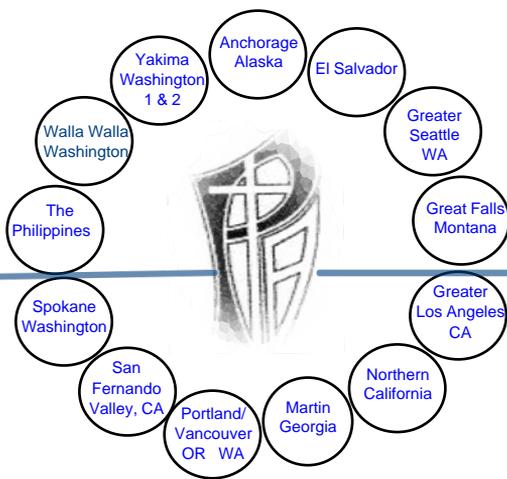


# The PA Connection

Newsletter - Providence Associates  
of Mother Joseph Province

Winter 2016



## *PAMJ Executive Committee Meeting SP Lake House. Auburn. WA January 2016*

Due to the generosity of the Sisters of Providence of Mother Joseph, the PAMJ Executive Committee was able to meet at the Lake House in Auburn, WA. In attendance were Jo Ann Showalter, SP, Josie Ramac, SP, Geri Ann Johnson, PA, Margaret Bauer, PA, Laurie Tanita, PA and Kathe Boucha, PA. The Executive Committee of the Providence Associates Board of Directors meets annually in January to review the upcoming year, the needs of the Associate Community and conduct planning for the 12 Regions. It was confirmed that the next Board of Director's meeting will be hosted in Renton, WA. Details for registering for the August 20-22, 2016 meeting will be sent to you in the spring.



The Executive committee will be meeting virtually by teleconference, quarterly. This is a new attempt at increasing communication, teamwork and assuring activities and Regions are supported well. Fund raising opportunities was a topic thoroughly discussed, as well as the need for the development of training manuals for the Regional Coordinators and Sister Liaisons. Committees will be formed and work on the manuals will begin soon, with input from all the Regional Coordinators and select Sisters.

Nominations are requested for another Executive Director. Our Charter calls for 2 or 3. Currently we have only one. Please forward any names to Geri Ann Johnson, PA, Province Liaison to the Sisters of Providence: [peaceann@me.com](mailto:peaceann@me.com) A position description is available upon request.

Kathe Boucha, PA Executive Director will be contacting each Regional Director, individually, at least quarterly, to discuss the status of each Region, needs, charisms, mission projects and creative ideas.

Executive Committee Pictured left: (L to R) Geri Ann Johnson PA, Margaret Bauer PA, Laurie Tanita PA, Kathe Boucha PA, Jo Ann Showalter SP, Josie Ramac SP



## *Lunch at Blanchet House*

Portland/Vancouver Region

The Blanchet House of Hospitality, named after the first Catholic Archbishop of the Oregon Territory, Archbishop Frances Norbert Blanchet, was founded in 1952 with a mission "To feed, clothe, and offer shelter and aid to those in need." The state of the art, newly rebuilt and dedicated in 2012, facility is located at 310 NW Glisan St., Portland, OR 97209. It houses the Founder Cafe on the ground floor that offers breakfast, lunch and dinner six days a week from Monday through Saturday.

Blanchet also operates a transitional shelter program for men who struggle with addictions, unemployment or family issues. In exchange for room and board, the men must volunteer six to seven hours per day, six days a week, on either the morning or afternoon shifts. They must adhere to certain rules and regulations, but most importantly, they must abstain from using drugs or alcohol while being part of the Blanchet community.

**Char Diss, Regional Coordinator**



### **A Facilitated Workshop - PAMJ Board of Director's Meeting - August 2015**

The Regional Coordinators and Sister Liaisons who attended the August 2015, Board of Director's Meeting were asked to participate in a workshop to look at the future of the Providence Associates and the opportunities to serve. Two skilled Operational Excellence facilitators from the Sacred Heart Team assisted us in the thinking, planning and collection of creative ideas, wants and needs.

The main topics that were selected were: Ministry, Spirituality Focus, Communication, Diversity and Equity, Leadership, and Activity Ideas. The brain storming activity provided all who attended the opportunity to comment extensively on each topic through the use of documenting their ideas and responses with one comment per sticky note. Thus, hundreds of ideas and comments were collected, sorted and classified. We will be using this document to guide our communications and planning over the next 2 years, so you will become very familiar with the content.

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On January 23, nine Providence Associates joined residents and staff to serve lunch to citizens of downtown Portland who struggle meeting the most basic needs, food. Charlene Diss and grandson Justin Bower, Suzanna and John Harland, Annie and Ken Lind, Darlene Moore, Eileen Norris, Colleen Seed and Pat Taylor plated, served and cleaned up after the meal. The meal time spanned one hour for diners. Afterwards the volunteers, staff and residents who assisted, sat down and ate a meal with one another. It was a well organized and fast paced event: 489 people were served. Diners were gracious and grateful and the same could be said for the volunteers.

## *Growing Our Associate Communities*

*... you will be like a watered garden,  
like a flowing spring  
whose waters never run dry. Isaiah 58:11*



*God of openness, of life and of resurrection,  
Come into this Centen season and bless me.  
Look around the tight, dead spaces of my heart  
That still refuse to give you an entrance.*

*God of the Resurrection, God of the living,  
Untomb and uncover all that needs to live in me.  
Take me to people, events, and situations  
And stretch me into much greater openness.*

*Bring your gentle but firm love.  
Begin to lift the layers of resistance  
That hang on tightly deep inside of me.*

*Open me. Open me. Open me.  
For it is only then that I will know how it is  
To be in the moment of rising from the dead.*

*Joyce Rupp*

### *Providence Associates Mission Statement*

As Providence Associates, we are women and men called by our Provident God. We hold Gospel values as the compelling force in our lives. We carry the spirit and charism of St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Emilie Gamelin, the Sisters of Providence, and our community of Associates. We sense God's urging us to respond both individually and community to the needs we see in the poor and marginalized, to become the Human Face of Providence. We share in the same spirituality, mission and ministry to the vulnerable as the Sisters of Providence, and commit ourselves to participate actively with them in their spirit and works. We value our relationship with the sisters and with each other, and contribute to building and sustaining community. Together with the Sisters of Providence, we are called to be prophetic witnesses in our society, seeking truth and recognizing that justice and service to the poor is God's imperative.

### *Providence Associates Symbol*

By the time the Providence Associates movement was developing in the late 1960's and the 1970's, the Sisters of Providence symbol ("the 'P' pin") designed in the reforms of the Vatican II was well known. In 1979, the first two Providence Associates received for the former Sacred Heart Province were involved in the process of designing a symbol for Providence Associates, as were a few of the sisters. The associates wanted something close to the Sisters of Providence pin, emphasizing a shared mission and ministry. The group made initial sketches until arriving at a satisfactory design, which was then submitted for both provincial and general administration approval. The final professional design was done through the general administration in Montreal, and was very close to the original sketches.

In the Providence Associate pin, the "A" for Associate is portrayed adjacent to the Providence "P" and the Cross, signifying associates' covenant relationship with God and with the Sisters of Providence. The pin signifies shared Gospel values, mutual support, commitment to the common mission and ministry to the poor and vulnerable, and collaboration in building community.

## *Father "Doctor Stan" Retires*

In reflecting on his 27 years of service, Fr. Malnar expressed gratitude about serving patients and working alongside employees and caregivers at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center.

“It has been a special grace and blessing to serve at the clinic,” Fr. Malnar said. “I am thankful for the patients and families I have cared for over the years. Medicine and priesthood in different ways have given me entrance into their lives and I have experienced goodness, graciousness and generosity.” He added, “I want to thank all those who have been mentors and teachers for me in the care of patients and those in leadership who have supported the clinic as part of the Mission of Providence. To those who have stood beside me in the care of patients in the clinic and on labor and delivery, in the long hours of the night, in difficult situations, in the ups and downs of things – thank you.”

In March 2014, Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center renamed and dedicated its Maternity Clinic as the Father Stan Malnar, M.D., Maternity Clinic. The clinic has been a beacon of hope for women across all walks of life in the community, including patients with insurance and those who do not have the means to pay.

The plaque now hanging in the Maternity Clinic reads: "Both priest and physician, Stan Malnar became director of the Maternity Clinic in 1989. Caring for pregnant women from all walks of life, Dr. Malnar believes the Clinic is an expression of the Gospel of Jesus and the Mission of the Sisters of Providence. Fr. Malnar attended St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. It was during the pastoral education rotation in psychiatry that Fr. Malnar was encouraged to go into medicine. He discussed this with Archbishop Hunthausen, the Bishop of Helena at that time, and the bishop allowed Fr. Malnar to pursue medicine.

After completing medical school at the University of Washington, he officially became “Father Doctor Stan.”



**Fr. Stan Malnar, MD.,  
Providence Associate**

He received a papal blessing and the Bishop of Helena presented a letter from the Archbishop Hunthausen of Seattle. Fr. Stan will continue with his ministry at Hospice of Spokane. Fr. Stan was an active Providence Associate giving and attending PA retreats and concelebrating Masses with the Sisters and Associates. He often shared, "I was blessed among women."

A special retirement ceremony to honor Fr. Malnar was held Friday, Feb. 5 in the Mother Joseph Room at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center.



## *Our time on the Mexican Border*

This is the fourth year we have come to southern Arizona for the winter. We were doing the traditional "snowbird" things until February of last year when my husband Tom Fleming got a call from his good friend Rich Wekerle asking if we could come to Douglas on the Mexican border to help with a construction project Rich was working on in a migrant center on the Mexican side of the border. We were somewhat bored and agreed to come for what we thought would be a week. We spent the rest of the winter here in Douglas and knew we would be coming back. And we did. We are volunteering with three School Sisters of Notre Dame, working with migrants being returned to Central America and supporting some of the local Mexican people to develop skills to enable them to earn additional money to support their families.

Tom and Rich have done those construction projects at the migrant center. It is right on the border and serves the returning migrants. It provides food and clothing, phones to call loved ones, volunteer legal services and a compassionate ear. There are two hostels where people can stay up to three nights. Tom and Rich built bunkbeds for the hostels and also have done small upgrade projects.

Tom and Rich are preparing to teach a wood working class and I have started teaching a quilting class with Dianne Tribo, who interprets for me and brings many years of teaching experience to our team. We teach at Dougla Prieta Trabajan, a women's cooperative in Agua Prieta, Sonora, across the border from Douglas. The women are bright and talented and enthusiastic. They are just finishing a first project of a simple quilted bag.

One of the most moving things we do is honor those who have died in their struggle to come here and better their lives. We hear so much about the migrants going to Europe and very little about those on our southern border. More than 300 have died in Cochise County where Douglas is located since 2000. Every Tuesday night there is a memorial vigil where we walk the last quarter mile on the US side of the border, call the name of one who has died and lay a cross about two feet in length along the side of the road for that person. This is along the road cars are waiting to cross into Mexico. Tom and Rich are building larger crosses. These crosses have the person's name and birthdate if known and the date their body was found. When GPS coordinates where they were found are known, the cross is placed in the desert at that location.



Tom and I are grateful for this opportunity to be of service and consider it a great privilege and blessing.  
Mary LaFlamme PA, Spokane Region

Continued from page 2 "Growing our Associate Communities"

A lengthy summary report was prepared by Kathy Boucha, PA and the results will be used as a guide for planning the future of the Providence Associate Organization and growing the community. A copy of the summary will be provided upon request by email or USPO. Please contact Kathe at 907-250-6844 or [kathe.boucha@gmail.com](mailto:kathe.boucha@gmail.com) If you were unable to attend the meeting, and after reviewing the summary, you wish to have your ideas and comments included, please forward your responses to Kathe Boucha.

*The Gift of Technology*

The Mother Joseph Province is spread over 5 states, international and growing. We now have 12 Regions. Continuous communication and support with the Regional Coordinators and the Associates is a challenge. The use of the Internet and simple technologies is one affordable way to enhance our communications.

In order to use the Internet as a communication tool, we need to know a few facts from each Region:

- Who is comfortable and trained in using computers and technology as a communication?
- Who (individuals) are interested in supporting the use of technology in their Region to enhance connection with leadership and other regions?
- Would the associates and leadership in each region be supportive of trying to use Internet video conferencing services to connect with Associates who cannot attend a meeting and leadership that reside outside the region?
- Would Associates and Regional Coordinators be interested in attending trainings through the use of the Internet and enhanced communication systems?

Over the next few months we encourage each region to discuss these questions, identify Associates and Coordinators who are comfortable and enthusiastic about accepting the responsibility to assist your group in the periodic use of technology. We will work with each coordinator or the co-coordinators on what is acceptable and appropriate to consider for each region. Nothing will be forced upon a group.

The purpose is to unite us in this expanding and geographically diverse Province. We have one of the largest Associate organizations in all of North America. The biggest challenge is developing and sustaining relationships and recruiting, training and sustaining new Associates to continue service to the poor and vulnerable within our Province and missions. Please send any questions, comments and ideas to Kathe Boucha, PA (See her address, phone, and email above.)

We are looking forward to the future...



*Meetings & Events Calendar - 2016*

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|---|--------------------|
| Alternative Membership Comm. SJR Seattle -<br>Chapter, Renton, WA | March 11-12, 2016  |
| Jubilee, Seattle, WA  | July 25-28, 2016   |
| PAMJ Board of Director's Meeting, Renton, WA                      | July 30, 2016      |
| NACAR 20th Anniversary Celebration, Santa Barbara, CA             | August 20-22, 2016 |
| WPC Only the Board of Directors Meeting in 2016                   | October 1, 2016    |