

The PA Connection

Newsletter - Providence Associates of Mother Joseph

Summer 2014

*In the Footsteps of Blessed Emilie
& Mother Joseph*

Providence Associates of Mother Joseph Montreal Pilgrimage - July 6, 2014

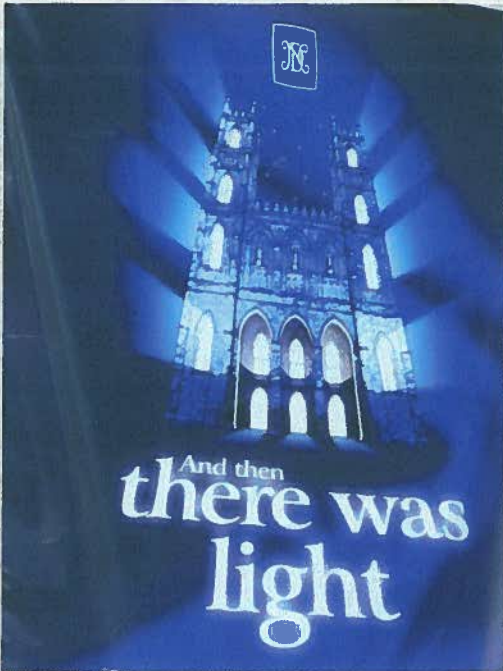
On July 6, nine Providence Associates from Alaska, Georgia, Oregon and Washington gathered at the Providence International Centre in Montreal to begin a pilgrimage in the footsteps of Blessed Emilie and Mother Joseph. They were joined by Sister Jo Ann Showalter, Council Liaison for the Associates and by Sister Virginia Miller, who was visiting Montreal during that same time. Their first full day was spent in the museum, learning more of the history of the community, followed by a tour of the footsteps of Emilie. Nancy and Lorena are excellent guides, especially since they both work in the museum. Prayer and placement of flowers at Emilie's tomb also took place the first evening.

The following days saw pilgrims at the Chapel of Bon Secours, the Basilica of Notre Dame and the old marketplace where Emilie begged for food for the elderly women in her care. The pilgrimage also included the Oratory to St. Joseph and the house where Emilie lived with her aunt. The original plan was to be able to hand out sandwiches in Place Emilie Gamelin, where Emilie used to feed the hungry, but the city of Montreal no longer allows that. Instead, the group ate lunch at Chic Resto Pop, a job training center located in an old church. People are trained as waiters, cooks, dishwashers, cashiers and so forth. At lunch time, the training center is open to the public and is well used by the working poor and homeless. Having their own lunch there is another way to support those who may not have enough to eat or who may not have a way to earn a living.



*(Back Row, Left to Right: Sr. Jo Ann Showalter, Marian Julum-Weaver, Dorene Plampin, Annette Martinez, Mary Ann Wilharm, Suzanna Harland, Geri Ann Johnson,
(Middle Row, Left to Right: Nancy, Our Guide, Sr. Virginia Miller, Statue of Emilie Gamelin, Eileen Norris, Kathe Boucha
(Bottom Row, Left to Right: Margaret Bauer and Lorena, Our Driver and Guide*

The last day, using a small bus, the pilgrims were joined by several from the Leadership Team and other Sisters for a day trip to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, Montmorency Falls and Quebec City. In Quebec City, the Basilica of Notre Dame was celebrating its 350th anniversary. In recognition of this event, the basilica was granted the honor of having the only Holy Door outside of Europe. There are four in Rome, one in Spain and one in France. This is the first time there has been a Holy Door in the Americas. At the end of this year, it will be closed until the next Jubilee year.



Pilgrims and Sisters attended a sound and light performance at Notre-Dame Basilica in the historic district of Old Montreal.



The Basilica of Saint Anne-de-Beaupre, located about 19 miles east of Quebec City has been credited with many miracles curing the sick and disabled.



The Tomb of Blessed Emilie Gamelin



Metro Station - Asile



The Holy Door*

*A Holy Door is a symbol of oneness with the Universal Church. It is also a symbol of convocation, an invitation to persons of good will to enter, whatever their religious denominations



Reflections of the Montreal Pilgrimage.

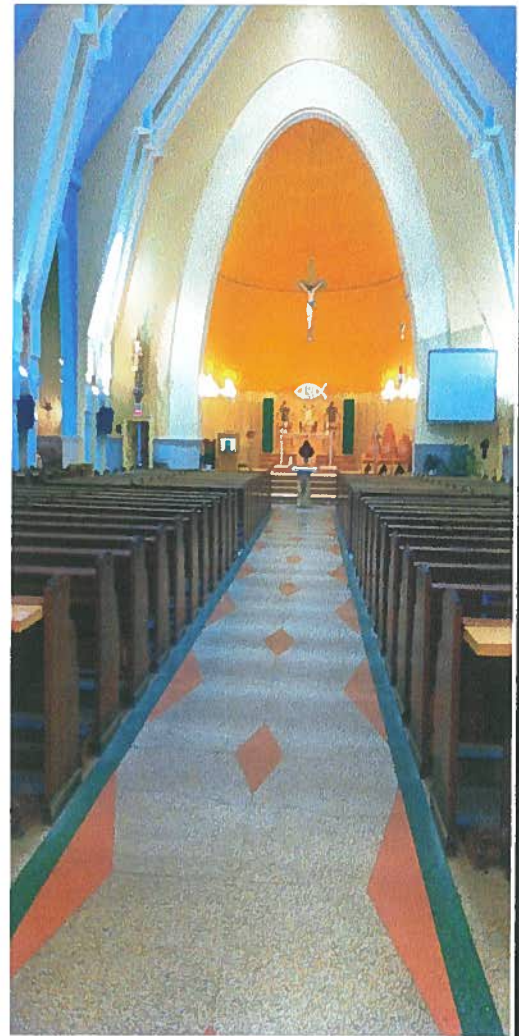
The "In the Footsteps of Blessed Emilie" pilgrimage was a special trip that is difficult to describe. To be immersed in the history, the life, the actual places where Blessed Emilie lived and journeyed, was truly a journey of the Spirit. Many aspects of the journey come to mind and have become special and carry messages for reflection. I am sure as time moves on, more and more of the impact will show itself, and it will become even more alive in me. As I sit with all that we saw and experienced one aspect comes alive for me that I did not expect or anticipate, the City of Montreal herself. We traveled the city and everywhere we went there were signs of Blessed Emilie. The park where the Aisle De La Providence stood has plaques on each corner of the square. A metro station has a wonderful statue of her reaching out. The hand reaching out is shiny from the touch of thousands of passengers and tourists. The place where she went to school has a plaque on the corner of the building. That we see her statue in a cathedral is not surprising, the fact that she put two hearts on a church wall is still remembered and is not surprising. BUT for a city, a secular political city to remember, to tell the story of a lone woman who cared for those whom no one else would care for is astounding and absolutely miraculous and wonderful.

PRAYER FOR THE TRAVELER

*May you travel in an awakened way,
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;
That you may not waste the invitations
Which wait along the way to transform you.*

*May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,
And live your time away to its fullest;
Return home more enriched, and free
To balance the gifts of days which call you.*

John O'Donohue



Reflections of Margaret Bauer PA

This experience emotionally and compassionately connected me to Mother Gamelin, Mother Joseph and each individual sister and associate that accompanied me on this journey. I am grateful, mindful and available to serve with the Sisters of Providence and engraved in my heart a higher calling of what it is to be a person of Providence. From the ground of the Assize, traveling the footsteps in Old Montreal, on top of Montmorency Falls and Old Quebec City, the journey was spiritually enriching and uplifting. I was honored to touch the Holy Door and participate in a French Mass and pray in each of the Basilicas. I was most honored to have the opportunity to visit and meditate at the tomb of Mother Gamelin. And a most touching and unforgettable afternoon involved a visit on the 15th floor with the Sisters, who are examples of living the charism, compassion and love. I find myself forever changed as woman, an associate, and a spiritual person of God.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES OF MOTHER JOSEPH SPOKANE, WA AUGUST 9 - 10



On August 9-10, 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 13 regions of the Mother Joseph community determine and plan the direction of the Associate program for the future. It is an energizing opportunity to share spirituality and learn of new aspects of ministry and growth in community. We focus each year on mirroring the Sister's values of becoming a multicultural, intergenerational, international, and interdependent global community.

There were story-boards on the Associates recent pilgrimage to Montreal, a very special highlight for all those attending. A story-board on New Beginnings ministry in Martin, Georgia, an expanding community not only ministering to women transitioning out of addiction to a normal God-centered life but also to their children who also need help. Melissa Van Hall PA, was a first-time alternate representative from the Martin, Georgia Region.

Rebecca Nappi, Director of Mission Integration for Providence Holy Family Hospital and Providence Medical Park, Spokane Valley, gave us an inspiring presentation on "Know your Gifts: Develop Leadership". It was a different way of thinking about the gifts and talents you've been given in life and the ways you have used them for the greater good and to understand innovative ways to develop our leadership gifts especially as we age. We are born with many of our innate talents, others come with Baptism and Charisms. Which of these early talents are you using today? Is there a talent you had early in life that is buried? Would you like to dig it out and what would that look like? We can't be timid with our gifts. What losses have been good for you as a person and leader? There was interactive discussion and sharing of insights and new goals. What kind of leader do you wish to be as you grow older? In your family? In your Providence work?

Sharon Thompson PA, from the Martin, Georgia Region discussed the full-time ministry of New Beginnings. New Beginnings mission is to provide an environment of recovery for women addicted to drugs and alcohol through structured residency that offers faith based mentoring, life skills training and personal development. It is a 10-month staffed residency program, Christ-centered, intensive life-skills education, counseling, and aftercare support. Sharon stressed that we need to go find these hurting people and minister to them.

There is only one criteria, that you genuinely have "a sincere desire to change". In the beginning of this ministry, Sharon They now have many buildings on their property and a new building where women who have regained possession of their children can live with them. Sharon also showed a video of many of the women in recovery sharing their stories of addiction and new life in a Christ-centered daily recovery. Some of these women were children of addicted parents. Many have gone on to productive lives, college, and reconciliation with their families. New Beginnings is the only program nationwide that has an 82% success rate for a lifestyle free of addiction.

Suzanna Harland PA introduced Kathe Bouche PA, from Anchorage, Alaska with a resolution to the Board of Directors for an Affirmation of Kathe as our new Executive Director. Kathe has served on numerous not-for-profit Boards and is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the International Virtual e-Hospital Foundation, which implements healthcare reform/improvement processes and technologies in developing nations. "I try to use my energy to turn love into a social and political force to help heal the world. My personal life and work have been blessed with diverse opportunities to serve locally and globally." Kathe has been an Associate for 15 years and has served as a Regional Coordinator. She has a strong personal commitment to the charisms of Emilie Gamelin. The Board of Directors unanimously affirmed Kathe Boucha as our new Executive Director.

Suzanna Harland, PA offered her resignation as an Executive Director since she was appointed PA Province Liaison to the Sister's Leadership Council. Suzanna's term as Executive Director was to end in December 2015. The Board accepted Suzanna's resignation. An interim resolution was offered to the Board for approval that stated that GeriAnn Johnson, PA would fill Suzanna's remaining term as Executive Director until a new discernment for Executive Directors will be held at the 2015 Board of Directors meeting. The Board approved this resolution.

At our 2013 Board of Directors, Sr. Charlotte VanDyke introduced the Board to the Sister's Corporate Stance Against the Death Penalty. Information from that presentation was taken back to the Associates in the regions. Sr. Charlotte repeated the
(Continued on Page 5)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES OF MOTHER JOSEPH
Continued**

PowerPoint of the previous Board of Directors meeting. She answered questions and concerns regarding the death penalty process. The document presented to the Board of Directors stated that "The Providence Associates of Mother Joseph stand with the Sisters of Providence in their Corporate Stance for the End of the Death Penalty. The consensus of the Board was to support this document. Sr. Roberta Rorke and many Associates agreed and proposed a resolution that the Associates study, research, collaborate, and actively involve themselves in prison reform. The Board approved this action.

After lunch, Kate VanSike PA, shared with us her recent ministry trip to Guatemala, "Lessons from Guatemala". Providence Health International collaborated with Medical Teams International to send a team to Guatemala to install indoor stoves for the indigenous families in the remote mountainous regions of Guatemala. Spokane Associates donated \$300 to this ministry. Historically families cooked on indoor fires that created unhealthy environments for breathing. malnutrition, asthma, emphysema, early death and respiratory diseases resulted in this unhealthy practice. The villagers actively participated in installing the new stoves that vented to the outside. Kate challenged us to consider the spiritual and emotional lessons necessary to respond to Christ's call to minister "to the least of these." Are we so comfortable with our creature comforts that we do not recognize the gifts that poor people have sharing all that they have with others? What gifts do they offer us to share with them? They desire the same things for their families that we wish for our families. It was a strong commitment that the members of this team made to the villagers of Guatemala. They hope to make more visits as an expression of the Providence mission.

Sr. Jo Ann Showalter shared with us her visit to our newest Associate Region in the Philippines. She visited Manila associates in Punta, Santa Ana Region and the Bataan Region. Sr. Lucy Vasquez and the Associates are very interested in sharing our Associate resources and community.

In Mexico, Trinidad Rodriguez PA, from Yakima and his parish priest are hoping to form a Providence Associate Region. Sr. Jo Ann will be evaluating the process utilizing Sr. Katherine Smith's document on starting new regions. Please keep these two regions in your prayers as they discern their journey.

On Sunday, Kris Fisher PA, Spokane Region, shared her ministry as a volunteer in the "No One Should Die Alone" program at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Providence Holy Family Hospital supported by off-duty employees and hospital volunteers. These volunteers go through a formal training program and sit with patients who have no family or friends to accompany them in their dying process. This program has become national in scope. It was started by a nurse, Patricia Clark, from Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene, Oregon after an encounter with a dying man who asked her to sit with him. Patricia intended to come back after completing her nursing duties to be with him because he was afraid. When she returned, the patient had already died.

This program is for patients who are on comfort care and are expected to die within 24 to 72 hours. It is for patients on the adult units who have no family who are able to be involved or present. The NODA volunteers do not provide respite care or act as or replace protective care staff. They volunteer to sit in 2-4 hour shifts.

It is a rich sacred time to be present as people transition to the next phase of life. We may read Scripture if the patient has a religious background, play music, read poetry or the patient's favorite readings, say the rosary, just quietly hold hands and be present.

Anyone interested in becoming part of this vital part of end-of-life care at Providence Spokane can contact Maureen Goins, Director of Volunteer Services. At present there are 61 trained volunteers. The program began in January of 2013.

After liturgy with the Sisters, Marie Ilch, PA and GeriAnn Johnson, PA reviewed drafts of the following new and revised PA Roles and Responsibilities to be included in the Regional Coordinators Resource Notebook and the Executive Directors Notebook; Roles and Responsibilities of the Regional SP Liaison, Provincial Councilor, Regional Coordinators, Executive Finance Director, Executive Secretary, Sponsor, PA Chapter Liaison, Executive Directors. Additions and corrections were included and the documents were approved by the Board of Directors.

Sr. JoAnn Showalter led the missioning of each other in our various roles as Associate Regional SP Liaisons, Regional Coordinators, Executive Directors, Province Liaison as we go forth to our regions to share our input from this Board meeting and grow in spirituality and community. Lillian Rouzan PA, from the Greater Los Angeles Region and Sr. Jo Ann presented our Memoriam Service for those Providence Associates who have died since the last Board of Directors meeting. After each name was stated the Board members responded, "gone but not forgotten."

Mary Murtha PA, Portland/Vancouver Region
Deloris Hennessey PA, Greater Seattle Region
Lucilla Alvarez Alba PA, Philippines Region

Sr. Jo Ann Showalter showed a video that Lisa Cunneen, Administrative Assistant, prepared for Chapter for the memorial for Sisters and Associates. Pictures and comments on each Associate were included. Sr. Jo Ann Showalter also shared our Closing Prayer and Blessing as we prepared to return to our respective regions.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will tentatively be August 22-23, 2015 in Spokane at Mt. St. Joseph. The Board of Directors meeting adjourned with all present singing our Providence hymn.

Marie Ilch, Executive Secretary



September

- 01 Lisa Gillespie
- 01 Tarsila Gutierrez
- 01 Irene Mullen
- 06 Cindi John
- 07 Regina B. Baletto
- 07 Mary Catherine Wallace
- 07 Betty Weber
- 08 Katie Tenorio
- 10 Miriam Clark
- 13 Ken Lind
- 16 Linda McKnight
- 16 Deanna Smith
- 17 Dona Boschee
- 18 Craig A Cozza
- 18 Mary LaFlamme
- 19 Patricia Myers
- 19 Roberta Sample
- 24 Valerie Carlton
- 24 Blanche Hill
- 24 Marie Damian Glatt, SCL
(Assoc. w/ Koinonia Community)
- 25 Erika Lisbeth Murcia
[El Salvador Friends, PA
Candidates]
- 27 Rie Vail
- 28 Ella Pitre
- 30 Theresa J. Van De Ven
- 30 Peg Lowman (Assoc. w/
Koinonia Community)

October

- 01 Chris Halter
- 06 Rusty Mulcahy
- 07 Pat Budo (Assoc. w/Koinonia)
- 09 Michelle Tenorio
- 14 Nancy Vorhees
- 16 Nancy Edwards-Schramke
- 16 Annie Lind
- 17 Garvin Olson
- 21 Lorraine Faiola
- 21 Karen Wormell
- 26 Brenda Velasco
- 28 Sara Cotto (Assoc. w/Peace Community)
- 30 E. Ann Buchanan
- 30 Kris Schons
- 31 Marilee Hedemark
- 31 Kathy Mulvaney

Blessings for You
in the coming Year



Sr. Joste and Sister Virginia
the Montmorency Falls

Dear Sr. Jo Ann, Sr. Joste, Sr. Karin, and Sr. Francois.

The Pilgrim PAs and all who made the journey cannot thank you enough for your hospitality, planning, arranging every detail and caring for us in every way with so much grace and love. The best part was having you accompany us on the Journey.

Gratefully, "The Pilgrims"

Reflections of Suzanna Harland PA

In every way our pilgrimage to Montreal was filled with Providence beauty and spirit as we emerged ourselves in the life of Blessed Mother Gamelin.

What is a pilgrim? "A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons." Walking the steps of Blessed Emilie, seeing the house where she lived, the ministries she established, the buildings that housed the poor, the prisoners, and the deaf children, inspires and urges us to continue to reach out to so many in need in our own country.

Our visit to the museum and archives with our guides Nancy and Corena was so interesting. From a distance we have not had the first hand knowledge of the Sisters past. It is both challenging and exciting to return to our regions with new enthusiasm and energy for our future as Providence Associates.

We thank you for all. Suzanna



This sculpture stands outside the Providence International Centre in Montreal
An INUKSHUK
Pronounced: "IN-OOK-SHOOK"

A Symbol of Canadian Heritage. It reminds us of our reliance on each other and human's link to nature. It also reminds us of the value of friendship and that you are not alone on your journey- others too have walked this path. A symbol from the past. a guide for the future.