



Providence Associates

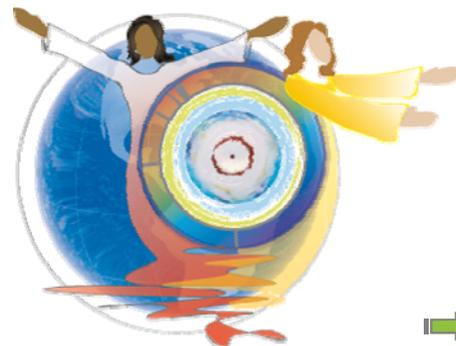
OCTOBER 2012

N° 3

For the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, July 2012 was marked by a major event: the 29th General Chapter held in Montreal, Canada. Throughout the process, contemplative listening and dialogue were key elements that enabled us to make our decisions through discernment, in the spirit of the theme that motivated the Chapter: "Rooted in Providence, we welcome the future".

We experienced intense days of sharing as we reflected on how God is calling us as Sisters of Providence in this evolving world. One of the challenges we face is the that of developing our intercultural dimension by broadening our horizons, pushing back the boundaries of our provinces and thinking as one Congregation of Sisters of Providence in living out our mission. In this context, Father Anthony Gittins shared his wisdom regarding intercultural living and mission and thus animated our mutual sharing.

As members of this Providence family, you, the Associates, are also being called to enter this process of crossing borders. By doing this, you will foster encounter and strengthen the bonds of solidarity with Associates from other provinces who are also



...continuation of the letter

living the Providence mission. You are called to be creative in this global world and, in a spirit of faith, to boldly weave the threads of the interculturality that foster human, spiritual and historic growth.

During this General Chapter, we also elected our new general leadership team which will begin its term on November 1, 2012. This team will assume different responsibilities, including those related to the Providence Associates. Therefore, in this last Bulletin, I want to say goodbye and to express my gratitude to all of you for your commitment to our Providence mission and for constantly seeking to incarnate the Charism we have inherited from our beloved Mother Émilie.

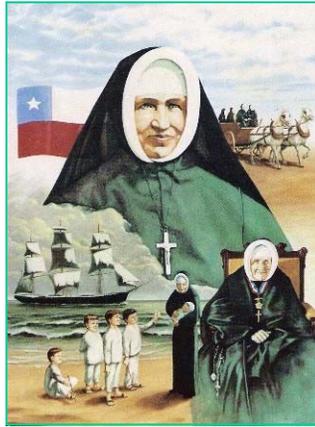
In Providence

Maria Antonietta Trimpay, s.p.



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« TO ME GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS THE SUNRISE
AND THE SUNSET AND IT IS ALSO MY HOME »

Mother Bernarda Morin

Dear Providence Associates,

May our Good Father and Providence God shower graces and blessings upon you. As we already know, on Saturday, August 25 --Providence month-- the new National Board of the Providence Associates was formed with these officers: Su-

sana Garrido, Santa Rosa Community, President; Ximena Molina, Sagrados Corazones of La Serena, Vice-president; Marisol Campos, Maipú Community, Secretary; Irene Fuentes, San Jose Community, Assistant-secretary; Idilia Caballero, Santa Rosa, Treasurer; Nelly Garcia, Ovalle Community, Assistant-treasurer; Nelly Lizana, San José Community and Hernán Arévalo, La Serena Community, Directors. The outgoing Board transferred their responsibilities and duly ordered documents to us on August 31, at the Mother House of the Sisters of Providence.

On September 3 at 7:00 p.m., some Board members, including Susana Garrido, Idilia Caballero, Nelly Lizana and Irene Fuentes, gathered in Santa Rosa Community, where they were warmly welcomed by Sister Claudia Vargas and Sister Mariana Peña. The other Board members were unable to attend this first meeting due to distance. Marisol Campos, our secretary, was also absent because of the illness of a close relative. We ask for prayers in their behalf.

Here are some information regarding our future commitments:

- **SEPTEMBER 15:** We are all invited to share Sister Karen Moraga's joy as she makes her final vows; and with Sisters Rebeca Malhue and Guadalupe Rodríguez on their Golden Jubilee. The Eucharist will be celebrated on the Day of Our Mother of Sorrows in Divina Providencia church at 4:00 p.m.

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- **SEPTEMBER 29:** JPIC meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the Mother House. Attendance will include coordinators and formation personnel.
- **OCTOBER 1th:** Gathering with the coordinators and formation personnel of *Zona Centro* at the Mother House, Sala Providencia at 6:30 p.m.
- **OCTOBER 5:** Eucharist for the Anniversary of Beatification of Mother Émilie Gamelin in Santa Rosa Community - Santiago at 6:30 p.m.

More information will follow. We are already willing and open to any suggestions that will help us make our movement great in the eyes of God and of the brothers and sisters who need us. We ask for your prayers that we can be obedient to the promptings of the Spirit and serve with simplicity, humility and great love.

You can count on our prayers. May we not lose contact with our sisters and brothers who have distanced themselves from us and bring them back, because they are an important part of this work. Let us pray for Herta Sandoval, that the Lord and Our Mother of Sorrows may fortify her in these times of trial and pain.

With affection,

*The PA National Board
Bernarda Morin Province*



**OUR FIRST ACTIVITY AS PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES IN
YAKIMA, U.S.A.**
June 9 - 10, 2012

On June 9, I had the privilege to visit Marta Wilson who is one of our Providence Associates in Yakima. As a religious education coordinator in St. Joseph Parish, Marta carries out the Providence Charism and Mission. With all my heart, I observed how, with great generosity, she is able to do as Mother Emilie did, bringing love and tenderness and being a Providence for the most poor.



The Providence Associates unite to respond to the cry of the most destitute

On June 10, we had the privilege of holding our first meeting in a long time. We carried out an activity to raise funds to organize a meal for the homeless in Yakima. The activity took place in St. Joseph's Church.

The Yakima Associates have not been very active lately, but thanks be to God, they are gradually rebuilding their group and hope is now very alive in the heart of each of the Providence Associates. The most beautiful part of this activity was that it allowed

people in the parish to know us as Providence Associates and many persons had the opportunity to ask, "Who are the Providence Associates?" and "How can we become Providence Associates?" This was one of the goals that we had as a group: to make



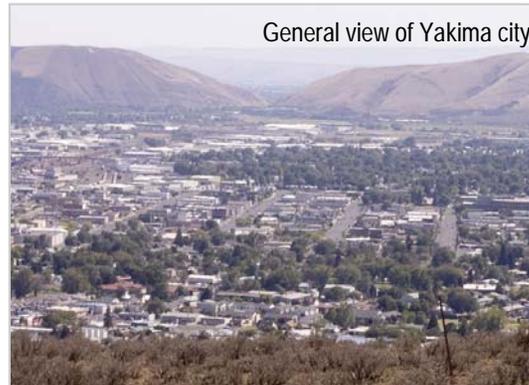
Continuation of the News



ourselves better known. Even though we are only a few members right now, we are all working in order that the other Associates will return to our group. This activity was carried out by the Associate group

that speaks Spanish.

We were able to see from afar the desire of this group to be of service to others as each Associate gave the little she or he had to carry out the activity: working time, corn, *tamales* and sweet breads.



After wards, we took the time to invite the other Associates to join or rejoin the group. An Associate commented: "Look, Sister Vilma came from Spokane just to accompany us in the activity and she does that good-heartedly even though we know she is very busy. She does this in order to be with us every time we meet."



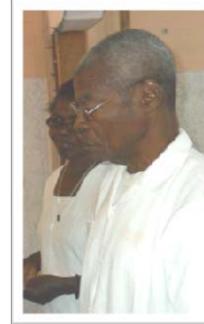
Hillside Desert Botanical Gardens in Yakima

To serve the poorest of the poor calls us to be united because alone, we are not able to do it. Thank you, Associates, for your dedication and for continuing to carry our very alive Mission to those most in need.

Sister Maria Vilma Franco, SP

COMMITMENT OF THE PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES IN HAITI

In Saint-Louis-Roi-de-France Parish on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, 2012, Mr. Philippe Beauboeuf and Mrs. Lucia Léveillée-Beauboeuf made their commitment as Providence Associates. These commitments were received by Sister Merci-Christ Sylméon in her capacity as superior of the SP community. During the celebration, Marie, Lucie, Pierre Vincent, Dominique, Petit Papa and Ruth Théodore renewed their own commitments as Providence Associates. Several Providence friends participated in this joyful celebration.



Father Quesnel Alphonse, parish priest, emphasized the roles of those committed to the service of the Church and their great responsibility in the Providence of God. The participants expressed their deep emotion.

A simple reception had been prepared for all the Providence Friends and Associates in the Sisters' house on 3rd Ruelle Rivière. All the Sisters of Providence of Haiti were present for the celebration and for the reception.

The Providence Associates and Friends took advantage of the opportunity to thank, Sister Diane Sarrasin for her service as liaison person, Now, Sister Valiette Messeroux will be serving as the liaison person to the Providence Associates.



We recommend that all the Providence Friends and Associates in the world would be united in prayer.

Marie Lucie Vincent PA.
Coordinator for the
local support team
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Continuation of the News

NEWS FROM SOLIDARITY WITH CAMEROON & EL SALVADOR

On April 28, 2012 a pleasant afternoon of music and songs took place in the Mother House's Salle Providence. This fund-raising activity was organized to support two causes dear to us: the rebuilding a community chicken coop in Koudandeng, Cameroon, that had been destroyed by fire and support for the purchase



of seeds for a cooperative of 85 families in the community of Linares, El Salvador, which had lost everything in a major flood. This charitable activity was a great success, first, because the monies went to the beneficiaries, which was a cause of great joy, and second, because those who attended the event appreciated the quality of the performers and the palpable friendly atmosphere.

Months have now passed and thanks to the goodwill of all those involved, the projects are moving forward on both sides of the Atlantic. From Cameroon we have received a kind thank you letter and a copy of a Certificate of Donation regarding a piece of land where the community chicken coop house can be rebuilt. From El Salvador we have received pictures of the sowing of the crop and the agricultural work being done in the fields in view of a first harvest.

We sincerely thank all of you for being part of this happy gathering in behalf of two causes that are really worthwhile.

*Nadia Bertoluci, PA
Émilie Gamelin Province*



Photos of the support project in El Salvador - 1: Group of beneficiaries of the Linares community, El Salvador, gathered to receive the sacks of seeds. - 2: Sacks of seeds and a group of beneficiaries. - 3: Distribution of the seeds.. - 4: Working the land before planting. - 5: Result: A beautiful cornfield!



Continuation of the News

To the Providence Associates
of Montréal – Canada

Re: Thank you letter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

May the peace of God be with you at the moment you receive this letter and forever.

We were most happy to receive, through Sister Marie-Rose St-Amant, your letter of June 8, which gave us the happy news that you were sending the significant amount of \$1,500 CAD for the rebuilding of the chicken coop.

This gesture gives evidence your compassion for us after the investment we made with the support of the Roncalli International Foundation, unfortunately, was burned to ashes in a fire that broke out in the night of March 24-25, 2011.

We would be ungrateful not to recognize the true value of your initiative. In addition, we want you to know that we will take every measure to make sure the past mistakes are not repeated.

With deep gratitude, we pray that the Heavens may shower graces upon you.

On behalf of the Providence Friends and Associates of Koudandeng, Cameroon :

Florentine Ndzana, PA
Director

Théodore Nke Noah PA.
Secretary



Certificate of Donation regarding a piece of land where the community chicken coop house will be rebuilt:

ATTESTATION D'ABANDON DE DROIT DE PROPRIETE COUTUMIERE

Je soussigné, Mr. MME Noah Théodore
Né le 12 Décembre 1946 à Nkol-Fep
Fils (Fille) de Noah Raphaël et de Aneque Suzanne
Demeurant à Nkol-Fep Arrondissement de Obala
Département de Lékié
Carte Nationale d'Identité n° M144474 délivré le 09-06-2011

Atteste que par le présent, j'abandonne librement et de façon irrévocable, mes droits de propriété coutumière à Mr La Communauté des Associations d'Associés Providence
Demeurant à Koudang Arrondissement de Obala Département Lékié
Titulaire de la CNI n° Délivré le

Sur un terrain sis à Nkol-Fep Arrondissement de Obala
Département de Lékié d'une superficie de 302m² soit 20x15m

Je déclare sur ma responsabilité que ledit terrain ne fait l'objet d'aucun litige.

Le Détenteur Coutumier
Theodore
MME Noah Théodore

Témoins :
ONDOBO Noah Patrice
CNI N° 103073222 du 11/01/2009
Signature [Signature]
BODO EKOUA
CNI N° 105760944 du 27-04-2005
Signature [Signature]

Fait à NKOLFEP le 05 JUIL 2012

[Signature]
Notaire



Information around the world

- **Philippines:** Congratulations to Sister Beth (Dalisay) Rayray, who is the new liaison for the group of Providence Associates in the Philippines.



- **Gratitude:** As she is completing her term, we wish to thank Sister Lucila (Lucy) Vasquez for the work she did as liaison person for the Providence Associates group of the Philippines.

At the same time, we wish to thank Sister Diane Sarrasin, who is ministering currently in Cameroon, for her service as liaison person for the group of Providence Associates in Haiti

- **Émilie-Gamelin Province:** On September 29, the Providence Associates will hold their provincial gathering at the Mother House, Salle Providence, in Montreal.



Did you know?

There is a lot of information and news on the Web site of the Providence Family: www.providenceintl.org. The site is accessible in the three Congregation languages: French, English and Spanish. Welcome!

In addition, to access a summary of the General Chapter 2012, including the Orientations for the next 5 years, visit: <http://www.providenceintl.org/en/nouvelles.php?ik=122>

United in prayers: let us pray for all sick PAs or in trouble, around the world.





The Rio + 20 global meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil June, 2012 and attended by more than 50,000 people. The primary focus of this huge gathering of people was to find ways to facilitate economic, social and environmental development that would bring people out of poverty and do so without depleting valuable planetary natural resources.

Preparations had begun more than a year before and the planning committee worked hard to get input from civil society in addition to official governmental delegates. In fact, about 80% of the final document that went to Rio came through input from the grassroots around the globe. My ability to attend was due to the fact that we, as a congregation, are members of UNANIMA International. Other members of UNANIMA were present also, including Michele Morek, OSU Coordinator of the Coalition.



With the focus on the poor, the marginalized and the interwoven reality of all creation, attending this conference was a natural place for a Sister of Providence to be in order to advocate. Because of the value for input from the grassroots, I was able to advocate for change early in the process and then again as the meetings began. A people's summit ran concurrently. The prominence of water issues was unmistakable. In the past, it was difficult to

get delegates and business to recognize the need for clean, potable water. Now, the issue is front and center of any continued dialogue.

Historically, women's needs have tended to be ignored: their need for potable water for their families, their need for land on which to grow food for their family, their need for education, their right to have voice in their government. This global meeting was different. Women spoke up for themselves and were heard in some instances. Any progress is cause for hope.



As a Sister of Providence and as a global citizen, it was a privilege to attend and take part in a meeting of this magnitude: a once in a life time opportunity. I am grateful and say: Providence of God, I thank you for all!

Sister Jo Ann Showalter, SP
PA Coordinator of Mother Joseph Province

To know more: <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/>



Reflection

HOW THE 29TH GENERAL CHAPTER IS CHALLENGING THE PROVIDENCE FAMILY, JULY 2012



By Sister Sandrine Aimée, SP

In my opinion, this Chapter was a process towards transparency and openness. The resulting Orientations invite all the Sisters of Providence and the Providence Associates, to move towards a future that is uncertain yet filled with hope. I think we are called, like Abraham, to leave our familiar places and our security and dare to open ourselves to the new, while creating bonds that transcend ordinary family, racial, cultural ties, etc. This involves a number of personal and community adaptations. In my humble opinion, it seems our priority needs to be to expand our own inner spaces, to be able to welcome each other and walk together towards authenticity. This is a daily task!

When I pray with the Orientations of this General Chapter, the image that comes to me is the wedding feast at Cana. This page of the Gospel speaks to us of co-responsibility, interdependence and especially contemplation, qualities without which the wedding guests would have missed the best wine. We need to promote these attitudes both in our daily life and our apostolic life. In the early history of the Congregation, we find that our dear foundresses always first contemplated the needs of their time before bringing forward an adequate response. Is it not our turn to be called to follow in their footsteps and adapt to our changing society? How can we, in a concrete way, be engaged in interdependence among ourselves as Sisters and as Providence Associates? How can we be able to make changes, while at the same time, reclaiming what is essential to our religious heritage? These are the questions that nourish my reflection in this time of transition between the Orientations of the 2007 Chapter and those of the 2012 Chapter.

With trust in Providence, let us seek harmony as we make our contribution to the building the Reign of God.

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