

The PA Connection

Newsletter of the Providence Associates of Mother Joseph Province



Fall 2013

PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING September 14-15-2013 Summary Report

On September 14-15, 2013, the Providence Associates of Mother Joseph gathered together at Mt. St. Joseph in Spokane, Washington for the annual Board of Directors meeting. The Associate members of the Board, Regional SP Liaisons and Executive Committee from the 10 regions of the Mother Joseph determine and plan the direction of the Associate program for the future.

It is an energizing opportunity to share spirituality and new aspects of growth in community. Our focus this year mirrored the Sisters' values of becoming a multicultural, intergenerational, international and interdependent global community.

Sr. Josie Lerios from the Montreal Provincial office was a special guest. We were honored by this first time visit from Montreal. (Sr. Josie SP, and Marie Ilch, PA are pictured right.)



Sr. Jo Ann's presentation "Our Call to a Higher Self: Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters" encouraged us to challenge the real issues of our borders, especially our southern border. How to respectfully challenge the untrue myths of the immigrant struggles.

Pat Smith, PA and her husband, Dave highlighted their ministry ASHA, Inc. in Bangladesh. ASHE, Inc. supports a shelter for young girls ages 8 to 18 and some boys that are trafficked into prostitution and slavery. The shelter provides food, clothing, schooling but most of all a safe place to recover from their traumatized lives. Pat and Dave have adopted and sponsor 4 daughters at the shelter. Donations to ASHE, Inc. can be made through the Providence Associate 501 c)(3) ASHE, Inc. account (See picture of the Smiths on page 5.)

Sr. Charlotte VanDyke introduced the Sisters' Corporate Stance on the Death Penalty. Sr. Charlotte's fact-based presentation of the history of the death penalty and the devastating destruction in the lives of the victims and perpetrators necessitates a human-rights response to this injustice. A story-board, brochures, informational websites encouraged us to become active participants in opposition to the death penalty in our local communities and states.

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How good it feels to sing your glory, my God!
 You count out the stars, one by one,
 and name them.
 If you care so much for flecks of fire in the night,
 ah! how much more for us,
 who will outlast the stars!
 You herd the clouds of heaven to send down rains,
 and boil mellow fruitfulness up into the land.
 You feed cattle and birds,
 when they cry their need.
 You need no battalions of workers;
 just your word.
 You are our shepherd too.
 We shall not want. Psalm 147



Josie Lerios SP and Marie Ilch PA
 Montreal, Quebec Spokane, WA



**Women of Providence in Collaboration
Associates and Sister Liaisons
Immaculate Heart Retreat Center
Spokane, WA
September 16-18, 2013**

Thirty associates and sisters traveled from three provinces in Canada and the four corners of the United States to Immaculate Heart Retreat Center located in Spokane, WA. Due to severe storms over the Pacific Northwest, the flight for two sisters was canceled until the next day, necessitating an overnight stay in Seattle. The sisters were greeted with jubilation upon their safe arrival in Spokane. After a Sabbath morning, the Women of Providence in Collaboration Associate Leadership Group (ALG) assembled and began their time together.

The gathering was an opportunity to renew friendships and to make new friends as this relatively new group learned the history of the Women of Providence in Collaboration and put together a template to be used in the planning of future gatherings. Writing the template impelled those gathered to come to a statement of vision for the group and to formulate goals. Membership of the group, frequency of meetings, structure of the meetings, budget designs and relationship to leadership were all topics for discussion and inclusion in the template. The proposed template will go before the Executive Committee for review, possible revision and ultimate approval.



Ann Hurst receiving a gift presented by Jo Ann Showalter SP, in appreciation for her outstanding presentation.

With a focus on development of skills, talents and gifts for leadership, the primary presenter was Ann Hurst, Chief Integration Officer for Providence Health Care in Spokane. Ann, an animated presenter, led the participants through a process designed to facilitate learning their personal talents and skills and to begin developing a personal vision for the future. She began by giving an overview of the day that included knowing our life stories and sense of purpose, asking the questions: Who am I and how am I to be, what am I to do and "What is my calling now".

Ann reminded us that the answers to many of the questions arise from our principles, values and beliefs. By the end of the day, each person has enough foundation to begin writing out their personal call. A bus tour featuring much of the history of Spokane rounded out the full day.

Completion of the template occupied that last morning as well as setting the date for the next meeting of the ALG. After dialogue, it was decided to meet in conjunction with the next Providence Event to be held in June, 2015 at St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana.

Jo Ann Showalter, SP

Pictured Left to Right: Diane Mason, SP, Director of Providence Associate Relationships, Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-Woods; Debbie Dillow, PA, Assistant Director PA Relationships, Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods; Barbara McMullen CDP, Executive Director, WPC, Congregation of Divine Providence.

The WPC Meeting

It was such a privilege to attend the Women of Providence in Collaboration, Associates and Sister Liaisons meeting September 16-18. I was the substitute for Roberta Sample. The meeting was held at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane. The setting was beautiful and the Sisters at the center were very welcoming. Sister Barbara McMullen chaired the meeting. She is the WPC Executive Director. She stayed at the Mount with us one night and came to our Associate Board meeting prior to the WPC meeting. She was a delightful woman and it was nice to get to know her a bit before the meeting.

The first day of the meeting was an introduction to the History of the Women of Providence by Sister Barbara. We then spent time making an Associate template for how this Associate/Liaison group would function as a part of the WPC. I was impressed with the process and skills of the attendees.

Day two we had a guest speaker, Ann Hurst who is the Chief integration Officer in the Health Care system. Her topic was: "Knowing Your Gifts: Develop Leadership." This was excellent. She spoke using power point and we did lot of small group discussion.



Eileen Norris PA

Wednesday, day three, was a business meeting, finalizing the template and discussing the next meeting site etc. Jo Ann Showalter, SP posed a question for reflection "How do Associates in their daily lives share the charism and new direction coming from the Spirit of Providence?"

Each day began and ended with wonderful prayers. We had great food and on Tuesday evening enjoyed a tour of Spokane. Meeting Associates from all over the US and Canada and hearing about what they do was an education in itself.

It was a wonderful experience. Providence of God, I thank you for all. Eileen



*Don't let your
hand forget to do, till
it help the remembrance
of the peace. William of
St. Thierry*

*Tell me what is it you plan to do with
your one wild & precious life? Mary Oliver*

*'LIFE IN GOD IS A DARING ADVENTURE
THROUGH THE UNCHARTED DEPTHS OF LOVE.'
ILIA DELIO, OSF*

'LIFE IS SHAPED BY THE END YOU LIVE FOR. YOU ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF WHAT YOU DESIRE.' Thomas Merton

Summary Report - Board of Directors Meeting (Continued)

Logical sanity in the quest to save the planet, to live life simply, and with fidelity to gospel values/informed conscious. The future will require an openness to new ideas and realities. The Holy Spirit is calling us to new forms. It will be an evolution from a hierarchical model to a collaborative model, animated by a Gospel call to a particular charism. Associates will continue to develop leadership among themselves to carry on the charism into the future.

Sr. Carla Montante shared the essential leadership qualities Associates look for in their Regional Coordinators. An atmosphere of mutual respect and commitment to come together for spiritual growth, community and service to the poor is most important. An openness to new ways to become visible in our local communities. Collaboration with others in ministry to the poor strengthens each other. We each shared and identified qualities of leadership that enhance circular leadership and discernment in decision making. Improved communication between Associates, new members and the Executive Committee contributes to a sense of shared relationships. Many Associates share the burdens of aging poor health and reduced resources. In what ways can we support and value them in community?

Sr. Charlotte VanDyke gave us an update on Marie Therese Gnamazo's ASIA ministry in Cameroon. Inspired by the successful installation of a well providing a safe water source for the village (funds provided by the Sisters), Maria Therese dreams of a medical clinic, a school and community gathering place to support the extreme poverty of the village. She also has a commitment to the pygmy population in the village. Efforts are being made to secure help from international organizations to develop teachers, medical staff and supplies, etc. to make her dreams a reality. Donations can be made to ASIA through the Providence Associates 501(c)(3) ASIA account.

The wonderful documentary, "Women & Spirit, Catholic Sisters in America", a history of the Sisters contributions to our country, was viewed by all present. Associates are encouraged to get their local TV stations to show this DVD as well as showing it at their gatherings. It can be obtained from IPJC, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, 1216 NE 65th St., Seattle WA 98115-6724.

On Sunday Kathe Boucha, PA had a power point presentation on her ministry, the International Virtual e-Hospital Foundation. Her ministry evolved from openness, prayer, and discernment of the Spirit, often from her kitchen table into a worldwide access to healthcare resources for developing countries. IVeH is a non-profit organization with health programs throughout the world whose main mission is to create and establish self-sustainable telemedicine and e-health programs around the world and to rebuild medical systems in developing nations, one country at a time using technologies, culturally responsive exchanges and collaboration as a platform.

After liturgy with the Sisters on Sunday, Barbara McMullen, CDP, Executive Director of Women of Providence in Collaboration shared her vision of the Associate/Sister relationship in the future and Prayer resources. Sr. Barbara is the author of "Soul Stretching, the Inner Landscape of an Ordinary Life". Her signed books were offered for purchase.

The Associate/Sister relationship is continuing to evolve as Associates live out the call of the charism and utilize their gifts as they seek to be of service to the people of God. Today's commitment might be to practice the non-violence of Jesus, solidarity with the poor.

Eileen Norris, PA led us in a memorial for our deceased Associates that died since we last met at the Board of Directors: Marie Kemper, PA, Fr. Neill Meany, PA, June McFaul, Jim Plampin, PA and Keith Abrahams PA. "Gone But Not Forgotten".

Sr. Jo Ann Showalter led us as we missioned one another as Regional Coordinators, Executive Directors, Regional SP Liaisons and our new Province Liaison, Suzanna Harland, PA. Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be August 8-9, 2014 in Spokane at Mt. St. Joseph. The Board of Directors meeting adjourned with all present singing our Providence hymn.
Marie Ilch, Board of Directors, Executive Secretary



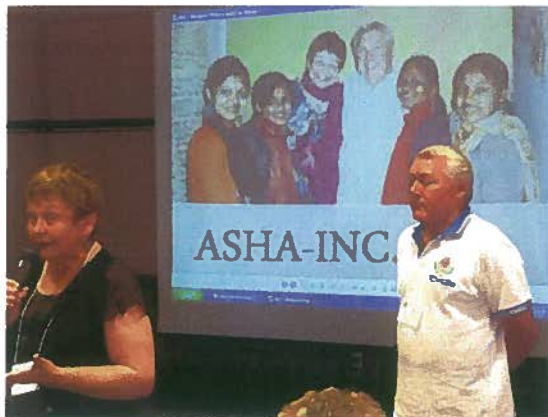


Pray for a Cure Mass Center: Lillian Rouzan, PA,

Greater Los Angeles Region Lillian Rouzan PA

We once again were blessed with our Faith, Hope & Charity Catholic Cancer Mass on October 5, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. This was our 9th year. Our Associate Vickie Race and her husband Deacon Mark Race began this ministry 9 years ago when Vickie was diagnosed with breast cancer. We now have people from all over the world participating in this ministry. How good our Provident God is!

Our Associate Deacon Emile Adams Jr. at the age of 91 in June, received an award for being the eldest ACTIVE Deacon in the Los Angeles Diocese. He is like the energizer bunny! Rumor has it that he is the eldest active Deacon on the entire west coast.



In recent PA Connections have included articles about Pat and Dave Smith's outreach in Bangladesh. They gave a great presentation for the Board Meeting. Notice in background they are pictured with their four Bangladesh daughters. Lives are changed because of their outreach.



Dear St. Peregrine,

We need your help.

We feel so uncertain of our lives right now. This serious illness makes us long for a sign of God's love. Help us to imitate your enduring faith when you faced the ugliness of cancer and surgery.

Allow us to trust the Lord the way you did in this moment of distress. We want to be cured, but right now We ask God for the strength to bear this cross in our lives, and use our suffering as a prayer for the cure of cancer. We seek the power to proclaim God's presence in our lives despite the hardship, anguish and fear we now experience.

O Glorious St. Peregrine, be an inspiration to us and a petitioner for the cure of cancer and of those needed graces from our loving Father. Amen

Faith, Hope & Charity Catholic Cancer Ministry
P.O. Box 451084, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310)844-1970 Deacon Mark & Vickie Race



We welcome our new Providence Associate, Pat Koetter, to the Spokane Region

I came to know the Sisters of Providence when I started working at Mt. St. Vincent and then moved to Hospice of Seattle. I admired the charism of love for the poor and sick; as I have dedicated my life to this service. I am happy to join with the Sisters and Associates of Providence. I joined in Seattle, but am moving to Spokane and look forward to continued community and service in the years to come.

North to Alaska



News from
The PA Connection Editor,
Province PA Liaison
Suzanna Harland, PA

The PA Executive Board has made plans for the PA Liaison or Director(s) to visit each Region in the next one or two years.

I have recently visited Alaska Region Associates where I experienced a warm welcome and a delightful evening meeting. We met at Kathe's home and enjoyed dinner together followed by prayer including a Missioning Service led by Kathe.

We also had time for sharing our individual histories and reminsenses about PA activities. Kathe and Suzanna shared about attending the recent meetings in Spokane. There was discussion about future activities These Associates are very interesting, talented, and committed to the charisma of Blessed Emilie Gamelin.

It was inspiring to learn more from Kathe and others about The 13 Grandmothers. Below, two of the Grandmothers are pictured. At the conclusion of Kathe's presentation at the September PA Board of Directors Meeting she showed this picture of two of The 13 Grandmothers, reminding us that we must always remember those in need within the borders of the United States.



It was great to be able spend to time with the Alaska PAs. Being together gives us a greater sense of being connected to others who are committed to our Provident God and our Providence charism. God's blessings upon all of you, Suzanna



Pictured above left to right: Kathe Boucha PA, Regional. Coordinator, Donna Boschee PA, Cindy Kolstad PA, Pat Hauser SP, Chris Wood PA, Margaret Bauer PA, and (sitting) Karel Atkinson PA, Regional Coordinator.



Birthdays

November

- 03 Ana Delmi Serrano Ayala
- 03 Janet Welsh
(Assoc.w/Peace Community)
- 05 Kathleen Hanneman
- 07 Mike Nealen
- 09 Transito Ruana Castro
- 13 Phyllis Silva-Keith
- 13 Betty Leadon
- 15 Tom Mesaros
- 15 Gertrude Woodson
- 19 Liz Pearce
- 19 Sharon Thompson
- 20 Marcella Mulcahy
- 22 Kathryn Kurtz
(Assoc. w/Peace Community)
- 23 Sheryl Clark
- 23 Ramona Raffaell
- 25 Regene Hudson
- 26 Ana Margarita Sorto
Cativo
- 27 Beatrice Wolf
- 29 Jean Randall
- 30 Irene Dufort

December

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