

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

PROVIDENCE *Alive!*

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



Associates:
**Enhancing the
Spiritual Journey**

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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 members and 200 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

Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP
Provincial Director

Maria Fest, CDP
Assistant to the Provincial

Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP
Provincial Councillor

Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP
Provincial Councillor

Mary Traupman, CDP
Provincial Councillor

About the Cover

Associates of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh gather at Kearns Spirituality Center. Read more about the Associates on pages 4-5.



Alive! is published three times a year by the Mission Advancement office of the Sisters of Divine Providence. We welcome your comments and feedback. Please email or mail correspondence, including your name, address and phone number, to an address listed below.

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From left standing: Sisters Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, Maria Fest, Mary Francis Fletcher, Donna Marie Gribshaw; seated, Sister Mary Traupman

Message for the Season

A Season of Transformation

It is amazing how seasons merge into one another—no distinct boundaries separate one from the other. This year was no exception. Many of us felt we were blessed with an early spring, and then winter revisited us for a few days. In many ways, that's the way life is—marked by one experience or event converging on another. In her newest book, "Making All Things New," Ilia Delio, OSF, demonstrates a conscious awareness of how everything—sun, moon, stars, planets, rocks, water, plants and all organisms from single-celled to homo sapiens—form one thing. She speaks of the orientation of all of life toward making wholes and thus toward universality. She urges her readers to "see things whole" rather than in the parts that comprise the whole. The tendency in the past was to take larger things apart (reductionism) so that we could better understand the parts. The belief was that we could put them together again without any significant loss. But today, we live in a world where the



relationship between the parts is essential to appreciating the whole—to living in harmony with all of creation, with the cosmos and with all of life. Albert Einstein got it right when he stated, "A human being is part of the whole, called by us 'Universe;' a part limited in time and space. One experiences oneself ... as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of one's consciousness ... Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

So in this season of transformation, we experience the paschal mystery of life-death-new life—which we witness in creation and, hopefully, in our own lives as we are continually called to conversion. We ask ourselves how we might be called to change in moving to greater unity. How can we live from the power of "we" to be a part of new life, a new world? Our co-founder Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler's episcopal motto was: "That all may be one." How can we deepen our interconnectedness with each other, with creation and with the global community? And as we embrace a stronger sense of oneness, we will be more willing to collaborate with each other, rooted in our charism and mission, and committed to making God's love and Providence more visible in our world.

It is our hope that this issue of *Providence Alive!* animates all of us to be one—one with each other, the cosmos and all of creation—as we widen our circle of compassion.

Thank you,

Sister Maria Fest



Maria Fest, CDP, is a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence Leadership Team, Assistant to the Provincial Director and Treasurer of the Community. She entered religious life from St. Anne's Parish in Castle Shannon, PA. Sister Maria holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from La Roche College, a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame and a Doctor of Arts in Chemistry from Lehigh University.

Feature

ASSOCIATES: Enhancing the Spiritual Journey



Associates are women and men who wish to formally associate themselves with a religious community, their mission and spirituality but not as traditional sisters or brothers. They are a diverse group—varying in lifestyle, occupation, religious tradition and marital status—finding a deeper connection with God and others by participating in the life of a congregation through their involvement in prayer, study, ministry and activities as it suits their personal schedules and capabilities.

For more information about becoming an Associate:
Visit cdpsisters.org/section/associates
Call 734.665.7415 or Email associates@cdpsisters.org



**“Associates are invited to share in
Community retreats, educational
opportunities and social events.”**

The Sisters of Divine Providence Associates relationship began in 1981 when a group of 10 women and men were welcomed in Kingston, Massachusetts. The goal of association was the mutual support of the Associates and the Sisters in their search to find God working in their lives and in their efforts to make Him more evident to the world through their life and ministry. Today, that number has grown to nearly 200 Associates throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic. The Sisters of Divine Providence Associates are drawn to, and called to, live out the charism of founders Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler and Mother Marie de la Roche—social justice and compassion. They share the desire to build community with the Sisters, deepen their own spirituality, heed the call for social justice, reach out in compassionate service to others and, in doing so, make Providence visible in the world. The relationship between Sisters and Associates is mutually beneficial; Sisters share the founding principles of the Community, their spiritual tradition, hospitality and friendship, and Associates share their talents and gifts, giving witness to the spirit of Providence in their own lives.

In 2001, Sister Myra Rodgers, CDP, then General Superior, wrote, “The ‘Associate inquiry journey’ ... is a journey which will take us on a course that will help define our future as women and men of Providence. The star of Providence is our guiding light. We walk in the energy and faith of our founder Bishop Ketteler and with the courage and abandon of Mother Marie and our fore-mothers. But let us not fool ourselves, the journey may be arduous at times. The pebbles of business may cause us to limp; the weeds of insecurity and what it means to be an Associate may try to block our path, and our countless questions may leave us winded and struggling for the breath of Spirit. There will be moments along the way when we will want to pitch a tent or stay and build a house, take an easier road or a wider path, or even leave our sister travelers and return home to the ideas and glories of yesteryear. But more often than not, there will be Providence moments when we will know together the peace that comes in the wake of the struggle to follow the signs of hope and be united through the gifts of Providence. So, let us lace up our walking shoes of courage, leave behind the old baggage of believing I am in charge of what happens in my life and strap on the backpack of trust and providence and firmly commit ourselves to the journey and our companion travelers.”

Associates Reflect on Their Spiritual Journeys

Becoming a CDP Associate in 2008 has enriched my life in so many ways. I have developed new friendships, gotten to know individual Sisters better, deepened my own spirituality and celebrated many special events. One highlight is the monthly faith sharing and support I experience during my small group meeting. This opportunity to gather with other Associates, share a meal, pray and be vulnerable at times means so much. Each Associate brings their own faith life and richness to the gathering and I always leave renewed and refreshed. As an Associate, I have taken advantage of as many opportunities as possible. One I will always treasure is traveling to La Posada Providencia—a sponsored ministry of the Sisters—in San Benito, Texas, to spend time with Sister Zita Telkamp, CDP, and her staff who serve refugees coming from all parts of the world. These courageous people give up everything for the hope of a better life in America. Their appreciation of little things and their reverence in raising and taking down the American flag each day was awe-inspiring. Many other events and gatherings have been special but the best part of all is knowing and walking with other women and men of faith and the guidance and support the Sisters themselves give to each Associate. Our Associate mission says, in part, “Our participation calls us to live in a spirit of unbounded trust in, and openness to, the Providence of God. We support each other

in our diversity of lifestyles, while we strive to creatively confront the problems and issues of our time.”

—**Tish Donze,**
Pennsylvania

The first experience

I had with the Sisters of Divine Providence was when I met Sister María Torres, CDP. We worked in the same school in the city of Bayamón, Puerto Rico. A friendship developed, which led me and my husband to become Associates of the Sisters. That was 22 years ago. Since then, we’ve been traveling to the Sisters’ convent in Arecibo for monthly Associates meetings and participating in lectures, field trips, anniversaries and birthdays. The most unforgettable and enriching experience as Associates was our visit to the motherhouse in Pittsburgh for an assembly. The visit connected us with Associates and Sisters from other areas, helped us to learn more about the meaning and purpose of the Associates and brought us closer to the Community. We are proud to be part of the group for all these years. We thank our Provident God, the Sisters of Divine Providence and Associates for all the help given to us both personally and spiritually through the years. We pray so that Providence will be more visible in our world and continue strengthening us to respond with compassion and generosity to those in need.

—**Ana Rivera, Puerto Rico**

Becoming a CDP Associate was truly a gift of the Spirit to me! I was blessed to meet Sister Maria Patterson, CDP, in our parish. Sister Maria’s commitment to Providence provided my introduction to, and interest in, the Sisters of Divine Providence. We shared friendship and spirituality for a number of years before I was ready to commit to the Associates program. That happened after I visited the Community several times and really came to know the Sisters. The charism of the Sisters was so obvious and I felt that “call” to become a part in any way I could. Since becoming an Associ-

ate 16 years ago, I have not only experienced a continued growth in Providence spirituality, but a sense of God’s presence in so many relationships with my fellow Associates, the Sisters, and essentially, all things Providence. I have been privileged to participate in many Community events over the years which have served to deepen my relationship with God through the connection with, and allegiance to, this wonderful group of Sisters and Associates. Our own local group of Tennessee Associates is a source of continued blessing. We share our faith, our commitment to Gospel values and continue to grow together in our commitment to making Providence visible in the world!

—**Sylvia Resha, Tennessee**

As an Associate of the Sisters of Divine Providence for 19 years, my understanding of spirituality, religion and church has changed, deepened and enriched my life. It is amazing what one can learn if educated and guided with gentleness in these areas. I really enjoy being with the Sisters and Associates. I try to listen very carefully to what is being said and I observe with different lenses what is being done, then I try to live out Gospel values as best I can. One of my friends of 25 years remarked, “I can tell you are associating with a community.” I was quite pleased! Social justice issues and concern for all people are more important to me now than before. I now see the need for me to be involved, to do something and not be a passive person in the church. Prayer, too, is different for me now. I have learned to pray all ways and to be creative in worshipping our Provident God.

—**Nuala Filberg, Ohio**

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Spotlight on Ministry



Kearns Spirituality Center

Location: Pittsburgh, PA

Founded: 1983

Kearns Spirituality Center invites people of all faiths, searching for a deeper meaning in their lives, to experience an environment dedicated to the renewal and revitalization of the human spirit. An active retreat and conference center sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence, Kearns Spirituality Center shares in the mission of the Congregation: “to make God’s Providence more visible in our world.”

“A peaceful and spiritual environment to escape from the noise of everyday life.”

Kearns was originally constructed as the first student dormitory, Kearns Hall, for La Roche College in 1963. The dormitory was named for Mary Kenneth Kearns, CDP, who was instrumental in founding La Roche College and served as Provincial Director for the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh and as a General Councillor when the Generalate was in Rome.

As the college expanded, the building—owned by the Sisters of Divine Providence—ceased being used as a dormitory and became a spirituality center and sponsored ministry of the Congregation. Since that time there have been numerous expansions and renovations to the center, providing wonderful space and programs for individuals, hosted groups and meeting groups.



Food service, audio/visual equipment and seating for 250 guests are available in the Conference Center.



Up to 60 overnight guests can be accommodated in 27 guest rooms and suites.



Visitation Chapel offers quiet solitude 24/7 and seating for up to 200 guests.



The beautiful grounds include a meditation garden, gazebo and woodland reflection trail.



Walking on the brick-inlaid, outdoor labyrinth is an alternative way to pray and meditate.



The accessible kitchen and dining room are fully equipped with seating for up to 70 guests.

2016 FALL PROGRAMMING *PREVIEW*

TONY NORMAN

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist will speak about the political nuances of an election year, covering local and national trends and issues.

Thursday, September 22, 2016 from 7-9:00 p.m.

JAME SCHAEFER, PH.D.

The Marquette University theology professor will speak about Pope Francis' encyclical on Creation and Ecology, *Laudato Si*.

Thursday, October 27, 2016 from 7-9:00 p.m.

To learn more about Kearns Spirituality Center's programming, retreats and facilities, please visit cdpsisters.org/kearns or call 412.366.1124

Province Happenings

Kingston

Sister Rosemonde Deck, CDP, is keeping the tradition of music alive with the release of her album “Joyous Spirit.” The CD contains 16 of her original piano compositions. Sister Rosemonde began her musical training as a young child in a very musical family, under the tutelage of her mother, Gladys. After Sister Rosemonde and her blood sister, the late Sister Rosalie, joined the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh they were educated at Duquesne University. Both Sisters studied piano there and later were trained in vocal performance. Sisters Rosemonde and Rosalie eventually became nationally and internationally known as the Singing Sisters. Throughout her career, Sister Rosemonde taught music at Sacred Heart High School in Kingston, Massachusetts, including private piano lessons and vocal performance. Currently, Sister Rosemonde resides at Providence House in Kingston where she spends her time composing piano music, singing for and accompanying liturgies and teaching private lessons. *To order your CD and listen to Sister Rosemonde’s composition “Dream Catcher” from the newly released album, visit cdpsisters.org/article/JoyousSpirit or call 412.635.5433.*



Pittsburgh



Renewing Commitment

Congratulations to Sister Karina Conrad on renewing and deepening her commitment to our Provident God. On March 28, Sister Karina renewed her vows in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel.

Sisters Marian Senish, CDP, Doris Kretzler, CDP, Marise Hrabosky, CDP, and Donna Tracy, CDP, celebrated National Catholic Sisters Week by participating in Pittsburgh’s St. Patrick’s Day parade—billed as the second largest in the country—on March 12. For the sixth consecutive year, the Catholic Sisters Leadership Council 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, wrist bands and candy, and most importantly, spread the goodwill of the Sisters.



Puerto Rico

In February, Sister Elsa Medina Rivera, CDP, gathered with the Youth National Pastoral members from all five dioceses on the island of Puerto Rico—Arecibo, Caguas, Fajardo-Humacao, Mayagüez and Ponce—to plan camps, workshops and Easter activities for the youth at a diocesan and national level.



Deepening Commitment

Congratulations to Sister Sally Vega Alvarado on her ever deepening commitment to the God of Providence to whom she has consecrated her life. On February 21, Sister Sally renewed her vows in the midst of the Sisters of the Caribbean.

St. Louis

On April 16, the St. Louis Sisters and Associates gathered at Providence Center for their annual Spring Fling. Mary Ann Kreuzman, chairman of the event, planned a festive pink- and flower-themed party. The afternoon of fun and fellowship included a group discussion on the latest news from the Sisters and Associates; a delicious lunch of homemade chicken and dumplings, salad and desserts; and a bingo game with million-dollar lottery tickets as prizes. Although no one actually won the million, the Sisters and Associates had a million dollars' worth of fun!

SAVE
the
DATE

SISTERS' SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES

Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence

Grand Prize \$2,000

\$5/ticket available June 1, 2016

412.635.5437 for more information

BACKYARD BARBEQUE

Benefits Providence Connections

Fairmont Hotel

Pittsburgh, PA

June 24, 2016

412.766.3860 x324 for more information

CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA

Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence

Providence Heights

Allison Park, PA

October 8, 2016

412.635.5401 for more information

CHARITY GOLF OUTING

Benefits Room at the Inn

Westborough Country Club

St. Louis, MO

October 10, 2016

314.209.9198 for more information

2017 LUCKY NUMBER CALENDARS

Benefits Sisters of Divine Providence

Based on PA Pick 3 Lottery Game

Daily Winners Receive \$25-\$150

\$25/ticket available after October 10, 2016

412.635.6401 for more information

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Providence Heights

Mother of Divine Providence Chapel

Allison Park, PA

November 13, 2016

412.635.5401 for more information

In Memory

Your memorial contributions for Sisters can be sent to:

Sisters of Divine Providence

Mission Advancement
9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101

For online contributions:
Visit cdpsisters.org/donate
or Call 412.635.5401



DOROTHY ROTH, CDP

**Departed this life on February 29, 2016
in the seventy-eighth year of her religious life**

A healer since 1940 when she began studying nursing, Sister Dorothy was positive, life-giving and always requiring that the patient come first. At the age of 73, she went off to Puerto Rico to provide health care and pastoral support to the elderly poor. She later spoke of her 10 years there as the happiest of her years in religious life.



ADELE KASPER, CDP

**Departed this life on February 5, 2016
in the sixty-ninth year of her religious life**

Sister Adele's sweet disposition was evident throughout her life. As a teacher and principal for more than 35 years, her caring was shown in the ways she made each child feel special. In her years helping underserved women in New York, she had a gentle and stable presence with them. In her senior years, she was always caring, prayerful and generous with her time and her gifts.



LUCY SCHMIDT, CDP

**Departed this life on February 1, 2016
in the seventy-eighth year of her religious life**

Sister Lucy was a woman of intelligence who developed her potential gifts to serve others' needs. An educator most of her life, her spiritual journey led her to an ever-deeper commitment and love in her relationship with God and to allow God's call to bring about the reign of God in her service to others. She became an activist fighting for social justice causes.



MURIEL YOUNG, CDP

**Departed this life on January 27, 2016
in the seventy-sixth year of her religious life**

A teacher and principal, Sister Muriel was passionate about Catholic schools and the education of children. She published several articles, including one for the National Catholic Educational Association, and wrote for Laidlaw, Merrill and Macmillan book companies. Over the years she received numerous awards and acknowledgments for her contributions to education.

The Sisters of Divine Providence also remember Associates:

Elizabeth "Betty" Kost (February 10, 2016) & Maggie Jost (February 18, 2016)

**"Remain faithful
until death and I
will give you the
crown of life."**

—Revelation 2:10



Memorial & Tribute Opportunities

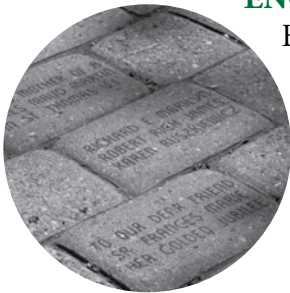
“So when we give ourselves to planting and nurturing love here on earth, our efforts will reach out beyond our own chronological existence.”

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

Give the Gift of Remembrance & Honor

Memorial gifts provide a thoughtful and meaningful way to show your care and concern for your deceased loved ones and their families, while honoring their memory with a lasting legacy. Tribute gifts celebrate someone special or a cherished occasion such as an anniversary or achievement. Both gifts help to support the Sisters' Providence mission. Unlike traditional gifts, memorial and tribute gifts can have a profound impact. They not only show you care for your loved ones but that you are participating in the Sisters' mission by investing in their future good works.

ENGRAVE A BRICK



Engraved brick pavers provide a lasting way to remember or celebrate someone. Bricks are engraved and installed in the walkway around St. Anne's Park or in the Sisters' Walkway next to Kearns Spirituality Center, which are located on the grounds of Providence Heights—the Sisters' motherhouse in Pittsburgh. You can honor your loved one, friend or colleague for a donation of \$125. Paver text may be personalized with up to three lines and 18 characters and spaces per line.

ADOPT A TREE



Adoption of a tree on the Providence Heights grounds includes a plaque with the name of the person being honored or remembered, your inscription and the type of tree. Your donation of \$850 will help the Sisters to replant, preserve and care for the property that has been their home since 1927. Inscription for the tree plaque may be up to three lines.

SPONSOR A BENCH



For a donation of \$1,200, a granite bench can be purchased and installed on the grounds of Providence Heights, engraved with your inscription, the Sisters of Divine Providence logo and the words “Making God's Providence more visible in our world.” This lasting gift remembers or honors your loved one while proclaiming the Sisters' service to the world through their mission and ministries.

Thank you for continuing to move the Sisters' mission of creating a world of compassion, justice and peace forward by your participation in their memorial and tribute gift opportunities.

For order forms:

Visit
cdpsisters.org/memorials-tributes

Call
412.635.5401

or

Email
pserafini@cdpsisters.org

Upon request, all gifts will be acknowledged to the person(s) you designate.



Sisters of Divine Providence

Marie de la Roche Province

Making God's Providence Visible

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★ New Provincial Leadership ★ 2016 Jubilarians ★ Ketteler Award for Social Justice ★

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