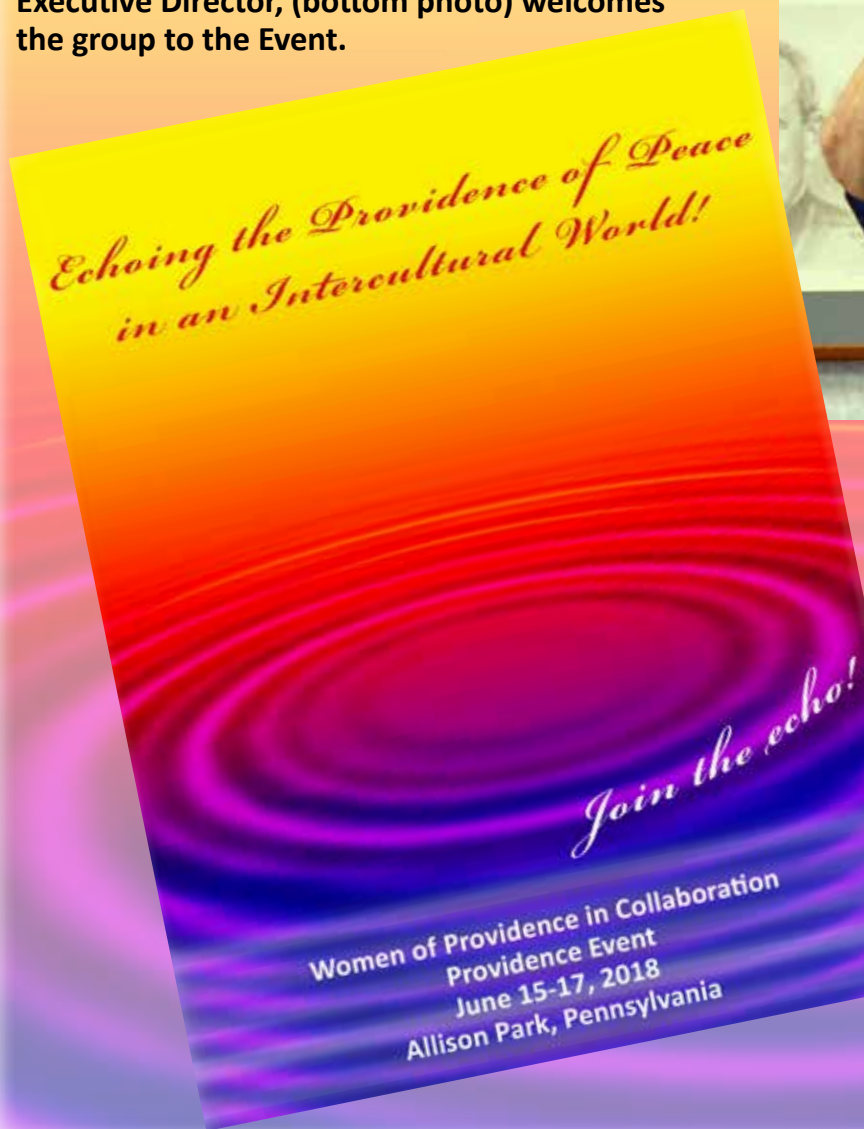


Special Providence Event Issue of

# Collaboration

Women of Providence in Collaboration welcome Megan McKenna to their Providence Event, held in Allison Park, near Pittsburgh, PA. Over a hundred Sisters and Associates from across the United States and Canada gathered to hear McKenna speak about echoing the providence of peace in an intercultural world. Sr. Barbara McMullen, WPC Executive Director, (bottom photo) welcomes the group to the Event.



## *From the directors*

Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP  
WPC executive director



This special issue of **Collaboration** highlights our wonderful Providence Event, June 15-17, 2018 in Allison Park, PA. The Sisters of Divine Providence welcomed us to their lovely campus and particularly to Kearns Spirituality Center where the conference was held.

Over 100 attendees enjoyed the presentations by our keynote speaker, Megan McKenna. She helped us all explore the message of peace in an intercultural world through contemporary stories, Scripture passages and even some personal anecdotal stories of her own. Certainly her presentations were entertaining and challenging. Our table conversations connected us, united us and brought us together in deeper communion.

Beautiful rituals to begin each day of the conference gathered us in solitude, contemplation, and some very challenging readings! PowerPoint slides showed women of providence in action through the various ministries of our member congregations. Our very own Providence musicians and dancers added to the ritual celebrations throughout the conference time.

The room was filled with energy Friday morning as participants, Sisters and Associates, met old friends from previous Events and made new ones as well. We always have returning participants but this year we had several new attendees for the first time!

Some of our congregational members from diverse cultures were part of a panel presentation on Saturday in which they shared their stories of coming to the United States and entering an American culture and religious community. Hearing their stories was deeply touching for us as listeners.

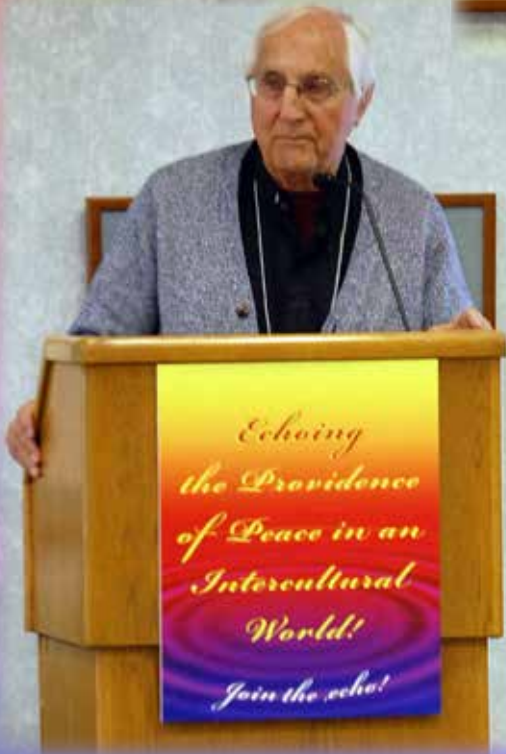
We honored Bishop Tom Gumbleton on Saturday evening with a Providence award for all his years of peace and justice ministry in the Church. Bishop Gumbleton also spoke on Saturday morning and had a very powerful presentation on how we must hear the Gospel and act on it—to be witnesses to the truth and to work for peace, justice, and nonviolence in our world.

There were many comments on the evaluations and I will just share some of them here to give you a *“flavor”* of how great the Providence Event was. *“It was an amazing conference; hospitality palpable; music beautiful, rituals meaningful—gave the Spirit room to work within us; process, flow and timing of the days wonderful; food out of this world; so well organized; speakers depth of knowledge and experience evident throughout—both were challenging; I leave here a changed person; the Event’s presentations left me much to ponder; the wine and cheese evening—replete with intercultural décor and ambiance was the very best I ever attended; a phenomenal three days—spiritually challenging and fulfilling; authentic in the sense of being pro-active with Gospel focus; Sunday’s shared homily and reflection was such a gift.”*

The Spirit indeed was hovering over Kearns Spirituality Center that weekend! Thanks to my Core Team for all their help and to all of you for attending! Shalom!

*Barbara*

Megan McKenna proclaims the Scriptures, shares stories, and challenges the group to get out of their head and think outside the box! Bishop Tom Gumbleton was also in attendance and spoke to the group on Saturday morning about peace and justice issues.



Saturday afternoon there was a panel of five Providence Sisters who shared their personal stories about what it was like for them to leave their own cultures and enter religious life in the culture of the United States.

Receiving the blessing from the attendees are (left to right) Veronica Kim, CDP (South Korea); My Hahn Tran, CDP (Viet Nam); Anji Fan, SP (China); Vilma Franco, SP (El Salvador) and Florence Anybuonwu, CDP (Nigeria). The facilitator was Dawn Tomaszewski, SP.

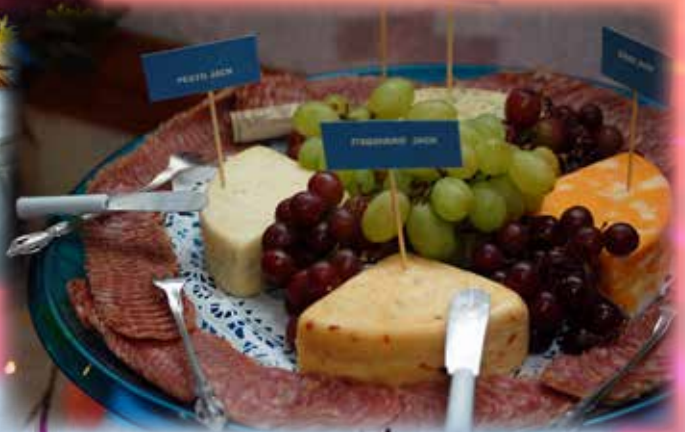




**Dancers among the participants during one of the beautiful rituals.  
Below: Participants engaged in table sharing.**



Friday evening there was a wine and cheese social for all participants with a beautiful display of refreshments for all.



Participants enjoying the wine and cheese and conversations with one another!



Saturday evening was the award night. Bishop Thomas Gumbleton was presented with a Providence award for his long years of service to peace and justice issues. There were special desserts for selection that were yummy!







**Sr. Barbara McMullen, Bishop Gumbleton and Megan McKenna pose with the Women of Providence Peace and Justice award presented to Bishop Gumbleton. The inscription on the award reads:**

***Women of Providence in Collaboration honor  
Bishop Thomas Gumbleton for making  
providence visible in the world  
through his tireless efforts for  
peace and justice,  
just as Jesus offers peace to the world.***



**On Saturday, participants were offered several options. Some chose to attend a presentation by a Muslim on their beliefs about peace and justice. Others attended a presentation by Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP, about the St. John's Bible.**



Dancers and readers walking in procession at the beginning of Liturgy on Sunday morning presided by Bishop Gumbleton.

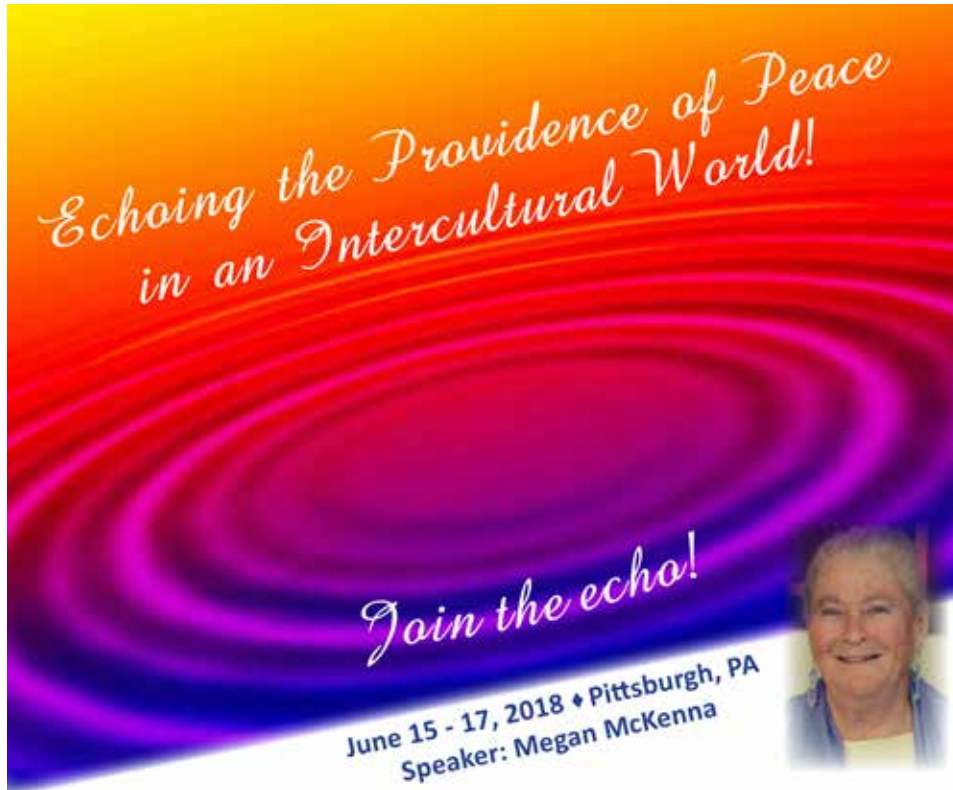


The musicians who offered their time and talents and led the music for our beautiful rituals throughout the Event were: from left to right: Mary John Trevino, MCDP; Maria Patterson, CDP; Emma Jean Middendorf, CDP; Dawn Tomaszewski, SP and pianist Pat Baker, CDP.



The Providence Event was held at Kearns Spirituality and Conference Center in Allison Park, PA, on the grounds of the motherhouse of the Sisters of Divine Providence. The Kearns staff was wonderful and attended to all our needs. (left to right): Kathy Nellis, Peggy Huwe, and Shelley Johnsen.

## **Providence Event Available on DVD or Flash Drive**



**If you were unable to attend the 2018 Providence Event, the Friday and Saturday presentations by Megan McKenna and Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and the five Sister panelists are available in a five DVD set or a flash drive for \$30, plus \$5 shipping.**

**Send the order form below and your check payable to:**

*(No cash or credit cards.)*

**Women of Providence  
in Collaboration  
Barbara McMullen, CDP  
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