



Sheila Collins (not shown) teaches Sisters and Associates how to use movement to move through grief.

Joyful Memories of Assembly 2018

This year's annual CDP Assembly proved to be a precious and sacred time for renewing friendships, opening to new ideas, telling our stories, mourning our losses, celebrating and praying together. Held at Providence Heights on June 9-11, Assembly drew Sisters and Associates from every part of the Province.

The theme was "A Providence Journey: Facing Storms with Faith and Trust." Facilitator Sheila Collins led attendees through a process she describes as "the art of grieving." Sheila shared her personal journey of grief following the deaths of two adult children, and taught techniques for moving through personal and communal grief by naming our losses and expressing emotions through movement.

Sisters and Associates had opportunities to share their own stories of loss both one-on-one with a partner and with the larger group if they wished. Our Sisters from Puerto Rico, St. Louis, and Kingston shared moving stories of grief and

suffering over communal losses and natural disaster.

Times of celebration were woven throughout the Assembly, and included an ice cream social and a cocktail party (both of them organized by Paula Gilchrist) as well as a special Jubilee Liturgy and festive dinner.

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Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf on the drum, with presenter Sheila Collins

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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
Erin Middleton**

I am a long-distance grandmother. I send LOTS of mail to my two-year-old granddaughter Hartley, who lives in Arizona. And, after two years, the efforts I place on connecting with her and my daughter Hannah regularly via phone, Skype, and other communication tools are finally paying off. It has taken those two years for Hartley to start to recognize me and enjoy a phone visit, and at times I got discouraged that we would never "get there." She has even learned how to dial her Mimi on the phone, and now I get surprise calls with an update on lunch, what princess dress she is wearing, or what she learned in Sunday school that week. We get to see each other only once or twice a year, and yet the more I work at it, the more Hartley is growing to "know" me and to experience trust and dependability in our relationship. While I love my in-person trips to Arizona, I am grateful for the technology and tools we have to connect the rest of the year.

I am finding it is the same in community. I believe our annual Assembly is the ideal opportunity for us all to connect and have a CDP family reunion. If you can't come in person, consider requesting a Zoom invite next year for all or part of the Assembly. Due to a family commitment this year I attended the first two days via Zoom Conference Call. Internet service was spotty at times, but I was grateful for the "connection." It made me appreciate all the more all the hard work our Assembly Planning Committee, the PLT, Sr. Margie and company, and the Mission Advancement office are doing to keep us connected.

I smile when I think about Sr. Monika Mrosek in Peru who was faithfully on the screen via Zoom in her desire to stay connected with all of us. Episodes of Assembly are also available on the cdpsisters.org website. Consider watching it with a friend on your phone or tablet. Make a special moment out of experiencing it together!

I think our future is going to be more of this type of connecting via technology. And while we should always strive for face-to-face visits when we can, the ability to attend meetings via Zoom or other technology is a blessing.

I hope you enjoy this special issue our Communications Committee has created to help you experience a small part of Assembly. And I hope you will consider attending next year, in person or via technology, to keep working on the relationships we cherish as community.



Sr. Francesca O'Regan and Ann Moberg at Museum of Russian Icons

**Kingston — Visit to Icon Museum
by Ann Moberg**

On May 27, Sr. Francesca O'Regan, Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf, and Ann Moberg visited the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, MA. The outing was sponsored by the Kingston Associates. The museum has one of the largest collections of Russian icons in the world. During our tour of the museum, a docent explained many of the exhibits and described how Icons are restored and preserved. We viewed many exquisite icons, including some of Jesus and Mary. There was also a special exhibit of Russian embroidery, with a video explaining how items were completed as a prayer experience in family homes.

During our visit, we enjoyed a break in the museum's Tea Room, which served a variety of beverages including exclusive blends of Russian tea. On display in the Tea Room was a selection of traditional Russian tea urns called samovars and other decorative objects from the museum collection.

Tea Social

On June 27, Kingston Associates had a Tea Social on the lovely deck at Star of the Sea Convent. Some of the Sisters were able to join us on this warm sunny afternoon. We shared with one another some of our experiences since the Baby Shower in January. We also discussed plans for the fall, including our Associate Renewal on September 29. The Associates were introduced to Sr. Rose Marie Lipke, who will be helping Sr. Emma Jean with the Associate Relationship program.

Memories of Assembly (continued from page 1)

Sisters and Associates who attended Assembly were invited to share their favorite moments for this newsletter. The following are their comments. Thanks to all who contributed!



Julia Lynn, Nuala Filberg, and Marlene McClain share a break between Assembly sessions.



Sr. Marilyn McMillin, Cathy Lenehan, and Sr. Alexine Cockerham enjoy Jubilee dinner.



Amanda and Peggy at the Jubilee celebration

Through the bodily and spiritual energy and the gifts of our presenter, Sheila Collins, I was once again invited to move, to dance, to sigh, and to be still as a way of praying.

— **Sr. Marilyn Seidel**

I was very appreciative of being asked to drum for two times in the Assembly. That was the first time I shared some drumming with the CDP community. I was also thrilled to see the positive attempt of Sisters responding to relaxing dance rhythms. Sheila, the presenter, skillfully demonstrated the healing effects of bodily movement to release tensions and emotions. Great choice for the 2018 Assembly!

— **Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf**

The open-seating plan was an excellent way to nurture "right relationships." It gave the opportunity to meet new Sisters and reunite with those we do not always see. Kudos to the planning committee for doing this.

— **Sally Shamalla**

Among my favorite moments from Assembly were the sharing exercises we did at our tables. It was also very meaningful to hear the Sisters talk about St. Louis and Puerto Rico.

— **Peggy Huwe**

I participated part-time by Zoom. For me it was wonderful to see our Sisters and to listen to them. I enjoyed the Jubilee celebration and imagined what it was like to be present.

— **Sr. Monika Mrosek**

Among the many things I appreciated about the Assembly were the remembrance sessions of our recently deceased. Putting their pictures up on the large screen and having a commentator speak on the mike beside it was excellent.

— **Sr. Rosemonde Deck**

I appreciated the table conversation during our recent Assembly. I treasure those conversations where we talk about what is on our hearts and what really matters.

— **Sr. Lisa Paffrath**

I liked the social aspect, and I thoroughly enjoyed the cocktail party.

— **Sr. Judy Connor**

Memories of Assembly (continued from page 3)

It is always a gift to be able to visit with Sisters and other Associates. I enjoyed the sharing during the Assembly, and I was blessed to share with Colleen Higbee. The ice cream social was a fun activity after a long day of listening and sharing. Thank you to Paula Gilchrist and team.

— **Ann Moberg**

If I had to pick just one moment, it would be Sisters from St. Louis talking about the sale of their Motherhouse, Sisters from Puerto Rico talking about their experience with Hurricane Maria, and Sisters from Kingston talking about the sale of their beloved camp. It was very touching to hear about the impact on the Sisters who experienced these losses.

— **Sandy Stevenson**

While I appreciated Sheila's techniques of how to reduce stress and inner pain, I think there was much greater awareness of the pain that our Sisters in St. Louis and Puerto Rico endured during their difficult times. Community celebrations are always a wonderful experience for me and the Jubilee Eucharistic celebration was great! The ice cream social was also a nice time to relax with each other and enjoy good ice cream

— **Sr. Bernie Duman**

I was particularly moved by the Sisters from St. Louis and Kingston sharing their experiences of loss over the past several years. The Sisters from St. Louis were so open to sharing their sorrow, grief, and how they supported each other during a time of drastic change. I felt privileged that they would share this with us, the rest of their community.

— **Julia Lynn**

I was most impressed and touched by the sharing from the Sisters from the St. Louis area. I was touched by their openness. It felt like preview of coming attractions for us.

— **Sr. Roseann DiNardis**

There were many events at Assembly I really liked, but I must say the testimony on Puerto Rico made the greatest impression on me. It made the experience of the hurricane very real.

— **Nuala Filberg**

I especially enjoyed the Jubilee! Mass — the women we honored, the liturgy, the music and the dancing! It was a very beautiful, moving, and uplifting celebration followed by a wonderful festive meal. We truly CELEBRATED.

— **Sr. Jo Ann Simanella**

I helped mix the drinks at the cocktail party on Saturday night, and I must say it was a happy time! Everyone enjoyed the lovely food and festive drinks, and it was so nice to hear the laughter and see everyone enjoying each other's company. Thanks to Paula for organizing this!

— **Erin Middleton**

The absolute best part of the Assembly was the special liturgy. It was so uplifting!

— **Sr. Donna Marie Dorfner**



Sr. Kellee Fletcher, Maryann D'Alessandro, and Colleen Higbee at the Jubilee dinner



Ann Moberg and Sr. Marilyn Bergt



Mary Pérez and Sr. Leticia Plasencia



Paula Gilchrist and Sr. Myriam Colón Cruz

Kvell & Tell



"Kvell" is an ancient Yiddish word that describes how one feels when someone she loves achieves success in an important endeavor.

—Sr. Mary Ellen Ruff

↑ Associates from across the world celebrate together at Marian Hospital in Darmstadt, Germany, during the first-ever worldwide Associate pilgrimage.



← On May 22, **Pat Montgomery** received the ATHENA Leaders of the Huron Valley 2017 Leadership Award for her innovative work in developing young people. In 1967, Pat, along with her husband, Jim, founded the Clonlara School—an accredited K-12 school supporting self-directed learning in the U.S. and over 30 countries with a campus and home-based education program. Clonlara has been operating successfully for more than 50 years.

→ On June 2, Sisters and Associates enjoyed a delicious clambake feast prepared and hosted by **Paula Gilchrist** at Assumption Convent in Pittsburgh. *Top, left to right: Sr. Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, Sr. Loretta Jean Schorr, Sr. Rita Adams, Mary Anne McCarthy, Cathy Lenehan. Bottom, left to right: Julia Lynn, Helen Lorinc, Sr. Janet Schaffran, Frank Adamson, Erin Middleton, Sr. Betty Sundry.*



← Assembly ice cream social. *Clockwise from left: Sr. Charlene Schaaf, Sr. Kellee Fletcher, Sr. Frances Marie Kriley, Tish Donze, Karen Snyder, Ann Moberg, Maryann D'Alessandro.*



Please send your news—births, weddings, growth, new positions or places—to Karen Snyder at ksnyder@cdpsisters.org

Providence Event — Inspiring Experience for Sisters and Associates

by Linda Hoefflin



CDP Associates at Providence Event. Seated: Beverly Camper, Ann Moberg, Erin Middleton. Standing: Diane Bailey, David Lavender, Linda Hoefflin, Sylvia Resha, Linda Reynolds, Pat Montgomery, Sandy Stevenson, Gil Weyhaupt, Ellen Lavender.

The WPC 2018 Providence Event was held at Kearns Spirituality Center in Pittsburgh on June 15-17. Over 100 Sisters and Associates from congregations with "Providence" in their name from across the U.S. and Canada attended.

The conference opened on Friday morning with a ritual of prayer, prepared by Sr. Carol Stenger, CDP, that reflected the event theme, "Echoing Providence." The gathered Sisters and Associates heard the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., proclaiming that at the center of nonviolence is love. They also heard Jesus' message in Matthew's Gospel telling us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

Before giving her presentation, speaker Megan McKenna was blessed by the group. In her interactive talks, she challenged her audience to truly listen to Gospel readings and to relate what they had heard. When the reading was proclaimed a second time they were guided to see the difference it makes when they listen closely and place themselves in the Gospel story.

That evening the crowd of Sisters and Associates enjoyed a wine and cheese party. It was a prime time to greet old friends and make new ones.

On Saturday afternoon a panel of diverse vowed members from various parts of the world shared their experiences as members of religious communities based in the U.S. and Canada. These strong women were very open about the struggles they faced from the beginning of their formation to the present day. Their stories and thoughts were touching, and those listening were moved to reflect on the challenge of welcoming the stranger in our midst.

Breakout sessions followed and included quiet time, a presentation on the St. John's Bible, or a presentation by a Muslim woman telling what Islam and Christianity have in common. In an evening session, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton was presented with an award of thanks for his many years of ministry for social justice.

On Sunday Bishop Gumbleton and Sr. Dawn Tomaszewski facilitated an interactive Table Prayer Mass. We came together around a table as the early disciples must have done — a deeply meaningful and impressive experience, especially during the consecration. Providence and the Spirit were truly present in this room with our faith-filled group. It was a fitting way to end the conference.



Linda Hoefflin pours a glass of wine at the WPC Friday evening wine and cheese party.

May He Rest in Peace



James "Jimmy" Dunn, age 85, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 21. Jimmy became a CDP Associate in 2010 and was honored with the Ketteler Medal as a Wisdom Associate in 2018. He admired the CDP Sisters and credited them with giving him a better understanding of how a Provident God influenced their lives and his. Jimmy attended many Associate events and Mass at Providence Heights and was a member of the Images of Providence faith-sharing group.

Jimmy grew up in the Beechview neighborhood of Pittsburgh and lived there for most of his life. He was married to his late wife, Helen, for 43 years, and is survived by his daughter, Helen Ptacek, and her family.

After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he worked for 35 years as a bricklayer. When he "retired," he began a 20-year career as a freelance sports writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He covered La Roche College sports and wrote feature stories. He was named 1999 Sports Writer of the Year, and in recent years La Roche College received him into the Redhawk Hall of Fame.

Jimmy was beloved of many, both inside and outside of the CDP and La Roche communities, for his kindness, his friendly ways, and his sense of humor. His funeral Mass was held in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel at Providence Heights on July 24.

Mark Your Calendar

August

25 — Associate Reception and Renewal, St. Louis

September

16 — Associate Business Meeting, St. Louis

29 — Associate Covenant Renewal, Kingston

October

6-13 — Associate Trip to La Posada from St. Louis: Traveling by car; will spend one night on the road each way; collecting toiletry items, socks, spices. Trip will include communal prayer, time for group reflection, interaction with refugees, possible visits to detention center. Contact Linda Hoefflin at lhoefflin@cdpsisters.org.

November

3 — Enrichment Day, Providence Heights

11 — Mass of Remembrance Liturgy and Brunch, Providence Heights

18 — Thanksgiving Luncheon, St. Louis

TBA — Mass for Deceased Associates, Providence Heights

Reminders

- **Have you activated your @cdpsisters.org email account?** Using this account will ensure secure and private delivery of the Sisters' latest news, photos, and documents. If you need help to login, contact Sr. Margie Walsh at 412-290-5526.
- **Sign up for the CDP Associates Facebook page!** Keep up with your Associate friends and view pictures of the latest Associate events. For help, contact Shelley Johnsen at 412-366-1124.
- **For a complete list of Associate birthdays**, visit cdpsisters.org/AssociateBirthDeathAnniversaries. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the list, you may call Erin Middleton at 724-594-4606.
- **To make a contribution in memory of an Associate**, visit cdpsisters.org/donate, or send a check to Sisters of Divine Providence and designate "Associate Relationship" on the subject line.

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