

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

PROVIDENCE *Alive!*

A MAGAZINE OF THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE
Marie de la Roche Province

HER SINS
WHICH
WERE MANY,
HAVE BEEN
FORGIVEN;
HENCE
SHE HAS SHOWN
GREAT
LOVE.



One of my favorite Scripture quotes is from Hebrews: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)

My first encounter with this passage remains a touchstone moment. In the spring of 1992, I received a note from one of our elder Sisters with that short biblical text highlighted. It expressed her welcome to our community’s first foster child—a crack addicted infant. What began as a response to a child’s need for a weekend of respite care, became my first conscious venture into radical hospitality and the beginning of a new community ministry. Over the years, we have parented and made a home for 28 different children who ranged in age from newborn to teenager. Their stay was as brief as a couple of days to many years. Many were victims of a culture of drugs, poverty, violence, abuse and neglect. Some were in need of care because of family illness or teen pregnancy. Some were adopted and others returned to rehabilitated parents. Each child changed my perception of God, community and family. The following verses written 25 years ago about our first foster child could be attributed to each one:

A stranger
I tiptoed into your life
seeking merely a brief respite.
But then days turned into weeks,
months,
even more than a year.
As you left your mark on me—
I left my stamp on you.
We are indelibly sealed,
imprinted by love,
no longer strangers.

Truly, we are touched and changed by those who welcome us and those who we welcome into our homes and lives. You will see ample evidence of such radical, mutual hospitality in this issue of *Providence Alive!* In future issues, I will share what we learned from the children with whom we shared our lives and home. Because of them, we have experienced Providence on the Periphery.

Of course, we are keenly aware that no matter where, when or how we minister, we never do so alone. We are so grateful for you, our donors and true partners in mission. Your prayerful and financial support has accompanied us at each step along the many paths of our mission. Without a doubt, you are among the angels we continue to encounter along the way. Should you, or anyone you know, ever need a place of welcome or respite, know that our door is open. We promise that with us you will find the warmest and most affectionate hospitality.

In God’s abundant Providence,

Sister Michele Bisbey

†
“Each
Christian
and every
community
must discern
the path that
the Lord
points out,
but all of us
are asked to
obey his call
to go forth
from our own
comfort zone
in order to
reach all the
“peripheries”
in need of the
light of the
Gospel.”

—Pope Francis
Evangelii Gaudium



Michele Bisbey, CDP, is the Provincial Director of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Celebrating her 50th Jubilee in 2017, she entered religious life from St. Norbert parish in Overbrook, PA. Since 1987, Sister Michele has worked in higher education, including La Roche College since 1992 where she held the titles of Professor of Religious Studies and Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology. Sister Michele has also been involved in foster care ministry for over 25 years.



Founded in Finthen, Germany, in 1851, the Sisters of Divine Providence is an international congregation of three provinces (Germany, United States-Caribbean, Korea) and one mission (Peru) with approximately 400 vowed members and 1,000 Associates. The Sisters are women of varied and diverse backgrounds and talents, united in their deep trust in a Provident God who loves and cares for all creation. The Congregation has expanded its ministries to meet the needs of the times in education, campus ministry, health care, pastoral care, social work, peace and justice concerns, as well as serving the poor and homeless and those who are seeking asylum.

MISSION STATEMENT

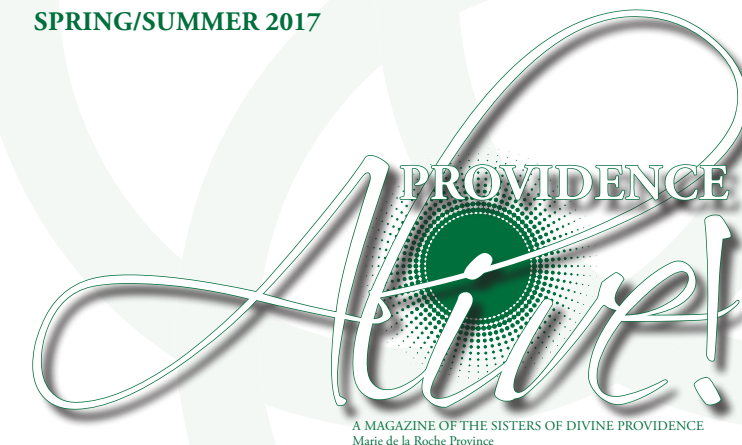
We, the Congregation of Divine Providence, impelled by the Spirit of Jesus, commit ourselves to co-create a world of compassion, justice and peace. Guided by the legacy of Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Marie de la Roche, we nurture in ourselves and in others a trust and confidence in God’s faithful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

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Michele Bisbey, CDP**
Provincial Director
- Mary Traupman, CDP**
Provincial Councillor
- Alice Marie Lyon, CDP**
Provincial Councillor
- Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP**
Provincial Councillor
- Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP**
Provincial Councillor



From left standing: Sisters Donna Marie Gribshaw, Ana Lydia Sonera Matos and Alice Marie Lyon; seated, Sisters Michele Bisbey and Mary Traupman



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Sister Margaret Mertens, CDP and client at La Posada Providencia

Sisters Add Voice to Immigration Support

One of the first actions of the newly elected Marie de la Roche Leadership team was its statement of disagreement with the President's January 27, 2017, Executive Order: Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.

The Marie de la Roche Province of the international Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence is committed to cherishing our intercultural and international ties; striving for right relationships with all; living and promoting every form of non-violence; courageously risking being marginalized; and generously sharing even in the midst of scarcity. The Leadership Team and the Peace and Justice Committee join with other members of our community to publicly proclaim our strong disagreement and opposition to the January 2017 executive order concerning immigration and refugee resettlement.

Our Sisters came to this country in

1876, as immigrants, to minister to immigrants in health care and education. For more than 140 years we have been, in the words of our founder Bishop Emmanuel von Ketteler, "ever ready to aid our suffering, needy neighbors."

One of our sponsored institutions, La Posada Providencia in San Benito, Texas, is a refuge for asylum seekers to our country. Working with Homeland Security, La Posada has helped over 8,600 persons resettle in the U.S. Our Sisters ministering in Clinton, North Carolina, strive to enable young people, who were brought to this country as children, to obtain documentation through the Deferred Action for

Childhood Arrivals (DACA) legislation. The current executive order to ban people from selected countries with Muslim majority populations and indefinitely suspend resettlement of Syrian refugees, goes counter to all we believe in as Christians and as women religious, who remain committed to the Biblical mandate to "welcome the stranger in our midst."

We will continue to welcome refugees and give aid to immigrants at La Posada Providencia and work to end unnecessary deportations, especially for the children brought to this country. We also pledge to support legislation that remedies our current flawed immigration system.



"As a son of an immigrant family, I am happy to be a guest in this country, which was largely built by such families."

—Pope Francis
Speech at the White House
September 23, 2015



Ministry Work Brings Hispanic Young Adults Out of Shadows

Sisters Thérésine Gildea, CDP and Maxine Tancaitor, CDP, through their Hispanic pastoral ministry at Immaculate Conception parish in Clinton, North Carolina, work to enable undocumented young adults and teens to come out of the shadows and legally secure jobs and continue their education. Through a special grant, the Sisters support DACA-eligible young adults with limited family income and resources by providing financial and legal assistance for the DACA initial application and renewal process. Previously undocumented young adults who were working or going to school can now, as DACA beneficiaries, move through their daily routines without having to "look over their shoulder." These young adults are often referred to as DREAMers, after the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act—a legislative proposal—which would give those who came to the U.S. as children a path toward citizenship while they attend college or serve in the military.



College President Advocates for Undocumented Students

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, president of La Roche College in Pittsburgh, was featured in a recent Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article about Catholic college and university presidents jointly supporting undocumented students who were brought to the U.S. as children and avoided deportation under the DACA, implemented by President Barack Obama in 2012. This policy is now at risk of repeal. "It speaks to who we are," said Sister Candace of the group's support for these foreign-born students. "[Undocumented students are] an important part of our future and this opportunity needs to be preserved." DACA makes it possible for students without legal immigration status to remain in the U.S.—the only country many of them have ever known—and avoid deportation for a limited time. It is a temporary solution until comprehensive immigration reform legislation is passed.

Sister Maura Anne Dunn Named 2017 Woman of Providence



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

Celebrating her 50th Jubilee this year, Sister Maura Anne Dunn—born Shirley Victoria—entered religious life in 1967 at age 38 from St. Anselm parish—now known as Word of God parish—in Swissvale, Pennsylvania. She credits life-saving, emergency surgery and a three-month period of recuperation as what most influenced her decision to enter religious life. She says “an overwhelming call to religious life manifested itself.” Sister Maura Anne chose the Sisters of Divine Providence because she remembered her experience with the Sisters as a patient at Braddock Hospital in Pittsburgh, which the Sisters administered.

In 1971, Sister Maura Anne received her bachelor's degree in sociology from La Roche College and,

after taking her first vows, began working at Divine Providence Hospital in the Social Services department where she received on-the-job training. She went on to work as a social worker for 19 years, leaving in 1990 to care for her ailing mother.

In 1994, Sister Maura Anne began her ministry with La Roche's Welcome Center and continued there until 2012. She says, “The world came through that lobby. I was energized by everyone, particularly the students!” Since 2012, Sister Maura Anne has ministered in La Roche's freshman admissions office. She is also a member of the Sisters' bell choir, a Eucharistic minister and a prayer leader.

Before pursuing a religious vocation, Sister Maura Anne attended the University of Pittsburgh; trained to be a stenographer and paralegal; worked at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for three years; and was employed at the Pentagon as a civilian with the Air Force JAG (Judge Advocate General) legal department for 13 years. She credits this time of living and working independently as a single woman for helping her relate to the students at La Roche.

Sister Maura Anne is the oldest living graduate of La Roche College. When she was told she would receive the Woman of Providence Award, Sister Maura Anne experienced shock, tears and then smiles to know she is part of such an honored group of women. She says, “I am so grateful for being able to devote the past 50 years of my life to the Congregation of Divine Providence and serve in many ministries. I love doing whatever I can for the community, for I have received so much more in return.”

Providence Heights Alpha School

Providence Heights Alpha School has been helping students achieve new heights of excellence since 1926. Founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence, Alpha School—formerly called Mt. Immaculate Alpha School—was originally a boarding school for girls located in Pittsburgh's East End. In 1929, Alpha School moved to its current location at Providence Heights—a 40-acre campus located next to La Roche College that serves as the Provincial House of the Sisters and is a historic landmark of the Pittsburgh Historic Landmarks Foundation.

Alpha School offers a wide range of programs and a curriculum that both challenges and nurtures students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The mission of Alpha School is to develop independent thinkers, imaginative problem solvers, and caring, compassionate leaders for the future. The school strives to model Christian values rooted in trust, fostering compassion, leadership and social justice in a community

that welcomes children of all faiths and cultures. One way Alpha School models this mission is by donating to The Chimbote Foundation each year. Students help the foundation by raising money at school events, such as Trunk or Treat and the Penny Challenge, making prayer chains and attending the annual foundation dinner to present their service efforts. The Chimbote Foundation is a mission of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

It was created to provide a bridge of love, hope, faith and financial support to care for the poorest of the poor in Chimbote, Peru through the Center for Social Works—a maternity hospital, outpatient clinic, clinical laboratory, pharmacy and home for abandoned and neglected children—serving hundreds of thousands since the mid-1960s.

Providence Heights Alpha School students celebrate Mass during their weekly assembly in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel



The St. John's Bible

Marie de la Roche wrote, "...the Providence of God constantly gives us new proof that God has not deserted us." Thank you for supporting the Sisters of Divine Providence who have given so much. Your faith and love of the Sisters, manifested through your gifts and prayerful support, make a difference by helping the Sisters continue to assist others through their social, pastoral, spiritual, health care and educational ministries. We deeply appreciate all who contributed prayerfully and financially with nearly 3,700 individual gifts in fiscal year 2015-2016. In appreciation, we are pleased to share a prayer card with the illumination of the Woman at the Pharisee's House from the St. John's Bible (see insert at left).

This illumination from the St. John's Bible provides a visual commentary on the story of a woman identified as a public sinner who crashes a dinner party at the home of Simon the Pharisee. It is found in Luke, Chapter 7 (see passage below). The wild, disheveled woman creates chaos in the ordered world of the righteous Pharisee as she focuses intently on her task of loving—a display of radical hospitality. This was an obligation which Simon neglected.

The woman shows hospitality to Jesus because she recognizes the generous hospitality she has been

shown. The Church's central experience of God's hospitality is the Lord's Supper, and being invited to eat at this table transforms us so that we are able to be radically generous and hospitable toward others. It is around the Table that we are invited into a circle of friends.

This story and Jesus' words invite us to reflect upon our own response to forgiveness and willingness to widen the circle beyond our comfort zone. Has your life ever been disrupted by love?

Luke 7:36-50

A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?" Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven." He said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Hospitality of the Heart

If you happen to be a long-time reader of our community newsletters, from *Tapestry* to *Providence Alive!*, you might recall one or other of the articles I wrote back then. Several of them questioned the validity of the many proverbs with which my Irish mother frequently peppered her conversations. Although I disagreed in print years ago with one of her favorites, “What goes around, comes around,” I am now living out its truth as I “come around” to writing again. The timing of my return seems Providential as it gives me the opportunity to share with you an alternate way to those described in this newsletter to live radical hospitality.

This additional way requires no money nor any extra space in your home. It can be practiced with living or deceased persons. Another name for this kind of radical hospitality is forgiveness. A friend called me recently and told me exactly how it worked in her life. Her brother, who had been alienated from the family for ten years, called her and said that he wanted to come to see her. She told me that she was so relieved that he was alive and wanted to connect with her family again, that she forgave him everything. “It was,” she said, “as if my heart suddenly opened up to welcome him in.” Her words were like an epiphany for me. That’s the definition of forgiveness, that’s the meaning of radical hospitality, to open the heart to welcome inside the one who offended us.

Forgiving the person who hurt us doesn’t mean that the offense was acceptable behavior. Neither does it mean that we have to confront the offender and have a reconciliation. Forgiveness is actually about healing one’s self. It is a process of letting go, refusing to be stuck in the anger or resentment, deciding that we only hurt ourselves, both emotionally and physically, by hanging on to our negative emotions. If the offense is a very big one, the healing can be a slow, painful process, but one that is definitely worth the effort.

I remember reading about a woman named Betty Ferguson whose daughter was murdered in 1975 when she was 16 years old by her high school teacher. Her mother was inconsolable. For eleven years, she drank herself to sleep every night, neglected her other children, and endured physical pain in much of her body. She described herself as being consumed by hatred. Betty finally came to the realization that she was only hurting herself by hanging on to her anger. She began to work on a healing process and eventually went to see the murderer in prison. She later told friends that forgiveness was the greatest gift she had ever given herself, that it was a healing journey that saved her life.

Hopefully, none of you, our readers and friends, will have to suffer an offense as damaging as Betty’s was, but not one of us is immune from being hurt many times in our lives. We can learn to forgive most readily when we remember that we only harm ourselves when we refuse to let the hurts go. Opening our hearts to forgive those who have offended us is one of the most important gifts we can give ourselves; it frees the deepest part of our heart to love again. That is the reason why forgiveness can justifiably be called “radical” hospitality.



Mary Ellen Rufft, CDP, is a frequent contributor to America magazine and wrote often for Church. Her work is guided by a personal mission statement to use the spiritual and educational opportunities she received through the community to help free others, especially women, from whatever binds them. She has had the opportunity to do that in many ministries: teacher, formation director, provincial director, psychologist and writer.

Pittsburgh

- Standup Sisters: Border Crossings, a storytelling event held at La Roche College on March 14 as part of National Catholic Sisters Week, featured Sisters Nélida Naveros Cordova, CDP and Betty Sundry, CDP, along with Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, St. Joseph of Baden, and Sinsinawa (WI) Dominicans. The inspiring evening featured the personal stories of these courageous women working with people across global borders. “The women who spoke at Standup Sisters have lived with the most vulnerable people within and outside of our borders. Their stories provide a more holistic view of the challenges and the joys of being one human family,” said Standup Sisters producer Jennifer Szweda Jordan.
- “The Lure of Providence recounts the history of an international congregation of Sisters who have spent over a century and a half transcending boundaries of nation, culture, and ministry. Sister M. Christine Morkovsky brings these women to life and helps us to appreciate their rich legacies as benefactors of both Church and society. She has made a significant contribution to our understanding of modern religious life, in the United States and around the world.” —Margaret Susan Thompson, *Syracuse University*. Receive your copy of *The Lure of Providence* for a \$25 contribution. Order forms are available at cdpsisters.org/LureofProvidence or call 412.635.5437. A Spanish version is available.
- Erin Dowling Middleton, an Associate of the Sisters for four years, was appointed as the new Director of Associates for the Province. Erin brings many gifts to the leadership ministry and desires to help the Associates grow deeper in spirituality and ownership to ensure a stronger future for the group. She says, “I aim to inspire, guide and continue to build on the efforts of Ellen Lavender and Pat Montgomery who have worked so hard to establish a firm foundation.”
- For the past 15 years, Sisters Thérésine Gildea, CDP and Maxine Tancraitor, CDP have ministered in Clinton, North Carolina, helping Hispanic immigrants who seek a better future in the U.S. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew devastated the area and people were in need of aid. Sisters, Associates and worshipping communities in St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Kingston, Massachusetts, responded very generously to the Sisters of Divine Providence’s appeal for donations. “With the donations you sent us we were able to replace furniture, household items, clothing ... People were unable to get to work for few days; therefore, ‘no work, no pay.’ Most of our parishioners work on farms; pig, turkey, crops and so on,” said Sister Thérésine.



Sisters Nélida Naveros Cordova and Betty Sundry (pictured left to right)



Associate Erin Dowling Middleton



Sisters Thérésine Gildea and Maxine Tancraitor (pictured left to right) with sweaters donated by Sisters and Associates



Associate Sandy Stevenson, Sister Loretta Jean Schorr and Associate Pat Montgomery (pictured left to right)

- Sisters and Associates celebrated National Catholic Sisters Week by participating in Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day parade on March 11. For the seventh consecutive year, the Catholic Sisters Leadership Council (CSLC) of Western Pennsylvania and its member communities were invited to participate as one of the 200 units in the parade. During the three-hour event, Sisters greeted the thousands of spectators, distributed keepsake items such as prayer cards, bookmarks and candy, and most importantly, spread the goodwill of the Sisters.

Caribbean

- During an installation service on March 12—the feast of the Transfiguration—the Province received 21 women and 5 men as the first Associates in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. These Associates completed 11 months of preparation and participated in a day of retreat as their final inquiry program activity. A deep sense of commitment to taking time for prayer and group work was evident among the participants. The new Associates include individuals who were children when the Sisters arrived in Las Cañitas, Santo Domingo 24 years ago, as well as neighbors and leaders committed to the Church and the local community. They are hard workers, respectful people and faithful partners of the Sisters. The love these Associates received from the St. Joseph Province (Korea) and Marie de la Roche Province Sisters during their months of preparation created a strong bond. At a reception following the installation service, all of the new Associates proclaimed together, "Somos Providencia (We are Providence)." It was a Tabor moment—a reference to the Transfiguration—where the glory of God was shining on their faces, and they understood that they are called to be close to the people of God; to be Providence in the midst of the people.



New Associates in Santo Domingo reflect during a day of retreat

St. Louis

- Associate Annamarie Sullivan was elected as the Local Coordinator, Linda Hoefflin was elected as the Area Communication Liaison and Terry Southerland was elected as the Area Secretary of the Associates Leadership Team (ALT). The Associates voted on February 5 to fill these positions as part of the revised Associates program, which works with Sisters Barbara McMullen, Maria Patterson and Stephanie Turck. An informational meeting about the changes to the Associates program was held for the Sisters on February 12, followed by a Valentine's Day party that included food, faith sharing and fun.



Associates Annamarie Sullivan, Terry Southerland and Linda Hoefflin (pictured left to right)

- Sister Maria Patterson's new CD Breathe Your Soul is now available for purchase. A life-long songwriter, Sister Maria recalls making up silly songs with her mom when she was a young girl, planting the seeds for her love of music at a very young age. Breathe Your Soul is available for \$15.00, which includes shipping and handling. To receive your copy, send an email to mpatcdp@aol.com.

Kingston, Massachusetts

- Two Sacred Heart students, Yanni Papas and Olivia Colombo, are building a small pollinator garden at the high school to honor the memory and legacy of Sister Ida Mary Lutz, who passed away in August 2016. Sister Ida Mary founded Sacred Heart's Green Club, which has grown into the Roots and Shoots Club. The garden will consist of low maintenance plants that appeal to various pollinators and provide much needed sustenance to the dwindling bee and butterfly populations. The students received a \$200 grant for this project from the Jane Goodall Institute. Roots and Shoots Club members are committed to maintaining the garden.
- Sacred Heart School celebrated its platinum anniversary on April 1 with a masquerade event at the Indian Pond Country Club. Sisters, friends and supporters of the school were among the 300 people in attendance who enjoyed dinner, music, silent and live auctions and a wonderful 70th Anniversary video, which can be viewed by visiting cdpsisters.org/SacredHeartSchools70thAnniversary.



Sacred Heart School students Yanni Papas and Olivia Colombo (pictured left to right)



Sacred Heart School President Sister Myra Rodgers, CDP receives congratulations from State Representative Matt Muratore (pictured left) and State Senator Vinny deMacedo (pictured right) at the school's 70th anniversary celebration



Visit our events calendar at cdpsisters.org/calendar for more information on these and other happenings with the Sisters and their sponsored ministries.

SISTERS' SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES
Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence
Grand Prize \$2,000
\$5/ticket available through August 31, 2017
412.635.5437 for more information

BACKYARD BARBEQUE
Benefits Providence Connections
Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh, PA
June 23, 2017
412.766.3860 x325 for more information

CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA
Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence
Providence Heights
Allison Park, PA
October 7, 2017
412.635.5401 for more information

CHARITY GOLF OUTING
Benefits Room at the Inn
Lake Forest Golf & Country Club
St. Louis, MO
September 25, 2017
314.209.9181 for more information

2018 LUCKY NUMBER CALENDARS
Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence
Based on PA Pick 3 Lottery Games
Daily Winners Receive \$25-\$150
\$25/ticket available after September 5, 2017
412.635.6401 for more information

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE
Providence Heights
Mother of Divine Providence Chapel
Allison Park, PA
November 12, 2017
412.635.5401 for more information

Become a Faithful Supporter

Will you consider demonstrating your faithful support of the Sisters by participating in our monthly giving program?

Through monthly donations, you help to provide a steady and reliable source of funding that allows the Sisters of Divine Providence to plan for their future. A commitment to monthly giving throughout the year is a concrete way to ensure quality care for the Sisters and support of their ministries. A monthly partnership through a credit card or electronic transfer of funds from your checking or savings account assists with budgeting appropriately and responsibly.

Monthly giving partners enjoy:

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- Supporting the Sisters in an environmentally friendly way

Thank you for considering this convenient and easy way to offer regular financial support and demonstrate your commitment to the Sisters' ministries and mission. By joining in with other generous giving partners, you will help to sustain the Sisters and their ministries into the future.

There are three ways to make a secure monthly donation:

1. Call Mission Advancement at 412.635.5401 and our staff will help set-up your monthly gift with the credit card information you provide.
2. Visit cdpsisters.org, click "Donate Today," complete the online form, check the box that says, "I want to contribute this amount every month" and click the "✓Contribute" button to submit.
3. Arrange for a monthly Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your checking or savings account by providing our name and mailing address to your bank: Sisters of Divine Providence, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101.

The Sisters are grateful for your faithful and generous support!

*Mary at Cana statue commissioned by the Sisters of Divine Providence in 2001
Artist:
James E. Barnhill,
Greensboro, NC*



Lorraine Giel, CDP

Departed this life on January 30, 2017, in the sixty-eighth year of her religious life

On January 30, in the midst of winter ice and snow, Sister Lorraine smiled and whispered her warm good bye to all of us who knew and loved her. She moved on from her life on earth to be one with the God of Providence who gifted, loved, and graced her throughout her life's journey.

Born on July 11, 1929, in Glenshaw, PA, Virginia Mary Giel, the 9th of 10 children, was the daughter of John and Mary Reiner Giel. As the mystery of her life unfolded, God's special life plan for Virginia was shaped. On December 27, 1949, Virginia said "yes" to a call that had been burning within her by entering

the community of the Sisters of Divine Providence. She received the habit and her religious name, Sister Lorraine on June 29, 1950. Indeed, there is a time and season for everything in life's journey. The demands of living her "yes" led her to the commitment of first vows on June 27, 1952 and Final Vows on August 12, 1956. The longing within Lorraine to be drawn ever closer to her Provident God and to give herself to God's people in ministry was strong.

Her prayer, "As the mystery of my life unfolds through the passing of years, draw my love ever nearer to you" was embodied and witnessed in her ministry of education for 35 years as both teacher and principal. From 1987-1991, Lorraine shared her gift of life experience as Associate Director of the CSM (a diocesan service sponsored by Religious Communities to assist members looking for new ministries) and as a Secretary for a Diocesan Office from 1992 to 1994.

Faithful to the needs of the time, Lorraine began to share in internal ministry as Health Coordinator at Providence Heights and later as a volunteer at Kearns Spirituality Center. Her continued search for growth and openness led her to new seasons in her earth journey. She made a choice to embrace and help shape an intentional community from 1990 to the days of her retirement. This choice impacted her life in deep ways, as well as the lives of others with whom she lived through prayer, faith sharing, community, and social outreach. Even in death, she continues to positively impact the lives of others through her decision to donate her brain tissue.

These words, written at the time of her 50th Jubilee, attest to her beauty and depth: "Most of my 50 years have been a life of peace, challenging, with a variety of ministries and eagerness as to what each new day brings; God works in my daily life through people I meet and through much of nature; I like to pray in a quiet, restful place...sometimes outdoors...using Scripture or nature...away from the everyday activities...free to be alone with my God. My favorite quotes include, 'Visibly do I see in all things the wonderful providence of God' and 'Seek always the face of the Lord.' What helps me sustain my enthusiasm and commitment to religious life is the support that I receive living in community, shared prayer with others I live with and time for quiet and reflection...opportunities to enjoy one another...freedom to be ME."

Thank you, Provident God for allowing the spirit of Jesus to be enfolded through Sister Lorraine Giel in all the seasons of her earth life. May she know fullness of life and love with you, forever. —*Sister Anne Winschel*

The Sisters of Divine Providence also remember Associates:

Rita Kramer (September 10, 2016), Mary Lucas (December 6, 2016) & Loraine Tracy (April 9, 2017)



Anne Winschel, CDP has been a spiritual director for more than 30 years and currently serves for the Divine Providence Retreat ministry. Sister Anne entered religious life from St. Mary's in Glenshaw, PA. She credits her parents' faith, St. Mary's and her aunt, Sister Alacoque, as greatly influencing her vocation. Her sister, Carolyn Winschel, is also a Sister of Divine Providence.



Sisters of Divine Providence

Marie de la Roche Province

Making God's Providence Visible

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