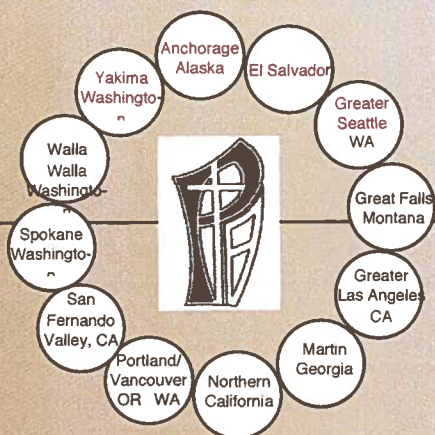


The PA Connection

Fall, 2012

Newsletter of the Providence Associates of Mother Joseph Province



The Providence Associate Board Meeting - August 15-17

Gerri Ann Johnson, Executive Director
Reflections of Sisters of Providence Chapter

Sunday afternoon in the Hawley Center was a stir with the voices of Sisters, Associates, Companions and Friends waiting for Sr. Karin Dufault SP to convene the 13th Chapter of Mother Joseph Province. The theme of "Dancing into the Future" as fitting as the task at hand was to look to the future in a "don't know" arena. The usual business of Chapter occurred early on and the group soon turned to other exciting and challenging items.



Most of us received the e-mails from the General Chapter and are aware of the "Orientations" developed there. An aspect of the work at General Chapter was to develop actions supporting the Orientations and these were presented and discussed. The first Orientation: "to commit ourselves, personally and communally, to contemplative listening, dialogue and discernment as our way of life" is one, in my observation, the Sisters have put into practice already. Since last year's Chapter, the Sisters have made concerted efforts to increase the diversity in living situations...recall the address changes we all received! Living the three "i's": intercultural, intergenerational, international, is both challenging and rewarding as we heard the Sisters speak.

In addition to the Orientations, Sisters were challenged to develop consensus on options for Provincial Leadership succession. This took time and patience. We non-vowed were not in the room when the discussions occurred yet, one could feel the tension and intensity around the work. Once the consensus was reached the intensity shifted to laughter and song and celebration as Sr. Judith Desmarais SP accepted the Leadership position vacated by Sr. Karin.

During the time we non-vowed persons were not in the main conference room we met across the hall. We shared some of our ministries and concerns. We numbered thirteen women all of whom were living into the Mission for and with the poor and represented Providence Associated, Providence Companions and Friends of Providence. We agreed that integration of time and energy would be a strong move. We agreed to ask if it were possible to announce activities e.g. making sandwiches for shelters, could be announced over broadcast e-mail. Even though the announcement would be region specific it would let

Eileen Norris, PA
Reflections of PA Board Meeting

I haven't been to a PA Board Meeting in several years and it was so wonderful to see so many old friends. It was like a family reunion. One of the best things about the meetings is the "connecting." It widens your perspective when you see what all of the other regions are doing.

The presentation by Sisters Rosemary Thielman SNJM and Roberta Lamanna SNJM were great. They talked about "Prayer: transformation in the Risen Christ." It is hard to decide what made the most impression on me. The meeting was informative and fun. I was never bored. Mary Ann and Marie were so great when they did their M and M financial report in costume. I was so impressed with the report and discussion about how we can raise money and what to keep track of for "in kind" donations. I just wish every Providence Associate could see that. The Directors did a fantastic job of putting the meeting together balancing prayer, speakers and reports in a way that kept everyone interested.



Roberta Lamanna SNJM



Roswmary Thielman SNJM

Reflections of Chapter Days (Continued)

others know what is happening and we have tentative approval with review in a few months. We also agreed to look into having a blog. That will take a bit longer to enact.

Of particular interest to Providence Associates is an item in Orientation 3: "to ensure formation for Mission in light of the realities of our Congregation and those of the world of today" which states as a goal: to offer "an intercultural dimension in the formation programs of Providence Associates". Now there is food for thought.

Once again being able to be at Chapter was a great experience. In simple terms, the Sisters walk their talk and are so very inspiring and wonderful to be with in association.



NACAR: Chicago - June 1-3, 2012

Sr. JoAnn Showalter, and PA's Marie Ilch, MaryAnn Wilharm, and GeriAnn Johnson attended the North American Conference of Associates and Religious in Deerfield, IL. Communication, support, collaboration among religious congregations and associates are goals of NACAR. Sr. Judith Gomila MSC guided us through "A Journey of Blessings" the day and one half we were together.

Sr. Joyce Rupp's keynote address was titled "Journeying in the Land of the Don't Know". What prophetic talk this was. This space of "don't know" as we move into the future is both an opportunity and challenge for individual /community growth. "Vowed and Associate members in this current time of uncertainty are setting out on a journey with the potential for transformation. Sr Joyce addressed the areas of the "Unknown" while embracing our Provident God and one another."

We also participated in small group sessions. While both were interesting and rewarding, the second was to me particularly significant. We were divided according to what geographical region we were in with in NACAR. We all attended the Western section. Our charge was to discuss NACAR governance structure. The proposal was to support regional meetings and governance. This would not mean dissolving the national offices, it would mean holding regional gatherings more often, national less. Part of the thinking was to save on overall expenses. As the western region discussed it we became very certain that while we wanted communication among ourselves, we wanted the connections that the International/North American gatherings supported. When we returned to the large group we found all regions in accord with this thinking. The Board of Director's was clearly surprised. They promised to continue discerning actions. The latest information on the NACAR web site indicated that the agenda for the next Executive Committee gathering included discussion on the organization.



Women of Providence in Collaboration Gathering of Associates - June 14, 2012

As a follow up to the gathering held last September in Allison Park, Penn., there was a coming together of associate directors and sister liaisons at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., on June 14. Present were those who attended the September meeting. Dialogue continued around the topics of regionalization and tax-exempt 501(c) (3) status for associate groups. Of great interest and common concern is the topic area of keeping associates connected to the main group when they live at a distance and/or when there is no sister in the area. Attending from Mother Joseph Province were Suzanna Harland, PA, from Portland, Ore., and Sister Jo Ann Showalter. At this meeting, planning was initiated for the September 2013 gathering of WPC/PAs to be held in Mother Joseph Province.

Providence Event 2012, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. - June 15-17, 2012

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, was the keynote presenter. He led 300 participants as they delved into the realms of mysticism and Providence. Father Rolheiser described Providence as "reading the signs of the times", trying to see the finger of God inside of our ordinary lives and events. When we read our lives, we see God's Providence in our lives.

Providence is a deep form of prayer; in Scripture we see how Jesus read the signs of the time. The language of God is the experiences God writes into our lives. We participate in this action in contemplation and are present to God in the moment. Divine Providence is a "coincidence and a conspiracy of accidents" through which God speaks. God does not cause them. God didn't cause the earthquake in Haiti, Katrina, broken bones, etc., but he does speak to us through them.

Some major themes in Providence and mysticism:

- Trust and Hope
- Metanoia and Paranoia
- Naming properly
- Providence - a conspiracy of accidents
- Absorbing - Fleeing
- Providence and the cross

After the presentations and interaction with Father Rolheiser, the participants were invited to share the implications they saw for living the charism of Providence. The table conversations were presented in statements on PowerPoint and are posted on the website: www.wpwebc.org. Many of the sisters and Suzanna Harland, PA, of Mother Joseph Providence attended.

Celebrating the Lives of Two Beloved Providence Associates



Virginia Jean Cory

June 7, 1923 - August 15, 2012

Virginia Jean Cory, PA, 89, of Mt. Angel, OR, died August 15, 2012 at Mt. Angel Towers. She was born June 7, 1923 in Asbury Park, New Jersey, to Helen and Oscar Kuehner. Virginia had two younger sisters Marguerite and Monica.

Virginia loved learning about all aspects of the world and she enjoyed music, art design, gardening, religion and politics throughout her life. She was encouraged to pursue a professional career by her teachers, and as a result of government scholarships available to women during World War II, attended Flower Fifth Avenue School of Nursing in New York, City. She graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1947.

Virginia was married to Tony Fusick in 1949. Tony was injured in an accident, which shortened his life, and sadly, he died in 1953.

Virginia moved to San Francisco, CA in 1960 to live with her sister, Monica. She first worked as a public health nurse with the Bay Area Visiting Nurses Association and later practiced cardiovascular nursing at Children's Hospital. During this time she met and married George Cory. Their only son, James Scott Cory was born in 1961

Virginia and her family moved to Portland, OR, in 1968. George and Virginia divorced in 1982.

Virginia taught nursing at OSHU from 1968 to 1977. During that time and later she received many awards for outstanding teaching, education, and research. She became a nurse practitioner and worked to integrate the role of nurse practitioner into the clinical setting. Virginia collaborated with then-State Senator Ron Wyden and the Oregon Grey Panthers to obtain the rights for Nurse Practitioners to prescribe medicine for patients in 1977 and 1978. It was signed into law in 1979. She also served two terms on the Oregon State Board of Nursing from 1978 to 1983.

In 1978 Virginia shifted her efforts toward providing continuing education for practicing nurses. She was named Director of Nursing Education at Providence St. Vincent Hospital. In retirement she volunteered at the hospital providing counseling and Eucharistic ministry to elderly Roman Catholics. She chose to become an Associate of the Sisters of Providence and traveled across the Pacific Northwest to attend meetings of the Sisters and Providence Associates. Sister Scholastica Lee was her sponsor. She was always very active in the region and served as Regional Coordinator for 6 years

She moved to Mt. Angel, Oregon in 2002 and was an active member of the Mt. Angel Towers Community. Throughout her life, Virginia demanded much of herself and of those she taught, worked with, and love. Her memory and legacy will on in the lives she touched through her brilliance, commitment, teaching, service and ministry.

*Don't grieve for me
for now I'm free.
I'm following the path
Our Provident God
laid for me.*



Marie E. Kemper, PA

April 21, 1920 ~ August 29, 2012

Marie E. Kemper, 92, of Vancouver, WA, died Aug. 29, 2012 at AST Gentle Home Care. She was born April 21, 1920 in Vancouver to Stanislaus and Helen Gomulkiewicz.

In raising five energetic children with Gene, in her extensive volunteer work for her church, in her devotion to her multitudes of friends - Marie found beauty and joy and reason for delight.

Marie and Gene were founding members of St. Joseph Catholic Church, where she also helped found the Altar Society and a stitchery group that adorned the church in colorful banners throughout the liturgical seasons.

Her hobbies were sewing, shopping and lunching with her friends, and collecting thimbles, cards, angels and a wall full of Madonna and Child icons.

Marie is survived by her five children, Geni (Bob) VanInderstine, David (Marieke) Kemper, Thomas (Melanie) Kemper, Stephen (Andre) Kemper and Lisa (Michael) McKeirnan; 15 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and her siblings, Connie Hostetter and Paul Gomulkiewicz.

She was preceded in death by Gene, her loving husband of 65 years; and her siblings, Anne and Stan.

A Funeral Mass was held Friday, Sept. 7th at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Interment will be in Mother Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial donations are appreciated to Sisters of Providence, Provincial Administration, 1801 Lind Ave. SW #9016, Renton, WA 98057.



Birthdays



October

- 01 Chris Halter
- 03 Jean White
- 06 Rusty Mulcahy
- 07 Pat Budo (Assoc. Koinonia Community)
- 09 Michelle Tenorio
- 12 Mary Murtha
- 14 Nancy Vorhees
- 16 Nancy Edwards-Schramke
- 16 Annie Lind
- 17 Garvin Olson
- 19 James Plampin
- 21 Lorraine Faiola
- 21 Karen Wormel
- 23 Sheryl Clark
- 26 Brenda Velasco
- 28 Sara Cotto (Assoc. Peace Community)
- 30 E. Ann Buchanan
- 30 Kris Schons
- 31 Marilyn Hedemark

November

- 03 Ana Delmi Serrano Ayala
- 05 Kathleen Hanneman
- 07 Mike Nealen
- 09 Phyllis Silva-Keith
- 13 Betty Leadon
- 15 Tom Mesaros
- 15 Gertrude Woodson
- 19 Liz Pearce
- 20 Marcella Mulcahy
- 23 Sheryl Clark
- 23 Ramona Raffaell
- 25 Regene Hudson
- 26 Ana Margarita Soro Cativo
- 27 Beatrice Wolf
- 29 Jean Randall
- 30 Irene Dufort

December

- 01 Karen Fedro
- 04 Madelyn Lopetich
- 08 Joe Legel
- 09 Karel Atkinson
- 10 Rosemary Ross
- 13 Phyllis Davis
- 13 Mary Jane Fehrenbacher
- 17 Marilyn Wittenmyer
- 19 Therese Larson
- 20 Shirley Bollich
- 20 Hector Gutierrez
- 22 Keith Abrahams
- 22 Pat D'Entremont
- 26 Margaret Halter
- 26 Barbara Hood
- 26 Marta Wilson

"Trust needs to be based on hope."

"Providence people stand—firm, with quiet strength."

"What is God asking us today? Speak the truth - don't hide it. Trust. Read the signs of the times. Wash the feet of one another."

"Before putting on Jesus, consider how you would look on wood!"

Portland Vancouver Annual Picnic Sisters & Associates Everyone is so Happy!

Front row - left to right: Colleen Seed, PA Char Diss, PA Lang Tran, SP Annie Lind, PA
 Back row - left to right: Suzanna Harland, PA Pam McKenna, PA John Harland, PA Ramona Raffaell, PA Judi Roberts, SP Joyce Green, SP Mary Fox, SP Gabrielle Nguyen, SP Eileen Norris (our hostess) Jeanette Heindl SP Annie Hulme, PA Pat Weidinger, PA Ken Lind, PA, not pictured, was our photographer.



"Providence people are called to find God's kiss in our deepest selves and in the events around us to find how God calls us to more." Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI