught Sue to offer every action as a prayer and to do everything out of love. Next were people who had been unkind or unjust to Sue over the years. Then her brother Ricky who had died of cancer a few years ago, but taught her how to "fight" in her own struggle with cancer. Finally, the leaders, activists, musicians, and others in the 60s who helped to shape those times as she was growing up.

Without a doubt, the St. Louis Sisters and Associates family is very proud and happy to call Sue one of our own.

—Ron Payton



## Mother Earth

*The soil is my flesh,  
The trees and plants are my hair.  
The rocks are my bones,  
My breath is the air.*

*Walk gently upon me,  
Especially in spring;  
For in my womb are gifts,  
That when harvest I'll bring.*

*Wear shoes of soft soles,  
And please no metal blades.  
Don't rip out my hair,  
Leave my bones in their place.*

*I'm adorned with sweet fragrances,  
From the flowery fields.  
I'm the home for deer mice,  
Rabbits and birds.*

*Nestled in my garments,  
Are wonderful things.  
But my time is limited,  
These warnings I bring.*

*If my hair is uprooted,  
My bones crushed.  
If my breath is smothered  
With polluted stuff.*

*If you continue to ride me  
With your metal blades,  
No longer can I be for you  
A home base.*

*For we are all connected  
In this web of life.  
Let's stick together,  
Let's end this strife.*

*Humble before the Great Spirit,  
And yield to Him your ways.  
And He I promise,  
Will grant us finer days.*

—Christina Ward ©

**April 22, 2021 is Earth Day.** May God open our eyes to the beauty of the natural world and animate us to care for creation.

## How I Was Able to Make a Job a Ministry

I work as a Covid-19 Case Investigator for the State of Pennsylvania.

When we receive a positive Covid-19 test result or (or identify someone with symptoms who is a close contact of a confirmed case), we reach out to them and do an interview. There are three parts to the interview: collect information on symptoms, identify where they might have been exposed to the virus and who they might have exposed after they became infected, and finally, provide education about isolation and quarantine.



**Peggy Schramm**

This information is used to track where the virus is in our communities and how it is spreading. The isolation and quarantine measures are used to help limit further spread of the virus. Through these interviews and from the medical community at large, we are continuously learning about the virus and adjusting our recommendations based on our findings.

At some point during the course of the interview, I let the interviewee tell their story and vent anger, frustration, fears, losses, concern about spreading it to a loved one, or disbelief in the pandemic. I take time to thank all those who work and provide services to us during the pandemic as well as those who are following our public health recommendations with no complaints.

To me, this part of the interview is as important as or more important than the information I collect. Taking a few minutes to listen and comfort, support or reassure, and then offer them up in prayer at the beginning and end of my day has become a ministry for me. I am grateful to be of service during this pandemic and pray that an end may be close at hand.

—Peggy Schramm

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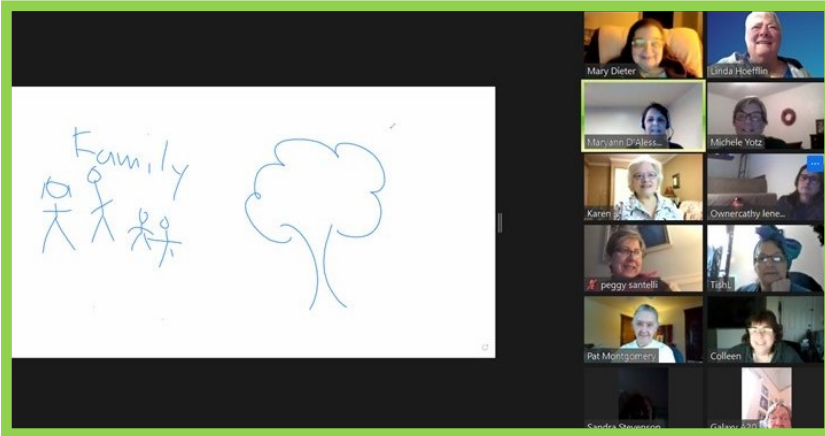
## Noticias de Santo Domingo

La directora local Ileana ha estado enferma de neumonía, pero gracias a Dios, está mejorando. Debido a la pandemia y al toque de queda, el grupo apenas se ha reunido. En diciembre, terminaron el año reuniéndose y compartiendo. Intentan reunirse para la Eucaristía y rezar por las intenciones de los Asociados y la Congregación.

## News from Santo Domingo

Associates Local Coordinator Ileana Núñez Sánchez has been sick with pneumonia, but thanks be to God, she is improving. Due to the pandemic and the curfew in Santo Domingo, the group has hardly met. In December, they ended the year with a gathering and sharing. They try to meet for Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the Associates and the Congregation.





ABOVE: The **Semper Fi Associates faith-sharing group** in Pittsburgh hosted a **Providence Pandemic Pajama Party** via Zoom on January 17. Since it was virtual, all Associates in the Province were invited. The party began with prayer, then each person shared something positive they experienced during the pandemic. This was followed by online games, including Pictionary and a trivia quiz. Participants brought their own party food, and the fun and laughter provided a refreshing respite from the isolation of Covid-19. The party was reminiscent of the Sisters' January Purple Pajama Party of former times. Party facilitators were **Mary Dieter, Maryann D'Alessandro, and Colleen Higbee.**

On January 10, **Sr. Carol Stenger** hosted her Conversation Circle group along with **Srs. Paulita Kuzy and Patty Baker** for a virtual dinner. Members in attendance were **Sr. Linda Hoefflin, Sylvia Resha, and Sally Shamalla.** Everyone already had their meals prepared except Sally, who was watching the football game and fixing her Zoom bugs. It was such a success that another virtual dinner was planned for March 14. A good time was had by all. —Sally Shamalla

### A Sweet Invitation

**You are cordially invited to participate in a new venture. Sr. Betsa Palomino Montalvo** has started a new ministry, combining her cookie baking skills with her desire to be of service to poor people in Peru and other Latin American countries. Our CDP Sisters in Peru are helping her to select projects, as are a few Sisters of the Good Shepherd whom she knows. Our Ketteler Legacy for Justice Committee is currently helping her choose a proper name for this ministry.

**YOU can be of help, too. Just follow these directions:**

- ◆ Go to the CDP website or to the Associates' Facebook page and watch the video that describes this work; Sr. Betsa and **Sr. Gladys Segovia León** put it together for us.
- ◆ Place orders for the specialty cookies and other sweets.
- ◆ Savor these as you realize they are your way of being intimately involved with this new ministry. You'll be very glad you are!

**Direct questions/comments to:**

**Pat Montgomery at [pmontgomery@cdpsisters.org](mailto:pmontgomery@cdpsisters.org)**

**Sr. Betsa at [bpalominomontalvo@cdpsisters.org](mailto:bpalominomontalvo@cdpsisters.org), or 412-443-4707**

**Sr. Gladys at [gsegovia-leon@cdpsisters.org](mailto:gsegovia-leon@cdpsisters.org)**

—Pat Montgomery

### First Virtual WPC Event

On February 20, **Women of Providence in Collaboration (WPC)** held a virtual Providence event and celebrated its 40th anniversary as an organization. Our own **Sr. Barbara McMullen** is the current Executive Director of WPC, an association of 13 religious congregations bearing the name and charism of Providence, joined by women and men Associates. The theme of the daylong event was **"Providence — Where Justice and Radical Hope Meet!"** The guest speaker was Nancy Sylvester, IHM, who engaged participants in the critical issues of our day, showed them where justice and radical hope meet, and helped them integrate their response through their own particular "providence lens."



ABOVE: The WPC event Planning Committee included, clockwise from top left, **Debbie Dillow, SP Associate; Linda Hoefflin, CDP Associate; Sr. Carol Stenger, CDP; Sr. Jacqueline Fernandes, SP; Sr. Maggie Pastro, SP; WPC Executive Director Sr. Barbara McMullen, CDP; and David Lavender, CDP Associate.**



ABOVE: The WPC event drew over 250 participants, including 30 CDP Sisters and 8 CDP Associates.

## May She Live in Peace



**Mary Carini**, born May 9, 1932, entered into eternal rest on March 3, 2021. Mary has been a Divine Providence Associate since 1997.

Her association with the Sisters of Divine Providence began with Sr. Loretta Jean Schorr,

whom she met while living in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Mary moved to Nashville in 1992. She became a member of St. Ignatius Catholic Community at that time and met Sr. Maria Patterson, who furthered Mary's relationship with Divine Providence. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit Mary was received as a St. Louis area Associate. She faithfully lived the charism and mission of the

Sisters of Divine Providence, remaining very active until the time of her illness and death.

Mary was a long-time catechist and worked for years as an RCIA sponsor and team member at St. Ignatius as long as her health permitted.

She worked for Monongahela Power in Clarksburg for 40 years before she retired and moved to Nashville.

Mary is survived by her brother, Jim, and many nieces and nephews, including numerous great nieces and nephews. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Community on March 9 and her body was interred in a family plot in West Virginia on Friday, March 12.

—*Sylvia Resha*

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## What's Happening with the CDP "Agrégées"?

The pandemic initially caused a lull in our efforts to pursue the new non-canonical relationship to the Sisters of Divine Providence, currently referred to as "Agrégées." But when Sr. Marcia Allen, CSJ, gave her compelling presentation at our September 12, 2020, Education Day, we were spurred on.

The Provincial Leadership Team has appointed Sr. Lisa Paffrath as our Mentor/Liaison, and she has assembled a Task Force consisting of Srs. Elena Almendárez and Margie Modro and Associate Karen Snyder.

In the months ahead, the Task Force will refine the documents developed so far, focus on what CDP formation might look like, and find a proper name for this new relationship for people 45 years and older. The ultimate goal of the Task Force is to craft more definitive plans and have a coherent proposal to place before Provincial Chapter 2022.

So far, we have three names to choose from: Agregees (French for "aggregate"), Anam Cara (Irish for "soul friend"), and Kindred Spirits. What do you think? Does one of these appeal to you? Please let us



**Pat Montgomery and Nancy Robinson**

know. Weigh in with [nrobinson@cdpsisters.org](mailto:nrobinson@cdpsisters.org) and/or [pmontgomery@cdpsisters.org](mailto:pmontgomery@cdpsisters.org).

We have continually received guidance and direction from the Provincial Leadership Team, especially Srs. Michele Bisbey and Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, throughout our quest. For this we are most grateful.

—*Pat Montgomery and Nancy Robinson*

## Gathering of Sisters and Associates in July 2021

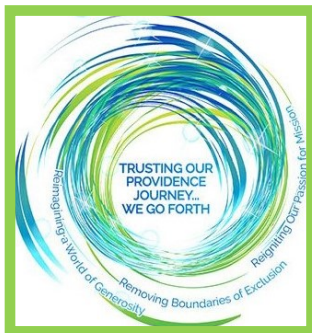
If you know how to “Zoom,” you won’t want to miss this event, which will take place via Zoom on **July 11, 12, and 13, 2021**.

If you have a computer, tablet, or smart phone, but need help using Zoom, help is available for you! Contact me at [ksnyder@cdpsisters.org](mailto:ksnyder@cdpsisters.org), or **412-552-9636**.

The theme of this gathering will be *“Reigniting Our Passion for Mission: Where the Mission Meets the Moment — a Reflective Experience for Sisters and Associates.”*

The focus for the three days will be prayerful and reflective rather than process-heavy. You will be provided with content to reflect on, and there will be time for personal prayer and reflection as well as for communal prayer and sharing. The gathering will include engaging videos on all three days. **You will receive information on registration for this event in April.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you have not yet activated your CDP email account, please do so as soon as possible. The Zoom link for the July gathering will be sent to your CDP email. Contact Sr. Margie Walsh at [mwalsh@cdpsisters.org](mailto:mwalsh@cdpsisters.org) or **412-290-5526**. If you have questions about this, please contact me at [ksnyder@cdpsisters.org](mailto:ksnyder@cdpsisters.org), or **412-552-9636**.



### CDP Provincial Chapter in 2022

Due to Covid-19, our Chapter, originally planned for the summer of 2020, has now been rescheduled, with the hope that participants will be able to attend in person. The new dates are:

**Chapter of Affairs: July 31-August 5, 2022**

**Chapter of Elections: November 11-13, 2022**

Associates are invited and encouraged to attend and participate fully in the Chapter of Affairs. Associates will also be able to attend and participate in the Chapter of Elections, except that voting and some sessions will be for vowed members only.

—Karen Snyder

**Please prayerfully consider attending both the Provincial Gathering in 2021 and the Provincial Chapter in 2022.**

## Mark Your Calendar

### March-April-May-June 2021

Pre-Chapter Conversation Circle Meetings

### April 2021

25 St. Louis Virtual Spring Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

### May 2021

TBD St. Louis Ongoing Education Day

### July 2021

11-13 Provincial Gathering on Zoom:  
“Reigniting Our Passion for Mission”

### August 2021

TBD St. Louis Associate Renewal Ceremony

### July 31-August 5, 2022

Provincial Chapter of Affairs

### November 2022

11-13 Provincial Chapter of Elections

### Zoom Account for Committee Meetings and Faith-Sharing

If you want to host an Associate committee meeting, faith-sharing group, or other meeting for CDP Associates and/or Sisters, **Linda Hoefflin** has a Zoom account that is available for you to use. Contact Linda at [lhoefflin@cdpsisters.org](mailto:lhoefflin@cdpsisters.org) and she will send you the user name and password. Linda will also give you instructions on how to host a meeting if needed.

## 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](http://cdpsisters.org). **If you are sending a check, please write “Associate Relationship” on the memo line.**



### SPECIAL THANKS

**Layout Assistance:** Mary Seljak

**Photos:** Linda Hoefflin, Sr. Barbara McMullen, Sr. Inesita Vélez Negron, Ron Payton, Mary Pérez, Sylvia Resha, Peggy Schramm, Sr. Claudia Ward